



No Small Parts

Ally Blue

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Nat Horn is almost living the dream. His part as a werewolf extra on the hit show *Wolf's Landing* has somehow turned into a regular role. Beautiful rising star Solari Praveen has taken an interest in him. He's even making enough money to think about getting out of Bluewater Bay someday. Except his retired dad's dependence on pain medications seems to be getting worse, and Nat's the only one around to take care of him.

When Nat learns that Solari's interest isn't romantic, his disappointment is surprisingly short-lived, because in getting to know her, he also got to know her assistant, Rafael. And Rafael turns out to be the kind of friend—and potential boyfriend—Nat never dared to dream about.

Distracted by his astonishing new life, new friends, and new possibilities, Nat lets his guard down, and suddenly his life goes careening out of control. Racked by guilt, he tries to push his new friends away, but the bonds he's formed are already too strong. In fact, they're strong enough to pull him forward, into the future he's been longing for—but to get there, he'll have to let go of the past.

No Small Parts Details

Date : Published December 19th 2016 by Riptide Publishing (first published December 17th 2016)

ISBN : 9781626495012

Author : Ally Blue

Format : ebook 200 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance, Lgbt

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From Reader Review No Small Parts for online ebook

Barb ~rede-2-read~ says

ARC provided by the publisher through Net Galley in exchange for an impartial review.

I was very pleasantly surprised with my first story from this author. Set in the world of Bluewater Bay, Washington, this is another winner from Riptide Publishing. The series has been amazing in the variety of stories produced by a multitude of talented authors, and I highly recommend them all.

Nat Horn has finally found a job that allows him to keep food on the table and a roof over the head of his disabled father. A werewolf extra for the highly popular series, Wolf's Landing, Nat's joy in having a bit part that earns him money is exceeded only by his crush on Solari Praveen, the tiny, dynamic female lead. But when he gets a chance to finally go out with her, he's stunned that they become immediate friends, and he no longer desires her romantically. In fact, within a few days, it's evident that he desires Rafael Cortez, her personal assistant and would-be director, much more than he ever did with Solari.

Rafael is working as PA to both Solari and Carter Samuels, but it's director Anna Maxwell that he's most hoping to impress. He's directed a few, short, independent films and is currently raising Kickstart funds for a new film. When he convinces Anna to allow him to shadow her, and he gets Nat to agree to star in his new film, he feels like his dreams are coming true. But Nat is hiding secrets, and his dreams are more of the nightmare variety. Pushed and pulled between his job and caring for his now prescription-drug-addicted dad, Nat despairs of ever having a happily ever after of his own.

This story delved deeply into the psychology of being the sole financial and emotional support of a dependent parent, one who gives voice to accepting his son's bisexuality—but only theoretically. His physical and mental state are poor, but the man fights to maintain his pride at all costs, and the author sensitively portrayed both his and Nat's struggles with their issues.

Raf was a beautiful person, inside and out, but when he fell in love with Nat, it was definitely for better or worse. His support and love were so heartwarming and sweet that he inspired hope where it would otherwise have felt hopeless, and his presence and support for Nat kept the story from bogging down in Nat's anger, sorrow, and grief.

I'm so happy I read this one and definitely recommend it to all lovers of MM romance. And if you love a little angst mixed in with your romance, by all means, don't miss out on this one.

Sarah says

I was given a copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads.

The 16th Bluewater Bay book took me back to all the things I first loved about this series. Closeted stars, struggling blue collar locals, aspiring wannabes and hasbeens - I love the collision of cultures whenever Wolf's Landing's Hollywood crew mixes with the small Pacific Northwest town of Bluewater Bay.

Some of the most recent stories have drifted away from the actual production and filming of Wolf's Landing but this story about Nat, a local extra struggling to make ends meet, and Raphael, an assistant to the show's female star, brings us back to the glamour and heartache this series does so well.

Nat's story is one of ordinary, small-town heartbreak. Supporting his disabled father, he cobbles together as many jobs as he can to pay the bills. His carer role is relentless and thankless and he has no time for himself. Nat's story is a common one and I really respected his selfless dedication to his very difficult father

As PA to a star, Raphael's schedule might not be his own, but his job is interesting and allows him to meet the people who can help him become a director. Raphael is an easygoing man who struggles to break through Nat's barriers and help him deal with his angst and guilt.

