



## City Mouse

*Amy Lane , Aleksandr Voinov*

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*A magical weekend, a breathless declaration, a happy ever after . . . Right?*

Wrong.

When Malcolm Kavanagh took his first step toward emotional maturity by declaring his love to Owen Watson, that was just the first chapter in their story. Anyone who's ever been in love knows that happy endings take a lot more work than that.

One problem: Malcolm has never been in love. He doesn't know the rules of a relationship and isn't confident enough to trust that his is real. He learns the ropes by sharing his life and his flat with Owen, but relationship boot camp proves a challenge. Everything is a struggle, from accepting Owen's low-status job to putting his boyfriend above his personal trainer.

Luckily, Owen knows a little more about relationships, and labors patiently to survive the first six weeks of their life together. From the art galleries of Cambridge to the tawdry majesty of the Dominion theatre, Owen adapts to England while Malcolm adapts to the whole human race. Maybe, if Owen is patient enough and Malcolm learns to give, the two of them can make it past Relationship Armageddon to a real happy ending.

## City Mouse Details

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## From Reader Review City Mouse for online ebook

### Gigi says

#### Review for books one and two:

Can you say, "Chemistry?" Because that is what this series Country Mouse and City Mouse boils down to. Just the most intense, **smoldering hot**, *ridiculously* emotional, romantic, *mind-blowing*, peel-the-paint-off-the-walls sex. Good God, it seriously doesn't get a whole lot smuttier than this.

#### I. Loved. Every. Word.

The story line was good too. I promise you'll be able to handle the insta-love 'cuz, **THE SEX** people. The sex...

Read this series ASAP. I just finished my second read of both and anxiously await my old brain to forget the details so I can read it all over again.

#### **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!!!!**

Absolutely ridiculous, I tell you!

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### Shirley Frances says

Apparently I like my books with a touch of angst, a lot of smut and characters that get on my nerves but endear themselves to me regardless because I've been on a Aleksandr Voinov and Amy Lane kick recently if my 'read' shelf is anything to go by.

So here we are visiting the city slicker and the mellow Yank a week after Malcolm asked Owen to stay in London. Like any relationship everything was going fine during the honeymoon phase until Malcolm started reverting to his routine of late nights at the office. Add to that the fact that he had some issues with Owen's job and financial stability and you are correct in assuming that everything is not as peachy keen as it looks.

In this follow-up book to Country Mouse we get to discover a different side to both Owen and Malcolm. Although it was clear that Malcolm was a stubborn man with issues it is in City Mouse that we truly get a sense of who he is and why he behaves as he does. On the surface he appears cold and unapproachable, but as I kept on reading I found him to be more like an insecure, confused child. He knew what he wanted but couldn't believe it was in front of him for the taking. He knew he loved Owen, but he also knew that his behavior was insufferable and that Owen wouldn't stand for it. Did he try to stop it? Er, nope.

For his part, Owen kept to his laid-back attitude accepting Malcolm as he was even if at times it rankled to know that the man he loved behaved that way. He tried his best to keep the peace and let Malcolm adjust and

learn how a relationship worked but in the end it became too much for him to let it slide and it all exploded in a confrontation that left both men confused and emotionally drained.

As with *Country Mouse*, Voinov and Lane's collaboration came together without a glitch. This time around there was less of the funny but more of the angst and emotions. From the honest, intimate moments to the explosive flare of the men's temper through to the hurt each one encountered when confronted with the fact that maybe this relationship was bound to fail, Voinov and Lane's writing was outstanding. The men's emotions were clearly expressed on the page to make me connect to them even more than I had in the previous book and the dialogue shared between them was both enlightening as it was entertaining. It was through their interactions and inner thoughts I could understand where Owen and Malcolm were coming from.

Needless to say that their chemistry was explosive. With Voinov and Lane in charge, every time Owen and Malcolm came together (no pun intended) you could clearly see how much they wanted each other, but more than that, you could see how much they cared for one another. Although dominant and appearing in control Malcolm always managed to give into Owen, just as Owen always tried to make Malcolm yield to him on another level. It was such a treat to see them this way!

I thoroughly enjoyed this visit with Malcolm and Owen and would love to know how they fare as a couple now that they have gotten some of the most important issues dealt with. I wonder if there is more to come, because I know for a fact that Malcolm and Owen's story will always be an interesting one. I guess time will tell.

I received this title from Riptide Publishing through NetGalley in exchange of my honest opinion.

