



Where Nerves End

L.A. Witt

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A Tucker Springs Novel

Welcome to Tucker Springs, Colorado, where you'll enjoy beautiful mountain views and the opportunity to study at one of two prestigious universities—if you can afford to live there.

Jason Davis is in pain. Still smarting from a bad breakup, he struggles to pay both halves of an overwhelming mortgage and balance the books at his floundering business. As if the emotional and financial pain weren't enough, the agony of a years-old shoulder injury keeps him up at night. When he faces a choice between medication and insomnia, he takes a friend's advice and gives acupuncture a try.

Acupuncturist Michael Whitman is a single dad striving to make ends meet, and his landlord just hiked the rent. When new patient Jason, a referral from a mutual friend, suggests a roommate arrangement could benefit them both, Michael seizes the opportunity.

Getting a roommate might be the best idea Jason's ever had—if it weren't for his attraction to Michael, who seems to be allergic to wearing shirts in the house. Still, a little unresolved sexual tension is a small price to pay for pain and financial relief. He'll keep his hands and feelings to himself since Michael is straight... isn't he?

Where Nerves End Details

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Heller says

[His reasons for sleeping with another man just didn't fly for me. The getting together, breaking up, getting together action that he and Jason had going was making my head spin. (hide spoiler)]

Deeze says

I enjoyed the start of this one and I quite liked the ending, but the in between part was way to drawn out.

I can't say I felt much for Michael or Jason. Jason spent too much time thinking the same thoughts over and over, and Michael annoyed me with his actions. I can understand denial but I felt Michael at times was bordering on deceitful almost. There was no real chemistry between them for me either.

I did like the way the conversation went with Daina at the end, no bitchiness or her claiming to of known it all along made a nice change. The way it was handled with Dylan was another point in favour.

But as an overall story this is more a 2.5 read for me, but rounded up for the good points I mentioned.

V says

Can you really feel sympathy pains for a character? well for sure my Mirror neurons were playing tricks on me, and after reading pages and pages of Jason's chronic shoulder pain, I sure felt sorry for the guy.

It was a nice story, although there were a few things I didn't agree with, but that's just me.

SPOILERS ALERTS

For example Michael taking home a complete stranger to have sex for the first time with a man, so he can have his first gay experience, to prove "he likes it" and to make sure he didn't damage his friendship with Jason.

When he did have sex with Jason, Michael wanted to stop the relationship anyway.

In my humble opinion this story has a HFN ending, and for me it is inconclusive, Jason is in the border of bankruptcy, he has huge money problems and chronic pain, and these issues were left in the air.

This story paid to much attention also about acupuncture treatment, it is perfect for a reader who wants to know about it, Me?? I didn't give a SH%#@, I wanted to read about Michael POV, I wanted to read how Jason was going to fix his shoulder, and his huge money problems with his club.. well it didn't happen.

Even though, a have some issues with this story, I enjoyed. I'm looking forward for the sequel Second Hand.

Snowtulip says

This story didn't work for me, but it might for others. I really felt like the whole story was hollow and needed some meat to it to make it substantial and a read that I would enjoy. There was so much repetition in this book that it really disturbed me as a reader and made me feel as though the author had to keep repeating as filler and didn't have enough substance for the story. I also didn't feel any romance...zero for me. I did come away with knowing a lot about acupuncture.

Chris says

3.5 stars. Good m/m romance about a bar owner who's having a really rough time - his bar is losing money, he's having trouble paying his mortgage, and he has chronic pain from an injured shoulder. Having his straight acupuncturist rent part of his house should help his budget crisis, but he doesn't anticipate how sexually frustrated he'll be seeing the guy wandering around half-dressed all the time... While I enjoyed this, I had a couple niggles. First, the relationship just didn't make complete sense to me - I think there just wasn't enough time spent on it. Second, the financial problems didn't make sense to me, either - they were amorphous and started to feel unrealistic. If things were that dire and nothing really changed other than business slowing down for the summer, it doesn't seem as if he'd be able to stay out of foreclosure or bankruptcy.

~~*Hyperion & Interabang*~*~* says

!!! WARNING !!! WARNING !!! ::

This review is a pretty lengthy and ranty spoiler-review, so there are lots of potential ranty spoilers and a quote up ahead!! It is up to your own discretion, "risk", and responsibility if you decide to continue reading this review!! But again, I will emphasize, there ARE spoilers and potential spoilers, so it's up to your discretion on whether you decide to read this really annoyed review rant :-D!!!

