



Out-Foxed

Haley Walsh

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Skyler breaks it off with Keith, a teacher is murdered and a student might be involved through some twisted football initiation; Just another week at James Polk High.

Distraught at being outed, Skyler breaks it off with Keith, but they've got other problems. Protesters have gathered at the school and the school board has called a special disciplinary hearing. And as if that weren't bad enough, Alex is getting into fights and skipping class. Might he be responsible for the murder of a teacher? Did Coach Carson send the boy to do the dirty work out of some twisted football initiation? Skyler knows it all has to stop, and he and his friends are on the trail to find a murderer and discover once and for all what is happening at James Polk High.

Out-Foxed Details

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Author : Haley Walsh

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From Reader Review Out-Foxed for online ebook

BWT (Belen) says

3.5 Stars

One of the things that has made listening to these stories, even at their most maddening (Really, Skyler? Jumping into danger *AGAIN?*) has been Joel Leslie's thoroughly entertaining, dramatic and slightly OTT (in all the best ways) narration. Leslie captures each of the character's unique "voice" and personality and splashes it all over for us to enjoy.

In the final installment of the original mystery trilogy we find Skyler distraught at being outed by Keith at the end of Foxe Hunt (with good reason). Whereas the outing seemed unintentional and romantic at first blush it turns out Keith had ulterior motives for doing it (without once considering the consequences for Skyler). So now, Skyler finds himself in hot water with irate parents and there are protestors at the school, *and* there's even an emergency school board meeting called to discuss the possible ramifications of Keith and Skyler's actions! It's a mess.

Then there's the murder of one of James Polk's teachers, and Skyler feels compelled once again to stick his nose where it doesn't belong and investigate. Even though he's been told not to. *By everyone.*

As if all that wasn't enough, two of Skyler's favorite students, Rick and Alex, are having major problems: Rick's been pulled out of JPH and sent to a Catholic School, leaving his boyfriend, Alex, to spiral out of control, getting into fights and skipping class.

This storyline led to my biggest problem with the story, to be honest. Skyler's seeming disregard to the reality of how bad his situation actually is, on a lot of fronts, but mainly his job as a teacher. His job is being threatened and an emergency School Board meetings has been called, but he's leaving students in charge of class and running all over the campus investigating the murder or running after Alex? Are you kidding me?! Every time it happened I cringed and yelled.

Of course, Skyler bumbles his way to finding clues the police and FBI miss, and helps to solve the case in the end with almost dire consequences! Which made me happy. Though it's the end of the trilogy...which makes me sad. But, wait! There's more hijinks with the S.F.C. and even more TSTL live moments to come for Skyler? Yay!

Note: *This is not a standalone story - you must read books 1 and 2 before starting this!*

Review Copy generously provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

This review has been cross-posted at Gay Book Reviews.

Amy says

Audiobook I love this series. Love it. I want to be a member of the SFC and be friends with these guys. Skyler is just the sweetest. Yes he tends to stick his nose into things he shouldn't. And yes he gets in way over his head, but he has the best of intentions. I'm really liking him with Keith. Again, fantastic narration by Joel Leslie. 5 stars!

A Girl Has No Name says

3.5 stars!

Out-Foxed is the third installment in the *Skyler Foxe Mystery series* and I was really looking forward to this one. I'm always enjoying getting back to **Skyler and his crazy friends** and now that the secret around **Keith** was revealed, I was really hoping for their relationship to evolve.

First of all, I really enjoyed the **mystery** that has been going one from book one and in my eyes, the author managed to bring it to a satisfying ending. We finally find out who killed Julia Meyers, how Couch Carson is involved and what role Alex was playing. Of course, there are a few loose ends and it might be interesting to get some more answers in the next books, but it isn't a total must for me. Considering that Skyler was investigating on his own again and again, it wouldn't even be plausible to get a complete picture of all the happening. I'm even quite positive that this is the reality of investigating and I just can't imagine that every case can be solved in all its details and that every question can be answered at the end of it. So for the **mystery** alone I would give a solid **4.5 stars**.

