



What He Wants

Kate Aaron

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Christo's life fell apart when his partner of eight years walked out on him. There wasn't even a reason for it: sometimes love just fades, as quickly and mysteriously as it appears in the first place.

Enter Damien. Damien's the guy with a different man on his arm for every event, he's smooth and arrogant and always impeccably turned out. Christo hates him. But God, he's gorgeous. Damien could be exactly what Christo needs to get him over John.

It's only going to be a fling. Nothing serious, nothing that will affect their working relationship or the rest of their lives. So why are they fighting through the night rather than letting go and walking away? Why does Damien's secretive nature bug Christo so much? And why does he even care that the other man might not be as tough as he pretends to be?

What He Wants Details

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Author : Kate Aaron

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From Reader Review What He Wants for online ebook

Lisa Arbitrary - AttentionIsArbitrary M/M Blog says

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### 3.5 Romantic Stars

First off I have to thank Kate Aaron for mailing me (from the UK to the USA) a copy of her wonderful book. I won this during the Hop Against Homophobia and Transphobia:  
<http://hopagainsthomophobia.blogspot....>

### **THE STORY**

What a wonderfully rewarding romance. This is ALL about the developing relationship and romance of two men who are initially competitive teammates, but are compelled to work together to avoid a difficult workplace scandal.

Neither of these two are looking for a long term relationship, but watching it develop from a tenuous friendship to a real, true romance and relationship is very fulfilling.

For those looking to read about real struggles and clever solutions, I think this will be the ticket. It's nice to read about a whole, complete relationship. Plus it's sexy, believable and romantic.

\*light BDSM play

### **THE CHARACTERS**

Christo - Totally insecure and a worrier, he is just coming out of an 8 year relationship. He's been living a half life and needs to snap out of it before he loses everything.

Damien - Confident, gorgeous and a player, he isn't someone to trust, to depend on or to fall for, but...

### **THE WRITING**

Right off I enjoyed the direct tone and quick pace. I was impressed by the editing and quality of the writing. However, there is some POV switching that could mess up the flow. 90% of the work reads from one POV, but there are glimpses from the other m/c's head that I felt were out of place. Nonetheless, the story and characters stand out and I found myself quite absorbed.

Thanks again Kate!!!

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### **Take a look at my Male/Male Romance Book Blog:**

<http://www.attentionisarbitrary.blogspot.com>

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### **Jacq says**

The storyline was great. The plot was well thought of. The suits HOT! I really wanted to like this one... But this was a very difficult read. 1) The MC did not have the right chemistry. 2) Some of the words used were disconnecting hard to follow the flow. I could have been having a off day cuz I really like the start...and dang I really like suits .

In the end it was just ok.

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### **Ery says**

Interesting, sweet, & well-written. It felt a bit slow for me, but I'm not sure why it felt that way as the plot advanced normally. A pretty realistic at an every-day romance with real-life pressures (job, finances, etc.)

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### **Chris says**

Not going to make it through this one - not getting into it, and inconsistencies have already shown up, just a chapter or so in.

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### **Jonel Boyko says**

This was an amazing novel that kept me entranced throughout. Aaron sets forth some brilliantly crafted descriptions that allow you to visualise everything in detail. This novel was very well and naturally written. Aaron's fluid writing style allows you to float through life right alongside the characters. Everything that this brilliant author presents to you shows just how real the world that she sets forth is. You don't read this novel, you live it.

The main characters in this novel are phenomenal. They are both strong individuals. They are also perfectly crafted for their roles, although neither are perfect. I appreciate the fact that although these characters have had less than perfect lives the issues and trials that they have faces are realistic ones. They are the things that we may face at any point in our lives. The characters are very different from one another, but you can easily see how they fit together as a couple. You fall in love with them as they fall in love with each other.

Throughout this novel Aaron makes you giggle while making you feel for the characters. Above all, I appreciate how well written and edited this novel is. She created a novel that you cannot help but love.

Please note that I won this book through Goodreads First Reads program.

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### **Èmina says**

Um what the heck was this?

The story started good...I like the characters a lot and though wow there could be some amazing stuff here coming...but then I came to 20% of the book and was boooooored to death.

Christo was so boring...why the heck did we only get his perspective on things?!! The guy has no idea what he wants and reading his thoughts was just dreadful...he kept thinking of nothing and everything and was confusing as fuck...he would then make up his mind then change it a chapter later...then change it again and again...wtf?!!!

The story simply went nowhere...or so it seemed.

It was all just damn boring until the rape scene and what came after it...now that was not boring...it was horrible...and not because I felt bad for the Main character...I actually fully disliked him at this point...I frigging disliked everything about this book from then on.

Damien the poor abused and tortured guy ends up raping Christo...um wait...no...he was never abused...there was no violence in his childhood...there was no forced sex or rape...so wtf?!!

Yes his parents died when he was a child and that did mess him up and he blamed himself...but when he actually talks about this...finally opens up Christos reaction was...aww I feel so bad and sad for you...but wait...did you say you were mega rich?!!! And then follows a huge rant about money...LOL seriously?!!!! The fact that Damien never really apologizes for the rape boggled my mind too...and that Christo made excuses and went for more was beyond normal.

