



Hiding in Plain Sight

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Vladimir Gusev exists in a living hell. A year ago in the Olympics he was forced to use a homophobic slur during a game, and guilt is eating him from the inside out. Not only is Vladimir not a homophobe, but in the aftermath of the Olympics, he was finally able to admit his true nature to himself. Yet he's been taught homosexuality is a sin, so he tries to push away his feelings, but to no avail.

Joe Bufford is an out gay man and an ex-Delta Force member who was medically discharged after an injury to his hand leaves him no longer able to perform his duties. His job as a mechanic at the airport is hardly a long-term career choice, but Joe has no idea where he can utilize the skills he learned in the Army.

Vladimir and Joe meet, and Joe instantly recognizes Vladimir as a terrified closet case. Before he knows it, Joe is offering to help Vladimir figure out what he is and what he wants. As time goes on, Joe begins to hope more and more that the answers to those questions lie with him.

Hiding in Plain Sight Details

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From Reader Review Hiding in Plain Sight for online ebook

Riet De Bruin-Strijker says

Book 2 of Safe Harbor was even more spicier than the first one. I loved it, there's a reason why I reread it! As in See the Light, the characters are so lifelike and so well written that they have stepped out of the page for me. Did I mention that I loved it? Here's what happens in the story:

Vladimir Gusev exists in a living hell. A year ago in the Olympics he was forced to use a homophobic slur during a game, and guilt is eating him from the inside out. Not only is Vladimir not a homophobe, but in the aftermath of the Olympics he was finally able to admit his true nature to himself. But he's been taught homosexuality is a sin, so he tries to push away his feelings, to no avail.

Joe Bufford is an out gay man and an ex-Delta Force member who was medically discharged after an injury to his hand leaves him no longer able to perform his duties. His job as a mechanic at the airport is hardly a long-term career choice, but Joe has no idea where he can utilize the skills he learned in the Army.

Vladimir and Joe meet, and Joe instantly recognizes Vladimir as a terrified closet case. Before he knows it, Joe is offering to help Vladimir figure out what he is and what he wants. As time goes on, Joe begins to hope more and more that the answers to those questions lie with him.

A small inconsistency was what bothered me, but the story was so good that I could read over it.

Donna says

When we first, briefly, met Vladimir Gusev in See The Light I never suspected that one day he'd get his own story. I don't know if Cassandra Carr always intended to write this book or if the chance to turn her Russian Olympian gay was just too topical an opportunity to pass up. Either way the premise of this story kept me entertained as throughout the book I continued to vacillate between thinking "take that Russian anti gay laws" and feeling so sorry for any gay Russian athletes who for certain have buried themselves deep in the safety of their closets.

You can find my full review on the Blog of Sid Love

<http://sidlove.com/2014/02/11/release...>

Victoria love books says

Overall book rating 3.5 Stars

Audio book - Narrator - Jason P. Hilton 4 Stars Loved the Audio

Book Cover - 4 Stars

Ula'ndi Hart says

3.5

Much better than the first one. I had fun with this. Both books are a little...how should I put this?

Not finished? Short of facts?really just not finished. But I enjoyed the idea around it and the boys were fun.

Crystal Marie says

I wasn't completely sure how I was going to feel about this book when I first started it. If you have read the first book in the series See the Light, I'm sure you will understand why that is. So I was very surprised and happy when I started the book and I completely loved it!!!

I'll go ahead and get my one complaint out of the way and then I'll start with why I loved the book so much. My one complaint is how quickly the book moved along; it was like once Joe and Vladimir met and realized they had something in common the book just completely took off from there. I suppose I was hoping for more resistance from Vladimir during the course of the book.

Now, with that being said, I did still love the book! I couldn't get past everything that Vladimir had been dealing with, and how he was trying to deal with it all. Joey's character was just amazing. I loved the strength that he showed to Vladimir during the course of the story.

And let me just say, holy hotness when it comes to the smutty scenes! The author has a way about her that she can write such amazing scenes, that are extremely detailed, but not over the top. It completely shocks me that this is the second M/M book that she has written, yet she writes them like she has been doing it for years.

Overall, I did enjoy this book immensely and I can't wait to read what she has in store for us next. And hopefully next time, she will have an ending that doesn't leave me with a ton of questions!

Reviewed by Crystal Marie for Crystal's Many Reviewers

Copy provided for honest review!

K says

Hiding in Plain Sight is the second book in the series Safe Harbor. Here we have Vladimir, a gay hockey player who just recently admitted to himself, that he was in fact gay. He is afraid to say anything to any of his teammates, as everyone knows how homophobic a locker room can be. Vladimir is also Russian, which does not help him in making him feel more comfortable with his situation. As a matter of fact, it scares the hockey pucks out of him, if his home country were to find out.

