



# Dangerously Happy

*Varian Krylov*

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## **Dangerously Happy** Varian Krylov

Aidan has always played it safe. Instead of pursuing his dream of creating innovative music that makes his soul sing, he settled for a degree in software, a job in a cubicle, and a spot in a generic band with his buddies.

And he's always been straight. But when he's seduced by magnetic local literary luminary Dario, Aidan must decide whether to keep playing it safe, or succumb to a ravenous passion and a nourishing love unlike anything he's experienced before. Will he find the courage to go after real happiness if it means admitting he's in love with a man?

Their journey together isn't easy. Sometimes it isn't safe. Even if Aidan has the courage to admit he's in love with Dario, can he endure the repercussions of the traumatic event in Dario's past?

This novel has mature content and is intended for readers over the age of eighteen. Although this is a story about two men falling in love, there are extended, explicit sex scenes, including some BDSM, m/m/m and m/m/f scenes. There are references to sexual violence which may be a trigger for some readers, although there is no graphic depiction of rape in the book.

## **Dangerously Happy Details**

Date : Published May 18th 2014 by Varian Krylov

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Author : Varian Krylov

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Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Erotica, BdsM, Menage, Contemporary, Gay Romance, Gay For You

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# **From Reader Review Dangerously Happy for online ebook**

## **Optimist ?King's Wench? & MANTIES Champion says**

### **WARNING: ROLLERCOASTER READ**

I'm putting my disclaimer first. I liked this, but it will not be for everyone. It's wordy and angsty and meandering at times. I like being in someone else's head, seeing how they interpret and work through things. I also like slice of life tales. They're not my favorite thing to order off the menu, but I do like them from time to time.

Aidan is a curious person, a musician and has never been attracted to a guy prior to Dario. He makes some decisions that are ill-advised, risky and a couple that left me gaping like a guppy. Aidan also circles the motherfucking wagons. Often.

Dangerously Happy is told entirely through Aidan. He and Dario have travelled in the same circles for three years. His band is playing regularly at Dario's loft. Dario is a writer with a past and enigmatic as fuck. Dario is also... a hot mess. Poor guy. Talk about reckless. He sure did keep me ~~interested~~ flummoxed which kept me turning those pages.

These two together are the poster children for codependency, but they have some of the hottest sex. Like ever. Like this rivals Fight hotness-wise. Though there was a fair amount of man tears and drama.

But... the sex! Ms. Krylov has a gift. The gift of erotica. There was:

**boy/boy sex**

**boy/girl sex**

**boy/girl/boy sex**

**boy/boy/boy sex**

**kinky sex**

**monster cocks**

**bondage**

**felching**

**whipping**

**humiliation**

**mindfuckery**

And Xavi.

I'm diving head first into Bad Things. Seriously, I may leave skid marks. Xavi explodes off the page. Xavi carries around ginormous glass butt plugs in his jacket, I guess, just in case. Xavi is compared to Drago from *Game of Thrones* divided by Xerxes from *300* AND he's a sadist!

**\*quelt\***

Did I mention I was leaving skid marks?

The writing style is full o' words. **WORDS. WORDS. WORDS.** So many words. ALL the words.

Some are pretty, some are... questionable. Please don't ever use: "aperture", "fleshy bulb", or "turgid dome" when describing boy parts in my presence. They all make me grimace and/or cringe.

It bogs down in spots when Aidan goes off on one of his tangents, but there was an authenticity to it that I appreciated. I also loved all the musical references. \*coughs\*Thom Yorke\*coughs\*

Generally, I enjoy couplings with a more structured D/s relationship than these two have. Given time they could evolve into that (if they stay together), but at this point they're exploring kink. Did I mention it was fuckhot?

Not for everyone for sure. It was for me, but I've embraced my inner whackadoodle.

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## **Alona says**

OK, I'm back!

3.5 stars.

I needed time to think about how to rate and review this one!

You know how sometimes you read a book and it's shifting, while reading, between 4 to 5 stars, or between 3 to 4, or sometimes even from 3 to 5...???

This book was difficult because it started with big 5 stars written all over it, but then it went to 2! BUT... It was back to 5. So, I did what I think is best in cases like that, took the time to see what I feel in retrospect, and I must say: I LOVED IT!

I think that this is a case where reading others reviews before reading the book was the thing that spoiled it a bit for me.

I knew that something I hate was going to happen, and it made me dread it from the beginning, and when it came to it, it was not so bad at all! (Do you know what I'm talking about?).

I loved the writing and the characters, their feelings and thoughts was very well transformed to the pages.

