



Diary of a Teenage Taxidermist

K.A. Merikan

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--- Too cool for school. ---

Ethan is a levelheaded, some might say 'antisocial', young artist-entrepreneur with a love for quirky taxidermy. He is close to graduating high school and at a crossroads. All he wants is to develop his business further, yet all his parents want is for him to go to law school. That is more than enough problems for Ethan, so any kind of love life is off his agenda. That is until Robert Hunter, the quarterback of the football team, comes crashing into him. Literally.

Robert drifts along in high school. He has good grades, he's getting ready for med school, he's even leaving potentially problematic dating until college. He's gay, not ashamed of it, but he doesn't want to stir up any trouble. His carefully laid plans might just go completely off the rails though, when he drinks too much at a party and causes irreversible damage to Ethan, the school's weirdo.

Robert has to face the fact that maybe he isn't the good guy he always considered himself to be. And maybe he doesn't want to go to med school. And maybe, just maybe, he doesn't actually want to wait with dating until college.

POSSIBLE SPOILERS:

Themes: First love, virginity, bullying, fitting in, entrepreneurship, disability, high school, jock/goth, taxidermy, artist

Erotic content: explicit sex scenes, dub-con

Genre: New Adult homoerotic romance

Length: ~ 90,000 words (Standalone novel, no cliffhanger.)

Diary of a Teenage Taxidermist Details

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Author : K.A. Merikan

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From Reader Review Diary of a Teenage Taxidermist for online ebook

Jennifer?Pher? says

Nope, nope, nope. This one just totally did not work for me. I was mostly disturbed the entire time I was reading and no, not because of the dead animals.

Nina says

You know what? I've decided I'm going to stop forcing myself to finish books I don't give a shit about just because. I mean, I leave lots of other things unfinished on a daily basis - why not books? Why *suffer*?

This is definitely not the worst thing I've ever read, but I am very, very far from enjoying it - which is shocking to say the least, since I normally adore K.A. Merikan's short stories.

The initial idea has great potential, but the way it's developed does not work for me at all. The protagonists' judgments and reactions are constantly hyperbolic and exaggerated, with one exception, namely when it comes to dealing with the incident that basically kickstarted their relationship. Not only do they not spend time thinking about it and trying to come to terms with it - it's like it didn't even happen. The consequences are there, but the causes completely disappear from their minds as soon as Goth Boy gets out of the hospital.

I cannot even remember their names. That's how completely unremarkable these characters are.

Ethan and Robert, right. Just looked it up.

Ethan's hobby is intriguing, but that's virtually the only intriguing thing about him. He's clingy, but has more than a bit of a mean, selfish streak, and at the same time is completely incapable of standing up to his mother even when it comes to the smallest things.

Robert, on the other hand, has a mushy heart, but nobody knows that because he's a jockish bully, yet somehow he doesn't even realise he's a bully. Does that make sense to you? Yeah, me neither.

Here's what happens: Robert gives Ethan head because of reasons, but won't kiss him because then he'll fall in love with him. (I know. I *know*. But that's not all.) All the while, Ethan is convinced Robert is straight. Robert, your *tongue* was on his *dick*. That's pretty damn intimate, if you ask me. Also, you already seem quite infatuated (with some complete whackjob, and I'm not talking about the taxidermy, but hey, to each his own).

Ethan, his *tongue* was on your *dick*. That's... not hetero behaviour.

Taxidermy freaks me the hell out, because poor furry creatures, but Ethan's creations are *fucking cute*. I love that part of the story.

But that is literally the only part I love.

The writing is awkward, the sex scenes are among the most unsexy I've ever read, and the character and relationship development are severely lacking and almost cartoonish.

I don't rate unfinished books as a matter of principle, because I can't judge an entire book without having actually read it, but I can say that after 37% of this I feel no inclination whatsoever to continue.

~☆~Dαni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

~4.25~

I almost DNF this book. **Because.**

Ethan is into taxidermy, and I kept wondering if the animals were killed or just found dead? It was sort of disturbing, but his art sounded cool. So I was totes conflicted.

Also.

Loss of an eye, memory lapses, and headaches: These are not minor problems.

Maybe if Robert hadn't been directly responsible for Ethan's "accident"? While I like the idea of a non-perfect MC, I thought Ethan's disability became almost a non-issue, and yet it was. A. Big. Fucking. Deal.

So that was weird.

