



Gray For You

Spencer Spears

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I might be your fantasy. But I'm nobody's forever...

Gray: I'm not the kind of guy you take home to meet your mother. I'm an ex-adult film star with a GED and a giant collection of movie credits I can't talk about in polite company. I might be good at helping other guys get their happy endings, but I've more or less given up on finding one of my own.

Until Tyler Lang walks into my life.

That's right, my co-star for my final film is Tyler Lang--America's heartthrob, until he disappeared from the radar last year. Tyler's got a reputation for being a bad boy, a partier, and apparently straight, but the sweet, vulnerable-looking kid who shows up at auditions is completely different. And now that I'm getting to know him, I can't help wondering what it is that's made his eyes so sad--and wishing there were some way I could make it better.

I'm not supposed to get a happy ending. So why the hell won't my heart listen?

"I'm yours. In whatever way, for however long you want me. Just say the words and you'll have me forever."

Tyler: I know what you've heard about me. Another spoiled child-actor, all grown up and out of control. I wish I could tell you you're wrong, but the truth is, I'm a little bit of a mess. Okay, so maybe I'm a *giant* mess. And now, after getting arrested with an ez-bake oven's worth of drugs I don't even remember buying, I'm washed-up at the grand old age of 21.

After a year of rehab and community service, all I want is to work again. So when my agent sends me a new script, maybe I don't read the fine print as carefully as I should. Which is how I end up auditioning for an adult film. A high-brow, literary adult film. But still. There's no way I can go through with this. After all, I'm so deep in the closet I'm not sure I'll ever find my way out. And I *wouldn't* do this movie--except for one thing: Gray Evans.

Strong, kind, and honest, Gray makes me feel seen in a way I've never been before--and makes me want to be better. And somehow, around Gray, everything seems possible. Like maybe there's a world where I'm not a total screw-up. Maybe there's a world where I can come out, and not tank my career. And maybe, just maybe, there's a world where Gray, who's smart and brave and so together, could want someone like me.

Gray For You is Book 2 in the 8 Million Hearts series. While each book can be read on its own, they're even more fun to read together. Gray For You is a 150,000 word m/m romance full of snark, sweetness, and a healthy serving of steam. Movie star romance and hurt/comfort themes. No cheating, no cliffhangers, and a guaranteed HEA.

Gray For You Details

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Author : Spencer Spears

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From Reader Review Gray For You for online ebook

Bookreader87(Amanda) says

3.5ish stars

The story is about an ex child star and an ex p*rn star looking for another shot in life. They are given just that when an opportunity to star in an indie movie arises. Its seems when the rest of the world is out there judging them they find friendship and trust in one another.

I liked many part of the book. I like how parts of Tyler and Gray's relationship correlated with the movie being made in the book. I did enjoy the two MCs friendship. I believe they found one another right when they needed to.

The negative was the book was too long, the MCs were way to insecure and down on themselves. That actually started to bring the book down a lot. The MCs lacked communication skills when it came to expressing themselves. They also lacked back bones and spend a majority of the book letting others walk all over them. I found myself getting frustrated with their actions several times. Oh and the burn was super slow. Although, we see the two MCs relationship development, they don't actually get together until the 90% mark. There is no epilogue to tie it all up. You do have to sign up to the newsletter to get extra Tyler and Gray. So there is that option.

Overall it was an ok read.

Jb says

-2.5 stars

This is my first ever review...I've always relied heavily on the reviews of others-looking at both the good and the bad to help form my choices-and being that I'm in the minority here maybe I can offer a different idea of what to expect with this book. I don't want to dissuade others, a few bad reviews has never pushed me to totally disregard a certain book, but it does help me to get in the best mindset to be able to enjoy it. So maybe this will be that for someone else. If not, well then at the very least I'm popping my review cherry and that is an accomplishment in and of itself is it not?

I feel I have to preface this review with one more thing- I'm someone who simply can't "DNF" a book. At times I feel like it is a true curse; at others I feel grateful that my optimism in sticking it out has paid off. That was kind of the case with this book, at the very end I was somewhat glad I stuck it out. But it was literally at the very end.