Their love was very real and so were their fears.

And again, I know we are not here to review graphic design or even cover taste, but GOD, that cover!!!

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### **Steelwhisper says**

Camille said it perfectly:

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

I read up to the 3rd chapter, then started skimming and skipped to the end. It probably is me, but I was bored.

That said: FABULOUS cover!

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### **Chris says**

An enjoyable and beautifully written book - exceeded my expectation... The characters perfectly weaved in and out of each other's lives to create harmony and open their eyes to new ways of living and loving

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### **Judith says**

Oh my, the cover alone had me HOT and bothered..

I can never go into a book 'blind' and always read reviews and in this case although there were many positive there were a few that said it was a sex feast with no story.....

I actually thought it was a beautiful love story....

Loved Dario and Aiden thought their story was beautiful

Yes, the SEX was graphic, and the threesome's were totally hot.....m/f/m and m/m/m....but I actually thought it was a beautiful love story

I just loved Aiden and Dario, thought their sexual chemistry was off the charts hot

If you've enjoyed this, check out Author Kora Knight.

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## **~ Lei ~ Reading Is An Adventure ~ says**

[Dario and Aidan are happy and all's good in BT(view spoiler)]

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### **Christine says**

\*\*\*3.75??\*\*\*\*

If you're looking for steam on top of steam on top of extra steam...this is your book.

I really liked both MC's. What I really loved about this book was the amazing communication between them. They didn't allow room for any misunderstandings or assumptions. They spoke about everything openly and with the utmost honesty. This was a breath of fresh air for me.

Also I'm so that girl that wants to know all the juicy details. When did you realize you liked me? What did you think of our first kiss? When did you know you loved me? Etc...

And these guys asked and answered it all!!!! All the little things you just want to know. The threesome scenes were phenomenal (oh yes there are threesomes ?).

Now for the things that brought my rating down....

- 1) the excessive man crying ?
  - 2) the OTT plot twist at about the 80'ish percent point
  - 3)they both had the same pet name for each other and used it to the point of nauseam ?
  - 4) Aidan wasn't outwardly vocal enough during sexy time.
- He did his moaning and groaning in his head (I like a screamer ?).

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### **Camille Adams says**

This is the worst book I've read all year, and I've some read doozies so that's saying something.

This book features a GFY wherein the straight protagonist is heterosexual for all of 5% of the book. The period of questioning lasts the span of a blink of the eye.

It also features the most horrendously bloated, pretentious, purple, overly convoluted, not-deep, drama-llama prose I've come across in a while.

The dialogue can be described in exactly the same way except for the rather ridiculous and awkward inclusion of too many endearments. There's "love", "sweet", "baby" et al in extreme proliferation. I mean in every single piece of dialogue and more than once in one address, at that.

Then there is the psycho-sexual abuse that was supposed to be an adventurous exploration of sexual evolution but was the mental manipulation one would associate with an older, lecherous person preying on

the naive rather. The explanation for why Dario needed to not be monogamous was skin-crawling. Every time Aidan achieved another plateau here were his 'boundaries being pushed again' or rather his perception being molded into that which allowed Dario to have his cake and eat it too.

This relationship was just weird and disturbing. It was just rapey to me and not in a good way. The weirdness was especially compounded by the fact that Dario is, I'd venture to say, clinically depressed. All the keep Dario happy tasks Aidan must undertake is also evidence of an abusive relationship.

And, bringing up the rear, as the absolute sickest element in this book is the BDSM. This is therapeutic d/s at its most ignorant. Feeling guilt after enacting vigilante justice, can't recover from past sexual assault, fearful of impermanence in your relationship with your bi boyfriend? Never fear, whips, chains, slaps and no safe words are here to heal all that ails you. Seriously, wtf?!

So, there you have it readers, this book is stupid PWP. But the porn is awful, unsexy, abundant and redundant; the prose wherewith the little plot is written is nauseating; the characters are paper-thin and annoying; the premise is disturbing; the sequence of events have sprung from poor fantasy and has no bearing on reality; and the emotional and sexual manipulation is psychologically rapey.

I hated it. From beginning to are-we-there-yet end.

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## **Baba says**

**2 that's-friggin'-all-there-was-to-it??? stars. Review posted May 25, 2014**

**It started off innocent enough, like this...**

...and then later on the entire plot (excuse me, there was actually no plot at all) turned into a HUGE fuck-tastic fest. Holy friggin'...um...I'm going to zip it, I mean my mouth not my pants. To be honest, I don't walk around with unzipped pants anyway.