BUT. Despite myself, I got pulled into this quirky story. And I kind of loved it.

This is all about the first-time love, total and complete devotion and adoration, and the HOTTEST, double-virgin sex. These boys are 18! Don't I feel like a pervert? Yeah, kind of. **shrugs**

But I appreciated their independence, their faith in each other, their enthusiasm for the future.

I wasn't sure who loved whom more. Ethan was completely in sparkly love with Rob, but Rob **ADORED** Ethan. I loved how Rob protected Ethan and how Rob's friends came round. And I loved Rob's mom; Ethan's parents...not so much, but they got it together, too.

And, hell, while I'm all for college education, Ethan and Rob had so much talent...and not all talent is cultivated in a lecture hall. *#ohtobe18again*

So in the end, this one worked for me. **There was serious angst at the beginning, but it melted into hawtness and trust and the sweetest kind of forever love.**

I went googly-eyed for these boys and for the care and tenderness they showed each other. The way Ethan **LOOKED** at Rob. The way Rob **COOKED** for Ethan. Gah!

I was **DONE FOR**, I tell you.

Forget the rats; embrace the weasels!

Verity says

[image error]

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

4.5 Stars

For those who might balk at the title, don't. This was quite the gem in not only being a very touching love story but also a very hot one at that.

There's a horrible tragedy that happens in the first chapter of the book that pretty much shocked me into a bout of extreme anxiety. I typically try to avoid that type of angst and was not expecting it.

However it is that very tragedy that brings Ethan and Robert together, because otherwise they never would have interacted beyond the superficial. What proceeds from there was the kind of angst I *do* like and this had it in bucketfuls. Want, need, jealousy, insecurity - all wrapped up in some scorching scenes that again, you would not expect from a book that is seemingly YA. Believe me. It isn't.

So what starts off as a tentative arrangement between Ethan and Robert, begins on shaky ground, morphs into lust and experimentation, and then evolves towards friendship, and of course ultimately love. And what an exploration of that first time in all things - realistic, tender, intense, and hot. I loved how these two cared so much for the other and despite their young ages, they really worked hard at their relationship.

Apparently I have an affinity for this trope in which every similar book I read I liken it to Superhero. I just can't help it because if you liked that book, then you'll like this one as well. This was another tale at having the courage to own up to your actions, to forge ahead against adversity and to go after the things you want despite the fear and doubts.

I was anxious. I was turned on. I was touched. Again, this was just lovely on all fronts.

? Todd says

~

Okay, I'll confess. **I would have *never* read this book** without first receiving recommendations from a few friends. Why?

1.) Sorry, but **taxidermy is NOT SEXY**. It's slicing the skin off of a dead animal, (mostly rats in this book, so even more ick factor) then sewing that skin onto a plastic form. Weird and creepy as crap, if you ask me.

2.) Other reviews told me that a main plot line of the book is that MC#1, **Ethan, falls face-first on a big,**

sharp, pointy stick, which goes straight through his eyeball, causing him to lose the eye entirely. **Ewww, right???** Again with the "*NOT SEXY*" bits.

(Yeah, I'll pass on posting a pic of *that*, 'cause that shit's insanely gross.)

But I still decided to (*squeamishly*) proceed and I'm pretty glad that I did.

What I really liked about this story was the level of devotion that **Rob** showed toward **Ethan**. Rob was a bit of a gang mentality jock as the story began, but knowing and getting to care for Ethan gave him courage to go all **superhero** and stand up for both his beloved Ethan and for who he really was, but had been hiding from everyone else.

My feelings for **Ethan** tended to run hot and cold, as he'd be mature and focused one moment, with a love for Rob that bordered on **hero worship**, then a moment later, Ethan would act like a **petulant boy-child**, which got a bit frustrating.

(*Imagine an eye patch, but this boy's pic was too cute to pass on and I'm complete shite with Photoshop.*)
wink

But **my love for Rob** kept pulling me back into the story over and over again, so the book kept me both interested and entertained.

This wasn't a perfect read for me, especially once the sex graduated to full on penetration, when some of the "**erotic talk**", using the term *very loosely*, that popped out of these boys' mouths really **made me want a good, stiff drink**. (Pun only *partially* intended.)

The sexy talk wasn't the dreaded purple prose, but there was definitely an extremely thick vein of ooey, gooey Velveeta running through their words.

But that was only a minor distraction, accompanied by frequent eye rolls, so I got back to my Rob-lovin' without much delay and continued on to more enjoyable chapters.