WARNING!! RANTY SPOILERS UP AHEAD!!! There are NO spoiler tags!!!!

EDIT:: I have since read this whole book to further support this review!! Yup, I read all the way through!! I AM impressed I managed to read and finish this!! I am NOT impressed by the bullshittery of this book!!!! I hated everything about this book!! EVERYTHING!!!! I mean, FUCK, it's like this author went out of her way to come up with as much clusterfuckery as possible here!!! This book just pissed me off!!!!

And it's important to note that as a general whole, and with everything in this review aside, I generally think this author is a TERRIFIC writer, she seriously is or CAN be, SOMETIMES at least, when she REALLY tries [I have MANY of her books that I am REALLY looking forward to cracking open and

KNOW will be absolutely fantastic!! And have also READ quite a few books that I've thoroughly ADORED], so when THIS sort of thing happens - and it shouldn't because it seems so sloppy - it totally derails and ruins the reading experience!! I mean, in THIS instance I have to wonder if this author has some sort of latent drama kink or something ... because HOLY SHIT, the petty, contrived, over-the-fucking-top drama and bullshitery, REALLY takes the cake!!! Why plot a book this way?!?!? Why put your MCs through that?!?!? WHY make your readers severely dislike one or both of your MCs?!?!? It's like watching that chick in a horror movie running UP the stairs instead of OUT the front door, you can't help but feel compelled to stare at your TV [or in this case, Kindle] and yell "WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU DOING?!?!?!?!?! This could have gone so many ways and the author INSISTS on the bullshit!!! This is a pathetic clusterfuck of a book!!! OH and Michael ... I COULD. NOT. STAND. HIM!!!!!!

I recently heard that the ending to this book is all kinds of fucked up, so before I got too deeply involved in this book, I decided to take matters into my own hands and check out the ending; that's right, BEFORE I read the whole thing!! And whoever said the ending couldn't be considered an HEA or even an HFN was absolutely right!! The ending fucking SUCKS!! What's with this author and liking to fuck around with her character's happy endings?!?!? It's like she chooses the worst or most ambiguous endings, when the book all but leads her to giving her MCs a GLORIOUS and WONDERFUL HEA!!!

Is it because she loves the control? Is it because she loves the power? Does she get a rush from fucking around with someone's Happy?!?!? It seems so, because she always fucking does it!! After hearing about what this author can be like in real life - or at least to readers - [especially during the whole Santino train-wreck & tragedy, where quite a few people reported that she acted horrendously] , I'm not surprised that she likes to fuck with her MCs fictional Happily Ever Afters as well!! I just would have liked for her to have forgotten reality for a second, focused on FICTION, and just given her MCs a magnificent HEA!!

To say it wasn't love but it wasn't lust (that they were at least together), and that the MC thinks his shoulder at least didn't fuck up his life, is an absolutely fucking RIDICULOUS way to end a book!!

BOOOOOO, LA Witt, BOOOOOO!!

I own quite a few of this author's books [having thought she was a terrific author and that her books promised to be equally terrific] and I WILL read those, but if THIS is how the author plays with her books (lately), then I will definitely be HARD PASSING on any of this author's books in the future!! There seems to be too much of HER in her books and what I am reading/finding, I most definitely DO NOT like :-/!! I really hope this is a fluke and that the author just fucked up with THIS book; that this doesn't set the precedent for what's to come with her other books, IT FUCKING BETTER NOT!! Because if so, I am totally and completely DONE!!!!

Also, I'll point out that I'm not worried the book as a whole will be a great one, it's the HEAs and HFNs this author COMPLETELY sucks, crashes, and burns at :-/!! And isn't that one of the most important points of reading a book and going through almost anything with the MCs?!?!? Getting to a magnificent HEA???!?! Rhetorical, because YES, IT DEFINITELY FUCKING IS!!!!!!!!!! And to anyone reading this, spewing BS about real life, DON'T EVEN START, this is A BOOK!!!!!! So once again, YES YES YES, give me the fucking HAPPILY EVER AFTER!!!!!!!!!!!!