### **To sum it up in a nutshell**

Schmaltz meets slimy, creep-tastic sex maniacs. Proper words elude me to express how friggin' annoyed I am!!!!

OMG, I need to calm down before I start to review this book. I don't even know what to review here, tbh.

\*\*\*\*\*

All right, I did calm down. Please bear with me because I will use the term "friggin'" very generously since I don't intend to stress f@ck too much.

The endearments *baby*, *darling* and *love*...oh, and let's not forget *sweet*, irritated the heck outta me. Also, that **sweet** and **mischievous** smile that Dario put on his face all the friggin' time disturbed me and it friggin' annoyed me! What should have been sweet about that book anyway? I can't help and point out how **incongruous** it felt to mix the terms of sweet, tender, beautiful etc. with creeps the likes of Xavier and Dario.

Well, and don't get me started on the **repetitiveness** of sad and beautiful. All the characters in this story were friggin' weird; I just couldn't make a connection. I felt strangely uncomfortable and oddly detached from what was happening. There was absolutely **no character development** whatsoever and the lack of a proper plot was friggin' pathetic. The sole purpose of Dangerously Happy was a bunch of oddballs who f@cked their brains out. **AD FRIGGIN' NAUSEAM.** I mean it's ok to fill a novella with sex but an entire full length novel? I find it pretty deplorable.

And of course we've had the mandatory (view spoiler) in the form of Dario who'd (view spoiler) and he needed to exorcise his issues with kinky sex. When Xavier (view spoiler) it was bound to make him feel better. Er...that's me being sarcastic. I am so friggin' past the subject of a (view spoiler) f@ck. \*gags\* Gimme a break please!! That Xavier dude? What was the purpose of that weirdo anyway? He **acted** and f@cked like a friggin' creep. At 80 % I was close to yet another DNF and then at 81 % the torture ended out of the blue when the story quit on a schmaltsy note. Thanks for small favors. Hmm...what was the resolution anyhow? (view spoiler) I had to friggin' read that twice. My verdict at 81 %: one star but I added a second star because some of the sex scenes were really hot and I liked the beginning.

Bottom line, I absolutely loved Krylov's Hurt to pieces. I really devoured that book and I'm sorry to say that Dangerously Happy didn't even scratch the surface of the awesomeness that was Hurt. Not. By. A. Long. Shot. In fact, I found it shockingly weak and can't stress enough how incredibly disappointed I am.

I wish you all an orgasmic reading experience but there's nothing more to this story than that. And after a while even that gets plain old and boring.

### Warning

Dangerously Happy contains lots and I mean lots of smut-tastic sex. M/M, M/F, M/F/M, and M/M/M, bondage, flogging (more than only flogging actually), toys and voyeurism.

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### Gigi says

Before I get to my review, it is important to me that those reading this understand that this book is a **LOVE STORY**. The author Varian Krylov has placed it in the category **Gay Romance/Erotica**. I read and fell in love with this book as a *love story*. Any one rating and reviewing this book as anything other than a love story *completely* missed the point IMO. Am I telling you this to throw shade at another reviewer? **No**. Am I telling you this for a kick back on book sales commission? **No**. Am I telling you this because I believe so strongly in this book that I want everyone to have all the facts before deciding to pass on it? **YES**.

This is a crazy, beautiful ride of a love story between a creatively stunted "straight" man named Aidan and an incredibly damaged but surviving as-best-as-he-can gay man named Dario. The men quickly fall madly, passionately in love and the book follows their rocky and sometimes dangerous journey to their HEA.

Because of a trama in Dario's past, the fact that Dario is Aidan's first male lover and that jealousy seems to play a part in Aidan's feelings towards Dario's former suitors, sex plays the main role in this book. As the source of great love and comfort and great angst and pain. And, holy fuck, was it *hot* and *kinky* and some of



the **best** I've ever, **EVER** read! If you are good to go with all kinds of sex related goodies, don't spoil yourself, but for those that are squeamish, here is a list of some things that may be hard limits for you: (view spoiler) I can safely and honestly say, no scenes were gratuitous and all worked as necessary plot points to advance the story. Normally, all three of those things leave me cold, but they worked for me here this situation. 5 stars worth!

I don't want to delve into the story anymore than that for fear of spoiling anything else. Dangerously Happy is full of passion and romance and unbridled lust and love and I **COULD NOT** get enough. This book is going right, straight to the fuck yeah, 5+ stars shelf and actually into the top 10 of all time. Just like Public Display of Everything last month, I feel like Dangerously Happy was written just for me, with all my favorites in mind. Romance, BDSM, GFY and hurt/healing/comfort.