Plus, they were all **flip-floppy in bed**, which is all kinds of crazy hot FTW.

This **oddly-entertaining** read ended fairly abruptly, with as much of an **HEA** as you can get from two enamored 18 year old boys, so I would have preferred a nice epilogue tacked onto the end, but I had fun with the book, so I'd still recommend it.

3.75 ***dual-virgin-weasel-deflowering*** stars for this twisted little tale.

Ele says

**Updated for Gay Book Reviews. **

4.5 stars

This is a Young Adult story, Merikan style. Naturally, there is eye loss, dead rats and blackmailing.

Ethan is the **school's goth weirdo**. He is an introvert, gets bullied pretty often but most times he doesn't let it get to him. He's also a **taxidermist**. Despite his parents' insistence that he becomes a lawyer, Ethan dreams of starting his own business.

Rob is the **school's jock**. He's gay and has embraced his sexuality, but waits until high school is over before coming out. That is the plan anyway. Also, he's an amazing cook.

I'll be honest. The premise of this book creeped me the hell out. Because...**TAXIDERMISTRY**. Yes, skinning dead animals and all. BUT, the way it was described in the book, changed my whole point of view. Ethan was an **artist**. He brought the dead animals back to life and created unique displays. Like this :

Not something I want to have in my living room, but still all kinds of awesome.

Rob and Ethan's story starts with a **BANG**. Literally.

But what starts off as a quirky, odd story, with MCs on their worst behavior (view spoiler) , somewhere along the way, became a very sweet and sexy love story.

"I promise that even if I forget stuff, I'll never forget how much I love you."

This might be tagged as Young Adult, but it's mostly read as New Adult. I loved seeing these boys taking their first steps towards their future; **they are ambitious, incredibly talented and fierce despite their insecurities. And totally devoted to each other.**

And plenty of sexy times you all!

What I would have liked to see is an epilogue; like what Rob and Ethan are like down the road.

That being said, the ending is a sparkling HEA. And despite the young teenage love, I totally believed that Ethan and Rob were meant to be with each other.

“I love you so much, Robert. We’re gonna have the coolest home ever, and”— he lowered his voice to a whisper—“ we’re gonna fuck like monkeys every day.” [...]

.....

“We’re gonna be the best ferret daddies.”

Got to love Ethan.

P.S And I really can't shake the feeling that Rob is a young Seth Villani♥♥♥

Breann says

4.5 hearts

Young love. Irrational, all consuming, young love.

I'm all about sweet and adorable and cute. Those are pretty much my favorite adjectives and if I use them to describe a YA story then it's a fair bet that I loved it. So here I go...

THIS WAS SO SWEET AND ADORABLE AND CUTE!

Loved it.

Ethan. He was described by Rob as "Strange but hot. Like a male, grownup version of Wednesday Addams." <- totally Ethan. But so much more. He had this attitude. An attitude that got him into all kinds of trouble, but also got him what he wanted. He wouldn't take no for an answer in anything. Determination and stubbornness, this kids got it.

Robert was his opposite in almost every way and was matched with Ethan puuurrfectly. He's patient and kind-hearted. Really, the only person to put up with the likes of Ethan. Don't get me wrong, he only puts up with so much attitude and will set him straight if need be. But he mostly just adored Ethan, and he showed it at every opportunity. Oh, he was so thoughtful.

The circumstances that brought them together were quite unfortunate. I mean, it was funny, but that's only because Merikan wanted humor to be found in the situation. This could have easily been a sad and depressing tale, but instead it was light-hearted and quirky. The style was fun and made the story unputdownable.

I found myself falling more and more in love as the story continued. Through their conversations, thoughtful gestures, fumbling first times and complete faith that they were in it forever, I couldn't help but just love Ethan and Rob. This was a story about teenagers and the writing was spot on. They were irrational and completely consumed in themselves and their relationship.

The taxidermy! Oh, the taxidermy. I really couldn't get enough of the scenes that featured Ethan's art. It's a different kind of art than people normally see, but it didn't make Ethan any less passionate about what he did. I thought it was so fun to read about.

Just a heads up, the story is in no way a diary. I really like the title, it signals an unusual storyline, but don't read too much into it, as this is not written like a diary and there's dual POV.

Diary of a Teenage Taxidermist had the perfect mix of teenage angst, sexiness, sweet YA and quirkiness. It's my favorite K.A. Merikan I've read so far.