I really enjoyed these two men together. Their attraction is instant but the road towards a relationship is complicated angst filled. There is much more romance and friendship than sex in this story. As this series continues, I love all the glimpses of characters from earlier books on set and in the town. I really loved Solari, Raphael's boss, and I'd love to read her story next. This is such a great series written by so many of my favourite authors. I should be growing tired of it already but I still get excited to read each new instalment.

Diverse says

4.5 Stars

Ally Blue is a new to me author but the Bluewater Bay books are not at all new. I really adore how each one is a standalone but they often mingle too. No Small Parts, in my opinion, is one of the best of this series. There's perfect balance between sexy and story. Neither are over-saturated. The characters are relatable and not perfect. The writing is just lovely.

Wolf's Landing is the supernatural show that is filmed in Bluewater Bay. We are always thrust into this fact with each passing book. Nat Horn, one of the MC's, is an extra on the show and the target of his affections is Solari. But she doesn't even notice him. He totally gets friend zoned! But that works because Solari's assistant, Rafael, is cute and wonderful and perfect for Nat! Rafael has a dream to someday direct and being Solari's assistant hopefully helps him achieve that dream.

Great chemistry between the MC's. I was never questioning them or rolling my eyes at their behavior because they were very real.

I'd give this book a go for sure. Even if you've never read any books in this series. It really was a beautiful read.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Rosalie's review:

Blue Water Bay is a long running series, with multiple books. However, being written by many authors, the

reader still gets the pleasure of feeling like it's all new and fresh, with the series connectedness I absolutely love. In this book, we meet Nat who has landed work on a TV series, Wolf's Landing, as an extra that actually turned into a permanent role. Except having to care for his dad and his dependency on pain medication, life couldn't be better. Having no one to help him care for him puts such a constant burden on Nat, but he tries to power through. Nat then finds out that gorgeous Solari, also a star on the show, has taken an interest in him. Could life be looking up even more for him?

Crash and burn! Nat is devastated to find that Solari's interest isn't romantic, much to his dismay. He does meet and befriend her assistant, however, Rafael, and many things become confusing to Nat. Nat doesn't understand why he is attracted to Rafael. Is it because he's there as a friend when he needed one? Or maybe there is more and a physical and sexual attraction between the two and he could be bi? Watching the two explore this newfound part of Nat's life was interesting. Of course, this read isn't all chocolate and flowers. There is some angst that keeps the readers on their toes, but made me like Nat and Rafael ever more. Good read!!!

Review copy provided with no expectations.

Mel Bradley says

****3.5 Stars****

I think this will be my last Bluewater Bay series book... and it ended somewhat sweetly with this book. When we meet Nat, he has a walk-on role on Wolf's Landing and has had a really hard life. Like, unimaginably difficult. As a character, he was warm and relatable, but also mysterious at times. The potential to be deep was there, but Blue never quite crosses the threshold for both characters.

Nat's love interest, Rafe, is a happy-go-lucky PA and wanna be director who is Hollywood born and bread and looking for his romance story. Again, a good character, but stays very surface level. With both characters having extremely different and thought-out backstories, you would think that would be the main focus - but instead, the book seems to center around more trivial things like their friend, Solari's, coming out.

Overall, it was a fine read, just... forgettable in many ways. Maybe it's because there have been so many in this series, or perhaps it was just too surface-level for my liking, but either way, I'd only recommend this to die-hard Bluewater Bay series readers - to keep the series alive. Otherwise, check out one of the first five or so in the series for a more dynamic experience.

Review copy provided by Riptide Publishing to Alpha Book Club for an honest review.

Reviewed by Mel from Alpha Book Club

J.L. says

While there were some elements to enjoy in this book, I'm actually much more impressed that I got over halfway through the available books in this series before I got to one that I vaguely enjoyed rather than devoured.

Perhaps the biggest problem is that I found no chemistry between the characters of Nat and Rafael. Much of the friendship built between them occurs offscreen, so once Rafael broke down Nat's "defenses," it feels like they went straight to wanting sex. Without that chemistry, I found myself even skimming the sex scenes and wondering when I'd get back to the plot.

