



Purly Gates

Vastine Bondurant

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A lonely stretch of beach becomes a hiding place for two men who, when their paths cross, are determined not to be ships just passing in the night.

Purlman “Purly” Gates—dark, brooding, mysterious, hiding from his past and the hefty price on his head—is hopelessly attracted to the young man who strolls the beach every morning. At the risk of his own exposure and its deadly consequences, Purly succumbs to his desire and sets out to lure the beautiful enigma into his lair.

Lucky Cleary wants the swarthy stranger who watches him from the shadows of the cottage deck, and his morning promenades finally pay off when the man steps out onto the beach and into Lucky’s life in a move to bring their paths together.

But Lucky has a secret as well—a past mistake following close behind him, promising certain death if it catches up with him.

When each man discovers the other’s identity, the truth forms a powerful bond between them and fans the flame of their passion.

But is the meeting of these two lonely souls a beautiful destiny or merely a cruel twist of fate in which their desire is nothing more than the kiss of death for them both?

Purly Gates Details

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From Reader Review Purly Gates for online ebook

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

3.25*

Two damaged guys, a lot of their issues and damage is of their own making and life choices.

They find each other at a time in life where they need someone and are ready to change, literally have to change the course of their life if they are going to continue living.

It is poignant and touching, but I missed just a bit more time between the MCs. I guess because of what's happened and where he is going he is ready to accept this part of himself and Lucky appeals to his need to protect and care. Lucky in turn seems to need someone to do that for him, and they are both very vulnerable, so it's actually a good match and I can believe their love, I just felt like I missed it, I mean they spent a few hours awake talking. I needed a little more, maybe a few conversations on the beach, not a week of silence and then 'Yep, I'm yours forever'.

I think with just a few more pages I could have really loved this one.

Simsala says

The ending....Goddammit! For a short moment I really thought...my poor heart!

That was - hands down - the best m/m romance novella that I've ever read! The dreamlike quality of the writing made goosebumps galore...two men and their dark past, the beach, the sea, two dogs and Beethoven...low on smut but what an intense, beautiful romance.

The blurb is vague and I will leave it at that. Better to dive into the story without knowing too much about it...just read it!

Highly recommended!

Gypsum says

Although I don't like to leave negative reviews in this instance I felt I had to provide a little bit of balance to all the positive reviews.

Spoilers follow

This book is not at all well written. The author is clearly operating under the assumption that if you write with a thesaurus at your side and every now and again throw in a 'posh' word, your writing will look clever and literary. It doesn't, it just looks like you write with a thesaurus at your side. And it really doesn't help when you don't understand the 'posh' words you're using. Take this phrase;

"He'd been around long enough to perceive when someone, woman or man, put the make on him".

Well good for him. However, using "perceive" in that sentence is wrong. You'd never say "I perceived he was putting the make on me". The word "know" was the right one to use, ie "He'd been around long enough to know when someone...". It's unfortunate that the author thought the word "know" was plain and boring

and so figured it would be nice to ‘jazz-up’ the writing a bit. Mind you that’s not my favourite one, this is best:

“‘I’ve missed you,’ The sentiment spewing from him was so foreign to his ears...”

Spewing sentiment....? Spewing...sentiment?! Bloody hell. I mean volcanoes can spew lava and at a push you could ‘spew forth hatred’ but sentiment?! Spew means to vomit, to expel violently. To attach this description to sentiment...well words fail me.

Then there’s the incredibly turgid writing style and the overdone descriptions:

...“So he knew his unexplainable infatuation with this person wasn’t some sort of instantaneous amour.”

...“a powerful wave surged into Lucky, sweeping him into its aquamarine belly”

...“that nod and the whisper of a word on the traveler’s (sic) lips-only God read what he’d said, for Purly couldn’t-triggered Purly’s pulse into a riotous but luscious sprint.

I’m personally not sure what a luscious sprint is. Perhaps its running through really tall, wet grass. And the last example highlights yet another problem - the author has an apparent need to arrange the clauses of a sentence yoda-style so that it’s a real struggle to read the book.

And that’s before we get onto the characterisation and plotting, such that there is any. The characters are all exaggerated clichés. We have the beefcake ex-racketeer fresh from the joint and just trying to go straight, the poor, abused boy-next-door who just loved the wrong guy, and the knife wielding evil ex with money, power and more addictions than Charlie Sheen. The plot is predictable and full of far too many clumsy devices. For instance lets say you find you’ve written in a problem ex-boyfriend that could cause trouble for our ‘heroes’, only you suddenly realise he’s not needed any more...solution? Have him commit suicide. Much easier than actually having to write a sensible resolution.

To further illustrate just how badly written this is let me give you a quote from one of the 5 star reviews “Because this book is setting in 1930 (NO ONE TOLD ME) I was going to stop reading it” I’m sorry no one explained it was set in 1930? Why would you need someone to explain that it was set...oh yeah, sorry. That would be because the author totally fails to create any sense of place or time or atmosphere.

The book actually works better if you read it as a pastiche. So unless your only other option is imminent death from boredom I really wouldn’t bother with this book.

Candice says

Wonderful story.

Sadonna says

Really liked this historical novella. I enjoyed the way the story captured the two men and the era. Lucky and Purly spend a bit of time dancing around each other and it turns out they are each more than meets the eye. As we read on, the layers of their lives are revealed. I really liked the unexpected twists and turns the story took. And the ending - well - just read it.