Side note: I mean I get that not all things have an easy fix, so it's totally fine that this MC's shoulder isn't magically fixed!! BUT, can't you at least end the book with the MCs LOVING each other?!? Are you THAT jaded by life that you can't let a glorious HEA blanket your books?!? Stop fucking around with your MCs just because you can and give them a friggin' HEA for goodness sake!!!!!!!!!! I mean I get that maybe you [the author] like drama, uncertainty, and really ambiguous endings, but could you leave that to your own personal life and not reflect that so much in your books?!? K-Thx-Bye!!!!!!!!!!

I mean look at this ... this is legit the way this book ends ... WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!? That's a super SUCKISH ending, THAT'S what >:-o!!!!!!!!!! I'm baffled that this author's editors, beta readers, and whatnot thought THIS bullshit ending was a good idea!!!! I'll tell you what IS a good idea, giving an ARC to someone who thinks differently from this author and will think to disagree with her!!! UGH!!!

“It was too soon to call it something as complex as love, too late to call it something as simple as lust. But as we walked hand in hand from the town square toward Seth's shop in the heart of the Light District, I was happy. Life wasn't perfect. My shoulder wasn't completely fixed. All my stress hadn't magically evaporated. My club wasn't miraculously a profitable, well-oiled machine.

But I had Michael. And we were happy.

I brought our hands up and kissed the backs of his fingers, and Michael smiled. I returned it and, as I lowered our hands, we kept walking.

Maybe my fucked-up shoulder hadn't ruined my life after all.”

I mean this author LEGIT just lists all the points she feels are necessary to go out of her fucking way to point out; not even through story either, she just LISTS them!! For what?!? To make a point?!? The only point you've made here, dearest Author, is that you seriously friggin' SUCKED at this ending!!! Don't make it a habit!!!!

Truuss says

Jason's shoulder is wrecked and will visit acupuncturist Michael, an advice from their mutual friend Seth.

Jason's finance is wrecked and a solution to their mutual problem is when Michael will be his roommate.

Problem solved... you think... only there are some things playing like...

Michael is a single dad... Jason is heavily attracted to Michael, Michael is in denial... work and private can't combine... right?

“God. I'm going to live with this guy? He'll be treating me for tennis elbow in a week.”

Their conversations are awesome, their connection strong. The tension is heavy and anticipation killing.

The story was educational, like most of this authors books. Well developed and the building up really good done. The story is told from Jason's pov and that's why I missed a bit of Michael internal struggles.

Both guys were engaging and the total story was entertaining.

Overall a good and smoothly written story

Read and Reviewed for Open Skye Book Reviews

Candice says

This story was okay, really nothing special and the characters were not memorable and will not stay with me. I didn't really feel the romance between Jason and Michael, and didn't really care if they stayed together. I could have done without the x-wife and son and really didn't feel that they added anything to the story. I kinda was more interested in finding out more about Seth.

Samington says

Incredibly repetitive. Jason's thought processes appear to be: "Acupuncture is bunk! But what do I have to lose? But I just can't believe in it! But Seth said it worked! Could it work? I can't believe in it! But my shoulder hurts!" *ad infinitum*, and that's not even getting into the narrative's *constant* discussion of his messed-up credit, his bloated mortgage, and his sleepless nights. Yes, okay, we get he has a lot of problems; they don't need to be repeated every second sentence.

As other reviewers have mentioned, there's no real emotional connection between Michael and Jason. They're housemates, they hang out a couple times in a very casual way, Jason overhears Michael with a guest at night, and then they get together, sort of. I wasn't drawn to Michael as a person (he started out so bland he almost disappeared, I thought the way he treated his wife during their marriage was kind of eehh, and I had no patience whatsoever for the whole, "We can't ~do this~" shtick that he had going on after his and Jason's first night) so I couldn't even substitute in my own enthusiasm for their relationship.

The writing itself was solid though not stunning, but there was also shoddy editing, including the heinous phrase "Monday thru Wednesday." Poor research and fact-checking, including an egregious portrayal of Grand Theft Auto. Nothing really feels resolved at the end, however, which contributes to a general sense of dissatisfaction. And there was so much inane pseudo-science I thought I was going to lose my mind, so there's that.

Heather C says

[The sleeping with other people kinda bothered me, although there was no cheating and they were perfectly within their right to do it...and I understand why Michael did what he did before hooking up with Jason. Still, it bothered me and totally pulled me out of the story to t

Cole Riann says

3.5 stars

Review posted at The Armchair Reader.