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## **Susan says**

3.5 stars! ...and a spoiler-free review...

If you're a fan of *Country Mouse*, you were probably in HEA-heaven when Malcolm pulled the grand, romantic move of stopping Owen at the train station from leaving for Paris. It was one of those sigh-inducing, make-my-heart-full moments.

*City Mouse* takes place in the weeks immediately following as we watch Mal and Owen figure out "what's next?" Owen remains the sweet, kind-hearted, loving, but so-NOT-a-pushover Yank. The real transformation, and what I find drives the movement in the story of book 2, happens with Malcolm and his battle against his past demons, his current lifestyle and attitude, and who/what he can't help want to be for Owen.

The book is sweet...a little bit of angst via relationship growing pains thrown in that didn't really exist in book 1...and gives us fans of Owen/Malcolm even more. It was great to see their relationship evolve. (*But seriously: does Owen HAVE to be THAT perfect about everything? And does Malcolm HAVE to be such an arrogant ass about everything? ha! ...well, Malcolm's vulnerable moments, though rare, were endearing...*)

There's lots and lots and lots and lots of smexy in this book as well (including an ice dildo...erm...). And, for new fans of Voinov's *Market Garden* series, the club makes a guest appearance along with a couple of the

side characters.

Entertaining and easy.

*Thanks, as always, to Riptide for the ARC...you guys ROCK! :)*

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## **Eva says**

**5 Amy Lane and Aleksander Voinov stars**

**More Malcolm and Owen and London**

*"When you get to that point where you notice a person's faults, you've got to decide if you can live with them or can't live without them."*

There's a lot to love in this story. It's full of humour, sarcasm, frustration, romance, tenderness, hotness, love... the list goes on. It worked very well for me, I loved the sequel as much as the book #1. Malcolm's snarky humour completely captured me in the beginning and Owen's tender loving calm balanced the relationship. And the need...

*"Malcolm didn't like to admit he needed, but he did, and when he gave in and needed Owen, Owen was all about giving this man what he could".*

The sex was hot off the charts.

Overall, fantastic read. I wish we see more Lane/Voinov collaboration in the future. Pretty please!

**Highly recommended**

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## **Macky says**

3.5\*

I think I'm going to be in the minority here. Don't get me wrong I did enjoy this one but I think Country

Mouse just tipped it for me because I loved the dynamics in it between the two guys and the snarky humour between them, so in this I was expecting to see a bit more of the original cocky Malcom. There were shades of him but he seemed more worried about losing Owen and it made him seem more whiny and selfish than his original cockiness and arrogance that had me laughing in the first book! Because Owen is such a sweetie and so laid back, I actually liked the last bit best when he does finally lose it a bit with Malcom and has him sweating! I rounded it up to 4 because there's no denying the writing skills of these two great authors and to post three stars wouldn't seem right for the quality of the book.

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## **Monique says**

### **Fabulous follow up to *County Mouse...* and I am just loving this Voinov ~ Lane collaboration.**

These two talented writers have delivered an excellent second instalment to the Country Mouse series, the pace and the emotions that it evoked had me devouring page by fabulous page with the authors also getting into their stride as we get to know these characters, and not forgetting more luscious smexy loving between two MC's. Owen will always be an absolute darling and Malcolm will constantly need to be gently coerced in the right direction by Owens unassuming disposition.

In the last book, Malcolm was irritating and a thoroughly unpleasant man, but I warmed to him when we at last saw the sensitive side to his nature. So at the start of this book, which follows immediately after the first I was expecting more of that vulnerability from Malcolm. Mmm... after he so beautifully opened his heart and managed to convince the adorable Owen to be a part of his life and stay in London, they have the weekend together and it is back to the rat race for Malcolm, leaving Owen to consider his options and look for gainful employment.

Malcolm thinks the perfect place for Owen to start looking for a job would be the financial sector in the city but Owen couldn't think of anything worse than working with people that are full of their own importance. Owen likes the simple things in life and what he wants most is to be happy and loved, wealth and social standing are worthless to him in the grand scheme of things and certainly not his priority. So when Owen finds a job as a Computer technician in a part of London with a postcode that to Malcolm screams poverty and crime he is mortified!

Malcolm sees Owen's Job, working in Brixton at a tatty co-operative that had seen better days, as well as the pittance he was being paid for the privilege as demeaning, and as Malcolm's job is becoming more demanding of his time and Owen is left home alone he is beginning to wonder just how long it will take for Owen to get pissed off with it all. Is there honeymoon period over?

