



## Rescue Me

*Catherine Mann*

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**Rescue Me** Catherine Mann

**A rescued dog returns the favor in the latest Second Chance Romance from *USA Today* bestselling author of *Shelter Me*.**

Detective AJ Parker left undercover work in Atlanta to join a small-town Tennessee police force, hoping for an easier workload and the solitude of his cabin. But the scars left by AJ's previous work are more difficult to escape than he thought...

Mary Hannah Gallo works with the Second Chance Ranch Animal Rescue to train therapy dogs for traumatized patients. It isn't easy, but her life is under control—until she meets the broodingly sensual AJ, who rattles her composure all the way to her toes.

After an assignment confiscating dogs from a backyard breeder reveals a dangerous drug operation, AJ must work with sexy perfectionist Mary Hannah to train an abused rescue dog—a dog now named Holly. While Holly proves to these two very different people that opposites can, in fact, attract, she also knows more than a few explosive secrets that could heal—or divide—the entire town.

## Rescue Me Details

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Author : Catherine Mann

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## From Reader Review Rescue Me for online ebook

### Susan says

Very emotional story of love and healing, both human and canine. The book starts from the viewpoint of a rescued boxer dog. It begins as she is describing what her life has been like up to that point, and what had kept her from total despair. I loved her take on human television shows, and the way she enjoyed them. The rescue, from her viewpoint, was both wonderful and terrifying. The descriptions of her feelings, from cabin to shelter to ranch to her forever home were so vivid that I almost felt like I was there with her.

AJ is a new addition to the Cooksburg police force. He left his job as an undercover narcotics detective in Atlanta after a really tough assignment where he also got involved with a woman and child. When things went bad he knew he had to get away, so he accepted his cousin's offer to join the force there. He feels like he's settling in well and adjusting to his new life.

Mary Hannah works with the Second Chance rescue group as part of her job as a counselor. She trains therapy dogs as well as working with abused animals. Everything she does is a way for her to atone for the mistakes she made in the past; mistakes that ended her marriage and caused her to miscarry her baby. Mary Hannah keeps pretty tight control over her life, except for one night a few months earlier. After a really bad day, a stop at a bar had her hooking up with a really hot guy for a little comfort, someone she never expected to see again. Imagine her shock and dismay to discover that he's a new cop on the force and her next door neighbor.

They are brought together again by the raid on a dog breeder's house that also turns out to be a meth house. AJ is there to make the arrest, and Mary Hannah is with the rescue group who is taking care of the dogs. Both of them are drawn to the female boxer that is one of the rescues. When AJ is told by his boss that he's still too emotionally close to the edge, he assigns AJ to work with Mary Hannah and Holly to train the dog for therapy work. Though reluctant at first, AJ soon sees it as a chance to get closer to Mary Hannah.

The attraction between them is still very strong. Working with the dog gives them time to really get to know each other and their feelings continue to grow. Then the day comes that Mary Hannah finds out what happened to AJ at his last job and she realizes that she can never be the right person for him. She says that she is the arsonist to his fireman and that there is no future for them. I understood AJ's reaction, though I had hoped for better. Fortunately, they have to continue to work together, with Holly, who seems to see what they need more clearly than they do. I loved seeing how their ability to forgive each other helps them forgive themselves and finally open up their hearts to the risks of love.

There are some sad yet heartwarming moments as Holly bonds with AJ and Mary Hannah. Her initial caution about even getting close made me want to cry. I loved seeing her settle into AJ's house with him, and her slow release of her fears. Her actions with the tv remote that began her real bonding with him was adorable, and I loved his reaction. I really enjoyed Holly's opinions about what was going on between her humans, and her determination to bring them together. Thanks to an unexpected twist, Holly plays a big part in shutting down the drug operation that kept her captive.

There is a secondary story between Lacey McDaniel (Shelter Me), owner of the Second Chance Ranch, and AJ's cousin Wyatt. Lacey and Wyatt have been dating for the past year and Wyatt is beginning to push for more. Lacey isn't sure what she wants, as she is still recovering from her husband's death. She also has a lot going on with the rescue, her teenage son, father-in-law with Alzheimer's, and visiting daughter and son-in-

law. There is an added complication that has added stress to her decision, but in the end she listens to her heart.