Joe is a badass ex delta force. He was discharged for an injury to his hand and sent home. Since that time, he has come out as an open gay man. He doesn't advertise, of course, but he will not hide any longer. He is looking for someone that is open and ready to have a relationship, not someone who wants only one night stands in the closet. He likes to hang out at the local pub which is for gay customers primarily. There he can be himself, enjoy his time without fear, and just have a good time. Here is where he meets Vladimir for the first time. Unfortunately, due to some negative publicity on Vladimir's end, he does not receive a warm welcome in the pub. He leaves the pub quickly and Joe runs out after him. He can't help but feel this is one man he should not let get away.

I was highly impressed with the author for how she told their story. She uses today's problems and current events that are happening right now. Because of this, for me, it made the story much more believable. If you

follow today's headlines at all, then you should have a little understanding about what is happening in Russia. Not only with the LGBT, but also with the Olympics. As this is Vladimir's home country, you can certainly understand why he does not want to go back there. He hasn't had any contact with his immediate family, so he is ready to cut ties with everyone and everything and get on with his life here in the U.S. Cassandra Carr tells a beautiful story of honesty, trust, friendship and love. She allows the characters to develop feelings for each other before they take their sexual relationship too far. All of this is new to Vladimir, having a boyfriend, sex, and admitting to not only himself, but everyone else, he is gay. Your heart breaks for him as he struggles to tell his teammates and some of his closest friends. He doesn't know how they will handle this new information he wants so badly to share with them. He is a very strong character, once he made up his mind to own his sexuality. He now realizes how nice it would be to live an open lifestyle. Will his teammates accept him, who will support him in his moment of truth? The author throws in a few twists and turns that definitely keeps you on your seat waiting to see how it will play out.

If you read the first book in this remarkable series, then I highly recommend you continue on with this one. Some of the players in the previous story make a small appearance here, and I for one, love to see past characters show up. When it's all said and done, this is a love story about two guys who find each other, despite the consequences, and continue to thrive even though they are a part of a sport that normally does not allow much lenience for homosexuality. Will love prevail, despite what they face? I cannot encourage you enough to read this wonderful story to find out.

Didi says

Practically half the book was sex scenes. Virgin said hello to gay world here: *Hello!!!* plus the ex Delta Force who just got out from military life barely a year before. Thus, the merry shagging acrobatics. I was actually expecting more from this Russian/American couple; considering the Russian mob mentioned in earlier pages, and the nameless faceless family in Russia. Alas, no further story there except... for when Vlad told the story. Not so much of hockey scene too, this book being part of hockey series.

The ex/friend seemed to be dropped in the middle to sort-of creating drama. Which, I really didn't buy at all; whatever that turned out to be.

But I love the banter between Vlad and Joey, so... rounded up 3 stars, I guess.

Gigi says

DNR because all/most of my trusted GR friends did not enjoy it.

T.M. Smith says

Vladimir Gusev is a closeted, gay, Russian hockey player that is forced to present himself as homophobic. But his fellow hockey players always had their doubts about the comment he made, it never quite fit his persona to make that kind of statement and call out another player as a fag. His life has pretty much been a living hell, until he meets Joey.

Joe Bufford is ex military, Delta Force and Iraq war veteran to be exact. No longer living a lie under the

‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ restrictions of the military, he is openly gay and refuses to hide who he is for anyone. Until he meets Vlad. He is immediately drawn to the Russian and can see the man is attracted to him as well. But Vlad is scared of the ramifications of coming out and wants to remain in hiding.

Joe understands Vlad’s inexperience and reluctance at coming out, and agrees to help Vlad gain some experience at being who he is. Their unconventional relationship quickly grows from experimenting to exclusive to love. But it is not without problems. Joe will not hide who he is, but he loves Vlad and wants to support him. Vlad wants to be true to himself and be able to love Joey openly, but worries about the adverse effects it will have not only on his career, but what will happen to his family back in Russia?

Carr is quickly finding her footing as an accomplished M/M writer. I love how she tackled the issue of all the homophobia and hatred going on in Russia currently and wove it into her story, even if it was more of an underlying issue. She really has grown immensely in just a short while between See The Light, book 1, and this instalment. I loved how she showed the balance between Vlad’s inexperience and insecurity coupled with Joe being comfortable in his own skin and willing to be patient while Vlad figures everything out. It was so worth it in the end. And these two have an innocent sort of sexy passion that conveys well to the reader.

This book could probably be read as a stand alone, but having read See The Light first, I’d recommend starting with that one. Then you can more fully understand the issue at the start with Vlad and the homophobic comments he’d made, that were actually made in book 1. If you like sweaty naked men that like to boss each other around in the bedroom, and hockey, you’ll love this series.