Malcolm again ended up annoying me, he wasn't very likeable at all and being inside his head was quite disconcerting, he was rude, jealous, pretentious, shallow and vain! and his only redeeming quality was that he was damn lucky to have such a sweet man that could obviously see past the power hungry persona, where appearance and social standing are so important.

Owen isn't easily flustered and he is extremely patient, I know I personally would have punched Malcolm on the nose but Owen is vibrant and full of life and fun, and his heart is bursting with love... his glass is always half full compared to Malcolm's who's is half empty, and the authors did a great job of developing their

relationship further, and we see them get through another tumultuous stage in their relationship. Malcolm needs Owen to open his eyes to the wonders of life, he is so full of understanding and thoughtfulness that he can see the strength of the man who bared his soul when he thought he might lose the only person he had ever loved. Oh... Malcolm still has faults aplenty but with Owen to keep him grounded he can see through the pretentious world and recognise the most valuable thing you can have actually costs nothing and is freely given.

*This ARC was provided by Riptide Publishing through NetGalley*

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### **Christina says**

While not as good as the first installment, it was still fun to be back with Malcolm and Owen in City Mouse. Malcolm and Owen are getting to know each other and realizing that their relationship isn't all fun and games.

The biggest issue I had was that the authors kept highlighting the fact that these characters are polar opposites which, IMO just highlighted the differences in their writing. This book was far less cohesive than the first.

I still enjoyed reading about Malcolm and Owen but if I wanted to re-visit them, I would be going back to County Mouse.

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### **Mark says**

Beautiful. I actually liked this one more than the first one. A sequel that really finishes and rounds off the relationship that brings Malcolm and Owen home. It is also not without its very British humour which had me laughing hysterically in parts.

I really liked that this sequel dealt with the period when the honeymoon period is over and the faults start letting themselves show. It is at this point that makes or breaks a relationship. The stage where any couple has to ask themselves can we love the faults as much as the good points. If the answer is yes then it can work. I felt for Owen seeing how it was so obvious the Malcolm's job was the thing that was destroying him and putting a strain on their relationship. Owen remains a pillar of strength but more than this he is the one that has both feet firmly planted on the ground and is the understanding one in this duo. Malcolm loves Owen intensely but as we learn all his insecurities coming from childhood makes him a control freak and has a fear of being poor and the fat kid.

This is a sweet story of a new couple finding themselves and preparing the ground for a long lasting and loving life together.

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## Simsala says

The Riptide/Merkel conspiracy...

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### **\*J\* Too Many Books Too Little Time says**

Solid series.

Malcolm was a bit of a douche at times. A bit self-centered when it came to his and Owen's relationship.

And Owen had the patience of a saint. I loved him. And I liked them together.

Loved the addition of Percy from the Market Garden series, wonder why he never got his own book?

A bit of an abrupt ending, but overall a really enjoyable series!

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## Tina says

4,5 stars for the brilliant sequel of 'Country Mouse'.

I love 'City Mouse' even more than 'Country Mouse'. I love neurotic, smug Malcolm with his tailor-made suits, his expensive ties and his control mania. I love him even more when he forgets all his high-strung behavior and shoves an ice dildo up in Owen's ass... just saying... :)

Sometimes he's so hilarious. I guess it's his brit humour I can't resist.

*"Yeah, all gay guys have really good hygiene and are nice," he said between gritted teeth. "And the Paris Hiltons of the world can pick a gay buddy up with her Christian Lobotomy shoes."*

And of course I love the oh-so-patient laid-back all-American Owen. If I have been in his spot Malcolm wouldn't have had any chance to survive the relationship Armageddon, those tricky six weeks. He would have died a long torturous death, strangled with his own tie! :D

Haha... and we meet Percy from the Market Garden books who introduces Malcolm to the club. Even Nick has a little appearance.

*...a guy who was idly playing with a riding crop. That guy was selling pain, and his arched eyebrow seemed like something of a permanent invitation. Malcolm couldn't help but grin a little at the guy's panache, playing Big Bad Dom when he was five foot and change. Maybe he had the same Napoleon complex as Josh.*

Speaking of Josh... Amy and Aleks, I hope you are planning a third installment. I think Josh's story would be a hell of a fun read. A guy with a Napoleon complex \*snorts\* (who loves torturing poor guys in his gym) needs to meet the man of his dreams, doesn't he?