**HIGHLY, HIGHLY, HIGHLY recommended** to all M/M romance readers, unless you don't do some of the harsher psychological BDSM.

Oh, want a close up of the fabulous cover? Thought you might. :)

*P.S. I'm quite sure someone will bring up the debate about BDSM being a poor substitute for psychotherapy, and while I agree with that 100% in real world situations, this is my fun escape time. Little stuff like that normally doesn't bother me in fiction novels and it certainly didn't bother me here either.*

**Another note:** The book actually ends at about 80% in iBooks and on Kindle. The last 20% are samples of the author's other works. This does not change the page number of the novel, but it may change your perception of the ending if you think you still have almost a quarter of the book to go. You don't! Thanks to GR friend Teodora Kostova for the warning! If I hadn't had this information, I'm quite sure I'd have been disappointed.

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## **Kat says**

If you're an avid M/M reader, you might share my opinion that with this genre terrific covers only happen once in a blue moon. So let's take a minute to appreciate this glorious cover by photographer Ekaterina Zakharova...

Ahh!

So a few months ago I chatted with friends about the mysterious and sad disappearance of Varian Krylov, an author who has the uncanny habit of tapping right into the darkest niches of your mind, and whose nifty explorations of disturbingly erotic taboo desires evoke a variety of emotions, varying from feeling dirty and excited to embarrassed and squeaked out. So imagine the exclamation marks heavy frenzy when Varian Krylov contacted BioB after a 6 year (!) hiatus to let us know that she was about to publish a brand new erotic M/M romance:

**Me:** Holy moly! It IS Krylov herself!

**Ilhem:** Oh My God! Varian Krylov is alive and she's publishing!!!

**Shelley:** Oh this is so exciting!

**Ilhem:** Can I say it again? Krylov is BACK! Just. WOOT. (...) Some readers are going to be ecstatic! Really, it's BIG. She's truly a powerful writer; she reaches deep, her prose is wonderful, but her stories are not for everyone.

Ilhem is right, of course. Krylov expertly plays with out-of-your-comfort-zone subjects that not everyone will fancy. But those who love their darker fare and mind fuckery will be thrilled to be able to plunge into *Dangerously Happy*. This new book doesn't touch upon the scariest taboos that are out there though. In fact, it starts out as a deliciously tender gay for you story that combines all the tasty ingredients that come with the trope: the quiet lust, confusing emotions, blushes, cherry popping and sweet angst.

There's the blurb, but in a nut-shell; the story kick-starts when Aiden one night misses his band mate's text about canceling their rehearsal at Dario's enormous loft, the result of his successful writing career. An awkward Aiden (the enigmatic Dario and he never really hung out before) ends up playing one of his solo songs for Dario and, when he reads an excerpt from one of Dario's stories in return, he is horrified when the men in the story don't leave him, ahem, unaffected.

"You know," he said, his voice lower and softer now, "my book got a rave review from the New York Times. But I like this review better."

I was nervous. I babbled. "You should actually be proud, because thinking about two guys has never had an effect like this on me before. Not even close."

"No?"

"No." (...)

"This is a first for me, too," he said in that soft low voice I'd never heard before that night.

"What's a first?" I asked, feeling like every word was a life preserver holding me above the thrashing waves of panic drowning me.

"I've never hit on a straight guy before."

GFY lovers, get in line! And if shy anal virgins aren't reason enough to lean back and sigh, the narrator's voice, his emotions, seemed so realistic to me, that it almost felt as if Krylov plucked my own thoughts out of my head and wrote them down. So different from stories in which you have to suspend disbelief when the plot is pushed forward by TSTL MCs who dwell in silly misunderstandings. I have to say, in comparison to Aiden's voice, Dario's dialogue seemed overly stylized. Maybe I'm just envious that I don't have his way with words in real life, but he sometimes came across as a saint rather than a man of flesh and blood.

Back to the story itself. Sweet and endearing as the beginning may be, *Dangerously Happy* doesn't remain a cotton candy fest as the plot slowly shifts to dark secrets and past traumas. Since it would be a shame if you pick up this book expecting a fluffily romantic GFY and then suddenly get smacked in the face with both MMF and MMM ménages à trois (the F stands for graphic scenes containing girly bits here!), I'll point out these things now. Other potential triggers include; rape fantasies, humiliation, references to rape and, for those who share my pet peeve, the EXCESSIVE usage of endearments (baby, darling, love, sweet) in certain scenes – and in a creepy manner (Krylov mentioned that the surplus of endearments will be given the axe in a next version of the book though, so fear not!).

