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In The Middle Of Somewhere



Synopsis

Daniel Mulligan is tough, snarky, and tattooed, hiding his self-consciousness behind sarcasm. Daniel has never fit in - not at home in Philadelphia with his auto mechanic father and brothers, and not at school where his Ivy League classmates looked down on him. Now, Daniel's relieved to have a job at a small college in Holiday, Northern Michigan, but he's a city boy through and through, and it's clear that this small town is one more place he won't fit in. Rex Vale clings to routine to keep loneliness at bay: honing his muscular body, perfecting his recipes, and making custom furniture. Rex has lived in Holiday for years, but his shyness and imposing size have kept him from connecting with people. When the two men meet, their chemistry is explosive, but Rex fears Daniel will be another in a long line of people to leave him, and Daniel has learned that letting anyone in can be a fatal weakness. Just as they begin to break down the walls keeping them apart, Daniel is called home to Philadelphia, where he discovers a secret that changes the way he understands everything.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I kind of have a love/hate feeling toward this story because I both liked it and was totally and completely frustrated by it. First off, it took until 40% of the way through the story to hook me and to finally figure out what the storyline actually was. Second, this was a slow read. Third, it was written in my least favorite format: 1st person present tense. Daniel, our protagonist and who is our window into the world of Holiday, is kind of all over the place. His family, well, what a bunch of jerks is all I

can say, is one of the reasons he is who he is. While his best friend Ginger and his love interest Rex leapt out of the pages at me, Daniel was a little harder to figure out, which was kind of annoying at first considering he is the one telling the story. However, as "who" he is came out around 40% of the way through, that began to make sense. If a character isn't even sure of who he is and he is telling the story in 1st person, it makes it hard for the reader to know. My harshest complaint is that this story left the reader with a huge cliffhanger. If I'm already hooked into a series, then a cliffhanger doesn't bother me as much, but in the first book which was difficult to get through in the first place? It does not make me want to read on. Instead, it makes me growl. There was no sense of completion, or that the hero and his man may someday ride off into the sunset. Instead, I was left with this feeling of "it's all gonna go to H*LL about five pages after the book is done".

Tough, tattooed, city boy Daniel finds himself in the middle of nowhere northern Michigan interviewing for a job as an English professor at small Sleeping Bear liberal arts college. While the interview goes well, the return trip to his hotel does not and he soon finds his car crashing into a tree to avoid hitting a dog. Rex, a shy, carpenter who is built like a god and, according to Daniel may or may not be a serial killer, appears from the woods to offer his assistance and brings both Daniel and the dog to his cabin in the woods. Not the greatest of first meetings, but Daniel is drawn to the intense Rex against his better judgment and spends the evening at the cabin. One thing leads to another, the two men share a kiss, but Daniel wakes up to an empty house. Flash forward six months and Daniel is on his way to start his new job in Michigan and worrying about possibly running into Rex again, but really hoping he does. Told from Daniel's POV, this is a sweet, love story with little outside drama. Daniel does not let his guard down easily, having grown up in a house where he was not really accepted by his father and brothers. Always the outsider, he was regularly beaten up and berated by them. He has never had a real relationship and has been hurt by someone he once thought he loved. He is a cynical, Philly fish out of water in a small town where everyone knows your business and sees him as the "angry, gay professor from New York City who uses all the ten-dollar words". Rex is shy, built like a lumberjack, but incredibly sweet. He has also had a difficult past and has a desire to protect everyone he cares about. I really enjoyed this novel. It was so well written, with great dialogue, I can't believe it's the author's first book!

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