I can't wait to read the next book and hope that it comes out soon.

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## **Pam says**

Rescue Me is an emotional roller coaster ride, beginning with the rescue of a cute boxer to the surprise ending that pulls at your heartstrings. This is the second book in the series about the Second Chance Rescue ranch and the fabulous people that are affiliated with it.

AJ Parker is a detective in the small community of Cooksburg, Tennessee. He is new to the area, jumping at the chance his cousin Wyatt gave him when he needed to get away from the big city, and big drugs. He wants a low key life after being undercover in narcotics for several years. He was burned out from the lifestyle and hurt by a woman he trusted.

Mary Hannah Gallo is a councilor and dog rescuer. She trains dogs as service or emotional SUPPORT dogs to help others. She has past issues with prescription drugs but has been clean for four years, although through her troubles she lost a lot in her life.

Mary Hanna met AJ several months ago, SPENDING an amazing night together, it was an anonymous hookup and they were never to meet again. Yet fate works in mysterious ways, as now they are living next to each other, working together to help rescued dogs.

As with the first book, this is a very emotional story of love and healing. There are several story lines intertwined featuring the family and friends of Second Chance Rescue along with amazing rescue dogs.

Mary Hannah is an extremely likable person, she cares for both people and animals, she enjoys pairing rescued animals with both physically and emotionally injured soldiers helping them heal each other. There is one particular story that really tugs at your heart as she aids a desperate family to recover. What she does not do is help herself. There are several things in her past that she has not dealt with and does not talk about, even her good friend Sierra does not know. But the weight of her past decisions drag her down and it takes a special person and rescued boxer to make her whole again.

AJ is a great hero, a little rough around the edges, keeping his heart closed up so as not to get hurt again. But the attraction between the two is tangible and after their night of anonymity, they can hardly stay away from each other. There are a few bumps in the road, their jobs and both their pasts get tangled with reality but they slowly work through these things as they get closer.

Secondary characters play huge roles, there are additional stories that are featured, Lacey and Wyatt's story makes me feel both angry and sad, I did not see those twists and turns coming. I also liked catching up with Lacey's son Nathan and her daughter Sierra and family. The pace of the story is perfect, the romance starts SLOW as Mary Hannah and AJ find their way through the obstacles of their relationship, there is a small amount of drama toward the end however things are worked through quickly. I love how we are treated to a dog's view of the world and how quirky humans can be through Holly the rescued boxer, it makes for some cute moments. Although this is the second in the series it can easily be read as a standalone, the author catches the reader up to speed on the main characters from the beginning. I am interested in what will happen

next and look forward to more from this author.

Review posted at: Ramblings from a Chaotic Mind

Copy from publisher for an honest review

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## **Sue says**

In *Rescue Me (Second Chance Ranch #2)* by Catherine Mann, AJ and Mary Hannah are both looking to put their pasts behind them. AJ, a former undercover police officer, is close to burn out. When his cousin offers him a chance to work for a small town police force, AJ is only too happy to move on. Mary Hannah is a counselor who also trains therapy dogs at Second Chance Ranch. She certainly does not expect or want to feel an attraction to a man like AJ at this point in her life...and she struggles to resist it and him.

Neither is looking for love, but when they start working together to train a rescue animal as a therapy dog, they spend a lot of time together. As they get to know each other, the chemistry between them gets hotter and they like one another. But they are both still holding back. As secrets from the past and present emerge, will what they've started get stronger or be pushed away?

I don't even know where to start! I absolutely loved everything about *Rescue Me*. From the human characters to the animals, *Rescue Me* is filled with love, hope and promise as well as heart ache and a good deal of tension and inner conflict. Catherine brought out so many emotions through her characters that I felt like I was right there with them.

