



Bestselling Author
K.M. Neuhold

Stay

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What happens to a couple when one of them discovers a new kink that he's not sure his partner will be into?

Dear Art,

I'm sure you get messages like this all the time but I feel like I don't even know who I am anymore. I suppose I should start from the beginning... Three weeks ago, I saw puppy play for the first time and now I can't stop obsessing about it. Wait, no, that's not really the beginning...Ten years ago, my best friend who I'd been in love with my entire life told me he loved me too.

For ten years I've been living in complete bliss with Lars, the man of my dreams. Don't get me wrong, we have our fights and disagreements (mostly because I do irritating shit and every once in awhile he reaches the end of his patience), but he is my other half in every way. I didn't know I could love someone the way I love him.

Then, three weeks ago, I saw puppy play for the first time and now I can't stop thinking about it. It's not so different from when I realized I was gay, there was a moment where everything sort of clicked into place and my whole body was like "yes, THAT'S what we've been trying to figure out all this time." At first I thought maybe I should just let it go because it's not the kind of thing I can imagine my partner being into. But last week I went into a kink shop and ended up walking out with a puppy hood. I stashed it in our guest bedroom closet and haven't even had the courage to take it out and try it on again, let alone show it to Lars. I don't know what to do. How do I bring this up to him? And what if he isn't into it? I feel like I don't recognize myself anymore and I don't know where to turn. Please help.

Sincerely,

One Lost Puppy

Stay Details

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From Reader Review Stay for online ebook

***~*~Fawkes, Padfoot, and Prongs~*~* says**

This author did so many things right with this book; I absolutely ADORED it from the very first page to the very last <3333333!! Absolutely wonderful!! FIVE full stars and then some ??????????????????????!!

I have so much more to say and praise about, and it's definitely coming so stay tuned ?????!!!

HIGHLY HIGHLY HIGHLY recommended, even if Pup Play isn't for you [which is how I feel], because this book, it introduces and explores it SO wonderfully ♡?♡?♡?♡?♡?!! The author introduces it with wonderment and grace and honour and respect, and as beautiful as it was to see these two engaging in such a deep display of love and trust and passion and affection, this book was also equally HOT AS HELL !!! The sexy times between these two were RAWR !!! The truly loving and balanced relationship Neuhold created between Lars and Jonah is the kind of love you'd call EPIC, and I'll DEFINITELY be reading the next books in the series; not only to see Lars and Jonah again, but to witness Seb's, Vale's, and Adrian's glorious HEAs as well!!

And yes the HEA here was absolutely STUNNING ♡?♡?♡?♡?!!

Puppy Play is not my kink at all, like not at all, not in any way, shape, or form, whatsoever!! BUT, I am going to give this one a try because it sounds sweet and fluffy and fun, like a puppy :-P!! But seriously, this does sound sweet and fun, and I'm open minded, so I'll give this read a try :-)!!

Nanna Sander says

A sweet couple and a good introduction to puppy play. It is very low on angst, and as a seasoned reader of puppy play, it lacked a little something for me, even though I can't really articulate what. Maybe I felt it all came together a little too easily.

The secondary characters are interesting, and I could definitely see myself reading future installments in the series.

? Todd says

I really liked Neuhold's 3 Ballsy Boys books, but the Puppy Play trope in this one...

Michael S. says

I wasn't sure what I was going to think about this, especially since established couple stories don't often attract my interest, but was hoping that the kink element and having them explore it with each other would keep things lively, and it did for me!

Puppy play isn't a kink that I can say I'm into or even knowledgeable about, but it was a lot of fun to experience it vicariously through these very adorable characters. I hope that future installments touch on other kinks that you don't get to read about every day. Many books that offer up exploration of one or both partners' kinks are limited to light BDSM elements, and if a blurb says that kink is important to the story, I expect more than a pair of handcuffs and a gentle spanking, so kudos to Neuhold for doing something different. I'd love to see what this author might come up with for looners, furies, whatever you call it when guys get off with sneakers, etc. I'll be disappointed if any of these books don't do something a little off the wall.

In terms of plot and pacing, the story was sweet as can be with very little conflict, and its primary issue was generally resolved early on. However, backdoor *ba-dum ching* pilots abound, with plenty of potential for side characters to Star in their own stories.

Lots of steam and cuddles. Great job leveraging the advantages of established couple sex: utter familiarity with each other and readiness to get down and make a filthy mess without the need for condom prep or clean-up awkwardness.