Nina says

guess i'm the odd one out here, huh?

well, it was good. the plot was interesting, the characters intriguing, the setting fascinating. but, but, but. i think this could have easily been a full-length novel. this way i could have gotten to know more about the mcs' background and their personality. (how did lucky get to be so naive? well, naive. say more like stupid. he doesn't have the basics of logical reasonings. you think you deserved being carved out like a christmas turkey? dude, lionel was a mean bastard and a drug addict. wake up! and you just now realized lionel had never kissed you? i'm baffled.)

i can definitely appreciate a sensual story - not in the meaning of erotic, more like a strong suggestion of sex all throughout the story - but there were things that bugged me about this. how can you create this wonderful, sexy atmosphere and then ruin it by making one of the characters say "fuck me, fuck me" every two minutes? it didn't come across as hot, much less endearing.

the ending... well, i for one was in no way tense or scared or whatever during what was supposed to be the climax of the story. i got what, two lines about the bad guys shooting purly and then a complete blackout? i can see what v.b. wanted to do here, but it didn't work.

oh, one last thing: insta-love. be warned. you could say that it was pretty clear that it was more like a physical attraction and protectiveness on purly's side, but he explicitly said he loved lucky. after two weeks of knowing him. and 24 hours since he first talked to him. wtf?

what i loved were the historical details. who knew that full-body suimsuits could be sexy? ;)

Vio says

Sims lovely review sums it up perfectly. An amazing debut with so many beautiful poignant moments and a few gut wrenching ones as well. A story to treasure because it hits you like a ton of bricks in ways you don't expect. Lucky and Purly they are a wonderful messed up pair, perfect for each other loved them to bits even though I did have a brief "gasp" moment near the end. Awesome it hit all the right buttons for me!

C.L. says

Excellent story. The characters were engaging, kept this reader turning the page, figuratively speaking of course. Set in the 1930s, I believe, so it has a noir feel to it. A time when men kept their inner feelings of desire that wasn't considered the "norm." Very well handled. We get to know them...we connect...enough said, no spoilers. Read the book.

Kathy says

4.5 of 5

Purly Gates hearkens back to an era before my time, but even so the story, the characters, are timeless. And for me that is what sets apart a terrific storyteller from a good storyteller; **Vastine Bondurant**, in my estimation, is the former.

There's a poignancy to Purly and Lucky's story but there's also an extremely satisfying romance that reverberates with passion and emotion.

Vastine Bondurant has nailed the atmosphere of the time in which the story is set; in many ways it's a simpler time, definitely there's a different feel.

Bondurant's scene setting is stellar; I can see the lonely stretch of beach in front of Purly's house; the attractive stranger and his dogs add life to a blank canvas. The spark was struck and the story took me away; lovely!

Leaundra says

I really enjoyed this short story. Reading it I kept wondering what they both were running from, which made me keep reading to find out of course:-). Purly and Lucky both had danger in the air around them but I still thought they were very sweet together and that fate put them both there to meet.... ps...The cover is beautiful!!

V says

Because this book is setting in 1930(NO ONE TOLD ME)I was going to stop reading it, I'm not very fond of that kind of books, luckily I wasn't stupid and I keep reading.

Mind you, I nearly had a heart attack nearly at the end, and my brain was screaming I knew, I knew it !!! I shouldn't be reading this story.

Luckily I was wrong, again.

Wonderful short story, and yes wonderful ending.

Ami says

Feels like a bit of 'a party pooper' here, among the other positive reviews *embarrassed*

Let's see ... title wise, intriguing. Story wise, intriguing as well -- especially since it is written in such way that readers are only given tidbits of clues about who the two men are. When it is finally unraveled, their stories are quite touching.

Chemistry with the writing style wise --- well, this is when I hit the bump. Although the words can be lyrical, but I'm constantly annoyed with the emphasis of the some words, especially the verb "did", that the author

uses. Those italic "dids" are distracting to read after several times, like the author is telling me that yes, it IS important for you, as a reader, to notice that ...

Sometimes those italics are even found within one paragraph, on two consecutive sentences. For example:

...

But one thing he *did* know. The annoying preoccupation *did* not mean he was queer for he'd never considered acting on the draw of a masculine physique.

Instead of sleeping, he *did* helplessly drift to erotic imagery of the stranger every night. He *did* imagine touching him, holding him, burying himself deep inside that gently curved ass.

...

For me personally, it's irritating and reduce my reading enjoyment.

Blacky *Romance Addict* says

This was a nice little read :) Although, I was very dissapointed, the first 40% of the book was excellent (5 stars for sure!), but then came the part where they talked about their pasts, and it all became so incredibly mushy and sweet and gooey and a million similar expressions for those who like mushy, you'll absolutely LOVE this book. Me? I don't. So the ending didn't work for me. Too bad, because it was beautifully written, love the style of the author :)

Best scene: Well all of them up till the 40-50 % of the book XDXD But still, the one when Purly says to Lucky he's not interested and Lucky stops comming to the beach. That was so sad :(

Feliz says

This book was very interesting, from its original, wickedly ingenious title over the lyrical writing and beautiful prose to the well-drawn characters. Considering how short it is, the story created an impressive amount of atmosphere. However, the plot in itself was just the same old insta-love and the ending....sorry Sims...that was just over the top. Sweet, admittedly, and the good kind, not the toothache kind, but still.

S.A. says

This is just glorious.

The author has captured the 'feel' of the era so beautifully. Reading this novella was like settling down on the settee on a rainy Sunday afternoon to watch an old black and white film. I could see the light and shadow, hear the soundtrack and the characters' voices.

Atmospheric, lyrical, beautiful.

I can't wait to read more from Ms. Bondurant.

And, yes, the cover art is perfect.
