



Encounter

Perie Wolford

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It's time to face the unknown

In an attempt to prove it to the world that crop circles are man-made and aliens don't really exist, Ricky and his team of young enthusiasts (including one particular enthusiast, Josh, who is hopelessly in love with Ricky) start falsifying the phenomenon by creating their own crop circles. Their endeavors prove successful, pretty much so, but only until the day when Ricky sees his unique circle design replicated throughout the country by the force unknown.

Encounter Details

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Author : Perie Wolford

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From Reader Review Encounter for online ebook

David says

The falling for each other part of the story was the best. But overall not that bad.

Tony Williamson,jr. says

Excellent read!!

If you are into sci-fi, Gay Romance and young adult books then you will not be disappointed with this book. Great plot line. Believable characters. Excellent writing once again from this author.

Angela Fay says

It's a story about geometry – circles, squares and love triangles (:

It centers on a relationship between two boys and a girl, but a girl is sort of like an odd element, I guess. She came in out of nowhere to break their friendship, but it didn't really happen like that in the end. Not to spoil anything... I liked the relationship between the three of them, even though they were mean to each other at times.

The stuff about crop circles and how they were making them... totally bought it, it was interesting, it was captivating and that moment when guys see their circle on TV... that was intense. The tension was building in the first half of the book and then there was a wild release, emotional and sexual as well (:

I liked this book. It was short though, not a short story but more like novella. If there's a sequel I'm looking forward to reading it because I want more (:

Andrew Jason says

Encounters spins romance and science fiction in a way that stands out from the others.

Actual rating: 3.5 stars

As good as science fiction novels get, I really wasn't expecting what I got from *Encounters*. It was fresh to me compared to others of the same genre that I've read over the years. One of the influences that drew me into this book was that it had a male lead (which is really rare now these days) and that it was an MM romance novel, which intrigued me as to how the author could weave it into such a story, especially one about aliens.

I could relate to Ricky's character entirely because he does the same things that I would have done if I were

placed in his shoes. Josh's character was likable, to say the least. Although there was the cliché of hot stud secretly gay, I think the development of his character was put together really well.

The problems that I had with this book was that:

One: this book was too short for my liking. After being drawn in from the first ten pages, I was immediately hooked on it. I don't usually finish books this quick, especially in one sitting. I finished with unanswered questions and frustration taking over. 117 pages is not enough for me.

Two: I had a little trouble with some parts in the writing. Although most of the book was great and enough to keep me interested, I think the author could have done more *showing* than *telling*. There were some instances where sentences were so direct that it refrains me from using imagination, especially relating to describing atmosphere.

Three: In the Kindle Edition, there are some grammatical and punctuation error, might have been due to a bad editing process. But we all experience those from time to time again.

Four: I thought that Mike and Ann needed more closure besides the general descriptions of who they were and why they were there. Other than helping Ricky and Josh with the crop circle documentary, I didn't really see a point in their appearance. I'm hoping that in the future for the next book, they will become more important than just side characters just used to fill in the rest of the group to make a credible "team".

My favorite line was probably when Ann became really frustrated in the kitchen where she was all, "The fucking tea is ready."

My Synopsis: In an attempt to prove to the world the conspiracy theory that aliens made the crop circles is a hoax, Ricky, Josh, and their team along with Emily, a science student studying abroad that has agreed to assist them, set out to different sizes of crop fields to film a documentary that crop circles are indeed man-made. The persisting problem follows Ricky and Josh in terms of coming out to each other and expressing their feelings, but the constant bickering over one another has kept them from doing so, especially when Josh sleeps with other girls to cover up his true self. After nearly getting shot doing another circle, all hell breaks loose the day after when reports of the exact same crop circle they made starts appearing around the country, and sooner or later around the world. In an adventure to find the truth as well as themselves, Ricky and Josh are in for quite a ride when they soon realize that what they're trying to prove will actually prove them wrong.

Even though I gave this book a neutral rating, it's enough to keep me going to find out what will happen in the next book (I hate being left unsatisfied). Kudos to Perie Wolford for making a really interesting and lovable MM romance that I can enjoy.

Jack Twist says

that was a cool book. I was totally digging the whole crop circles thing. and there was some hot action between josh and ricky. That was pretty awesome. kept me turning pages the whole time. loved it.

Chris Vigilante says

Originally posted at LGBTQVoice: <http://lgbtqvoice.com/2015/02/24/enco...>

This is a story about a boy and his friends. They go out making crop circles to prove they are man made. There is a lot of build up in the book that I really enjoyed. The book features some major surprise moments that really pulled me in.

