



Stirring Up Trouble

Z.A. Maxfield

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Toby Andrews is cooking up more than a little trouble for Evan Blankenship. Because of pranks, indiscretions, and plain bad timing, his ability to work in New York's temples of haute cuisine is a thing of the past. When Toby's sister tells him he should look up an acquaintance whose restaurant -- Le Potiron --is failing, he doesn't have much choice.

Pretty soon he's in bed, literally, with a cook who hates people, trying to save a restaurant that only the neighborhood mothers seem to love, and on the verge of another --possibly painful -- lesson or two about what it means to be successful.

Evan hates everyone but Toby. Toby likes to stir things up. See what's on the menu at Le Potiron, in Stirring Up Trouble.

Stirring Up Trouble Details

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Author : Z.A. Maxfield

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From Reader Review Stirring Up Trouble for online ebook

Juli says

As with all Z.A. Maxfield books I did enjoy this one. While not totally up to the caliber of Drawn Together, The Long Way Home or the recent Jacob's Ladder but it was a good book.

Some laughs along the way but I would have liked to see more of the lead's diastorous tour through the kitchen's of New York. To me the thing with his nephew was self destructive as other's mentioned. Just a poor choice on his end for being pressured by his sister and not having somewhere else for his nephew to go. There are mentions of things at other restuarants that happened but only in passing.

Still I am really looking forward to the sequel next year with the twin brother.

Bookwatcher says

Is so **HARD** to be a chef!

So, what I think about this book?

Sexy, funny and do not deserve more than 3 stars... sorry for the disappointment, but it's not my favorite Z.A. Maxfield book!

I read two great novels of this writer, the **magnificent** "Drawn Together" and the **wonderful** paranormal romance "Notturmo"... the unmistakable style of her writing worth a try. I guarantee you will laugh, be mesmerized by the speed of everything happens and get ~~exetied~~ (the bed scenes are HOT!)... but this book left me wanting something more... I don't know... a well developed plot... more facts...

Let me explain better, Toby after losing his job don't have many choices, so he accept to work in this almost ruined restaurant called "Le Potiron". The owner is a HOT guy that cook in kilt (very danger to male dangling parts, I agree with you...) named Evan.

That's it... get my disappointment? I was used to a great suspense and complicate stories of Z.A. Maxfield... so reading about a cook trying to do his best to get clients to the restaurant and help his lover was not soooooo interesting. I liked it, truly and honesty is a wonderful romance, but I don't think is the best book Z.A. Maxfield wrote.

Do I recommend it?

Hell yeah! Hello??? Remember my remark??? **Dangling male parts!** Kilted man cooking... yeah... HOT!

Do I think anyone should read it?

Nope... if you are not used to M/M novels start reading "Drawn Together" of this writer... that was the best M/M romance I ever read.

Have fun reading... and enjoy it!

BTW, Evan has a twin... the next book will be about him... certainly I'll read it!

Meggie says

If you want easy comical read, this book is for you. This book is awesome, the story is comical, characters pulls you in and keep you till you finish the book.

Totally recommended read.

Stacey says

Ten stars! What a fun, fantastic read :) My new fave ZAM book--can't wait for the second in this series!

Nichole (DirrtyH) says**4.5 stars**

I don't remember what I wanted to say about this book. But it was awesome, so go read it.

Chris says

Good m/m romance about a chef who only lasts a few months at any job before getting fired. He ends up working at a failing neighborhood restaurant owned by an anti-social guy who looks pretty tasty when he's cooking in his Utilikilt...

Ash says

Stirring Up Trouble was perplexing to read. It's got a good premise and setting, and the characters had promise, but the execution left a lot to be desired. In general, the characters were very two-dimensional. I never really got a good sense of Toby and Evan as people and, aside from the utilikilts (which, I was incredibly disappointed that there was no kilt sex. I mean, that should've been a given), I couldn't picture them at all. The plot seemed a little erratic, with a lot of time spent on unnecessary and unrealistic details but what I thought were important parts of the plot felt rushed. There were some really great lines, and some scenes were top notch, leading me to think that those scenes were written with care while others were thrown in to fill the gap between the "good" scenes. Overall, Stirring Up Trouble wasn't bad, but it wasn't great either. A solid middle-of-the-road book.