About halfway through the book, I realized what wasn't working for me. Though I've never been on a professional television set, I have enough experience assisting film-makers that this book felt the least "realistic" in terms of how the industry works. Which meant that Nat and Rafael's involvement ended up feeling less like an addition to the Bluewater Bay series and more like "Real Person Fanfic" of the actors and crew of the Wolf's Landing television show. Well-written fanfic (and I certainly have nothing against that particular genre), but nothing I got attached to.

The good points of the book: Nat's incredibly realistic family and family issues, especially the representation of the current opioid epidemic. Though the ending to that particular story arc did not result in a happily ever after, it was well executed and made me feel for Nat much more than at any point during his relationship with Rafael.

Veronica of V's Reads says

Nat Horn is a Bluewater Bay native who's returned to town to help care for his disabled father. While there he got cast as an extra on the hit TV show *Wolf's Landing* as one of the wolf pack members. He's barely making ends meet, between his acting and helping on his uncle's fishing boat, but most of the resources are used to pay for his father's pain medicine--to which his dad has become addicted. Nat feels lonely and guilty, by turns. He loves his father, but he doesn't love the addict. Plus, he's bitter that no one will help him care for his dad--not his uncle or his sister, who both wrote his dad off years ago.

Nat gets invited out by one of the stars on the show, Solari. Solari's assistant, Rafael is frustrated by this, because Rafael finds Nat completely attractive--and Rafael knows that Solaris' a lesbian in a closeted relationship with a woman who has been pressuring Solari to come out. Rafael thinks it's wrong for Solari to string Nat along, and he says so--to both Nat and Solari. Nat's a bit bummed because he had a solid crush on Solari, however, spending time with her actually cures that crush fast; they get along like brother and sister, having no spark. Meanwhile Nat and Rafael have sparks a-flying. As their personal lives get more entwined, Nat's even more frustrated with his father, who's always dismissed his bisexuality, and urged him to only date women.

Just as Nat's professional life is going great--he's offered some lines on the show that boosts his income enough to pay for caregivers--he's facing more emotional challenges. His dad's health is deteriorating, and hits a serious crisis point. Nat has felt alone for so long, but Rafael is there, and so is Solari and others of his *WL* "family." I thought that was really special, and the sad bits are nicely softened by this outpouring of love for Nat. Rafael is a good partner, and he's got big plans for Nat and himself, that include a side project for a movie and a shiny new future. If only Nat will let himself embrace all these good opportunities. There's a bit of hard times there, but not too much. I felt Nat's guilt was understandable, and the circumstances of his father's decline were avoidable, but not really in Nat's power. He was a good son, and a did his best to make sure his dad was safe. Sometimes it's too late to help people--and that's not a personal failing, as Nat had to learn the hard way.

There's a little bit of sexytimes, and a sweet and tender friendship--turned--more in store. Expect sad times, too, and for Nat to waffle regarding his grief and his open future--though he doesn't have to go it alone any

longer. I received a review copy of this book via NetGalley.

Veronica says

I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads.

Nat has a reoccurring role on Wolf's Landing where he works to support himself and his father, who is addicted to pain meds after being involved in a workplace accident.

I could understand how Nat was feeling about his living situation. Feeling trapped and resenting his father was understandable but Nat felt emotionally unavailable not just to the people around him but to me as a reader as well. It took me quite a while to connect with him.

Nat's world starts to change when he meets and becomes friends to Rafael, a PA on the show. Initially attracted to Rafael's boss, he soon discovers he has more spark and connection with Rafael. One thing leads to another and they become more than friends. Rafael is loving, generous and hopeful. He is the light to Nat's dark and they make a lovely couple.

Even with some heavy subject matter I found No Small Parts easy to read and enjoyable story with a hopeful and happy ending.

Morgan Skye says

This is part of the Blue Water Bay series, but, beyond having overlapping secondary characters, it's not necessary to have read any of the other books in the series.

I've not read a book by this author before, but I would definitely read something from her in the future.

In this case, however, the story didn't really have a strong impact on me. There is very little angst – which can be wonderful!- but also not much “oomph” either.