Well... those clowns were pretty damn sexy.

No. I'm sticking with Ethan and Rob in my top Merikan spot.

Manda says

I'm starting with my complaints, but it is only a matter of small niggles. Bear with me, I'll get to the good stuff soon enough!

[edit: the book now has a beautiful new cover so my complaint doesn't stand anymore]

Don't let the generic cover fool you, this story is a special one. I loved the quirky bits of it so hard I feel the cover should have been something more unique than two boys, or actually one boy and a naked torso of a hunk. For me the best part of the cover was the bottom part with the kissing animal skulls. I'd have been happy with just them and a tittle compared to the rest of the cover. Shame, especially since this story offered so many artistic visuals that I was practically drooling. Just my opinion about it, others might like it or even love it.

Also, I worry about the title. "Diary of a Teenage Taxidermist" was really not a diary by any means. It did make a lovely and catching title, but as a warning I will say there was nothing diary-like in the way Ethan and Rob's story was told. It was told from both of their perspective and I felt that was perfect. This way we could see how both boys could hurt each other and act both lovingly and horribly and we get to see both their confusion of how to deal with the odd situations they have created to one another. The dub-con aspect was a surprise, but it so did serve a purpose for the story.

No character was decidedly good or bad and some shone brighter than others. That is exactly what I want from the books I read. Not even Pat the rat was dealt with heavy negativity and at times I felt like Ethan acted like a surly ass too. Robert, the popular footballer was maybe a closest thing that there was to a completely good-natured character, but he too had his faults. I just wanted to shake him before the end.

Ethan wasn't a simple goth, his layers had layers. His passion for taxidermy was fascinating. I had never thought about the art of it but now I'm obsssing over the visuals and the morbidity of it too. I feared what I was getting into as a lover of animals, but it was really a fear of unknown. Personally I'm a fan of macabre art and I use dead animals as my subjects all the time. This story just hit the right spots for me! I should add that no animal was hurt during the book and the way the "stuffed" animals were treated was with love and care and purpose, just like I feel when I draw.

This issue with taxidermy might be a bit too much for some readers, for me it is what made this story; it rose from a great new adult story to a bright gem. I'll be googling stuff to feed my curiosity about taxidermy, I already did some since we do not get too mch details about the actual work. The way how taxidermy made Ethan even more social outcast, a freak even, aside from being a gay goth made my heart bleed.

Aside from that, this story of Ethan and Rob was full of misunderstandings and frustrations, hurt and comfort. The usual matters of growing into adulthood. Their start wasn't the best possible one as Ethan lost his eye due some unfortunate matters that made Rob feel guilty. As the blurb revealed, Ethan also suffered braindamage. I was expecting much worse condition than it actually was, even some mental defects. But that was not the case and this story is surprisingly sweet and kinkfree coming from K.A. Merikan the master kinkster (Hello, Copper Horse, XXX'd and others). That is not to say this story didn't have an edge as it most certainly did.

I hightly recommend this to anyone who loves a coming of age story, hurt/comfort reads, HEA, 2 gay virgins (!!!), glittery popular culture references, artistic visuals, beauty of the macabre... The list goes on and on. There were fun moments, there were quite a lot of sexual moments (first times for so many things) and there were moments of doubt and loss (but not too heavy on the angst). Yet I felt Ethan, who lost the most adabted into his new situation like a phoenix.

Thank you for the wonderful read! 4,75 stars rounded up.

I received an ARC in exchange of an honest review.

Lenore says

Unfortunate cover.

Unfortunate title.

The whole taxidermy thing was unfortunate, to be honest. I couldn't get past it.

Also, the entire tit-for-tat arrangement of the MCs was just wrong.

Meags says

4.5 Stars

My preconceptions of this book were way *waaay* off-course! I mean this in the best possible way. The title initially led my mind astray and the idea of taxidermy in general -- which I found uber-creepy before reading this book and now I find it *fascinating* -- made me assume this story was going to be darker in tone than it was. These darker misconceptions are probably due to the fact that my only prior exposure to the world of taxidermy is through what I've seen creepy Norman Bates do with it on **Bates Motel** (love that show), and he really doesn't paint this hobby in a particularly happy light (perhaps because he's a fricken nutcase). So yeah, I had misconceptions galore, but I'm super happy to say they were all abated accordingly.