Let's move on to **Skyler**. Of course, he can't be considered a reasonable character regarding what happened in the previous books, but while he was **willing to take risks** in the other installment, he just **acted completely stupid** several times in this one. I don't know what happened here, but I kept rolling my eyes at how clumsy he acted. And boy, we all know that **Skyler is a little men-eater and afraid of commitment**, but how often and how long can one be afraid of a single toothbrush. **Skyler was a real diva in this one**. Considering these two facts, **Skyler as a character only gets 3 stars in this one**.

Now, let me say a few words about the **development of Skyler and Keith's relationship**. I really wanted to know how these two would manage being together and it turned out to be quite difficult. **Mistrust, misunderstandings, commitment issues** - we had all of it. But I still enjoyed the dynamics between these two. I guess that we will get more on their relationship in the next story, considering that the mystery was often in their way in *Foxed-Out*. I however really liked their relationship and all the little bits we got in this context. **3.5 stars!**

Well, all in all *Out-Foxed* was an entertaining read and I would like to rate it with **3.5 stars!** I'm definitely going to continue this series. It's **entertaining, refreshing and funny**.

Anke says

[I think, the dance, although OTT, would have been the perfect ending (hide spoiler)]

Gavin Stephenson-Jackman says

In this the third of the initial trilogy of the Skyler Foxe Mystery series Ms Walsh has once again kept us turning pages from beginning to end. Skyler and his boyfriend Keith Fletcher find themselves back at the school and dealing with the mystery of who has attempted to murder a fellow staff member and more importantly why.

When the staff member wakes from a coma and is unable to tell the police or the FBI anything more about the incident that placed her in hospital they are pressed to investigate as best as possible. Does the attempted murder have anything to do with the coaching staff and the possibility of grade fixing. Are the students involved, are they being coerced into something that could have serious consequences?

In all of this Skyler and Keith struggle with their new relationship and being out at school for the first time after dancing together at the sophomore prom. Parents are incensed that they would subject their children to such a display. The law and most of the staff are on board with Skyler and Keith on the issue but will it be enough?

A very great read, though it would have been nice to read about Skyler and Keith's first Thanksgiving with Skyler's mother with Sidney Feldman and her partner and new boyfriend Mike de Guzman. Cynthia had not taken to finding out her only son was gay in the media, but seemed to be coming around to the idea fairly well.

Lena♥Ribka says

2,7 rounded to 3 stars

If you liked the first two books you'll probably enjoy the last book in the series too. It's an easy holiday read, at least partially funny and charming.

I found it difficult to like the main characters.

Skyler was annoying most of the time

and **Keith**, *a gorgeous hunk of male flesh and every gay man's underwear model dream* was not more than a ~~place holder~~ participant of some sex scenes.

But my biggest problem was my impossibility to define it's genre.

Not that I necessary need to know what genre I'm reading in the moment: If I like a book, it doesn't matter. But if I start to think about and to question my LIKING or, better to say, the absence of it, I'd like to know at least WHY.

A YA book? And if it is not about college boys but about their teachers that tend to act like teenagers?

A mystery? And if a mystery plot is hard to believe and very unrealistic?

A comedy or parody? But if I didn't really laugh at all?

A cute holiday read? Could be. If you like a lot of dialogues and a certain simplicity and clearness in a writing style you'll probably enjoy it.

It was just not my book.

Linda ~ chock full of hoot, just a little bit of nanny ~ says

Narrator status: Much improved! All the issues I had with the last two are gone here. The accents are still a little rough but at least Cashmere doesn't have any lines, so there were no Jamaican/Irish hybrid accents to put up with.

Foxe status: He really is TSTL and I'm glad the characters all acknowledge that - even while going along with his poorly thought-out plans. Hey, Skyler, you know who's good at trailing criminals and are actually paid to do it? The FBI. And you just happen to know somebody in the FBI. Also, his whole "I'm not telling you anything if you're not telling me anything" attitude was grating. Grow up, dude. Your students act more mature than you. I love you, man, but seriously. How you're not dead yet is beyond me.