Ugh this whole thing was just messed up...I read this one book (actually it's a series but with different MC's in each book so it is this only one installment I am talking about) where nothing major really happens...no huge action scenes, no big gun fights, no saving the world...just a guy with kids meets another guy and they try to make it work in every day life...the book was really good and I could keep reading them doing the dishes or cleaning the house every day and I wouldn't get bored...but this...I barely made it thought this book.

One star...and that is just for the beginning and for what could have been.

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### **Camille Adams says**

DNF at 30%

It is appalling really just how terrible this writing is.

Here's a woman who just moseyed on over to her laptop one day under the misconception that she's a writer to the detriment of the reading public on whom she seeks to foist this rubbish that evinces an utter lack of any skill.

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### **Vio says**

DNF..... After reading the chapter with the rape and subsequent excuse for it, I disliked the way it glossed

over the issue. Not for me.

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### **Taff says**

PHEW. This book is heavy going. For all the reviewers who have been complaining about a lack of realistic books this one is for you.

Where to start? If I wrote everything I'm feeling after reading this book we'd be here all week, that is the type of book this is.

The characters are written beautifully and there is a gradual growth to Christo and Damian's relationship that continues to build through the entire book. There were few places where questions remained unanswered and the setting was perfectly described. At the beginning the pace was a little sluggish but once Ms Aaron hit her stride it became a comfortable medium paced book.

I've read a lot of complaints about the dynamics of this duo and I will admit it was a little chaotic. For me that helped add to the realism of this book. Christo and Damian's relationship was not one of Dom/Sub and while Damian was the more dominant of the two there were circumstances where they switched. These two characters are not one or two dimensional but have a full compliment of behaviors, insecurities and nuroses, while I believe that is a compliment to Ms Aaron's writing it does not always make for comfortable reading.

The most uncomfortable scene for me was the one of dubious consent. Notice I'm not screaming rape. The dubious thing was the thought process behind Christo's 'he needs this, I'm not objecting, not even letting on that I'm uncomfortable let alone in pain' thought process. In this scene Christo encouraged Damian to take what he wanted and not once was there mention of 'no' or 'stop'.

I will admit to being slightly mystified as to the exact reason behind Damian's behavior and think it would have benefited the scene to have that more thoroughly explained.

So, not comfortable but again I mention characters with 'behaviors, insecurities and nuroses'.

This is not really my style of book, this is not a modern day fairy tale, not a sweet romance, and not a book that skims the surface. It is not necessarily HEA but rather more life like, they are still together, still arguing, still loving, still trying and there is hope for the future.

If you like a deep plot, realism and an emotional connection this may be the book for you.

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### **Simsala says**

Finished!

I deserve a medal!

For the positive aspects of the story - they are undeniably there - please read MandyM's review here.

But just one star from me, I know it's harsh but let me explain...

Story started out promising with likeable characters or I wouldn't have made it to the point where - at first the writing, short time later the story really started to rub me the wrong way...big time!  
At 40% I was debating to DNF the book but I decided to read on...and deeply regretted it.

Overall good writing but with one major issue...and a major pet peeve of mine.

The overuse of terms like "the smaller man", "the bigger man", "the older man", "the other man" as replacements for character's names. Especially the term "the other man" - now that must be a new record!  
Number of times the term was used = **197!**

It was bearable at the beginning but the "horror" crept up slowly the terms were coming more frequently to the point where I dreaded them and was wincing when they popped up.Ugh...

The second major issue was Christo's inconsistency. Unfortunately the POV - being in his head was NOT a pleasant place, let me tell you! Sometimes just a jumbled mess of thoughts that truly lacked sense!

Here the book title fit perfectly - "What He Wants" - truth to be told...I had NO idea...

For example:

Christo relished being the passive/submissive part in his RLS with Damien because in his former RLS with John he was to 99% the TOP. So far so good but 20 pages later this here:

*"He'd never thought of himself as a particularly kinky person, but something about Damien brought out the dominant in him. Making love to John had been more about personal preference than filling any pre-determined roles, it was just another way they fit together. With Damien it was different, it felt different. It was about power, submission, strength. Christo admitted to himself that the idea of owning Damien, of possessing him totally – even if only for an hour or two – was thrilling. Ruling a man as strong as Damien, bringing him to his knees, making him tremble and beg for more... Make Damien need Christo the way Christo needed him back.*

But no worries...he went back to being passive/ submissive BIG way in the infamous chapter 10 (will come to it soonish...) and in chapter 12 back to DOM (including safeword!). Well, yes...why not....meeeeerrrrrry-go-round.....

And now the truck-size issue or the "infamous chapters 10,11 and 12" and nearly everything what came after that!

I'll do it short - a rape!

A rape in a domestic relationship with Damien's (the culprit) 5 year old daughter sleeping in the room next door(!).

And now guess...Christo let him because Damien "needed" that! (the first **WTF!??** moment...)

No lube, forced penetration and the bedsheets full of blood don't tell me anyone this was less than a rape!