Tara says

Toby Andrews is a chef that just can't catch a break. He manages to get fired from any job he's ever had and

is now it seems the restaurant world may be out for him. Until he finds his dream job and love in a totally unexpected place.

I'll say this, that I loved this book. It was sweet and his nephew is adorable. I'll also say there were so many characters that I kept waiting for to have a bigger part and they didn't and some that caused problems, but not in the way I expected...

DarienMoya says

^^NOT ENOUGH TO STIR THE POT!^^

THE COVER- I think it's cute, but I am not in love with it. It is one of those covers that actually go with the theme of the book. The main character is a chef, he serves food and so the cover and the storyline go hand in hand. Let's not pretend that most covers for M/M books have nothing to do with the actual title or story line, and sometimes that irks me. So the cover has food and a naked man all served up on a platter, kind of like Toby in the book.

So what can I say not my fave book by Maxfield but still a very solid story by the author. I am a true fan of this author and whatever book she puts out, I will always buy. I will not say this story is not up to par, cuz everyone has their own taste, and every story appeals to someone differently. I enjoyed this book, but I had a hard time really liking the characters and was just reading it because I had it. I won't say there was no enjoyment because there was, but I found this book lacking the laugh out loud humour and chemistry I got from her previous books.

It could be that these characters were normal compared to her other characters. I always enjoy a little effed up man who falls in love with his quite sane lover. I think that might be it, can you say that I am a little effed up myself.

Toby is an up and coming chef, he is good and he knows he is good. Tobes has a little problem though, when things are going good he finds ways to mess it up. Well Toby messes up his current job and then is banished from the prestigious restaurants because he had made an enemy out of a famous food critic. Well, Toby will not take things lying down or bended over. He needs a job, and gets one at a little restaurant through a contact by his sister.

Seems this little job is about to change the course of his life, when he meets the restaurant owner and he is wearing a kilt. Evan is a recluse and is on the verge of bankruptcy, until Toby steps into his life. With hard work, the restaurant begins to thrive and some great sexual chemistry is being cooked up.

Let's say that both characters have a bit to get over in order to move ahead. There are some communication problems that eventually are worked out. The book still offers up humour, great sex and some really adorable characters. I just found it very hard to fall in love. I will say that Z.A is an author not to be missed, her books are worth the effort and I guarantee you will fall in love with at least three of her books, if not all.

Check Out

and and all the other wonderful books offered up.

Cindi says

I really enjoyed this, as I always do with books by Z.A. Maxfield. I have read several of hers and have become a big fan.

Toby is fired once again from an upscale restaurant. It is eluded to in the story that it has happened several times in the past though the reasons for those firings aren't mentioned much in the book. It is made clear by a head chef and a food critic that he will never work in another restaurant again and they go about criticizing Toby publicly. His sister... (I will definitely come back to her).... helps set up a meeting with Evan, who owns a restaurant that is on the verge of going under. Evan's former business partner (Dom) left him high and dry, so to speak. Toby is outgoing and very personable. Evan loathes people and says so many times. Toby forces himself into Evan's life and into the restaurant and turns it around. The food critic (a total jerk) is determined to ruin Toby even if it means taking Evan down with him. Evan and Toby get together (eventually) and they make the failing restaurant a success while bringing the jerk critic down.

Okay, I liked all of that. I loved Toby and even grumpy Evan eventually made himself likable. The way the food critic was brought down was nice but I would have liked to have seen that have more than a paragraph or so. The whole story is centered on Toby trying to prove himself and ruin the critic yet the resolution only gets little more than one small paragraph?

Toby's sister..... wow, I couldn't stand her right off. SHE is the reason that Toby lost his last position but yet she made him seem like such a screw up. And then pulls another stunt on the biggest night of Toby's professional career? That bothered me. She is a high-powered attorney and doesn't have a babysitter on stand-by? Seriously? She is very selfish and doesn't care if she destroys her brother's dreams... as long as she can continue to pursue her own. And of course, Toby jumps and does her bidding every time. I had a problem with that.

I didn't understand the thing with Geoffrey, Toby's best friend. There is something THERE but it never fully materializes. Maybe I missed something.

Everything is resolved rather quickly... perhaps too quickly. But as I said, another good one by one of my favorite authors of this genre.

