

Second Wind

Mickey S.

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Ben is a 32 year old accountant who's just been dumped from a nine year relationship with Paul. Paul is a 40 something year old who's midlife crisis includes a 22 year old to sleep with. Ben bought a beautiful 3 bedroom home in the suburbs after he was thrown out. Now bring in Joey, a 28 year old widower with an 20 month old son who's from a huge Catholic Italian family who's been having thoughts of other men for years. What you have is the start of a wonderful story where Ben and Joey have to overcome a lot of problems, including very homophobic brothers, a very Catholic mother and a host of other things to deal with. Will love conquer all? Read and find out.

Second Wind Details

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From Reader Review Second Wind for online ebook

Nan says

i really enjoyed this book. I just wish this author had written more books because I definately would have read them!

4.5 stars

Raevyn says

I absolutely loved this book. It is written in 1st person, which I typically don't like because you only get one pov. However, this is written in both the main characters' pov, switching within each chapter. There was some overlap, but it was nice to see it through another set of eyes.

The book is about Joey and Ben; their first meeting, their friendship, them falling in love and all of the things they have to deal with. There is a full cast of secondary characters (more than most books), but it does not get confusing or make the reader feel like it's too much. It was also very real. There wasn't action or adventure, just a story of two guys falling in love and dealing with the things life throws at them.

One of the things I really loved about this book was that it was long. Most of the time I get to end of a book and I feel dissatisfied, like ordering a great salad and only getting a bowl of lettuce. You get some sustenance, but it leaves you wanting so much more. In this book you get to meet the characters and learn to love them. Yes, I want more, but I am okay with where it ended and I feel like I got a full taste of their story rather than a nibble.

If I can find anything else by this author, I will surely read it.

Cindi says

[A toddler being that still for long periods of time? The banter back and forth between Ben, Joey and James... a 15 year old kid... in regards to the sex sounds that Joe and Ben make at night. And then there's the creepiness of Joey and Ben talking about how "hot" James' new boyfriend is and one comment is even made in regards to how "hot" it would be to see James and Jared hook up... sure, it w

karlakolumna says

Hmm, I guess, it's rather **2.5 stars** -- but annoying and stilted dialogues make for a good reason not to round up...

Joey, a Catholic Italian widower with a baby boy, and Ben, an out and proud gay guy who has recently been dumped by his boyfriend/patrner of 10 years, meet and soon find themselves falling in love with each other.

But the desired HEA isn't achieved that easily, since people just keep placing obstacles in their path--mainly there is Joey's Catholic and mostly bigoted family, a family so close-knit that it's hard to understand that they refuse to at least tolerate or acknowledge the love both men feel for each other.

The story itself was nice, sweet, interesting and enjoyable. I liked both MCs just fine, although their dialogues and actions are, often enough, rather unbelievable, not really realistic and totally stilted.

The writing style is really bad, there's no sugarcoating it. The dialogues, as I already mentioned, are very stilted, not to say horrible. (It gets a little bit better towards the end, though).

Unfortunately, the author doesn't really know how to write/tell this story due to lack of talent or practice--or both.

On top of that, it's very annoying that the characters seem to feel a strong urge to **constantly** address each other by name. That really helps to make the dialogues more natural and less stilted (*I'm being sarcastic here.*).

"Do you have time for a beer, <u>Joey</u>?"

"Yeah, sure, Ben. I can't stay long but that would be nice."

He went in the house and brought out two bottles. (...) We both started talking at the same time, then stopped, then started again.

"You first, Ben. It's your house."

or

"You look a little uncertain, Ben. Why don't you get down on the floor and introduce yourself?"

"I don't know, <u>Joey</u>. I'm not good with kids. I don't have any experience with them."

"Connor's easy, Ben. He doesn't bite."

That definitely dampens the reading experience for me.

Maybe beta-reading could make it smoother.., maybe.

All in all, the plot itself wasn't half bad, I was able to enjoy it.

It is, however, rather one of the, .. erm.. not so good free stories that I've come across lately, because of the poor writing.

There are really some great and talented unpublished authors out there--that's not the case here.

Leah says

I copied and pasted from Nifty into MS Word and my version was 400 pages. This is a sweet, bumpy, and realistic story. The writing is simple, at times it's repetitive but Ben and Joey's story, their journey of second

chances, loss, love, discovery and family LOTS of freaking family is SO SOULFUL the negatives just don't matter. READ it! It's free damn it.: P. http://www.nifty.org/nifty/gay/beginn...

Rossy says

Wow this was such a good story! I liked how the child was part of the relationship, not an accessory or an afterthought.

Coming from a big Spanish family i could so relate to the family dynamics presented in the book. The characters were very believable and many of the scenarios were very realistic. I appreciated that while it showed how family can come together when there is love, they also showed how that does not mean that their feelings and views have changed overnight, if at all.

I also enjoyed the secondary characters and reading about their relationship. It felt like a nice flow instead of taking over the main characters story. I find myself wishing there was more to this story and i look forward to reading more by this author, the writing was truly vivid for me.

Review to come soon!

EmeArsh says

It was ok. Well, not really. I had already read half of it by the time I realized how much time I am wasting. But I could not stop, I skimmed ahead. Thanks God there were not many boring sex scene. But the way the writer was going she could have written another 600 pages of one or another problem, the romance was dead by 200 pages. By chapter 29 I was wishing for them to fight for once in their life. Like it was all so linear with no conflict. And Im not talking about the conflicts he had with his brothers.