This doesn't mean that what started as a beautiful GFY ends up in a depraved sexathon. Despite *Dangerously Happy* slowly getting grimmer, despite the lovers risking to drift apart over inner demons, their interactions remain ever so gentle and loving, tipping over the edge into sappiness.. at least, on the surface. I think there is more to this book than just a love story between two guys. There's a creepy undercurrent of cunning

manipulation, it can thrive in this uncomfortably imbalanced relationship. I'm sure not everyone will detect or care about this though. Isn't it interesting that you can choose how to perceive this story?

Sigh! I keep going back and forth without being able to give a resolute verdict... I found that there was a glaring contrast between the first part, perhaps half, of the book and what came after. The sweet and amusing GFY takeoff is easily worth 4.5 stars. As is the writing, because, boy, Krylov can write! But the ensuing soup of loose elements – a thin crime thread, past traumas calling for desperate (but plausible?!) measures, third persons fluttering in and out of the sex life of the MCs – that were all mashed together without a brilliant ulterior motive or even an interesting climax, was a disappointment.

In the end, this is an intimate, erotic and eerie read. And as such I would recommend it. But be prepared that it starts on a higher note than it ends and, in my eyes, shouldn't have been published just yet. It would benefit from a tidying up session, spelling/grammar-wise as well as plot-wise.

**Curious about Varian Krylov's interests, works and prolonged absence? Check back for her guest post next month!**

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## **Mirjana \*\*DTR - Down to Read\*\* says**

### **\*\*\*4 Stars\*\*\***

This was my first book by Varian Krylov and it certainly won't be my last. I fell in love with her lyrical writing. And the woman sure can write a passionate and captivating erotic scene! HOLY HOTTTTTTNESS!!

This story sucks you in from the very beginning and the pacing of Aidan and Dario's relationship was absolutely perfect. Even though the story is told from Aidan's POV, you still feel Dario's emotions strongly. The two men are so instantly connected, that it makes you wonder what took so long for them to be together.

Aidan was newly accepting his love for a man, and Dario was fighting to overcome a traumatic event in his past. Their vulnerability was endearing and bonded the two men. They were truly able to completely be themselves with each other. Face every fear and share every desire. Fully surrendering to their love.

"Every look he gave me, every smile, the sound of his voice, the way he touched me, every curve of his body, every contour of his skin felt created by some deity of love to draw me to him, to hold me captivated."

However, Dario's past and Aidan's insecurities about his new lifestyle is a dark cloud looming over them. Even though they acknowledged the depth of their love, they both carried the fear that at any moment it could disappear.

"I felt like there was this delicate bubble floating through the air, and if it landed in my hand, I would have real, true happiness. But if I reached for it, tried to take hold of it, I'd burst the bubble, and the chance of that happiness would be ruined forever. That happiness felt so, so close, and it felt impossible."

Unfortunately, the plot lost focus along the way. There were times the story drifted more towards Dario's sexual openness and adventurism, which I understand was part of Aidan's evolution, but it felt a bit too forced. More like filler. Or maybe I just can't understand the lifestyle? Sharing is not always caring. Finally, the book ends rather abruptly and I don't feel like I fully got a resolution of Dario's issues and his emotions surrounding his past.

Overall, a captivating read and a new author for me to follow. She definitely piqued my interest with the dark and broody Xavier.

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## DaisyGirl says

[Polyamorous factor (hide spoiler)]

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„•\*°\*~Gwendolyn~°\*\*★°\*\*★ says

### *A 4 Star Love Story of Dario & Aiden~*

"This is probably one of the **HOTEST** most **HEART-FELT, LOVE** stories I've **EVER** read, this year, thus far,

And this couple makes me.....

### ***Dangerously Happy!***

#### The Book

HOT...IMO, get a fan, it's needed!

BDSM, is not my thing but it worked.

1st person POV, I hate it! but, it worked.

Enter Xavier...hummm, not really my thing in books, but, he worked out just fine, I like him, I hope he gets a book :-)

I love that this book is so fast pace, with great action and a lot of lovin.

-Ok

I love, love, love how this love story unfolds....its Angsty, but ooh so worth it. Also, it did get a pretty HFN...

4 Stars because this book is the smoothest, sexist book I've ever read.?

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### **Shakisha says**

[your first time having sex with a man and he ties your hands up without asking or discussing it first.....but when you tried it on him previously he

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