



Embrace My Reflection

T.A. Chase

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Lucius Montagne and Ronnie Lake were best friends during high school, and in those two years, they fell in love. But Lucius joined the army and left Ronnie behind to deal with the pain of being alone.

Ten years later, Ronnie works at Cindi's Cabaret in New Orleans as a female impersonator. He's come to terms with his love for Lucius and the fact that he likes to dress in women's clothes. Ronnie's happy, but he longs to reconnect with Lucius.

Lucius returns to New Orleans and gets a job as a detective on the police force. Finding out Ronnie lives in New Orleans brings all of Lucius's buried feelings to the surface. He discovers his high school sweetheart is being stalked by a United States senator and protecting the man he loves comes naturally for Lucius. Accepting that Ronnie dresses like a woman is a little more difficult.

Yet love always finds a way to survive, no matter the obstacles in its way.

Embrace My Reflection Details

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From Reader Review Embrace My Reflection for online ebook

Natalija says

I actually really enjoyed this book. There was no real character development, but I truly appreciated its originality. I'll definitely be reading more by this author.

Heather♥ says

If you like reading about a sexy man in lace panties, then this is the book for you. Ronnie and Lucius were so sweet together it had me smiling a lot. Even though they hadn't seen each other for 10 years, their reunion was pretty much angst-free because this wasn't a case of unrequited love or unresolved hard feelings. As young lovers in high school they found first-time love together, and that love only seemed to deepen over the years that they were apart. They both wanted to get out of the small town they grew up in and were only separated because Lucius joined the military and Ronnie's life took a different path. Their time apart did them both good though. Ronnie became more confident and open about his preference to wear women's clothing, and Lucius knew from his time in the military that he didn't want to hide his sexual preference any longer. He wasn't ashamed of who he loved. They both had jobs they enjoyed (Ronnie was a cabaret singer and Lucius was a police detective) so being together again made them feel complete. I loved Ronnie and all his pretty clothes. I thought Lucius was a little too perfect at times, but Ronnie deserved to be doted on. Lucius was wonderfully protective and their love never faltered. A little drama with Ronnie's stalker, and a great cast of supporting characters (particularly Ms. Cindi and Percy at the cabaret, and the other tenants where Lucius and Ronnie lived) made this a very enjoyable story. And let's not forget Ronnie's pretty clothes :)

Wave says

While I like T.A. Chase's writing a few of her recent offerings have not been my favourites. However, in my opinion, this book indicates (to me anyway), that she's back. I thought that the protagonists, although not perfect, were well drawn other than a few niggles, and the supporting characters were fully fleshed out.

In many books with cross dressers the characters are cardboard cut outs, but in Embrace My Reflection T.A. Chase makes her cross dressing character three dimensional and sympathetic. Ronnie made no apologies for dressing in women's clothing, not only when performing at Cindi's Cabaret as Veronica Lake, but also at home hanging out.

There seemed no doubt that Lucius loved Ronnie but I didn't feel that there was a strong explanation for why he didn't contact Ronnie in the 2 years since he returned to NO. However I really liked Lucius, especially the way he protected those he cared about.

The reason I didn't rate this book higher is because of a few concerns I had about Ronnie's characterization. My main issue was I thought that the character was defined by being a cross dresser rather than this being just a part of who he was. Consequently, I felt that what was missing from the story was more about Ronnie the man, without the heels and makeup, but perhaps that didn't happen because we're told that Ronnie

believed he was ugly, after years of mental abuse and conditioning by his father, and wearing feminine clothing made him feel beautiful.

If you like sympathetic characters and cross dressers you might want to take a chance on Embrace my Reflection.

jules0623 says

Flat and one-dimensional characters.

Karen K says

I'm a big fan of T.A. Chase and I really enjoyed this book. Lucius and Ronnie are great characters and I love that they have a history together. Ronnie is a strong, emotional man who just happen to feel more comfortable dressing as a woman and he does it with style and grace, together with Lucius they are a fantastic couple. My only issues with this book is that it seemed to move very fast and the dialogue was a little stiff - maybe part of that is the shorter length of the book. Still a really good read, though.

Dee Wy says

This was an extremely sweet story. A friend of mine would call it sugar kink it was so sweet. But Ronnie's character stole the show. You've got to love a guy who is happy to have a penis but when he wears his comfortable jeans puts them on with silk panties and high heels, lol.

Ronnie and Lucius were best friends in high school and lost their virginity to each other the night before Lucius left town, and it's been ten years since they've seen each other when the story begins. The plot with the stalker following Ronnie as he works as a female impersonator in a night club was a bit predictable, but I enjoyed their story anyway. A fun read!