Cadiva says

RTC when I'm at the laptop as the stupid Kindle just lost what I already wrote.

Okay, now that it's not going to disappear on me I'll do the review :) This book is an excellent example of how to write about a kink exploration when one of the couples isn't sure what their partner will think about it.

K.M. takes the reader on a journey as much as she takes the characters as they begin to explore the dynamics of puppy play - a kink which is based in mutual power exchange and the absolute freedom which comes with giving up control to a *Master* who takes care of everything for their pup.

I absolutely adored this, puppy play is generally full of sweet expressions of love and care and comfort and this was no exception. Jonah is afraid Lars - his lover of 10 years, but his best friend since birth (their mothers were also best friends and pregnant at the same time) - will think there's something odd with him because he's drawn to the idea of being a pup.

There's nothing salacious about this book, it's romance at its purest, the need to make your partner happy and the pleasure gained from being the one to do it forms a hallmark on the relationship between Jonah and Lars.

After a little bit of angsting, a lot of conversation and some awesome side characters that I'm dying to get the stories of (and please, please, please K.M. you have to give Vale to Adrian and find someone new for Seb!), this book dives headlong into what makes puppy play attractive.

It's not an overly sexual book, the deep connection between Jonah and Lars is strengthened and extended by the puppy play, they're incredibly sweet together, the dynamic is very much power exchange as Jonah willingly gives up control to Lars over all to do with their play together.

Personally, I'd say this is a wonderful book to read if you want to poke a toe into *non-vanilla* kink.

The sexual side of the narrative focuses more on the existing relationship between the two men, rather than the puppy play's more erotic potential, and it works perfectly for this pairing. They're friends, soulmates, lovers and they talk like grown-ups about everything, which was a delight to read.

There's also a side plot featuring a blog written by the brother of one of the people Lars works with which was a clever device to give the reader more info about the world of kink and one which I thought fit well within the narrative.

I'm looking forward to more from this series.

#ARC kindly provided by the author in return for an honest and unbiased review

Quin Perin says

Oh, this was long overdue. Thank you so much for this beautiful puppy play romance! What happens when you find a new kink you're into? Well, that's pretty awesome, isn't it? But what about sharing it with the love of your life without knowing what they'd say? Ah, that's a tough one.

Favorite quotes:

"He strokes himself slowly. It's the kind of stroke I've seen him use when he doesn't know I'm watching, when he's lying on the couch with his hand down the front of his pants, not really trying to get himself off, only wanting to chase the feeling of want and need, to revel in it."

"As soon as the weight is around my neck and the soft leather is brushing against my skin, my nerves dissipate. *I am owned and I am loved.*"

;) Dig in & enjoy.

Rachel Emily says

I needed something sweet to read, and I'm SO happy I picked this story out! Even if you have never tried puppy play before, or are worried it might not be for you, I think you still need to at least give this one a shot, because Lars and Jonah will absolutely melt your heart.

The way that the puppy play and D/S elements came into their relationship just worked so perfectly for them. It was discussed smartly, and they communicated so well once things were in the open. I loved that this book started out with an established couple - they've been together for 10 years and their relationship really is quite solid - it's just that once they discover the puppy play and figured out the D/S roles, it's like it filled that

little baby gap that they never knew was missing.

I loved how great Lars was with everything, how he was determined to be the best master for Jonah. I loved their friends - and Adrian totally needs a major HEA of his own! As do their other friends, Seb, and Vale and maybe even Art, who runs the website? I want HEAs for them all!

Chris says

3.5 stars for this sweet romance. While there's a puppy play kink, the focus is more on the relationship between Jonah & Lars. These guys are very loving and clearly committed to each other. An easy, angst free read ?

Zuzu says

I ended up skimming a lot of this so I'm not rating it.

Jennifer A says

A very high 2.5 just not quite a 3 for me because I wasn't that into the characters.

But I do love the plot and the idea of a couple that's been together for a while learning their way around a new Kink!

Crystal Lacy says

I received a review copy of this book and was really surprised by how much I loved it, considering established relationship stories can be difficult to feel invested in. Lars and Jonah are unbelievably sweet, though, and this is the kind of puppy play book that eases you into the kink in a way that not only highlights the warm, fluffy feels of puppy play, but also does it in a way that feels respectful and insightful all at once. The problems these two MCs encounter never feel contrived or forced, and they work through them in ways that are organic and utterly heartwarming. A lovely read from one of my favorites.