Jason really fucked up his shoulder showing off mountain biking, and now, five years later, he can barely get through the day without debilitating pain, much less a single night's sleep. He's a very level headed guy, a

skeptic you could say. And even though his business partner left him with a nightclub that is so far into the red there's almost no hope left to salvage it, and his partner left him and saddled him with a massive mortgage, he's still plodding along, trying to make it day to day and keep his life from completely collapsing around him. So when his best friend Seth swears to him that acupuncture really works and he should give it a try, he has a hard time believing him. But he's worried about having to take even more pain pills with the extra pain his shoulder's been giving him, and there's really nothing else he can think of to do, so he takes Seth's advice and goes to the practice of Michael Whitman.

Michael is straight, even though Seth has his doubts (the two having been friends since childhood), which is a shame for Jason, who can't help but admire the sexy man. When they both commiserate about the economy and their respective financial problems, Jason comes up with the idea of Michael moving in with him and sharing the mortgage, even though he knows living with such a beautiful, unavailable man is going to kill him.

There's really nothing big that is wrong with this book. I have a few, let's say medium-sized niggles, but the book is pretty well written and up to LA Witt's standard. I've loved many of her books in the past, but I didn't love this one. I found it okay, but for some reason I didn't really feel the connection with the characters. I can't even quite pinpoint what it is about the relationship, just that neither Jason or Michael really leapt off the page for me.

There's quite a bit in this book about acupuncture, which I found really interesting. There were several practices that Michael uses that I didn't know were real-life practices (like the electrical currents and some other things) if they are true to life. I've never had acupuncture myself, but I suppose I was under the impression that it doesn't help to the level that it does for Jason in this book. Even though some things are left real to life, like repeated treatments, the immediate and (short-term) lasting effects of the needles seemed a bit much to me, perhaps because of the intensity of pain Jason describes from page one. But then again, I know very little, so I could be wrong.

This will be interesting to read as a series, because it seems as if their friend Seth will be the focus of the next book, or one of the upcoming books, so the group of friends that surround the two MCs in this novel will probably stick around. I think it would help for me to see this couple happy in the future books because their rocky relationship in this first installment left me a little doubtful about how they'd handle a full relationship. Michael is going through a huge life change and Jason can barely keep his head above water with all the emotional trauma that has been dumped on him recently.

There were some niggles that bothered me -- such as often repeated information and the constant mention of Seth's background and family without revealing what exactly happened to him (another reason I suspect his story is coming). I thought, and Jason seemed to as well, that their relationship problems weren't really problems. It felt like a bit of unnecessary angst that they were making up problems that didn't need to exist, but then it made sense in the situation and it was handled pretty well.

Having read many of LA Witt's books in the past, I enjoyed that there was really a low level of angst, rather than that bit I mentioned. Even though I didn't feel like I really connected with the characters, they're still good characters and pretty solidly written. This is a Pretty Good story, I just didn't really connect with it. So, for me, it wasn't great and other books by LA Witt will remain my favorites.

Sophia says

It has been a while since I visited the Tucker Springs universe. I enjoyed this series and only had one niggles and that was the bit about me never getting around to reading book one. Imagine my excitement when the audio for the first book came out and I had the opportunity to not only get this one last story in the series, but also try a new to me narrator. This series is set in a small mountain town in Colorado and a pool of authors write the series about romances that each have their own flavor and bit of conflict.

In this one, poor Jason Davis is near a nervous breakdown with all the stress in his life that is aggravated even more by a painful shoulder injury that hasn't healed. Jason falls for his gorgeous acupuncturist, but there are complications because for one, Michael isn't gay and now he is Jason's roommate to help both of them with their financial burdens. Talk about added complications.

Each book in the series works well as a standalone as evidenced by the fact that I started with book three, went forward with a few others, then went back for book two, read the last book and now went back for book one. Haha! Yep, totally works fine out of order. There is the fact that the characters pop in and out of each other's books, but not in a confusing or spoilerish way.