** I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review through MM Good Book Reviews **
<http://www.mmgoodbookreviews.wordpress...>

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

83% price drop to \$0.99! 10/5/14

Morgan Skye says

Full Review <http://thebloggergirls.com/2014/12/05...>

This is book two in the Safe Harbor Series and it is so good it even surpasses book one! First, we see the homophobe from Book one is actually gay and hiding it because of the Russian Mob and threats to his family. Second, we see someone experience being gay for the first time in his life. Everything. Third, Joe is amazing. He is kind, sweet, sensitive and really grounded. But... he's ex-Delta force so he can kick ass, too! He's the absolute perfect guy to tackle a giant hockey player and take on his closeted issues. Vlad has a lot keeping him in the closet. He has to wrestle his own issues with being gay and feeling less “manly” and those are interwoven with fear about his family and their reaction in Russia, and he worries about his job security as a hockey player and his reputation in the media (since the Olympics branded him a homophobe he's been ridiculed).

Joe is reluctant, at first, to be the guy that introduces Vlad to gay sex for fear of being abandoned for the

closet (he just got out of the military and is grateful to be out and proud) or being abandoned for the next guy once Vlad decides to stretch his new gay wings. But he can't resist Vlad's honest and sincere desire to learn more about being gay and he's super attracted to him, as well.

Finally, the couple agrees to a trial arrangement, with the caveat of no strings and nobody can know. Both men are fooling themselves if they think they aren't invested, and it becomes clear that neither thinks of the other as merely a "fuck buddy".

Politics moves Vlad into confessing his sexuality and Joe does it proudly by his side, with the help of Jason and Patrick from book one. A very HEA is had by all.

**

The narration for this book is both way better and way worse than book one. On the one hand, there are several glaring mistakes where it is clear the narrator messed up and nobody went back to edit out his mis-starts and throat clearings. However, those almost fit in. The guy's voice is just so natural in the role it feels like he's telling the story to you personally and those things happen in normal conversation. I wasn't bothered by them, I just chuckled when I noticed a mistake.

On the other hand, the narrator does a fairly awesome Russian accent that makes the smexy scenes to die for! Ooo la la. Did I enjoy Vlad telling "Joey" in a thick Russian accent "I want to fuck you!" Wow! Scorching hot! (I loved that Vlad calls Joe "Joey" and nobody else is allowed to call him that... super cute!)

So – despite some technical errors and a few strange plot twists and turns I really, really loved this book and this narration and give them both a 5 of 5 stars. You are seriously missing out if you don't give this one a try. (They are both stand alone books and don't necessarily need to be read in order, though reading them booth adds a bit to the enjoyment.)

Overall Impression:

5 stars – It was amazing

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

2.5 Stars

Gawd this had so much potential.

First you have Vladimir, a native Russian playing professional hockey in the U.S. who has just allowed himself to wholly admit he's gay. A chance encounter arises and he meets Joe, who takes a little pity on his emotional turmoil and offers him friendship. So picture this - hot hockey player who's a gay virgin meets experienced hot ex-Marine who's reluctant but willing to show him all that he's been missing. The anticipated fireworks should be amazing right? Right??

I'll give points to the plot set up and the initial sexual tension. (view spoiler) This was also a bit more angst than the first but at the same time, not angst enough. Does that even make any sense? I guess I expected certain aspects to be explored (ie. Joe's struggle about going back into the closet) but other issues were focused on instead that lead to some bad vibes.

So due to personal preferences, this obviously didn't work for me as much as the the first book See the Light. However, I'll still keep this author on my radar.

Silkeeeeeereads says

Well, there wasn't anything **WRONG** with this book. Well, I guess that's not true. I didn't get the feel or connection of the MCs. I didn't connect to them and I suppose that's because they didn't seem authentic to me. The storyline was loose and the sex was lukewarm. So, I suppose there was quite a bit wrong with it. Sorry.

Duck says

This book is written much like a MF romance. I didn't feel the dialog or behavior would genuinely occur between two men. At times it was downright cheesy. I also never felt any real chemistry between the two... things were flat and predictable. Also to go from "the Russian Mob made me do it, I feared for my family" to "My family abandoned me, I can't let them affect my decisions" was contradictory and too convenient to be believable.

Lisa ~ Books Are My Drugs ~ says

Mostly this book was just ok. Not memorable.

There were a couple things I had issues with:

first there was a bit where Joe is describing a C-130 plane to Vlad & he tells him "It's a large transport plane. It can carry tanks. Or people. Or both." This is incorrect. I've flown on C-130s. They are **not** large enough to carry tanks. From the www.af.mil website: the C-130 can accommodate a wide variety of oversized cargo, including everything from utility helicopters and six-wheeled armored vehicles to standard palletized cargo and military personnel. Maybe the author mistook an armored vehicle to mean a tank, but they're not the same. Tanks are much larger & run on tracks with many wheels not six. The AF website's factsheet states the C-17 can carry virtually all of the army's air-transportable equipment. The C-5 is also large enough to carry a tank.

My other issue was this statement: "Shit, he loved this guy so much it was nauseating." Loving someone is not something to be ashamed of or to be sickening. It's something that should bring people joy and it bothers me when it's depicted in a negative manner.
