



Cheek to Cheek

Chris Owen

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If you loved Chris Owen's firefighters in 911, you'll love **Cheek to Cheek**! Firefighters Will and Mallory meet at a quiet gay bar, and they're both willing to keep things anonymous and impersonal. Mal has issues with his soon to be ex, and Will isn't willing to push. That plan works out fine until they discover that they'll be working at the same fire station, where Will is set to replace injured firefighter Drew.

Their agreement to keep their relationship easy and no-pressure, just a physical thing, soon go out the window. Everything in their lives seems to become a test, from old loves to meddling family, to the brave men they risk their lives with. The one thing that seems to make sense is the dance they share, both literal and figurative. Can Will and Mal find a way to reconcile the life they think they want with the need they have to be together, or will the dance be over before it really begins?

The appearance of much-loved characters from the popular 911 is an added bonus for Chris Owen fans. Don't miss Turn the Other Cheek as well!

Cheek to Cheek Details

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Author : Chris Owen

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FloJ says

If you didn't like 911, which I know some people didn't, don't be put off that this is a related story. This is Chris Owen at her usual standard. A great story, with beautiful visual imagery of dancing. Just one complaint and it is big. It is half a story, and the remainder is being delivered in installments on Torquere's series. So we have to wait for however long that runs before we can read the whole thing. I cannot think of anything more frustrating than reading these books by installment.

I think they are dreaming to compare installments of this type of fiction with Charles Dickens first publications which were delivered in magazine installments.

It would have been 4 stars if we had had the whole thing.

DaisyGirl says

4.0 Stars

I really liked this sequel to 911. Unlike book one, there is no menage or open relationships here. This is the story about Mallory and Will. Mallory is just getting out of a 6-year relationship with Trish, his ballroom dance instructor; although they care for each other deeply, they're no longer in love with each other and - sadly but amicably - they decide to call it quits. Mallory is bi and before Trish, he had been involved in a long term relationship with a man. Shortly after he and Trish break it off, Mal goes out to a quiet gay bar and hooks up with Will. They share a dance and go home together. To their mutual surprise, Will is a fellow firefighter who gets transferred to Mal's station to cover for Drew, who's still recovering from his injuries.

I enjoyed Cheek to Cheek. I loved Will and Mal (albeit to a lesser extent). I really liked Trish too and felt for her at times. I was happy to revisit with Eric, Scott, and Drew. And, as always, I liked to read about the firehouse camaraderie. There's some angst surrounding the no-commitment conditions Mal insists on. Also, the not-out factor and the bi-racial couple thing also come into play and make for an interesting story line.

Bottom line: Altogether an enjoyable sequel to 911. I recommend it to fans of the genre.

Sue Brown says

If ever there was a couple that I adored it would be these two. I think the reason I love Chris Owen is that I get invested in her characters and Mallory and Will are no exception. They are a couple separated by age and race, yet they fit perfectly, both on the dance-floor and in bed. It was great to see Drew, Scott and Eric from 911 as well. It was a short story and one that I didn't want to finish.

Amazonaute says

Firemen who know how to dance. *click*. It's an interracial romance where the guy of colour is from a

wealthier higher class family than the white guy which was cool. The stuff about the white guy and his family (including his middle names) was hilarious. Went straight on to read the sequel.

Lily says

3.5 stars

Mallory is a firefighter working in the same station as Drew from the story 911. He's recently broken up with his longtime girlfriend and just moved into a new apartment. When he goes to a bar in his new neighborhood he does so more with the idea of checking the place out and not really looking for a hookup. However, from his first glimpse of Chris, the gorgeous guy who offers to buy him a drink, Mallory is totally captivated. When they get on the dance floor and it turns out that Chris is also a great dancer Mallory can't resist him and invites Chris back to his place.

Mallory and Chris spend an incredibly hot night together. The next morning before Chris leaves they exchange numbers with the idea of hooking up again. Mallory is definitely not looking for another relationship but a chance for another night with super sexy Chris is something he doesn't want to miss out on. Mal is happy with the idea of a casual 'friends with benefits' relationship with Chris however things take an unexpected turn when he gets to the station and is introduced to the newest firefighter, Chris.

The complication of working together is something Mallory is not happy about. It takes a while for these two guys to figure out just what the future will hold for them. Between the stress of keeping their relationship a secret at work, dealing with ex-lovers and family and also preparing for a big charity event Mal and Chris will discover that maybe they can be more than just casual bed partners. It's a rocky road to happiness for these two but in the end they find it's well worth the effort.

Mallory and Chris are both well developed, interesting and likable characters. They each have issues to deal with including past relationships and families not fully dealing with their sexual orientation but overall the story is light on angst. I liked their interactions at work with each other as well as with their co-workers. It was also very nice to see the guys from 911 in this story. Chris was hired on to take Drew's place after the big fire in which he was hurt so when we see him and his partners it's during his recovery period.

Mal and Chris start off as just a casual hookup but the chemistry between them is undeniable and it's not long before genuine friendship and caring develops. Another part of their relationship which I liked and found interesting was their shared love of dancing. The talent show in which they participated in was a convenient way to have a bit of closure for Mal and his ex and I liked how they were able to work in their dancing in front of all their co-workers and family.

The supporting characters worked well in the storyline. From the guys from 911 to the other firefighters at the station as well as Mal's ex and Chris's family they each added to the overall feeling of the story.