Mary Hannah and AJ are strong main characters who are both struggling to recover from pasts that have hurt them. They are drawn together almost against their wills, with Holly the rescue dog, doing all she can to push them together. As they build their relationship there are challenges to get through if they are going to have something more permanent together. I liked how they handled things and worked through conflict both internally and together. Their characters showed true maturity and continued to grow through out *Rescue Me*. With the realism of these characters, flaws and all, Catherine really drew me into their lives and I found myself really caring about what happened to them.

There are a lot of secondary characters woven into *Rescue Me*. The Second Chance Rescue Ranch is a busy place. I loved the follow up from the characters in *Rescue Me* and how they continued to be a powerful part of the series. Lacey, who runs Second Chance is a very strong secondary character with a sub plot of her own running smoothly along side Mary Hannah and AJ's. This added even more dimension and believability to *Rescue Me*, because as is such in real life, these people are co-existing and their lives intersect. I loved how Lacey's story continued from *Rescue Me*, because she's been through so much I want to see how things turn out for her also.

The animals! I love, love what Catherine did in *Rescue Me* with Holly. Holly is the rescue dog AJ is working with, and she is the only character in the story who gives us a first person POV. It is endearing and sweet to say the least to hear Holly's thoughts! Catherine writes smoothly and reading all of the other characters POV in third person only made us get to know them so much more.

Added into all this is a bit of a mystery and some surprises that keep an already very intriguing book even more exciting.

It is obvious that Catherine knows what she's writing about...especially the animal rescue operation, all the hard work they are, and the intense need for them. Through a captivating romance, Catherine has managed to draw attention to those animals who need our voices and support too.

Reading Shelter Me first would be beneficial so that you have a better understanding of the shelter and the background of some of the characters, but I think if you read Rescue Me alone you will love it for itself too. Filled with everything I want in a book that will stay with me for a long time, I highly recommend Rescue Me to any romance reader, especially if you love animals!

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### **Jennesa says**

Such a good book. I love Mary Hannah and Aj. They truly are the perfect couple. Holly was probably my favorite character though. The Second Chance Ranch series is so good, and I hope Catherine Mann adds another book.

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### **Anna's Herding Cats says**

Quickie Review:

Rescue Me was an enjoyable read. I liked the animals. My heart just broke for Holly the boxer. The hero and heroine were likable and I enjoyed their time together. I wasn't totally wow-ed by the book though. It was pleasant but nothing that had me antsy for more. The ending was weird to me. A surprise twist that I just didn't care for unfortunately. I would have rated a little higher had that not happened.

Full review:

Rescue babes, a sexy cop and a likable heroine. All things I adore in my reads. And I did enjoy *Rescue Me* even though it didn't blow me away entirely as Mary Hannah and AJ both work on a meth house bust in different ways. He's there with the police force and she's there with the animal rescue to get animals out of the house.

**The characters**--I liked both AJ and Mary Hannah. They'd hooked up a little while back on a one night stand then realized they were going to be neighbors of a sort. I always love that storyline. They were a little awkward but still sweet as they worked through that. They could be a little touchy and over reactive now and again but I liked them. Especially how much they each cared about what they did--he's a cop, she's a therapist that specializes in therapy animals-- and the people and animals around them as well.

**The animals**--I loved the animals. Holly the Boxer broke my heart. She was a breeder dog used by the meth house owner. There were parts told from her point of view and she was such a sweetie but so broken and hurt it was difficult watching her find freedom and deal with everything new happening around her. Being in rescue it touched home since a number of our animals have come from horrible situations and had the same struggles adjusting. I do wish--with things being set at a rescue--some of the animals in the spotlight had been mixed breeds. There were purebreds around every corner. Not sure if that's how the other book in the

series was or not. But the actual animals themselves were adorable and so touching.

She leaned and wrote on the paper, my test. "There. It's official."

And that's how I finally had one name, sweetly spoken with love in a moment that changed my life forever. I had a long way to go, but finally, I had someone who cared. Someone who thought of me as more than Fat Mama, Bitch, Dumbass, Confiscate #8 or Shelter #S75230.

Finally, I mattered. Me. An individual being, not just a baby-making machine. And finally, I can introduce myself to you.

Hello, my name is Holly.