Susan says

I've read about all kind of kinks these last few years and while not much is too crazy for me, I do have a preference for some kinks. And puppy play isn't it. And not even because I think it's crazy weird, but because I always feel a little bored in these stories. The whole puppy play just isn't really my thing.

I do love to read about established couples though, so this hit the mark with that one. And I really liked the first half when Jonah was figuring out how to tell Lars about his newfound interest in puppy play. And I

loved how Lars was so understanding and sweet about it all.

But once they figured out puppy play was a thing they both wanted to explore, I lost interest a bit. Since the rest mostly focused on them playing around with their new kink.

So while this was enjoyable, I think if it had been a different kind of kink I would have enjoyed it even more.

Ky says

3.5 stars

After reading the blurb I was almost certain I'd be uncomfortable for a major part of the book but I wanted to try it anyway, mainly because it was about an established couple. That little detail is what sealed the deal for me and I decided to give this story a try.

I was very surprised to find out that the book was mostly sweet and playful, centering around two people discovering something new about them and exploring it together. Jonah and Lars found a new aspect of their relationship that they hadn't noticed it was there, in the background, all along. So after ten years as partners and a lifetime of being friends they decided to try something new and see how and if it worked for them.

There was a bit of angst at the beginning as Jonah was trying to figure what his new fascination meant for him and his relationship and I was giddy reading about those weeks of him being secretive and distant and Lars suspecting all kinds of things, because I was sure they were going to make it and a misunderstanding like that wasn't enough to damage what they had built.

I liked that the bigger of the two was the submissive and that the smaller was taking the lead (pun intended) in their lives. Jonah was happier when he didn't have to think about everyday stuff and when Lars was taking control and making decisions for him. That wasn't something new for them, but it started playing a bigger role in their lives and they began to experiment with it.

We have a perfect HEA for the couple and a promise of more books like this one where various side characters will find their match. I liked this first installment but I'm not sure if I'll continue with the series unless there are more stories about established couples.

**An ARC of this book was kindly provided to me by the author in exchange for an honest review. **

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

3.5 stars

I KNOW what you guys are thinking. **Puppy play??** Really? But little innocent me (*winks*) is intrigued by the more offbeat side of BDSM, and since pain isn't my bag, puppy play falls right into my zone. **Yes, puppy**

play.

I didn't read the blurb very well, however, and didn't realize this was an **established couple story**, which I usually hate. I'm just not into a couple where the intimacy is already there prior to the reader meeting the two MCs. However, with Stay, **the established couple aspect was adorable!** I mean, this is a low-angst, super-lovey couple, and I stanned them so hard. Very **low angst** story, people.

I'd say this is a **cute intro to puppy play**, but it isn't a very hard-core story, for those who are afraid of delving into the unknown. The majority of the story is the two MCs working on their communication and dynamics and exploring the kink, but **the kink parts are mostly playful and not sexual**. I was a little disappointing by that, actually, because I was hoping for some nookie in the puppy play state, but it was mostly cuddling and trying on clothes.

I really, really liked the first part of the story. Getting to know the two guys and seeing them together and with their friend was my favorite part. **I was hoping for some more intense kink-play, but it was a little too tame and grew a bit dull for my tastes**. I still really enjoyed the story, and I think even kink-averse people who want to try something outside of their comfort zone would enjoy it.

Copy provided in exchange for an honest review

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Joyfully Jay says

A Joyfully Jay review.

4.25 stars

I was really excited to check out this first book in K.M. Neuhold's new Working Out the Kinks series. I recently read my first book by the author, Beat of Their Own Drum, and really enjoyed it, so I was eager to try more of her work. And I was really intrigued with the set up for this book and the idea of seeing an established couple navigating how new kinky interests on the part of one partner may impact things between them. What happens if only one partner is into the idea? How might that affect their relationship? So this is an unusual set up and it really drew me in and I think Neuhold does a great job with it.

For all the angsty premise, this is a pretty low stress story. Yes, Jonah is really freaked out by his new interest in puppy play and what it means for him and Lars, and he is worried about how to tell his boyfriend. But this issue does get resolved pretty early on in the story and much of the book focuses on the guys exploring this new interest. So things are a bit easy here and there was a tiny part of me waiting for some sort of conflict to come later in the book. But I was also never bored and just loved the story and this couple, so I didn't really miss the conflict.

Read Jay's review in its entirety [here](#).