Nat and Raphael begin their relationship and slowly build from a hook-up to something more. Nat's father's story is really the main “hurdle” in this story and while it was painful to read about, it didn't seem to influence Nat and Raphael much.

I did appreciate that Nat doesn't run from Raphael when things get rough and that in the end, our MCs get more than just true love to look forward to!

There was some side drama with Solari and I wasn't sure what that added to this story other than “sort of” confirming Nat was bi-sexual and placing a very tiny hurdle in Nat's decision making process. (He wasn't sure if making the choice to pursue a man would diminish him in his father's eyes since he could technically “choose” a woman to date.)

In any case, I think this was a nice story with some really nice father/son-issue moments but a rather bland romance.

3.25 of 5 stars

Christy says

4.5 Stars ~ I love returning to the world of 'Bluewater Bay'. Because each installment is written by a different author, I think I get more enjoyment of the series than I would if I was reading only one voice. In this sixteenth novel, the author returns me to a story line featuring a native of Bluewater Bay, a plot that I always enjoy far more than ones that are about the Hollywood stars.

Rafael is born and bred Southern California and Hollywood. He took the job being an assistant to the stars just so he could be close to his idol, director Anna Maxwell. That is Rafael's goal - to be a director - and he's convinced that the camera loves Nat and there's more to him than meets the eye. Oh, there's more alright. There's a desire to make enough money so he and his dad can live somewhere that isn't falling apart. There's anger that his sister never came home after his dad's logging accident. There's frustration at his dad's prescription pill abuse. And there's a dreamer inside of him just dying to get loose.

The slow evolution of Rafael and Nat from wary coworkers, to friends, to lovers, and then to acknowledging their feelings was beautifully written. I felt as if I was right there with them experiencing it all. I hurt for Nat and his insecurities, his guilt and shame over his occasional feelings of not wanting to have to be the responsible one, regardless that it was a perfectly human way to feel, and Nat's shy acceptance that he was worthy of love. Rafael was a lovely combination of sweet and aggressive, bossy and yielding, while at the same time managing to show Nat that he may come from Hollywood but his love is true and strong.

A marvelous book by a new-to-me author that I enjoyed immensely. I really liked the way the author handled the ending as it showed a true understanding of people, relationships, and family dynamics. Thank you, Ally, I look forward to reading more from you.

NOTE: This book was provided by Riptide Publishing for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews

Christi Snow says

My Review:

This book was so absolutely fantastic. I adored it, but what makes the book so good is all the angst in Nat's life. At the point when the book begins, Nat is pretty stuck with where he's at in life...and none of it is what he hoped for. After a logging accident four years ago, his father lives with constant pain. As a result, he's addicted to pain pills. Nat has devoted his life to taking care of his father...with no thanks for the sacrifices he's made. In fact, his dad is truly pretty awful to Nat. My heart broke to him so many times...and it's not just his father that's the problem. Gah...I really hated his sister, too.

But the one place where things are going well for Nat is on the set of Wolf's Landing. He's found friends and a support system that he never expected there...through Solari and Rafael. Solari had an interesting side story

that broke my heart. I don't normally read f/f, but I think I could make an exception to see something good for her. I hated what happened to her in the story.

But obviously the real magic in this book comes from the relationship that develops between Rafael and Nat. I loved them together and how different they are from one another. Nat is a guy who grew up in the Pacific Northwest. He likes to hike and do outdoor things. Rafael grew up in Hollywood. He's a pure city boy, but they find a great common ground together. I also really loved how that Rafael sees Nat's potential when really no one else really does (except Anna...to a certain extent).

Like I stated before, this one was just really good. Nat is dealing with a lot of really rough things, but the book shows the value and the power of friendship in getting a person through those rough times. I almost think I love the book for that lesson almost more than I loved the romance...although I did really love the romance, too.

I definitely recommend the book.

Note: This is #16 in this series...don't pay any attention to that. This is one of those series...yes, all the books are tied together a tiny bit, but you absolutely can come into reading any of these books at any time. It's a perfect example of a stand-alone series.

I received a complimentary copy of this book in return for an honest review.