**The Set Up**--I liked the set up of Mary Hannah helping AJ working together on both the meth house bust and with the animals as they train Holly for a charity event as well as to help him deal with the stress of his police work. It was very touching seeing how Holly the dog and AJ bonded and helped heal each other from the pains of their past lives.

I'm not quite sure. While I enjoyed *Rescue Me* it didn't really capture me entirely for some reason. It was pleasant. But that really was it for me. Not a horrible thing but not one that will have me rushing for more right this second. I also had issues with a surprise twist at the end that felt very out of place for me and dealt with the owner of the rescue where the series is set. I'm just not a huge fan of her storyline at all. She just rubs me wrong for some reason.

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### **Joanne Rock says**

Poignant and powerful, Catherine Mann's Second Chance Rescue stories will remind you why you read romance. I love the way her characters battle their way through seemingly insurmountable odds and the heartwarming rescue tales will have you welcoming another pet into your home!

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### **Linda says**

Holly, the Boxer, is amazing! This story pulls on your heartstrings. It's as if every character has extra baggage they're forced to carry because of the blows life has dealt them. Even the rescue animals. Poignant, intense, and thought-provoking. You'll remember this story long after you turn the last page.

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### **Keri says**

I really liked this one and I hope we get more in the series.

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## **Alexia561 says**

Rescue Me is a nice, light romance whose main attraction for me was the rescue dog, Holly. Glad that I saw Anna's review over at Herding Cats and Burning Soup or I never would have found this book on my own!

Holly, the rescued boxer, broke my heart. Used as a breeding dog by a meth dealer, Holly never knew love or affection of any kind until she was rescued. Despite a very tough life, she somehow managed to keep things together long enough to find her chance.

Loved her sense of humor! Despite being terrified and overwhelmed by the shelter environment, Holly observes that she never dreamed she would one day wind up in a Sarah McLachlan commercial. My kind of girl!

Had a harder time warming up to the two humans that rescue Holly. Mary Hannah has very good reasons for being so straitlaced and proper, but I couldn't muster up much sympathy for her. And while AJ was a little more approachable, neither one resonated with me for some reason.

But Holly? I fell for Holly and I fell hard!

Every chapter started with a little quote or observation from Holly, which was a nice touch. Who knew a dog could be hooked on game shows? Loved the a-ha moment when AJ realizes that Holly likes to watch TV and that her favorite show seemed to be Jeopardy. Too funny!

One of the things I didn't care for was the multiple narrators. I don't usually mind more than one voice, but felt that there were too many POVs in this one. I think that limiting it to Holly, Mary Hannah, and AJ might have worked better. It was never confusing, but there were just too many people narrating in my opinion.

There was also a little too much information about animal rescues and the importance of service animals. While it was interesting, some of it felt a little too much like a lecture and interrupted the flow of the story for me. Maybe that could have been included in an afterword or appendix instead?

This was a fast read for me, and to be honest I found myself plowing through most of the book to get to the next Holly chapter. Almost wish this had been Holly's story instead, but that would have been a totally different type of book.

Overall, I did enjoy this one. It was a fast read with a touch of romance, an interesting storyline, a fascinating look into the world of animal rescues, and an adorable boxer named Holly!

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## **Jessica says**

I was so beyond excited to read Rescue Me. I was a big fan of the first book in the Second Chance Ranch series and I'm a huge sucker for any romance that has to do with animals. For some reason, though, I couldn't really get into the story and it ended up taking me forever to read.

Detective AJ Park was letting his emotions get the best of him as an undercover cop in Atlanta and knew that he had to leave before he endangered not only himself but the rest of his force as well. He moves to a small



town department in Tennessee hoping for less stress and more time to himself. What he's finally there, though, he finds Mary Hannah Gallo, a woman he had a one night stand with who works for the Second Chance Ranch animal shelter. After a drug bust that revealed abused dogs used for breeding, Mary Hannah and AJ are forced to work together. Still showing signs of stress, AJ finds himself asking for Mary Hannah's help to train one of the rescued dogs named Holly for him. While Mary Hannah does her best to keep her distance from the temptation of AJ, Holly does her best to bring those two together.