That is, Tyler and Gray only become a couple at the 90% mark. Unfortunately, it isn't because they just never DTRd and have been under the assumption they were in a relationship the whole time. Nope, they were just friends. Mind you they were the kind of friends who had sex, but it was mostly on camera and even during their first coupling (view spoiler) it wasn't truly just out of their desire for one another. The situation being as it was, was the biggest reason for that, I get it. But I was also hoping it was going to be the time where they finally spill their guts and revel in their developing feelings for one another. Instead, we just get more

internal hemming and hawing of "Should I tell him? Should I not? He can't possibly like me so I shouldn't. I wouldn't deserve him if he did, so yeah keep the lips zipped." Since the time for finally expressing themselves comes at the very end, the transition from being in like, to being in love, felt contrived.

That is what was so disappointing about this book. I wanted them to really blur the line between themselves and their characters in the movie because Wyatt and Dylan gave me the feels so much more than Gray and Tyler did. When they connected with that, with the thoughts of "oh, I'm not really having to act because this is exactly how I really feel," it was when I thought this book really shined. But those were short instances that never panned out into being a possible gateway for them to start actually dating.

Don't get me wrong, I loved the first book in this series-and have read and really enjoyed some of Spencer's other works-but that is what compelled me to write this review...it had so much potential and I just don't think it lived up to it.

Again, there are great moments filled with promise, that while in most instances I would say never deliver, some most definitely do. The stuff surrounding the movie-them getting into character, Tyler helping acting newbie Gray really be able to connect, the banter between them-were most of those delivered upon moments. (Speaking of banter, the scene with Tyler expressing his fears about bottoming for the first time...soooo funny! Beyond loved it!)

However, most of my frustration, and the moments that definitely missed the mark, centered around Tyler and Gray continually being forced into their respective roles as the "screw up" and as the "nice guy." More so, Gray's relationship with his ex was probably the one thing that annoyed me the most. And yet, it was probably the most realistic. I mean I certainly know people who cling to something they never really had and thereby settle for 'something' over nothing. But I was wanting that realization, the "hey, I am worth more and he was just a selfish asshole" realization, to come so much sooner than at that damned 90% mark.

When it comes to Tyler, he is the grown-up child star who had a parent (his dad) become more interested in what their child could do for them, than what they could do for their child. I really saw him in the vein of Macaulay Culkin's dad (a dated reference but also a good one I think). And of course that is how it ends, the resulting damage is more than emotional, it is also financial so finally Tyler cuts ties with him. Guess when that happens...? Yep, at the very end.

So all in all I wanted less build up and more showing how Tyler and Gray settled into themselves and ultimately their relationship. How it played out for them to really be living in New York, not an "oh why don't you just move in despite this being the first time you have ever been to my apartment" moment.

So yeah, I ended up skimming towards the end, bypassing the redundant internal back and forth, and wanting them to just finally get together! It happened, I liked it, but was still left unsatisfied.

Just like I can't not finish a book, it takes a lot for me to rate a book under 3 stars. This isn't technically one of those times but I'm still considering it a "I'm saying it's 3 stars but it's really 2.5 stars but I can't not round up" rating. However, if you're like me don't let this stop you from possibly really enjoying this book. Just go into this one with the mindset that the pay off/the romance/the true feels don't come till the last minute.

Cadiva says

I did actually properly review this, no idea where that review went as this one suddenly showed up as Want To Read on my new Paperwhite!

Anyway, I clearly enjoyed it as it was a 4* read!

Kim says

This book was absolutely awesome. This book was a page turner that I just couldn't stop reading until the end. I had absolutely loved reading this book. I would highly recommend this book.

Katherine says

Two actors walk into a porno

Another fantastic book in the 8 million hearts series that will have you dying to turn the page to see what comes next!

Gray and Tyler were the leads in this book, a sweet match that had a long journey to take to end up together. Each man had their own baggage. Gray has his history in porn coupled with a recent loss and break up, leaving him confident that he's just a washed up old man with not many future prospects. Tyler is a young TV star who has screwed up his life so many times that now he has no job prospects, and accidentally auditioning for an artsy porn movie has him sure that there are no future plans for him, and he might as well take what he can get. Early on the two become fast and easy friends. Gray feels protective of Tyler, but also looks to him for the 'how-to' of the acting. Tyler feels safe with Gray, confident that he can open up and be himself, and also enjoys showing the older man that he isn't as worthless as he believes. This friendship holds strong as the filming begins and builds a base for an amazing relationship.