Beebs says

Book 16 in the Bluewater Bay series

I liked it but didn't love it. There was nothing new here, nothing in particular to make it stand out from the crowd really. A pleasant afternoon's read but you probably won't remember it 6 months from now.

***Received from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review**

UltraMeital says

The struggle was real unfortunately.. I gave this one my best shot, I read through all of it, yeah from round the middle I DID skim a little but I tried and failed to connect to either Nat and Rafael. While Nat's life situation is heartbreaking, Rafael's life is nearly perfect (just needs to kickstart his directing career which he achieved throughout the story). He was too damn nosey but I guess it's what made Nat open up to him in the end. The story felt flat for me, even though it was dealing with difficult stuff - Nat's father addicted to pills, struggling with depression and Nat having to deal with all of it by himself with no help from anyone. Yet there were very few instances where I truly FELT Nat and ached for him. Which was a huge part of the problem..

Nat is playing a "silent werewolf", meaning his role doesn't include any lines but it's still the best paying job he could dream of, for taking care of his father and his issues though it's never actually enough.. His other family members couldn't care less about his father.. or rather, how Nat is dealing with all of that on his own

even if his uncle (his mother's brother) and sister could help HIM and not directly his father. It was annoying how self centered they were and how much they didn't see what Nat needed.

Rafael is working as an assistant to two stars on Wolf's Landing - Carter (whom we've met in previous books though it doesn't matter even if you haven't a clue who he is..) and Solari. Nat actually had a crush on Solari but in the end they both realized they are better off as friends. Also while Nat is bi, Solari is gay (and has a serious girlfriend, even if they have problems). That's how Rafael and Nat meet and from there the three of them form a friendship. While there are a few secrets between them they still make a friendship/safety net for Nat who couldn't believe his luck any time they step up and help him out. Back to Rafael. His role as assistant is exactly what he needs to get in touch with Anna - the director of the show, so he can learn from her and also he has a little side project on his own he wants to promote (mostly through kickstarter) and he finally found his dream star for it - Nat! For him, Nat is a natural, even if most of the time he doesn't speak on his role as werewolf. Though even Anna realizes how much potential Nat has even if he doesn't have any experience in acting.

Nat and Rafael start off as friends. It was actually nice this way. It takes them half the book to become more, and when they do, it's obvious how much they mean to one another as they are already good friends and as Nat gets more and more frustrated with the situation at home, he has someone to grab onto.

I didn't like the way things were resolved (and at times never resolved) between Nat and his father. I mean, it was the PERFECT solution, I ask for this exact same thing in so many books where there is a poisonous character you want OUT of the picture. BUT, it's also the easy way out. Not to mention SO many things were left either unsaid or unresolved between them, between his other family members. It was totally flat, as so much of the book felt to me. The story was a good one, but the way it was written didn't grab me at all. I was bored out of my mind most of the book even though the things that were happening felt like they SHOULD matter, yet they didn't.

Very disappointed. Don't know how to recommend this one (or not). I think if you can FEEL this story when you start you might have a totally different experience but for me it was a struggle almost right from the start. I couldn't connect to neither Nat nor Rafael's character. That's the frustrating thing about reading this kind of a series, the previous one was AWESOME, there were some others I really enjoyed but there were also quite a few I didn't enjoy.. and when each is written by a different author you can never know what you'll get.. Funny enough I started this series because of ONE book, and that one I didn't connect with as well.. grrrr frustrated!

More Reviews [HERE](#)

Jeannie Zelos says

No Small Parts, Ally Blue

Review from Jeannie Zelos book reviews

Genre: LGBTQIA, Romance

I love the Bluewater Bay series, we're on to book 16 now, and unlike some other long running series it still

feels fresh and original.

I think maybe that's because so many different authors are involved, each bringing their own style and yet still retaining core standards for the characters. So for example Anna in this book is just the same kind of person we know from meeting her in earlier books, she still acts and feels like the Anna we've come to know.

This time we've got Nat, a BB inhabitant who's got work as an extra. He's got some talent and soon catches director Anna's eye for that – he also catches Raphael's eye too – he's assistant to Solari, one of the main cast, and Nat is attracted to Solari not knowing that she's already in a relationship. Confused?? Solari sees something in Nat though, and they become good friends, and that brings him into Raphael's orbit where he realises that he returns Raphael's interest.