I don't remember how it was in the first novel of this series, but I wasn't a huge fan of the parts where it was from the point of view from Holly (the dog). Some things made Holly seem too human and not a realistic animal, which hindered my enjoyment of the novel. I know it was supposed to be cute with Holly deliberately trying to get AJ and Mary Hannah together, but I think I would have liked the story better if she were just a regular dog who needed some TLC after being abused for so long. I really loved how training Holly is what brought AJ and Mary Hannah together and how Holly really did begin to grow on AJ, but I would have liked a more realistic sense of the dog over the cutesy, exaggerated personality we got.

As for the romance, I enjoyed it a lot, but I felt like I had missed a pretty big moment between the two main characters before the book even started. Apparently AJ and Mary Hannah had a one night stand, but none of it was in the book and it was only sometimes talked about or alluded to. There were details about that night that I was like, did that really happen? Since when? I wish we had either witnessed that moment or gotten a quick, full rundown in order to keep the story straight instead of trying to sort of piece it together on our own. Other than that, though, I thought their relationship was cute and enjoyed how it was so hard for them to resist each other. I did think that the end "secret" that was thrown in to add some suspense was a bit too abrupt and not really all that necessary for the story. Also, I didn't really care for Lacey's story that took up quite a bit of this book for a secondary character. I was there for AJ and Mary Hannah and didn't like having to spend so much time on Lacey and her romance problems.

Overall, this was a great romance with just a few problems in my eyes. I'd prefer a more subtle animal character rather than such an overt one that was found in the story and I wanted even more Mary Hannah and AJ and less attention on one of the secondary characters. I still adored the animals in the book and loved how rescued dogs were the key to bringing together two people who were trying their best to stay apart.

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## **OpenBookSociety.com says**

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/re...>

Brought to you by OBS reviewer Jerjen

Rescue Me by Catherine Mann is the second book in the Second Chance Ranch series and it is a very good read. This book, as well as the first book in the series, is about animals and humans, both looking for love, redemption and happily ever after. Mary Hannah Gallo works at the Second Chance Ranch as a trainer for therapy dogs. She is called to a house to confiscate dogs from a backyard breeder that are living in terrible conditions. Detective AJ Parker is also present to help with the operation. When they get to the house, they find a meth house as well as unscrupulous breeding practices. They remove all the dogs and eventually place them at the Second Chance Ranch to begin the dogs rehabilitation and to look for forever homes for the dogs. AJ and the police force must also find out who has been running the meth lab.

One of the dogs removed from the home is Holly, who has been abused and used for multiple breeding

purposes. She is scared and very undersocialized and she pulls at the heartstrings of both Mary Hannah and AJ. They both begin working with Holly to socialize her and get her ready to be adopted.

Holly is not the only one who needs healing and a chance at a new life. Mary Hannah is divorced and has lost a baby during her pregnancy. She is also a recovering addict who blames herself for losing her baby. AJ worked undercover in Atlanta before joining the Tennessee police force.

He became involved with another drug addict while undercover and because he trusted that addict, a little child almost died. He is suffering from big time burnout and he does not trust his own instincts anymore. To make matters even more complicated, he and Mary Hannah had a one night stand a few months back and neither can forget the encounter. They are both damaged from their past, just like Holly is, and they do not know how to heal. They do not know how to trust themselves or others to obtain the life they all want.

Holly is quite a character. She has spent most of her past life watching television and trying to avoid further abuse. During the course of the book, there are sections that are written from Holly's perspective. I really love those parts of the book. She often quotes television shows and things that she has learned from the television. I thought this was so cute and it pulled at my heartstrings. She also knows that it is her job to get Mary Hannah and AJ together and she does everything within her power to do just that. Will she be able to succeed?

The writing style flows smoothly and the book is an easy read. The author writes with such tenderness when describing the abused animals that it is devastatingly heartbreaking and also triumphantly happy. I do not think this is an easy thing to do. My emotions were all over the place while reading. I laughed out loud and wanted to cry and everything in between. In my opinion this made the book extra special.