SFC club status: OMG!! (view spoiler)

School status: Let's just make something clear. The Inland Empire really is this messed up. Just google "Inland Empire" and "Nazis" or "San Bernardino school" and "Nazi" and you'll see what I mean. So listening to the afterword that this was based on actual events didn't really surprise me. I thankfully live south of the western edge of the IE, where people are still relatively sane, so I don't have to put up with this kind of behavior, thank God.

But anyway, the students are great, even if their parents aren't. Mr. Sherman really puts the "pal" in principal. I think he's my favorite secondary character. I was a bit suspicious of him in the first book but he's grown on me now. Skyler's mom also proves to be pretty awesome.

I'm really enjoying this series. Now to decide if I'm going to continue with ebooks or wait for the audiobooks...

Viv says

Oh man, I am just loving this series. I love the SFC, Sidney and of course Skyler and Keith. This was a great adventure and even though Skyler remains TSTL, at least he knows it! This was a heart stopping conclusion to the mystery at James Polk High and now I can't wait to see what happens at Thanksgiving.

Joel Leslie's narration just gets better and better. Every single character has a distinctive voice. I know I would not enjoy these books nearly as much if I was reading instead of listening.

Mark says

The third and final book of the initial trilogy. It's always difficult to find something different to say in a series when you go directly from one book to the next. I still love all the characters and their antics, they have now become like old friends. It's as though I know how they'll react and what they'll say before they do. But then that's good and shows just how much this series has grown on me. All mysteries are now solved including the big one, the plot arc going over all three books about the school. So for me this book gets a well deserved 5 stars.

The main thing I loved about this book was not only solving the final mystery but how Skyler's coming out is managed. After the initial surprise coming out in the second book we get a taste of how bigoted some people can be but nice to read that the majority support and stand behind Skyler in solidarity. As a gay man I can only too well appreciate how the whole process of coming out can seem daunting and frightening at first. It's a step we have all had to take but in an ideal world one that we shouldn't have to take at all. In an ideal world the phrase "coming out" should be redundant but alas this is still not the case. So with bated breath I waited for the moment that Skyler had to face his mum. Also how the parents react

This one scene alone gave me a lump in my throat and watery eyes. An emotionally charged scene that shows the love a mother has for her children will always shine through. Again it should be like this and for many it is, thankfully. Maybe not for some but I always feel if a mother truly loves her children then whether they are gay or not should not matter. After the initial shock and anger coming arising from the surprise of Skyler's coming out his mum shows how much she loves her son. These kind of scenes always choke me up in the end. Also towards the end where the students show their support by organising a second dance also choked me up and not only Skyler.

However, there are still a few more bumps in the road to go through with Keith. These two are crazy in love bit now Keith's secret is out you would think it should make things easier. But not here, it just makes things more complicated, well at least as far as Skyler is concerned because the one thing Skyler doesn't like is when Keith has to keep things from him. There is quite a bit of make-up sex in this book and it is HOT, so yes they eventually iron out all the kinks in their relationship but had me on the edge of my seat until the very to be sure that Keith is going to stick around. This first needed Skyler though to admit to himself that yes, he is in love and wants Keith to be at his side as his boyfriend. Skyler leaves his days of being a tart well and truly behind. This was so sweet and left me with a goofy grin by the end of the book.

So what does Skyler do? Yes, he decides once again to take things into his own hands. Of course only in the name of just asking a few questions. This almost leads him to his own demise at the end of book, but then he has a knight in shining armour so everything is OK in the end. The final action scene where he gets all his friends involved left a big cheesy grin on my face. The Scooby gang goes into action. But this time they bite off a little more than they can chew and this time it really needs the professionals to come in and do their job. When I listened to the final conclusion and what had been going on at the school I often ask myself whether this is plausible or only fiction. I was surprised to find out after listening to the afterword by the author that this case is based on true happenings from her own experience. After knowing this then the book also took on a whole new meaning for me especially where the students are concerned. When Skyler finds out that Alex, one of his more troubled students has been caught up in something that is beyond his control oh my heart went out to the lad. Also when the parents of his boyfriend takes him out of school when it becomes public that Skyler is gay and their son too. Skyler goes and talks to the parents and in so doing manages to have some success. That's the other thing that came through in all three books, how much Skyler cares for the well being of his students. This makes him a great teacher and shows us that teachers can have very positive effects on the teenagers in their care. A model teacher who I would loved to have had a school too.