Poor Nat though has problems. He lives with and looks after his dad, who's addicted to his pain meds, keeps taking too many. That's causing him issues, and means he gets confused and is in danger when alone. Nat's sister isn't interested in helping, nor is his uncle. His dad wasn't a very nice man to either of them, and they leave poor Nat to cope.

It's tough on him though, and he feels very alone when we first meet him. Added to that his dad knows he's Bi, doesn't like it when he's involved with a man, and can't see why he can't just choose a woman to have a relationship with. Weird isn't it how people think attraction and love can be choices....

Nat loves his acting break, and when his talent is recognised he's so happy. The extra money will come in useful too, he's supporting his dad and has been working additional jobs to pay for meds and sitters etc. Once he gets involved with Raphael he feels so much better, someone to love, to talk to, to be with, and they're both excited about his possible opening career wise. He's such a sweet man, so loving, so hard working and determined to support his dad even though he isn't helping himself. Nat keeps thinking of the man he was when he was a kid and his mum was still alive, and hoping he'll return. His dad's problems aren't going to get better though and mean he's tied to the Bay, and he knows that Raphael will return to Hollywood at some point :-(

Raphael's a lovely man too, very devoted to his career but in an honest way. He wants to get into directing but he's not afraid of the hard work it'll take.

When he meets Nat and they get closer both of them don't think too far ahead, but it's wonderful watching them fall for each other, seeing them grow closer, have the support of each other.

Just when everything is going well it all goes wrong, and I so felt for Nat, he's so full of guilt and I hated the way he just couldn't see into a positive future, the way he was so gutted at what had happened that he wouldn't let himself be happy, wouldn't move forward. Raphael was trying so hard to help him, but ultimately only he could make the decision about what to do.

Stars: Four, a lovely story, back in the Bay with some old characters and new ones.

ARC supplied by Netgalley and publisher

Erica Chilson says

I received a copy of this title to read and review for Wicked Reads.

3.5 - 4 stars.

No Small Parts features two narrators, Nathaniel (Nat) & Rafael, creating a very sweet yet romantic story.

Nat has a lot on his plate. His sister took off when he was just a boy, leaving him alone with his widower father. His dad was in a logging accident, leaving him on disability, suffering through very real pain, and an even more realistic drug addiction to the prescription pain killers. Nat was lucky to get the gig of a nonspeaking part on the hit show Wolf's Landing. Nat's life is a financial struggle, but also a struggle to live his own life, versus living to make his father comfortable.

Rafael is the personal assistant to one of Wolf Landing's mega-stars, Solari. He dreams of producing his own films while he works his way to the top from the very bottom- grabbing coffee and being the reassurance for his boss's constant bickering with her girlfriend. Raf's from a solid, supportive family who wishes he was back in California, spending time with them.

Nat and Rafael meet on the set, but don't interact until Nat's crush on Solari reaches a head. This part was awkward and rushed to me, hence the rating of not quite 4 stars. There was a lot of telling vs showing, fast-forwarding. I wanted a bit more of this story, so it wasn't confusing after the fast-forwarded date section. It left me feeling less about Nat, how he was infatuated with a person just on her status and looks, not on the person. His crush made him seem shallow. Their date and subsequent friendship was fast-forwarded, and it left me back-clicking to see if I somehow skipped a few pages on accident. If I could have read that interaction, I would have put more stock in their friendship early on, and not felt Nat as shallow for wanting Solari just because she was a star.

At the start, it's obvious how balancing the characters will be for one another, Nat and Rafael, and the supporting cast of characters. No Small Parts is a quick read, perfect for an afternoon of escapism. If you're looking for optimistic characters, who are good to their core, you'll no doubt eat this book right up.

As a lover of angst, I needed a bit more. It was obvious from the start how the story was going to play out. Everyone was sweet and supportive, without any major flaws that make them feel real. But I can see how readers would need this type of story, as it's stress-free and enjoyable.

This installment of the Bluewater Bay series was a good addition, and I look forward to more by this author and all the authors of the series.