Tyler has some major emotional issues in his past as we get to learn about him. He has been acting since he was six, when he landed a role in a corny but popular kids show. His father has been his manager since then, and we fast learn that his father has not been the most supportive. While Tyler certainly made some poor life decisions, it becomes more and more clear that he was emotionally abused and manipulated by his father. Acting may be all he's done but his father locked it into all he could do, and the constant assertions that Tyler is an idiot and irresponsible have left him dependent on his father. This new movie has him working away from his father for the first time ever, and while it opens his eyes in some ways, Tyler still feels that he is incompetent and too dumb to do things on his own, leaving him floundering in his life decisions.

Gray has some pretty deep emotional issues as well. While he has not been told that he is no good, he feels that life has unequivocally shown him that. With a mother who never cared, a boyfriend who wouldn't come out, no education, and an ended career in porn, Gray sees himself as being someone of no worth and rather unlovable. Having been left by his father, mother, adoptive aunt, and boyfriend, he has some abandonment issues, but sees it as his fault. Throughout the filming he grows close to Tyler, but he is positive that he isn't worthy of being loved by Tyler, and never pursues anything further as he thinks it would just be one more person to leave.

Each man has to get beyond their emotional pasts to see each other, but they don't have to do it alone.

Working in close quarters and being intimate for the film, they are often there for each other through the tough hurdles they encounter. As the filming comes to a close they use this time to make new decisions about their futures, even when they think they have to go at it alone. While there are plenty of misunderstandings between the two, they still believe in each other and support each other, making it a beautiful friendship long before it goes any further. This was a hot, funny, wonderful book that had me dying to know what would happen and leaves me excited for the next book!

JenMcJ says

3.5 stars.

I liked the second book in the series a lot. I really didn't want to put it down once I started it. I marked it down a star because both MC's were forced into roles with each other and when they had an opportunity to step out of those roles, overcome some of their deepest fears/insecurities, they pretty much didn't take the opportunity until much too late in the book. Some of the sex scenes also felt too clinical, not overwhelming and passionate. I never believed Gray was anything other than a teacher or instructor with Tyler.

I struggled a little this time with the over use of the same words from the first book in the series, and the use of "like" too many times was less organic to a child star who would have had the habit forced out of him very early in his career. Add to that the use of variations of "creep" and "pathetic" was distracting. I think an editor needs to be a little more present and discuss thesaurus use for the next book.

I had a little bit of a hard time suspending disbelief that a 5 year (most highly paid) veteran porn star would be easily embraced by mainstream Hollywood and I didn't like that we got no real information about the outcome of the release of the movie or the fate of Tyler's dad.

Looking forward to what I'm sure are upcoming stories in the series for Luke, Nick and Micah. Not sure which will come first.

And, small side rant on having to sign up for the stupid newsletter to get the "epilogue". UGH.

Len Evans Jr says

I will start out by saying that when I started this book I was a bit intimidated by it's size at over 500 pages it is bigger than your average gay romance novel. I should have known that there was nothing to worry about, Spencer Spears has never disappointed me yet and she certainly did not do so with this awesome story. Once I started reading the story and characters hooked me and never let me go till the end. OK.. for starters, I would love to find a man out there like Gray, he is just so incredible and so exactly what Tyler needs in every way. I love the fact that even though Tyler could easily have become a whining, annoying, one-dimensional paper doll of a person, due to Ms. Spears writing for me he never came close to being just that. This story was never too angsty and though the relationship took most of the book to get them to the mutual "I Love You's", it felt like the timing was perfect and necessary to be true to the two MCs. Since I had ended up reading "Oliver Ever After" before this one, I obviously knew about Gray & Tyler being together since

they were in quite a bit of Luke's story. It was certainly nice seeing how they got to that point. Over all another awesome read that sucked me in and by the end made me cry lots of happy tears!

NeRdyWYRM says

Who? Wha-whaaaaat?

Fantastic sense of humor earned this one 5 stars. Relatable MCs? 5 stars. Chemistry, intimacy and feelz without being OTT and saccharine? 5 stars.

I'm left with a couple of questions in regards to a certain someone's father...ramifications? Repercussions? Recoupment? But honestly, even the question marks at the end don't take anything away from the whole.

This book (and its predecessor) are delightful, insightful, and on all of every level, enjoyable.

I'd call these HFNs as opposed to HEAs, strictly speaking, but even without a comprehensive follow-up, there is no doubt...NO DOUBT...in my mind that these are forever and ever couples.