NARRATION

Well, seriously nothing to add here now. That's a good thing though as Joel's narration remains as steady, constant and entertaining as it has always done throughout the series.

Aelfwina says

Well that mystery was solved in a rather rushed, bit idiotish, and definitely anticlimactic way.

Marc | Rainbow Gold Reviews says

This is the final book in the opening trilogy of the Skyler Foxe Mysteries.

As a huge fan of Veronica Mars, I was recommended to try out this mystery series and after enjoying book one, devoured books 2 and 3 in one day each, which is very rare for me (slow reader).

They are fun to read, have wit and sexiness, great mysteries (and the big, satisfying solution of the overarching mystery in this book) and many plot turns.

The amazing characters make this series addictive and it's one of the books that I just want all my friends to try, so they don't miss how awesome it is :)

jules0623 says

Haley Walsh can do no wrong with this series. I'm thrilled that there will be more!

Trisha Harrington says

I am a huge fan of this series. I just love Skyler, he can be a bit annoying at times but he also reminds me a bit of Dick Van Dyke's character Mark Sloan in *Diagnosis Murder*, or even Angela Lansbury's character Jessica Fletcher in *Murder She Wrote*. It's a really entertaining read and has some nice twists that just keep me wanting more.

I found this series about four months ago and since then I have been hooked. I waited about two months for this book and *Out-Foxed* did not disappoint. I have to admit though, I really love Rick and Alex. They are such a cute couple in the series and I would happily read a stand alone book about them too.

This book was a bit more mature in some aspects. Maybe I am the only one who felt like that, but it makes it no less true. I had a great time reading this book. The way Haley Walsh ties everything together is great. I do love the cliffhangers. They make me want the next book even more. It's always fun.

I was so happy with this book, and the ending made me laugh. I had expected that to happen though, don't ask me why. It just seemed to fit in with the whole story thus far. I cannot wait for the next installment of the series. And there will be a short story released soon so I am excited.

I love this series and Haley Fox is great at creating this world. And writing such an amazing story and its characters. :)

Ami says

3.75 stars rounded up

I was one of the very few who disliked the previous book, *Foxe Hunt*. I knew that Skyler didn't always make a good decision (some thoughts he was TSTL -- even the author wrote it in the book, jokingly, how Skyler's friends called him that), but I was team Skyler before Keith came along. I was more annoyed with Keith than with Skyler. That was why, I approached this book with cautions and low expectations.

For me, this book was definitely better than book #2. The story was tighter -- and THANK GOD, all those meaningless sex scenes that seemed to be added '*just because*' were reduced. And we finally got answers about what has been going on in James Polk High.

As the aftermath from the dance, where Skyler got outed for dancing and kissing with Keith, there were some great scenes of Skyler addressing his students' questions. Also a wonderful scene of Skyler and his Mom (I was worried at first with her reaction, but it turned out to be okay). The S.F.C. kept entertaining me throughout; and the side story of Alex and Rick, the wonderful teenagers who were Skyler's students, were also wonderful (had my heart broke a bit but it was all good in the end).

HOWEVER, I was still annoyed with Keith for reprimanding Skyler all the time. I also didn't like Keith to be so strict in keeping secrets from Skyler -- there was one scene where I wanted to kick Keith in the ass: (view spoiler). Again, I was Team Skyler, I was on Skyler's side. Since the series was entitled "Skyler Foxe

Mystery", Skyler was expected to do some investigations as an amateur sleuth. I don't want Skyler to stop doing what he is doing to find answers. Any pressure from other people will just makes me annoyed.

But yeah, this book restores my faith to the series (hopefully Keith stops being annoying). I will definitely read the short stories collection and wait for book #4.

Natalia says

Re-read December 2018