There were times where I really didn't know why Ann and Mike were on the team besides needing the extra hands really or how the If I was a part of a team like this and the team lacked the trust in each other the way that this group seemed to at times I would have been out of there. They were just rude to each other at times. Nothing would have made me stay. Josh does stay and you can see it's for Ricky who he has had a crush on forever.

The way Josh dealt with his sexuality was a little odd to me but not a deal-breaker. Josh. Josh and Ricky go through some weird stages in the book and their situation is only more complicated by Emily. I usually cannot stand love triangles, but I've gotta say that I enjoyed where this one ended up so I don't mind.

That ending was really something. I'm not really sure what to feel. It was like the perfect moment and then last surprise of the book. I want to see what happens next. I need to know what happens next. At the same time it could end right there and I'd be happy with it. Sometimes you don't get an explanation for everything.

charlotte says

Rep: gay mcs

Encounter is written as a series of video clips (or, descriptions of video clips), documenting the process of a group of friends as they try to prove to people that crop circles are a wholly human phenomenon. From the synopsis, it sounded really promising and, since I marked it as to-read about 9 months ago, I've been trying to get hold of it. I mean, it's aliens plus LGBT+ characters. What can go wrong?

A lot, as it turns out.

First of all, the writing was bad. Like, *honest-to-God* bad. Maybe it's just me, because if you scroll through the first few reviews of this book, it's been given 4 and 5 star ratings. The average rating is more than 4 as well (though this isn't *that* surprising given that it's only got ~100 reviews, so it won't take much to change the average rating, but I'm rambling). Back to the point, I was not impressed. The plot was kind of everywhere. We're introduced to the characters apparently in the middle of their venture, and when Emily, a new member of their group, arrives. Now, I wouldn't mind the story starting in the middle if there was some background on what's been going on before, but as far as I can tell, the style of the book (as essentially descriptions of a bunch of video diaries) was chosen for the express purpose of being able to avoid having to go through all that. Again, that would be fine if it kept to that, but every now and then it would jump into what characters were feeling and that's where the line between video diaries and third person from the characters' points of view becomes a bit blurred. Choose one or the other, please.

So, no context, but what about the rest of the story? Well.

Ricky (aka the ringleader and the brains behind the operation) is the one designing these crop circles which the group then goes and cuts into a field, while Josh films everything. First off, they cut a small one into a field, but it doesn't even make the local news so Ricky decides they gotta go BIGGER AND BETTER!! and designs another one. This time it makes the national news (halle-fucking-lujah), but wait! That's not the field they cut the crop circle into? That's a completely different field in a completely different state! (Cue angry shouting and uncalled for accusations of leaking the design, all aimed at Josh, because apparently he wants to sabotage Ricky. God knows where that plot point came from.) So then they decide to take a road trip to the crop circle (having, of course, decided that Josh is in fact innocent of any crimes they were blaming him of).

At this point, they find out Emily is actually a secret government agent (because, why not?) and she had an ~alien encounter~ when she was a kid, and now she's slightly obsessed. Just a bit. (God knows how she found out about the group though. You'd have thought that, if you're doing illegal shit like trespassing and cutting crop circles, you wouldn't want to be found. Unless Josh decided to upload all the videos onto the internet. Damnit, Josh! We trusted you!) So obviously, Emily's (totally legit) first reaction is to arrest Ricky and Josh and drive them somewhere with a bunch of other agents. (This is where Josh and Ricky confess they love each other. Which, to be fair, was clearly coming. In this at least, the author made sure it had been mentioned beforehand.) Turns out, aliens are real and Ricky can (unknowingly) write in the alien language!! And Emily can read it!!

Then their prison van (what else am I supposed to call it? They got arrested) is overturned on the road and Josh and Ricky are free! But as they're running through the fields, there's this bright light and they have an ~alien encounter~ (and become Beliebers*). Then they hike back to the closest city, ignoring the fact that they left Emily and the other agents in a bloody wreckage. Way to go, boys.

The end is pretty confusing. I don't even remember what happened, but it was confusing. I think they got kidnapped by the aliens but God knows.

Also, there was this random plot point where Josh, thinking that Ricky was interested in Emily, had sex with her in an attempt to put Ricky off her because he liked Ricky. Yeah, me too.

Okay. Rant (90%) over.

Let's talk characters. There are five of them: Ricky, Josh, Emily, Het #1 and Het #2. (They're not really called Het #1 and Het #2, but I've forgotten their names and basically all I can remember of them is that they spend 80% of the time they were there being Heterosexual. The other 20% was when they were screaming at Josh for apparently leaking the designs.) I was going to try start off with something positive but I can't think of anything. They're boring characters, if I'm honest. Josh is an asshole(TM) and is always irritating Ricky (God knows why Ricky likes him), and the only time I sympathised with him at all was when he was being accused of something he didn't do. Ricky had a stick up his arse (not Josh's though) and that didn't really change throughout the book. Emily seemed okay to begin with but then once her true identity was revealed, seemed a little obsessed with the aliens. Like, okaaaaaaay. Het #1 and Het #2 were just that. *Hets* (yawn).