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## Bev says

**Owen and Mal...what a combination. Owen is *such* as sweetie, Mal is still a pain in the arse but his heart's in the right place....4.5 stars from me for this one, I loved it**

We continue on from where Mal rushed to the station to stop Owen leaving him, and our couple seem to be making huge strides in the relationship stakes. Owen has found a job as the go-to IT guy at a co-op of businesses in Brixton (.um), and Mal is still employed as a trader by his bank in the City...but for how much longer is debatable. Job cuts are affecting everyone, and at Mal's bank it is rumoured that whoever gets the boot will get it **before** Christmas so that bonuses are not paid. Mal is trying to deal with the stress, and still visits Josh at the gym, but Josh is **not** a happy bunny....Mal is paying too much attention to Owen, and not enough to his gym routine..I think the words 'get stuffed Josh' are a given.

Mal is not happy that Owen's pay is pathetic, he doesn't understand that people can do a job simply because they like their fellow employees and the **actual** job, not the benefits and status they can accrue, but for the moment, he is happy that Owen is happy. They do normal couple things during the evenings and weekends, even venturing out to Cambridge for a trip which ends with a very hot session in a disabled toilet!! (**I'll never be able to go to the Fitzwilliam Museum again without thinking of that, phew!!**) Unfortunately, real life starts to intrude....Mal's job gets even **more** stressful as the traders try to prove to their bosses that they are invaluable and worthy of keeping their jobs, which means that Mal isn't getting back to the penthouse much before 11pm most nights....obviously he isn't the **only** one getting a little pissed off with this turn of events.

As Owen has been discussing with his mum during their phone conversations, the 6 week marker is rapidly approaching....Owen has problems with relationships once they hit the 6 week barrier....and it would seem **this** relationship is no different. What happens after this, you dear reader, will have to discover for yourselves....but I will say that 'Market Garden' makes an appearance, and for Owen's sake, I was 'over the moon' that Mal behaved himself'.

I loved this slice of the Country/City Mouse saga, and hope that there'll be another episode in the future. Many thanks Aleks and Amy. x

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## Nova says

Oh oh... mein erster Gedanke zum Cover: Der Typ auf der oberen Hälfte erinnert mich... an unsere Frau Merkel... \*rofl\*

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**Lisa Arbitrary - AttentionIsArbitrary M/M Blog says**

~ ~ ~

## 4 Enjoyable Stars

"Strong is having the faith to run after a guy you've fallen for and taking the risk of looking like an idiot..."

There's a lot to be found in this story; humor, sarcasm, frustration, romance, tenderness, erotica...It hit all my buttons. Malcolm's snarky humor completely captured me in the beginning and Owen's tender loving calm balanced the relationship. Oh yeah, and the icy-hot sex scene is NOT TO BE MISSED.

**"I don't have any kinks," Owen lied. And squirmed, too.**

**"Well-dressed Brits is technically a kink," Malcolm asserted with roughly two-tons of smugness in his compact frame.**

### THE CHARACTERS

**Malcolm Kavanagh** - His cynical humor and delightful emotional immaturity had me wrapped around his little finger...just like Owen. It's hard to deny a guy who needs you SO much, even if he's an "overbearing wanker."

*Malcolm didn't like to admit he needed, but he did, and when he gave in and needed Owen, Owen was all about giving this man what he could.*

**Owen Watson** - Good-natured, easygoing and mature beyond his years Owen has a rather magnanimous patience for Mal's moody tantrums. He's an anchor in this story and heck, he makes an American girl proud.

I also enjoyed the portrayal of both the moms in the story. Level headed, wise and loving. Nice.

**"When you get to that point where you notice a person's faults, you've got to decide if you can live with them or can't live without them."**

There's also a cross-over appearance by Percy who is also found in the Market Garden serial. Plus a peek inside the Market Garden itself.

### THE STORY

I really enjoyed Country Mouse, book #1 in this series, and totally enjoyed the continuing development of the whirlwind romance in book #2. Mal and Owen know they have a lot to learn about each other, but they

also know they have something worthy of the effort. It might be too fast and easy for some, but I was just so caught up in the passionate romance to really notice.

Malcolm is really lucky to have found Owen; possibly the only one who would put up with his domineering personality. Luckily, Owen has some pretty powerful traits of his own. Owen's gentle nature and calm patience bowl Malcolm over...he really never sees his own control being gently coaxed to surrender.