The dialogues were really bad, we never knew when they were whispering or shouting or snapping or what. And the writer had to add the names of the characters being spoken to to let us know who was speaking to whom. Like why not cut into some rambling time and let us know who felt what when speaking. But I should probably not be nasty. It was a free read. And probably had no editor. So all in all, thanks God its finished.

Valentina Heart says

Ben is a bit insecure, very gay and overall amazing. Joey is new to everything involving the same equipment, but incredibly accepting and down to earth despite all the sh*t he has to go through to be happy. I loved Ben's support and the happy feel with which he relaxed into the relationship despite his past. And I loved the way Joey just took it all in stride, being thankful for another chance in life and not intending to let it slip through his fingers.

It's a story about a big Italian family and a lot of closed off opinions that come with religion opposed to a few loving and accepting members with a completely different background. It really is a fun read, very emotional at times but completely adorable at others.

Definitely something I would recommend.

Katharina says

I definitely liked this book! Which is a bit curious, because sometimes the writing seemed a bit off to me, and the phrasing in general just wasn't ... well very polished. And this usually throws me off pretty fast. The plot of the story, though, was really amazing; I loved Ben and Joey and I keep coming back to this story every once in a while because it's just so great seeing them come together despite all the adverse reactions in their (Joey's) environment. Because of that, I just have to give this book four stars despite the issues I have with the writing at times.

Popcorn says

This was really fantastic!

Edina Rose says

- Curently reading and so far, it is excellent!
- The fact that the two heroes are average size is great as well. Usually it is the twink and the big guy!!!
- This book is so funny sometimes: look at this:

"So are they having a special here tonight, Paul? Kids get in free when they bring their fathers?" (says Becky, best friend of Ben, when she sees Paul with his twink in a club. Paul dumped Ben for this 22 yr old twink, a guy half his age)

"Still the charming bitch, Rebecca. No wonder I don't miss you." (answer Paul)

- I'm impressed how brave Joey is, how mature. An old soul.

This books is a real feel good book, with all the love, family and babies. For once, gay people are pictured as "normal", not just men going after pleasure and fun. They are pictured as people who have strong family values, moral values. There should be more books like that.

The only thing I found badly done is the relationship between Paul (Ben's ex) and Ben. There was no way a man who behaved like Paul at the beginning of the book will behave like the Paul at the end of the book. It's like it is not the same man, and there are no logical explanation for his former behaviour and his behaviour in the second half of the book. If Paul had been less of a cruel sadistic jerk at the beginning, then I could have understood his behaviour at the end.

Apart from, that I was mostly OK with everything. I think the terrible consequences of the behaviour of Joey's mother was very well done. This really is a clever book I enjoyed very much.

Karen says

3.5 stars

SueM says

4.5 stars

There is definitely treasure to be found on various free online fiction sites, and this is one of them.

Ben, aged 32, has recently been dumped by his 40 year old partner, Paul, after being together for 10 years. Determined to start anew, he buys a house in suburbia, where he meets Joey, who comes to redesign his new, yet derelict, garden. Joey, 26, is the garden designer in his family-run Garden Nursery business and is the youngest in the family. Joey is also a single father of Connor, after losing his wife a year ago, shortly after she gave birth to Connor. Somehow sensing each other's loneliness and pain, Joey and Ben become friends, much to the disgust of the majority of Joey's large Italian family. Ben is openly gay, and Joey's family are devout practicing Catholics, who hold hard to the Church's stance on homosexuality. Joey, though, ignores his family's views, as he becomes more involved with Ben and finds himself coming out of his shroud of mourning. Slowly, the friendship between Ben and Joey develops into something more, and both men find themselves in a totally unexpected relationship: Ben never dreamed of becoming a father, and Joey never dreamed he would find love again.

This story moves at a slow yet steady pace, which perfectly suits the development of Ben and Joey's relationship. Much of the story revolves around the impact of their relationship on Joey's family, and how, in turn, Joey's family's reactions impact upon their future together. The characters, both main and supporting (of which there are many), are fully fleshed out, and seem very real. I can't say the story holds too many surprises, but it is a story full of depth and emotion. The only small issue I have, is that the end comes as a bit of a surprise. Not because it is a cliffhanger, but because I was expecting one thread to be explored just a little bit more (and that may just be my reaction). If you're looking for a plot-driven story that seems to hold true to life's dramas, then I would definitely suggest you take a look at this one.

Chris says

Good m/m romance about a widower with a young son and a conservative family who becomes friends with a gay man and finally acknowledges the feelings he's always had for men. It doesn't go over so well with his family... This story suffered from excessive name use during conversation and could definitely have been shorter, but it was sweet anyway.

LenaLena says

More like 1.5, but who cares? This was long and rambling and don't get me started on the dialog. Besides the 'Yadayadayada, Ben' 'Blahblahblah', Joey' that always drives me nuts, these people didn't so much talk as

lecture. Oh, and let's not forget the 20 month old angelic baby boy, whose worst trait is that he fills his diapers, and apart from that he just happily plays with the dog and takes naps, ne'er a tantrum in sight. Hell, if life with a 20 month old was that easy, I'd have a dozen kids and I wouldn't have still have the bags under my eyes a decade later. If I hadn't been stuck on a campground with no internet access there would be no way I'd have finished this. But I was and I did and I will have forgotten it next month.