In case you couldn't tell, I got pretty pissed off reading this (and quite sarcastic reviewing it. I'm sorry). But, on the bright side, I only wasted an hour of my time with it.

*Yes, I know. I'm being sarky.

Diego Salvatore says

Tuve un problema con este libro, se me hizo bastante lento y no entendía mucho al principio, poco a poco le agarras la onda pero todo avanza demasiado rápido y te sueltan la información así a bombardazos.

En el final mejoró bastante pero aún así le pongo 2.5 estrellas.

Ann says

Perie Wolford has a way of making me read things that aren't in my usual rotation and loving them. I'm not a huge fan of YA, but Perie writes it and I love it. UFO stories don't usually pique my interest, but Perie writes one and I power read it in one sitting.

Ricky and Josh are part of a group, led by Ricky, that want to debunk the myth of crop circles by proving how easy it is to make them, no alien help necessary. They've decided to create a vlog about their latest conquest and the story is told, for the most part, through the lens of Josh's camera. Encounter has some sweet moments, but I wouldn't classify it as a romance. It's a sci-fi story with gay main characters. If you know that going in and aren't looking for hearts and flowers you'll be able to appreciate the story without looking for what isn't meant to be there.

I really liked the snarky friendship between Ricky and Josh, they were complete opposites, but a perfect match as friends, vlog partners, and with a hope of something more. Josh is model handsome but prefers to stay behind the camera. Neither of them are out and aren't ready to be, so the attraction is all in their inner dialogs for the most part.

Ricky invites Emily to join them in their next project. She's an intern from Washington DC doing research into crop circles so she seems like a perfect fit for their group which also includes Ann and Mike, an established couple that Ricky and Josh are long-time friends with. The addition of Emily causes some serious tension and territorial battles between Ricky and Josh. Each assumes the other is straight so the change in the dynamic that the oh-so-beautiful Emily adds to the mix compounds the stress they are all feeling with their biggest project yet. It was interesting to read how they create the circles and the vision that Ricky has before they start.

As with every good sci-fi mystery, all is not as it seems and when Ricky and Josh make a discovery that neither suspected, the action accelerates fast. Once I hit this mark while reading I knew there would be no putting this one down until I finished it. I can't even really say anything about it without giving the story away, but I will say it was a fun ride and the ending was a pure WTF? moment. I wasn't happy, but it was perfect and if it had ended any other way it would have cheapened everything the author had created up to that point.

I thoroughly enjoyed my afternoon spent creating crop circles, being chased by pissed off farmers and government agents, and reading about new love being discovered. Thanks Perie, that was fun.

a copy of this story was provided for an honest review

multitaskingmomma says

Original Blog Post: Happy Happy Release Day! eARC Review: Encounter (Encounters #1) by Perie Wolford

My Rating: 4.5 of 5 Stars

Encounter brings author Perie Wolford back to the genre where he is most comfortable: science fiction. After reading his book, *Presence*, a story of a woman who got caught in a world where aliens were slowly taking over her planet, I knew I had met someone whose vivid imagination translated well to the written word. Then the author left that genre and focused on YA novels that I fell in love with, *Turning16*. This is an ongoing story of a young gay man and about how his life changed after he turned sixteen. Getting to know the author more, I found myself wondering when he would go back to the sci-fi genre. Well, after coming up with more M/M YA novels, finally, the wait is over. Perie has finally come up with a seriously awesome read that is both scary, fascinating and at the same time, bewildering.

This is a suspense, thriller science fiction camera footage novel that relates how Ricky and his team of myth busters do some scary stuff in an effort to smash all alien-origin concept on crop circles. His cameraman is his long time friend, Josh, and just happens to be secretly in love with Ricky. Ricky's team, through a blog, attempts to correct the misconceptions about the origin of crop circles by making fake ones. Although their blog is followed by many interested enthusiasts, the number of people reached was really just the bare minimum.

It's time to bring up their game and come up with a vlog. How will they reach the maximum attention? By creating a fantabulous, but fake, crop circle. Joining them is a young woman whom Ricky meets online. She is interested in their activity and joins their team to finally prove that what Ricky's team is claiming is actually true and aliens are non-existent.

It all goes well at first but then there was no coverage. In a last ditch attempt to prove he is right, Ricky comes up with a complicated crop circle design and convinces his team that, although dangerous, they could recreate its pattern on a field. They did. It was seen all around the world. But then, they realize: there are other crop circles popping up around the world. Crop circles that mysteriously, eerily, replicated his original design.