Andrea says

All tell, no show - storyline was much better than the writing.

MsMiz (Tina) says

Ronnie and Lucius are great together. I really liked the fact that while they were apart for 10 years, they understood and were accepting of the experiences they each had while away. There was no jealousy and getting upset, just a feeling that it was what was necessary to bring them together again.

Elci says

This was a sweet and fun read. Ronnie and Lucius met in high school and became best friend but life led them down separate paths. 10 years later they meet up. The relationship picks up from where it left off. Just a nice sweet read. I like books that show that just because a male character is effeminate or wears female clothes doesn't mean he's not a man or that he's not desirable.

Arthur says

I was a bit reluctant to read this book because of the cross-dresser topic, although the reunion of childhood/high school friends is my favorite sub-genre (I made a list for it). I'm glad I gave it a try. It is one of the better books in MM romance.

Ronnie and Lucius have been best friends during high school. Upon graduation, Lucius enlisted in the Army and was sent to Afghanistan/Iraq, while Ronnie stayed and work as a female impersonator. They shared their first time the night before Lucius went to the boot camp, and were separated for 10 years. That morning, Lucius just left. When Lucius was discharged, he became a police officer in New Orleans. He was not sure if Ronnie would take him back, that it took 2 years and a criminal case to get him to find Ronnie. Actually, Ronnie always waited for Lucius. So, when Lucius showed up one night in the club, he embraced his old friend with open hand.

The story was divided into two: the first is on how the two rekindled their relationship, and the second is on how to deal with Ronnie's stalker.

It's written beautifully. The issue of gay cross-dresser (Ronnie does not want to be a female; he is 100% gay male who likes to wear woman's clothes) is presented nicely. Being gay is difficult enough, and being one who likes to wear different clothes make Ronnie even 'minority' among the minorities.

The thriller part is also nice. Not too angsty, and the way they handle the case doesn't make you angry for being sloppy.

It's highly recommended book.

Shell says

Lucius Montagne and Ronnie Lake met in high school. Ronnie was being bullied by a couple of homophobic twins and Lucius came to his rescue, solidifying an instant friendship, one that grew easily throughout those turbulent high school years.

At 18 years old though, Lucius had signed up for the military, was shipping off to boot camp and leaving Ronnie and his love behind. Not before spending one passionate night together, however. A night that both

men held close to their hearts for the next ten years. Now, at 28, Lucius is a respected New Orleans Police Detective and his newest case is investigating a harassment claim by one of the female impersonators as Cindi's Cabernet. A female impersonator that goes by the name of Veronica Lake, but is known in every day life as Ronnie Lake.

This was my first story where a female impersonator is one of the main protagonists and it was delightful. I loved that Ronnie was so fundamentally ok with himself and who he was that he didn't really let other peoples' opinions and bigotries get him down or influence his life or the way he lived. I also loved that Lucius, a masculine police detective adored and loved Ronnie too, just the way he was, heels and all.

Delane Davis says

T.A Chase always delivers a wonderful story. The one thing I love about Embrace My Reflection is the main characters Ronnie. He is all man even while wearing silk and satin and strong enough to love himself even when those who should love him best turned their back. The best part is the love was solid between Ronnie and Lucious despite the years apart and their coming together was beautiful. Embrace My Reflection is a must read and will remain on my TBR list as they are characters I would love to revisit.

Ami says

3.5 stars

Having a protagonist like Ronnie Lake is a breath of fresh air. I love him (uhm, her?) for embracing who he is. Even if he must faces judgment from other people, it doesn't really put him down. It is a lovely story ... and there is tenderness between the two of them that just makes it wonderful. The scene where Lucius touches Ronnie's hair and notices how soft it is, is sweet.

Alyosha says

A great cross-dresser x cop childhood-friends/lovers-reunited-story! Embrace My Reflection was very, very sweet, I had a silly grin on my face the whole time I spent reading it. Both main and side characters felt real and three dimensional. Plus points for author for providing some background and soul/identity searching on the subject. Exactly what I needed. 3.5 stars

(also contains a scary stalker and some very hot loving)

Ashley says

Sweet romance, though perhaps leaning too far toward saccharine. I liked that Ronnie was so comfortable with himself, and that Lucius accepted him for who he was with no issues. I did not like the writing though, and I had an issue with a major plot point. Ronnie and Lucius had not spoken for 10 years after Lucius joined the army. I don't get why they couldn't have stayed in contact. Lucius joined in the era of DADT, but they could have hidden their relationship, or at least stayed friends. They didn't have a major fight before Lucius

left, Ronnie was accepting of Lucius's decision to join up. Why couldn't they write letters, or email, or have phone conversations? For two people supposedly in love they let go pretty easy.