I am pleased to have read two books (so far) from this author and will enthusiastically read the rest of whatever is currently available.

Spears is one to watch now and going forward. It's an auto-buy for me from now on, hands down, bottoms up.

Hot. Smart. Witty. Fun. Sexy. Sweet.

Yum.

Fritz42 says

*wraps this book in lots of hugs *

I loved Adam's Song, the first book in this series, and that love just multiplied for this book. The characters, the plot, the everything, just resonated with me. I was so emotionally invested in these two guys. This series is shaping up to be one of my favorites.

I connected with Gray, that wonderful owner of a bar in Adam's Song, who helped Ben and Adam finally get together. He was such a good guy in that story. But, it doesn't compare with this one. Oh my Lord, he is an amazing guy in this one.

Gray has recently split up with his boyfriend, a jerk by the name of Ethan. He feels like he's been in a rut, not knowing what he wants to do. He is approached by Violet, a woman he had initially met back when he was famous in the porn industry. She is now an up and coming director, whose new project is an adult film adaptation of a favorite M/M book. She wants Gray to audition for one of the lead roles, a calculus teacher by the name of Wyatt, who falls in love with one of his 18-year old students at their boarding school. Gray

has serious doubts about his abilities to act thanks to his jerkoff ex-boyfriend, but with the encouragement of his friend, he does audition and gets the part.

And he gets to meet Tyler.

Tyler thinks he's the epitome of a fallen child actor. Back from rehab after a very public and embarrassing arrest, he is desperate to find work in his field. Everyone in LA is treating him like a piranha. Even his father/manager won't take his calls, so he returns to New York to his estranged mother and brother, who willingly take him in. He turns up at the audition for Dylan, the 18-year old student, without knowing the type of movie that he'll be making. Although, the first time he set eyes on Gray should have been a clue.

The story is told from alternating POVs between Gray and Tyler. The beginning of each of the first two chapters are exposition, basically Gray and Tyler speaking to the reader, giving them their own background stories. But both chapters quickly pick up the present thread, and it's off to the races for this great story.

It is also a long book, 366 pages on my NOOK. But, I *loved* that because it delves deep into the month that they shoot the film. The sex scenes of the movie and the chemistry between Gray and Tyler is so damn hot it ignites off the page. We even get to see some of the movie scenes from the standpoint of the book, giving us the emotional insight behind Dylan and Wyatt's story. If I had one tiny nugget of disappointment, it would be that we didn't get to see the final scene of the movie from the book's standpoint, but that's just my own personal opinion.

This book, these characters, from the beginning they were so damn good together. Their teasing banter had me in stitches for most of their interactions. The whole ghost theme was laugh-out-loud good. Tyler has such a boyish charm and humor, bringing out the playful side of Gray that hadn't seen the light of day for a long time. And Gray...he was just so good, so kind. He was totally accepting of Tyler, not expecting him to be anything other than who he truly was, guiding him and protecting him. Both of them needed each other so damn much.

Neither one of them had an easy life. Finding out Gray's backstory and what led him to New York tore out my heart. Tyler, even though he had been a successful child actor, had the farthest thing from a good childhood. That led both of them to some serious self-doubts and problems with self-confidence. And some of the people in their lives didn't help that. From Ethan to Tyler's father, I didn't know who I hated the most.

But we have some other wonderful, secondary characters, familiar and new. Ben and Adam from Adam's Song are back, and we get to meet Micah, Gray's friend and employee, and Luke, Tyler's brother. I can't help but hope they, too, will get their own stories in the future. I'm also hoping the same for Danny.

There's so much I'd love to say about this book, but I don't want to spoil it for anyone. It will definitely be a series that I will be coming back to again and again.

I received an ARC from the author in exchange for my honest review

Earlyn says

lovely slow burn romance.

Two emotionally scared guys finds solace in each other

DW says

I was ready for Gray after reading Adam's Song. He seemed like such a good guy. I knew that I would like him.

I really did like him and Tyler. Gray was probably one of the sweetest and patient guy ever.

Tyler was sweet but very naive.

Overall.. I really liked it!!

Romatic Confessions says

Gray for You is 2nd in the 8 Million Heart series, and confession time, we didn't read the first installment and didn't feel like we missed much. Picking up this book we thought Gray, maybe it was a May-December, and it is a bit, but it is a slow-burn, lovely romance of 2 people trying to find themselves, and finding each other.