This story still had a bit of a dark start for the two MC's, Ethan and Robert, but after a few chapters of anxiety (mine) the story became a much lighter, enjoyable read.

I'd like to point out, even though this story is essentially about two teenage boys exploring their way through their first relationship (really their first *everything*), it didn't quite feel like your average YA story -- completely ignore the fact that I myself have placed it on my YA shelf. This isn't to say that Ethan and Robert don't act their age at times, because they most certainly do. They both expressed a level of naivety throughout the story, predominantly throughout the second half, that left me sceptical of how easy they seemed to assume it would all be. By "all" I'm referring to their relationship, their career prospects, their futures, their happiness -- *all* of it. Ethan, in particular, seemed to express this idealistic outlook on their lives, regardless of the countless obstacles in their way, both individually and as a couple. My cynical self could have easily found this all too fanciful, but on a whole I really appreciated their hopeful attitudes, irrespective of how unrealistic they may have seemed at times.

I absolutely adored this story and recommend it to all lovers of MM, particularly YA and NA fans.

K.A. Merikan says

Due to popular demand... *cough* **new cover!** :) Hope you guys like it, cause this one's staying <3

Diary of a Teenage Taxidermist is a New Adult contemporary erotic romance about Ethan, the weird goth kid who is into taxidermy, getting into a relationship with Rob, the quarterback of his dreams thanks to a freak accident that leaves Ethan without an eye and with brain damage.

On Pinterest! <3 <http://www.pinterest.com/KAMerikan/di...>

Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00P2S4VN2> :)

Michael Thompson says

Loved this Book!!!

Wow, I picked this book up not expecting much and man was I surprised. This is a great book! This is a New Adult (NOT a Young Adult) erotic, coming of age story of Robert and Ethan. A high school quarterback that falls for the geeky goth.

I love the jock/geek coming of age stories. There are a lot of them out there. But this is the first new adult coming of age I've read and LOVED it!

What brought these two guys together was questionable, but what keeps them together is a genuine love for one another.

I really liked Robert in this book. Usually the geek is the one the reader relates to and cheers for, but in this book the quarterback stole my heart.

Definitely 5 stars from me on this book!

Kelly (and the Book Boar) says

Want to read because - DUH . . .

Dee says

4 quirky stars

Firstly, I've purposely (*I hope*) changed my review to be on the green cartoony cover edition because unlike the majority I like it and actually think it suits the book way more with the offbeat kooky vibe.

Secondly, there's the obvious WTF moments in the story but remember - **TEENAGE BOYS**. Many of us are probably female reading this and while adversely affected by teen hormones, having witnessed my male dominated family go through puberty. . . . well, WTFery is fairly standard with males.

*(My brother, now married and aged 29, recently horrified my mother (and his wife) with revelations regarding the true occurrences of a school football trip to Amsterdam when he was fifteen. And my gay cousin has always been entirely too forthcoming despite my pointing out that reading about fictional mens sex lives is different to my hearing explicitly about **his** sex life).*

So for the WTF moments - OK, the slightly blase acceptance of permanent blindness was perhaps a little too understated and calm, but the blackmail actually struck me as quite a realistic response. Robert accepting the blackmail offer likewise. In fact all round the WTF actions struck me as youthful stupidity and thus completely in keeping with school boys. I found Ethan and Robert very believable teenagers - there were

times I disliked them both and other times I wanted to give them a comforting arm round the shoulders or a little smack upside the head (*I'm very nurturing*). They read exactly as they should - eighteen year old young men getting ready to leave school, uncertain, a bit insecure, a bit scared yet a bit cocky and a lot sexually frustrated (*though happily for us and them not for long!*). The coming out was. . . easy I guess. No angst. I hope it's getting to be that anticlimactic now for at least some GLBT teenagers.

I just really enjoyed this - it doesn't take itself too seriously, it has some damn hot (*guilty-nearly-jailbait-does-this-make-me-a-cougar?*) sex scenes, actual honest teenage emotions (*I swear I'm gonna **die** if he smiles at me!*) bubbling passionately over the pages and a HEA. (*I'm going to come out and admit, they're so realistically youthfully written that I have concerns about their HEA, but only because I'm a cynical old cow and they are the most genuinely teenaged seeming characters*).

This reminded me in a very happy way (*because I loved them for the crazy soap opera-ness*) of Surviving Elite High Surviving Elite High 1. I think if you enjoyed John H. Ames high school drama you'll probably like this too.