Rape happens in m/m romance (but very rarely in relationships with the love interest!) and usually I don't mind reading about it but the problem I had with this one here was how the "problem" got handled and glossed over!

Insensitive and implausible can't even begin to describe it!

The second **WTF!??** moment and the final straw what led to my one star rating - the infamous chapter 11...EXCUSES!

An excerpt:

*He shifted his weight gingerly in his chair, still sore three days later. Why the hell would he want anything more to do with Damien after that little performance? What the hell had he been thinking to allow it? In a*

*flash he saw Damien's expression, his haunted eyes, and he knew he'd do it all over again. That hadn't just been rough sex, it had been therapy in its crudest form. It was primal, animalistic, instinctive. It had been a cry for help from a desperate man so lost he couldn't see a way out. Christo burned to know what fuelled it, what had damaged Damien so badly. He wanted to take him in his arms and hold him and kiss him and make everything better.*

**What? WHAT? WHAT?**

**THERE ARE NO EXCUSES FOR RAPE!!!!**

This is a victim of domestic violence talking, sitting bruised up, raped and beaten in the ER and already making up "excuses", over justifying - the circle of violence! Usually with a long history of abusive relationship(s)!

But Christo? There was no abuse - not as a child, not as an adult...so WHY the excuses?

His relationship with Damien with its messed up power shiftings is doomed to fail IMO...

Btw - Damien - damaged? Was it the accident where he lost his parents and thought it was his fault? I didn't know if I should laugh or cry or be angry....I went with being angry! Well and truly pissed off!!!

So how to kiss it all better?

The infamous chapter 12....

With sex of course! Christo (back in Dom-mode) tying *poor* Damien down, showing him how good they are together and comforting the *poor* guy.....that made me gag...!

Needless to say I couldn't read the sex scenes and affection bullshit that came after these chapters it bordered on being disgusting!

So lots of skipping to the final...HEA?

Well, good luck you two!

Long review, sorry - but I'm done now....

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**Vivian says**

Sweet rivals to lovers story. Business turns to pleasure as Christo realizes Damien isn't the man he thought he was. Decent read, but I felt disconnected from it. Might be because the book I read just before had stellar dialogue and this one limped along.

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**Steelwhisper says**

This is a lovely, very believable and romantic lovestory between two CEOs who only on the surface appear to be similar.

There was so much I loved about this book: the reality and real maleness of the characters, the British understated and cultured authorial voice, the forthright glimpse into the male mind, for the author, albeit female herself, has got it right so many times. Even though I at times wanted to thump Damien and Christo into displaying more sense, they behaved like so many real men I knew and have met and call my friends, that I was happy to see it in a story. There were some intense emotions handled with a stiff upper lip, there was sizzling hot sex (without vulgarity) and there were some truly detestable baddies. (view spoiler)

I didn't give it a full 5 stars because I think the book would have profited quite a bit from some work on the subplot of the men's workplace. I'd have loved getting more detail, having a "real" company with a real field they were working and possibly a more serious take on how both men suffered from the bullying within the job.

On the whole I enjoyed this and I liked the characters, especially Todd (yeah, me sucker!). Seriously, at times I thought I was listening to friends of mine and that's the best thing one can say about most m/m stories.

A last and important thing here...

There is definitely **no rape anywhere in this book**. All sex within it was perfectly and entirely consensual. I say this because someone alleged there is rape because "violence (to tissues, not to a person) + blood + pain = rape" for her. This person should have a raincheck, seriously. By her qualifications my own defloration was rape. Her unjust accusation comes over as kink-shaming people who like their sex violent, painful and bloody, and I really dislike kink-shaming. Just saying. So, no rape in this book!

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### **Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says**

Big price drop to \$0.99 from \$4.99 at Amazon US, 2/17/14 :)

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### **starsaga says**

#### **I fell in love with oh-so imperfect Christo and Damien!**

This was a gem of a find for me, I loved almost everything about this book, its real-ness, its slow build to a relationship, even the characters struggle to re-invent themselves professionally in order to stay together. This was a very real book, with all the imperfect and flawed behaviour of two young men, one who was just climbing out of the depression of the end of a long-term relationship and then other who has jerk-syndrome. In fact I liked that they did not get along for starters and then once they started seeing each other they showed each other how much they really loved one another. I did not care for the extensive shop-talk and the business speak, I guess it was a case of write what you know but it could have been skipped, but surprisingly it did not annoy me too much. I loved Christo and his need for a strong relationship with Damien which he himself denied but it was the underlying truth and part of his make-up, I loved Damien too, who was wearing a mask to protect himself from hurt and abandonment but was really eager to strip away the facade and appreciate Christo's affection. More than anything else, it has been a while since I've read such intimate love scenes, where I felt that I was almost intruding into someone's privacy, this made the story even more beautiful for me.

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**Angela Bee Bee says**

This reminded me of Gold Digger and Rough Canvas. I liked that it was about the relationship and not 'being gay'. There was very little external conflict, and for men, their work is very important to them. Full of beautiful phrases and a very romantic and sexy appreciation of eachother.

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