So the story begins with Jason weighted down by the dual burden of a failing business and a heavy mortgage on his home. In both instances, he was to have a partner. He lost his business partner and now bears all the expenses of the nightclub and on the homefront, his ex walked out taking more than half and leaving a hefty mortgage payment because he found a sugar daddy. Jason feels the pain of being abandoned by both, but what really distracts him and keeps him awake at night is the pain in his shoulder. Finally, he gives in to Seth's insistence that his friend who is an acupuncturist can help his shoulder.

And that is when he encounters the drop dead gorgeous Michael. Jason gets relief from his shoulder pain, but now has a whole twinge after Seth tells him that his old buddy Michael is straight with an ex-wife and kid to boot. As things go along and they discover that they are both barely getting by financially, Jason decides to torture himself by asking Michael to be his roommate and go halves on the bill to help them both out. Why did Michael have to be straight, or was he?

This one doesn't have much external conflict and is fairly slow paced. Jason has been wounded physically, but it is the emotional pain that really hurt. He just can't seem to catch a break. Then there is Michael. Michael is as confused as a man in his thirties can be when his encounters with Jason bring startling revelations. To say it's complicated would be to put it mildly.

I both enjoyed the story because I wanted to see where things went, but I also felt the torture of these two guys not being able to go straight from point A to point B. Attraction and liking and wanting weren't ever in question. There is some hot and cold and frustration, but the angst was definitely at an appropriate level for what was going on. Jason was amazingly understanding of Michael even as he was frustrated to again, not be able to catch a break when he wasn't really asking for the moon or anything.

Two things could have made it better and they weren't awful so much as little niggles for me. Others probably won't care because these are mild concerns. First, it was all from Jason's POV, but I would have liked to get Michael's side, too, especially since he is going through so much internal stuff. The other was the fact that I felt there was some soapboxing going on particularly in the last half and it was repetitive. I get it. I really do. Folks need to be open-minded and accepting of differences, but it's a preaching to the choir thing (most people reading the book already get it) and I really just want to focus on a story and not an agenda

when I'm reading a romance.

The romance was secret crush type so it advanced slowly. Michael seems oblivious while Jason is tortured by temptation which lent a little humor to it. But, the passion when it came, was nice and spicy. I found the home acupuncture sessions so sensual. I think those were hotter than the actual sex scenes.

The narrator, Iggy Toma, was new to me as I mentioned. I thought his voice and style were a good match for this story. I chuckled at the wry way he told Jason's story. I think he nailed the tone, pace, and voice of the characters particularly Jason.

In summary, this was an enjoyable story that was a good reminder of why I loved this series. Complicated relationships, but easy going in pace and a relaxing small town setting. I can recommend this book/series to other M/M Contemporary Romance fans.

My thanks to Riptide for the opportunity to listen to this book in exchange for an honest review.

Annery says

[committed suicide (hide spoiler)]

Gina says

The first half of this book could not keep my attention. We open with Jason, struggling to keep home and his business foreclosing, and get over a break-up and some serious nerve pain in his shoulder from a recent accident. Goes without saying the guy could use a break. So he decides to offer his acupuncture doctor to rent a room from him (his straight Acupuncture Doc).

This sets up the plot of this story. Well isn't until after the 50% mark that anything even happens between these two. I felt as if I was waiting for something to happen and gradually losing interest in their story. And while I found the story sweet and my heart went out to Jason, i felt the story dragged for me.

As for Michael, the straight acupuncture doctor, I think as sweet as a character he appeared to be he needed more personality. I really felt the story needed more spice, and I am not referring to sex (although that was sorta mediocre as well),

3 so-so stars.

„•*°*•Gwendolyn°**★°**★ says

THIS WAS A SWEET VISIT TO TUCKER SPRING'S`

I met, Jason who is so very attracted to Michael, ..It was nice seeing their love story un-fold.

Mummmm, honestly I read this so I can get ready for Heidi Cullium and Marie Sextons book~because I've not read much by L A Witt, but I will now. Gosh, this book has a lot of good stuff in it.

The Good Stuff~

★*Tucker Springs is an intriguing warm sweet town.*

★*MC's were adorable.....Seth ...Yummy, Yum, Yum!*

★*The Plot~acupuncture/chronic pain/stressed, not my fav~but it worked.*

The flow, and storyline together IMO was a wee bit staggering at times, thus; making this read more like 3-3.5 Stars.

The book was a likable read, and I will visit Tucker Springs again....fingers crossed for Seth gets his story, cuz he was an awesome character to read~