Mirka says

I love this kind of books...light, funny, with likeable characters that are full of spark...Plus it was a safe bet since I have never been disappointed after picking up one of Ms. Maxfield's books

Serena Yates says

What a fun story! The main character's antics had me laughing out loud in places. The overall tension of the plot, will Toby succeed or will he fall flat on his face yet again, kept me glued to the pages. The villain was wonderfully evil and just waiting to get his come-uppance. All this and a setting in a restaurant with lots of wonderful food descriptions - and I just "had to" like this book.

I loved Toby - he was just waiting for disaster to strike, while not willing to give up the fight. At the end of his rope, he ends up with the equally desperate Evan, whose partner almost ruined him by pulling out of their joint restaurant. Toby has the ideas and the drive to make it big time, while Evan is the steady force in the background.

It takes them a while to figure out their relationship and the roles they play within the professional part. Toby makes a few mistakes - but thankfully learns fast enough to keep Evan with him. It was great fun watching them figure everything out.

Josephine Myles says

Chef Toby Andrews seems to cause trouble wherever he goes, and has been told by New York's most powerful food critic that his career is over. Toby reluctantly takes on a position at an ailing restaurant but soon falls under the spell of the owner, one Evan Blankenship, and vows to not only help out Evan but prove to the world that he can turn around Le Potiron's fortunes.

Toby is a delightful character: playful, chatty, energetic and charming, it's easy to see why the taciturn Evan falls for him. Equally important, though, is the transformation of Toby's character as he starts growing up and realising just why Evan's approval means so much to him. The spark of attraction between them is evident from the first meeting, despite the fact that Evan has a plait, wears a kilt and listens to dreadful pan pipe relaxation music while he works...

ZA Maxfield is a great writer – her prose flows smoothly, there's plenty of light and laughter, moments that make you want to punch the air because they are just so perfect, and just enough conflict to drive the plot without it getting heavy at any point. This novel is like a gourmet meal: rich, piquant and spicy, with a deliciously sweet ending.

Julio Genao says

Nicely done.

Elisa Rolle says

There is a thing to be said, writing a good comedy it's probably more difficult than writing any other genre; comedy has a perfect balance, it's not too much to be comic, it's not too few to be simply fiction. With *Stirring Up Trouble* Z.A. Maxfield has given us a perfect example of classy comedy.

The setting is perfect, some of the best comedies in movies and books wind up behind the stove, and a man in a kitchen, or it's tragically comic, or it's classy comedy. And when the man is wearing a utilikilt, well, again, it's only through a perfect balance that you manage to obtain a perfect cooked story.

Toby is really a good guy but he is also a little bubble of energy that is difficult to limit under someone else

instructions. When he is fired for the nth time, his sister sends him towards his last resort, a little diner that has more chances to close than to take off. The owner, Evan, is not exactly the perfect host, basically since he likes very few and very selected people, and that is not a good attitude if you want to launch a restaurant. But as soon as they meet, Toby and Evan click off together like two pieces of the same mechanism and it doesn't take long before they are a couple not only in the kitchen but also in the bedroom.

Even if this is a very romantic story, with two young men who plenty enjoy their time together, and who like to kiss and cuddle (yes, this is that type of romance, tender hearts out there seek this out, you will not regret it), I really liked that it also felt real, for stupid little things but still; like Evan's bad habit to smoke, or Toby's impetuosity and yes, also a bit of egocentrism that makes him always think he is right, from the small detail like Ethan's hair, to the most important ones like redesigning Evan's restaurant, both of them of course without asking Ethan's opinion. They are all these details that made both men a little less perfect and for exactly this reason, a lot more appealing and nice.

I also liked how I think the author brought a little bit of herself into the story in the supporting collective character of the techy savvy moms who will help Toby and Ethan to realize their dream (or at least Toby's dream, this is another point why I liked Ethan and Toby, they were able to understand that they are different men loving each other, and again, finding a balance they are able to work their relationship); this is I think not the first time Z.A. Maxfield creates a cameo role for herself into one of her novels, and even if it's not a real role, there is nonetheless something that can link the fiction story with the real-life of this author. Sometime this can be tricky, but in Z.A. Maxfield's case, it's one of her characteristic that I like the best.

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B003VTZVSI/?...>