The relationship elements are as good as the sexy bits, and the sexy bits are good, really, really good.

### **THE WRITING**

Witty humor and quick paced, Lane and Voinov work extraordinarily well together. The grouchy plays so well off the sweet that you can imagine they had a great time co-writing with each other. There was a moment at 84% where I actually shouted out a "hurray!" A decidedly great choice by the authors, and much appreciated.

### **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**

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I would like to sincerely thank Netgalley and Riptide Publishing for providing me with an ARC of this book in exchange for my honest review.

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**Take a look at my Male/Male Romance Book Blog:**

<http://www.attentionisarbitrary.blogspot.com>

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### **Ingie says**

*Written January 28, 2015*

**4 1/2 Stars - Undoubtedly a real treat - A brilliant fun contemporary 'Voinov & Lane' gem**

#### **Book #2**

I was surprised how much I loved Aleksandr Voinov and Amy Lane's first novella part, #1 - Country Mouse (4.2 stars), then back in October last year. My friend *Are* and I talked about to read this second (full-length) part together already then but time went. Last Sunday we took a quick BR decision and started this sequel. - (Are's 4 star review)

**And Jolly Good!! isn't enough...**

This is a little masterpiece. It's hard to tell why it is so good. ~ Maybe is just that feeling of real life, real ordinary relationship struggling. These characters aren't heroes with a capital "H". They are two human, rather ordinary young men, with natural feelings and with some hassle to get back on their feet at times.

Hooray!!! - for guys with flaws that are clever, stubborn and loves unconditionally.

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*After the first fling...*

In the first book did **Owen Watson**, a young college *Yank* on vacation in London, start to talk with a well dressed man, in a dark office suit and shiny shoes, in a scruffy London pub. **Malcolm Kavanagh** was in urgent need of a one-night's "sub". He was a man who just wanted it to be simple, quick and then something to soon forget.

**Qwen and Malcolm had an amazing hot, light kinky, very lovely weekend together.** It all ended with Malcolm very humble romantic asked Owen to stay in London.

*'Owen heard that for what it was. Self-recrimination. Yes, Malcolm, you forgot the condom because you're not used to being human yet. It's okay. I forgive you.'*

**Awwww, Malcolm is a naughty boy.**

Malcolm is a hard working trading desk Londoner with more or less no time for meaningful relationships. He thought he was a 'Dom', but maybe he was wrong there as well.

From now on starts something completely new. Home in Malcolm's penthouse apartment is this funny, sexy and so very sweet, but also so very different, American goodlooking lover.

There is this sweet and tender Owen guy. Malcolm's new (first!!) boyfriend. A guy with other, very strange, goals in life. Other 'goals' than just earning a lot of money, get an even more preppy job, wear nice expensive clothes, have your own PT and never eat anything else than low fat chicken food. And most important: live on a 'proper' street and be able to move around in London's heated financial circuits. ~ ...The few hours you're not working.

Malcolm is really trying, but it's so d@mn hard to change to another creature suddenly at once.

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**City Mouse is the story about those first shaking 'honeymoon' weeks** (six) in a new relationship. Funny, sweet, smexy hot and heartbreaking moments. Oh dear, it isn't easy to adjust to new premises in life. You need time - but is just six weeks, as Owen's mother means, enough?

I like this British humor and there are so many funny moments here. I like this London feeling (want to be there). I like this storyline style (more like this please).

“Owen, your boyfriend’s here. And you’re right. He does look like a snake that swallowed a lemon!”

**There are for sure a lot of good things to say'** For example this touching insecurity our, so to be, strong Malcolm character have. There are a lot of "stuff" heavy on his poor shoulders. It isn't easy to be a strong man at all times. ~ Haha, I just love that guy.

Our second boy, Owen, isn't bad he either. I like his way to stand calm, to let Malcolm hysterically fluttering around, calm Mal down, let Mal 'play' dominant for a while, but in the end grab it all and just be there. He's that big, strong, confident teddy-bear. The MAN whose bosom we all are so very happy to step into.

“I want . . . I want to never have to check for your passport to know whether you’re coming back.”

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**Funny, adorable sweet and slightly kinky sexy**

Quickly read two part series. Maybe should it be 5-stars rating? ~ Pick it up! ...I just wish there was more book-parts to be, or at least more M/M, from these two writers together.

**I LIKE - ...a lot!!**

\*\*\*\*\* (view spoiler)

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