The good?

- Slow-burn: This is a fantastic example of a slow-burn romance, with not a lot of serious angst. It is friends feeling something more and slowly realizing the person beside them are the person they want to be beside them forever. There is a warm feeling between Gray and Tyler and it just cocooned us and made us fall in love right along with them. But it is slow-burn, there is lots of stolen glances, long looks and sighs, all things that make this a great romance.
- Banter: We love a book with some serious banter and these boys have it. There is a funny scene about Tyler bottoming for the first time and it is laugh out loud fun.
- The similarities: We really enjoyed how both Tyler and Gray were finding their way back. Tyler spectacularly crashed and burned publically, and has paid for his mistakes for the last year. And Gray is getting out of a 8 year relationship and has retired as a porn star. They both are looking for new experiences, and to move past what everyone thinks about them and truly find themselves.
- Sex: Well, what could we say about a ex-porn star and a virgin – MAGIC! The chemistry between these men does not disappoint between the sheets.

The not so good?

- The premise: Okay, so it could be believable that a fallen actor would take on a role in an erotic-porn-indie film? And not really realize it? I think there might have been a different situation that forced Gray and Tyler together. Sorry, we didn't really buy it.
- Internal dialogue: here is a lot of internal dialogue and it does get a bit much after a while, just talk to each other for goodness sake!
- Lots going on: There is a lot going in the Gray for you. A lot. They are filming a movie, falling in love, Gray owns a bar, just got out of a relationship and the guy wants him back, Tyler is dealing with an abusive father and re0-connecting with his brother.....and on and on and on.

We really like Gray for You, it is a solid read, and a fantastic example of a slow-burn romance. We haven't read the first book in the 8 Million Hearts series, but honestly we didn't miss any of the backstory.

Lori says

I'm really liking this series!

Liam Elliot says

The premise is *dumb*. Let's get that out of the way right now.

Dumb, but *hot*.

There's an element of Damon Suede's Hot Head to the set up only instead of regular porn, it seemed like this was more like... yaoi flavored porn. There's a boarding school. Yuck. Not gonna lie, kind of a turn off for me, but it wasn't *too* vile because it wasn't the actual plot of the book, just the porn, so what the hell. Why not?

Bring. On. The. Porn.

Again, though, like the first book in the series. Sooooo long. So long. My attention span just can't handle this. I need like, the cliff notes version with all the sex and less of the hemming and hawing. That's probably more of an indictment on *me* than the book.

Special mention for a nonbinary character well-portrayed and (bonus!) respected as a human being by other human beings! So awesome.

More of that, please.

mrs sarah frost says

We first met Gray in book 1 (Adams Song) now this is his story and what an amazing story.

Gray was dumped by his boyfriend Ethan when he needed him the most after the death of Maggie, a woman who has shown Gray motherly love and basically saved his life!

Violet, who Gray knows from the porn industry approaches him with a acting job offer in an adult film of a M/M book. Gray would play Wyatt, a calculus teacher who falls in love with a 18 year old student at their boarding school.

After being knocked down by Ethan about his acting career it takes Gray's real friends to convince him to do it.

Tyler, a child acting superstar has just come out of a year in rehab after a humiliating arrest. His dad refused to bail him out this time and like his so called friends hasn't spoken or tried to contact him in that year. Tyler decides to visit and stay with his brother Luke for a while. Apart from Luke the only other person in the business, his manager calls him with a possible film role. As usual Tyler doesn't read the email just arrives at the audition. He doesn't know what the role is but when he sees his costar for the first time it should click. He does a read through of the first scene and quickly accepts the role.

Once filming starts he finally realises what sort of role this is. He has always questioned his sexuality but is this really the way to find it out, having sex on screen?!

Gray notices that Tyler freezes in scenes and also that Tyler's having a panic attack. Gray quickly makes out that he's been feeling sick so Violet calls an end to the days filming. He asks Tyler to follow him, that's when Tyler confesses he's never done this before. With Gray's understanding, guidance and encouragement filming starts again but why does he feel the need to protect Tyler?

With both of them fighting their feelings, can they decide if its either Wyatt & Dylan (acting) or Gray & Tyler that's real?

This book is told in alternating POV which helps you get to know the characters better and seeing into their past.

I would recommend this book and look forward to book 3.

I received an arc in return for an honest review