Another area that I really enjoyed is the tight knit family that runs Second Chance Ranch. Although some were not blood related you could tell that they were as close as any family could be. I loved reading about all their relationships and it made the book seem very real to me. I would like to be friends with them and be included in the family closeness. Many of the characters from book one are back in book two and it was nice to find out a little more about them and to catch up on their lives.

There is also an element of mystery and suspense contained within the book when the police try to find the people behind the meth house and the drug problem. Holly recognizes some of the people from the meth house at Second Chance Ranch and she tries to let Mary Hannah and AJ know, in her own way. When this mystery is solved I was surprised by the outcome. I enjoy when that happens.

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys reading a romance book that offers so much more. If you enjoy reading about second chances and forgiveness and fighting for what you want, then this book is for you. And if you are an animal lover, this is a must read book. I cannot wait to read the next book in the series, whenever it is released. I would recommend reading book one also.

\*OBS would like to thank the publisher for supplying a free copy of this title in exchange for an honest review\*

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## **Kerry says**

Rescue Me is the most extraordinarily heart-warming story I have ever read! I laughed, I cried, I felt good

about life after finishing this book. Catherine Mann takes you on a journey of second chances for the people and the pets through out this book.

Reading from the perspective of Holly was so emotional for me, It made me hug my rescued fur-babies & shelled-baby just a little bit more. (Yes, you can hug a tortoise & mine gives cuddles right back!) AJ & Mary Hannah's story shows how two completely opposite people can come together and make each other whole again.

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### **Sariah says**

Viens me chercher est le second volet de la série Second Chance Ranch, une lecture légère et agréable. Des animaux sur le point de finir leur existence dans une fourrière sont secourus, soignés par les membres du refuge. Ce sont des protagonistes à part entière, Holly pour ce volet-ci, qui interviennent auprès des humains pour leur montrer la voie vers le bonheur. L'auteure, comme dans le précédent tome, intègre à la fois des perspectives humaines et...

<http://www.sariahlit.com/2017/06/seco...>

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### **Jo-Anne says**

All the characters brought a lot to this story but Holly, the boxer was the best! She had lived a sad life in a meth house. Her only purpose was to breed. I loved hearing Holly's thoughts after she was rescued. She was treated kindly and given a real name for the first time in her life. Understandably, it took her quite a while to trust these humans. Mary Hanna was great with the dogs. It was through her that we got a look into the dog rescue and training world, seeing how heart-breaking and rewarding it can be. I loved kind, caring AJ. Even though he left his undercover drug work behind in Atlanta, his instincts/training kicked in when they found a meth operation in the small town.

Mary Hanna and AJ's feelings grew as they worked on training Holly but they both fought the attraction. It was cute that Holly knew they should be together and kept trying to get them to realize it.

This is an intense, heart-breaking story that will leave you smiling.

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### **Aly says**

Second book in the Second Chance Ranch series and sadly, the last one. Both stories were so great I wish there was more book afterwards but at least there was those two.

Mary Hannah Gallo is a mental-health counselor who pair her clients with rescue dogs. She live an ordered life, but that wasn't always the case and she think that her past mistakes are responsible for a personal tragedy that happened a few years ago.

Former undercover cop was supposed to be done with the high-level crime when he left Atlanta for a small town in Tennessee. But busting a meth house and rescuing dogs from a breeding situation is the opposite of that. And working with the woman next door to help train a mama Boxer, the same woman who were his one-night stand not too long ago, is not what this solitary guy had in mind. But it will be exactly what he

needed. They can try to fight the obvious attraction, but they can't win at avoiding their feelings.

Rescue Me is the romance between two people who didn't have things easy in life, who were unhappy without really knowing it, a little jaded but who find comfort in each other when they finally let go of the barriers around their heart and the wounds of the past. We also got chapters featuring Mary Hannah's boss and friend who's life is going through changes. Amazing characters who were flawed like any real person and who have their hearts in the right place. But the real star is Holly, the Boxer who give us her POV throughout the story and improvised herself matchmaker.

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