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M. Jules Aedin , Anna J. Linden

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Bryant is a college football star from Alabama who is as closeted about his romantic personality as his sexuality. Kai is a Japanese-American anthropology student who believes romance and marriage are empty societal constructs. When they meet by chance in San Francisco, they're swept away by their mutual attraction. But if they want a relationship to survive, they both must learn to see past their differences to accept each other for who they are.

All The Things You Are Details

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From Reader Review All The Things You Are for online ebook

Plainbrownwrapper says

Mmmmmmm, I like this author. I like her gentle narrative voice, I like the warmth in her attitude towards her characters, I like the simple but gratifying plot lines. Good stuff.

This shortish tale is the story of a young ex-football player (Bryant) who has just escaped his Alabama home for the wide-open adventure of San Francisco. Soon after moving there, he meets a slightly built Japanese-American massage therapist (Kai) with loooooong black hair who is constantly being mistaken for a woman. But just when you think you've heard this story before, you haven't. (view spoiler)

This is another nice story by Aedin, this time about looking past your preconceptions and expanding your horizons. A gratifying way to spend a hour or so.

Logan says

I felt like this could have been so much more. Granted, it was short and I am sure the author had to work within those constraints. I liked the premise but it just did not go deep enough for me.

Lily says

This 79 page novella was an enjoyable story featuring strong writing and that includes the sex scenes which were quite hot. I liked both of the main characters, they are engaging and likable characters, and the story of their relationship was a fun read.

Bryant Hensley has moved to San Francisco after an injury ends his hopes for a pro football career. New in town and doing a bit of sightseeing he spots a long haired woman needing help with some boxes. When he offers to help he's very surprised as the 'woman' turns out to be a gorgeous Asian man.

Massage therapist Kai Yamashita is not at all happy to once again be mistaken for a woman. When the big blond man with the Southern accent offers to help him he grudgingly accepts and then quickly dismisses his helper. But when he notices the man limping away he can't stop himself from offering the man a massage.

From this initially awkward meeting Bryant and Kai form a friendship that quickly includes some very hot benefits. As the weeks go by they spend more and more time together until eventually they find themselves living together. When Bryant reads an article about some people trying to once again ban gay-marriage he realizes that he'd love the chance to marry but as he talks with Kai he's saddened to learn that Kai doesn't believe in marriage at all. This difference in their thinking is a huge stumbling block in the relationship and Kai finds himself having to do some soul searching if he wants to keep his lover happy.

I liked both Bryant and Kai and was quite happy with the development of their relationship. They start out as friends and as time passes slowly come to realize the true depths of their feelings for each other and I found the ending was believable and not at all rushed. The story is laced with a bit of humor and the ending is

perfectly in keeping with that.

Overall I quite liked this entertaining story. It's a fun quick read without a lot of angst. The plot is simple and the story flows along really well and it's only towards the end that a bit of conflict is thrown into Bryant and Kai's relationship. Anyone looking for a well written story featuring a couple of really nice men meeting, becoming friends and then discovering their friendship is much more than they first thought would really enjoy this book.

Juniper says

Had not read anything previously of Anna J Linden's but had read several M Jules Aedin (mostly short stories). I will now eagerly await further offerings from this pairing.

This could have been yet another geek meets jock pairing, but gave us much more depth and emotional integrity than I had first expected. They really were a sweet couple who you cross your fingers all the way for a HEA.

Lucy says

Bryant is so romantic, wanting to be loved and be a part of a couple. Kai is more cynical seeming, not realizing (or at least not admitting) that romantic gestures, getting married, saying I love you do not make a man into a girl. Bryant is a big ex-football player teddy bear and is so sweet, you want to squish him.

Cindi says

I wanted to read this initially because I saw that one of the authors is originally from my home town in Alabama. Then I really wanted to read it when I saw that Bryant was a former player at my favorite college team (Roll Tide!) I ended up really liking the story. Sweet story about a southern boy moving across the country to a more accepting place and he meets Kai. I liked watching their relationship from the first meeting until the conclusion of the story.

I look forward to reading more from these authors.

Tailtiu says

3,5*

Melora says

[

This was one of those shorter stories that didn't feel rushed. Sure, circumstances were favorable for continued interaction, but there was no insta-love to marr the development of a relationship. I liked getting to know Kai and Bryant and their distinct personalities. I also enjoyed seeing how their stereotypical preconceptions were slowly altered. (hide spoiler)]

Emily Moore says

4.5 stars

When Bryant tore his ACL, a career ending football injury, his in the closet relationship with fellow player Jamal also ended and Bryant realized he needed to make some changes in his life. He decided to leave his home in Alabama and move across the country to San Francisco where he could be open and accept himself instead of having to constantly hide his sexuality. Upon arriving in the beautiful city he can't help but walk all over to view the sites, until his knee starts to protest. He sits down on a bench for a rest and when he turns after hearing a sound behind him he sees what he assumes is a gorgeous woman struggling to balance several boxes. He is surprised to discover the woman is in fact a man, Japanese-American Kai, and the mutual attraction is immediate. Bryant and Kai quickly fall into a relationship where they become immersed in each others lives, but when they realize that their hopes for the future don't quite mesh, they each have some serious thinking to do.

I fell in love with M. Jules Aedin's writing back in December when reading her story Vespers in the Snow and this story is just as exceptional. Anna J. Linden is an author I am not familiar but I am now officially fans of both women and will be following them in the future, desperate for more stories from them both. All the Things You Are is a fabulous story with two strong and well developed characters and a plot that is tightly woven. It is the story of two strangers meeting and falling in love and the tone of the story is lighthearted as well as full of depth and intensity. I fell in love with the character of Bryant from the very beginning, a gentle soul who loves life and embraces the world around him. He is searching for just the right man to give his heart to, someone to spend the rest of his life with. He dreams of being able to marry his true love. It would be so easy to pigeonhole Bryant into a "big beefy sports dude" role but the authors have created a character who is complex emotionally. Kai is an interesting counterpart to Bryant and is a breath of fresh air, both to Bryant and for readers. The men move quickly in their relationship but it doesn't lessen the depth of their emotions in any way. You will quickly become engrossed in the story and these characters and be rooting for them throughout. I cannot more highly recommend this phenomenal story, a heartwarming and touching tale that I enjoyed immensely.

<http://emily83176.livejournal.com/746...>

Michelle *mke* says

Cute!!

OkayKim says

M. Jules Aedin is an automatic buy from now on.

~☆~Dαni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

Fluffy, feel-good read; would have been better had it been longer, allowing us to explore the relationship between Kai and Bryant. As such, this was very much love at fist sight. There was no real conflict, except at the end when Bryant got in a funk thinking Kai didn't want a commitment and acted like a total ass. Also, the cover is a big WTF. I'm not sure who or what that's supposed to be, but it's not casual, ex-football player Bryant (suit and champagne?), and it's certainly not Japanese-American Kai with his long flowing black hair.

I read this because I loved this author's *Paper Planes*, which I highly recommend.

Riina Y.T. says

Lovely shorty!