As a camera footage novel, this is one fantastic read. The scenes flit from one scene to the next with introductory text on the origin of the particular segment. It was like reading *The Blair Witch Project* without the blood and gore. Mix in a dash of the mysterious *X Files* and just to add spice, a little bit of *Contact*. I am a serious geek on the UFO phenomenon and this is one fascinating story that reads so fast, the goosebumps started to rise and but never calmed down until the very end. This was one awesome, awesome read that just ticked all the right boxes for me. When the end came, it was like a bucket of water thrown to my face. That was just... wow. Just... Perie, you are so bad.

In any case, as an M/M novel, there is no romance too obviously going on here but there is a whole lot of misunderstanding and lack of communication between the two young men. When Josh and Ryan finally

come together... Well... Perie says he never writes erotic, but man! what a surprise. This is HOT!

Scary. Fabulous. Mysterious. Sci-Fi. Hot! What a combination.

Gemma ? Books_McCoy says

sigh another DNF. This book is garbage. the writing is terrible, the characters are terrible and the constant switch between POVs with no warning is seriously annoying. I had to stop at 20% because I felt like if I carried on my brain was going to melt and fall out of my ears. Damn I so wanted this to be good.

Line says

Freebie at the zon.com right now: <https://smile.amazon.com/Encounter-En...>

André Caniato says

I still can't say for sure if this is a one-shot story or if it's the beginning of a series. Goodreads tells me one thing, the book tells me another, I'm... Am I missing something here? I'll go with one-shot for now, if only because I can't picture a nice sequel, it pretty much ended where it did. Now... *Encounter*. It was a nice book, I guess. Short, which is great; read quickly, with an interesting albeit messy narrative — meaning, we had both objective descriptions of what was going on in the camera recording and long, deep insights of what the characters were thinking. I didn't care much for the romance, which was definitely a downer, but I really just couldn't understand (view spoiler) I wish we'd gotten more aliens and less crop shenanigans.

Tina Reedwood says

Wow, that's a good science fiction story. I actually didn't think I'd enjoy it as much as I did. I got an early copy from the author by the way, which was sweet.

The eerie atmosphere that was created really captivated me and I was immersed into that world of crop circles for a little bit. So the science fiction element was good and I liked that the story is sort of lost footage story, like one of those Chronicle movies, and the way it was utilized here in a book was interesting to me. But I think the author wanted to pay homage to youtube vloggers, rather than the lost footage movies. I think it was interesting regardless. It added some intrigue to the narrative, in my opinion.

As to the gay element, since it is an MM novel, I have to warn you that you won't get much until like the second half of the book. I mean the romance between MCs is hinted in the beginning, but it is not revealed until later on in the book. But I gotta say that whatever few hot sexual scenes there were, they came as a surprise and it kind of added to the effect. I liked it, I think it was done nicely. It's a science fiction story first and romance comes second in this book. But whatever little romance there was it was worth it. Author wasn't that explicit in his Turning 16 books. So it got hotter in this one but nothing over the top, which I liked too.

I didn't enjoy the ending as much as I wanted too. I know there's a sequel planned though, so there will be more to it than what it ended at. Overall I enjoyed it, a good solid science fiction read with gay romance elements. Solid 5 stars from me.

Gregory Angeloff says

This is a harsh review, so turn around if you don't want to read it.

To be blunt, this story is a failure. The author was attempting to turn his screenplay into a book, but he has no real understanding of how to write a book. [I cannot and will not comment on its quality as a screenplay]. There are tons of different types of books you can write, and yes a "footage" book is possible, but this book is a failure in its attempt.

The characters are underdeveloped, the plot is underdeveloped, and the writing feels like the author never looked at a list of "10 Things Beginner Writers Should Avoid" list. I really wanted to like this story, two guys realizing they like each other while dealing with aliens.... but no. This book doesn't deserve to exist. This isn't a 12 year old's attempt at first fanfiction, this is an author sharing it with the world, though I couldn't tell the difference while reading. Save yourself the disappointment.

I stopped at 70%, which is more than enough to warrant this review. Main character randomly gets creepy and starts filming himself touching his half-naked best friend's sleeping body. I'm sorry, aren't we supposed to think these two guys care about each other? While there is a little bit of "roughness" between two males in a friendship that many stories fail to capture, this sure isn't it. Oh, and while making fun of these two (or rather, the writing of these two) are we really supposed to believe they are trying to make one another jealous by flirting with an older woman? Yes, I could see that being a funny gay comedy, but this story doesn't pull it off. It is just weird.

[This is NOT an attack on the author, but the book. I have not read his other stories. For all I know, they are masterpieces.]