I really enjoyed this entertaining and well-written book. The characters are interesting and believable and the plot is simple and engaging. The relationship between Mal and Chris is the main focus of the story. There is no major angst or external conflicts to get in the way mainly it's dealing with Mal's wariness of relationships, the issue of their working together and although Mal's bisexuality comes as a big surprise to Chris, who is gay, it's quickly resolved and doesn't turn into a major problem for them. Once Mal realizes that his feelings for Chris are real and returned and they are ready for a serious commitment than the issue is just how to

combine their relationship with their job. The story ends on a very positive HFN, hopefully heading towards a HEA, which we'll see in the second part of this story currently running on Torquere's Turn of the Screw.

Chris Owen has written a fantastic story featuring two men who share a love for their chosen profession as well as for dancing, who are incredibly hot and sexy in bed but can also be tender and sweet. The relationship between the men was well written and interesting and I hope their next story will be as fun and enjoyable as this one was. Until the next book is available for purchase I'll keep my thoughts of Mal and Chris as a happy couple dancing whenever possible and doing a job they both love.

Karen K says

This was a wonderful story with two really beautiful characters. I loved the dancing and how it kept being incorporated into the storyline - can even picture these two big, hot men leading each other across the dance floor - love it.

I didn't read 911 first but I guess I should have so I could get the history of some of the other characters - will read them in backwards order I guess, but not until I read the sequel to this one. :) Lovely.

Vivian says

Charming and funny--a perfect cure for crankiness.

Two hot firefighters, an unexpected development, and scorching hot couplings make for a diverting read. So, I would have been happy with just that, it did make me smile after all, but it came with the BONUS PLAN! What do you get now if you read:

- * Female character that is neither a bitch, a hag nor Mary Sue
- * Non-objectifying interracial relationship
- * Positive portrayal of bisexuality

Oh, and a goofy smile because Mallory and Will are pretty darn enjoyable

Favorite quip:

"Is this because of earlier?" Will was looking at him with deep suspicion. "If I fuck you again will you go back to normal?"

Nivalis says

I nearly gave up on this book after the very underwhelming first half. I just couldn't get into it. Mallory as a main character wasn't very appealing to me, and although I liked Will a lot more, it wasn't really enough to

keep me interested in their story. I'm glad I stuck with it, though, since the second half is much better and definitely more entertaining. Mal and Will finally *talk* and there's a bit more insight into the characters' minds once they do more than either having sex or running away from each other.

I couldn't really get into Mal's ex-girlfriend's state of mind. Maybe it was due to Mal's own failure to read her correctly. I definitely liked that she had a bigger part in the book, though, and admired her readiness to help Mal out.

The fact that Mal and Will are a biracial couple was a nice addition as well. I also enjoyed seeing some of the familiar faces from 911 pop up here and there.

There were quite a lot of SPaG mistakes that bothered me and took away some of my reading pleasure. Better editing would've done the book good. There are missing or misplaced words, and Will's brother, for example, is referred to both as "Dan" and "Dawn", and instead of Will's own name, he's 'called' "We'll" in some places.

Nevertheless, I'll pick up the sequel, as the second half of Cheek to Cheek left me intrigued and ready to know how Mal and Will's relationship will develop.

Kristie says

Another fun book. The relationship between Mal and Will is fun and simple, even withn things start to get more serious, they're still able to keep things easy. It's interesting to read and kinda feels like the type of relationship some of my friends have. Really like it and it looks like book 3 takes up where this left off. So... that's all folks. :)

Elisa Rolle says

Cheek to Cheek is a pretty good love story since is romantic enough to make you dream but real enough to give you the feeling it can be possible.

Mallory is probably one of the few real bisexual men I have “met” in a romance; he is married to a woman, but his marriage is at the end, and for once the reason is not that his repressed sexuality wants to come out (pun very much intended), indeed I think he is going through an early middle life crisis. It happens that Mallory, before his wife Trish, whom he has never cheated while they were married, had relationships both with women than men; he liked his women small and petite, feminine, and his men big and strong, masculine. At only two weeks since the break up, Mallory is cruised in a bar by Will, a very handsome, and slightly young, Afro-American man. Will can dance, and Mallory has a soft spot for who can dance, and so from a ballroom to a bedroom the step is fast... only to awaken the morning after and finding out that Will is his new co-worker at the fire station.

Sincerely there is not much drama in this story; as I said at the beginning it's mostly romantic, and I liked how the author dealt the relationship between Mallory and his ex-wife Trish, with the right dose of hurting but not with a desire of vengeance, both Mallory and Trish proved to be adult and capable of thinking.

I also liked that Will was able, and willing to wait for Mallory: at only 2 weeks from a failed marriage, it would have been impossible, and dangerous, for Mallory to fall over heels for another person, a colleague moreover. I don't know if Will realized that giving Mallory space he did the right thing to capture the man, but that is exactly what happened. Plus Will didn't prevent Mallory from meeting with his ex-wife, he was not jealous, at least not after he was certain that Mallory was not putting him in the "dirty little secret" closet.

There is the right dose of sex, good and with that touch of "down to earth" feeling that makes it enjoyable since you can relate, these are two ordinary men, falling in love and enjoying every moment of it.

Cheek to Cheek is loosely connected to 911, but it can be read as standalone.

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1603707352/?...>

Serena Yates says

I liked this story about Mallory and Will who spend most of the book pretending they're not in a relationship (because Mallory can't deal with committing again - yet). I must admit that bugged me a lot more than I thought, even though it was understandable after he just got divorced. When he finally recognizes what a great guy Will is and they admit that they are actually boyfriends/dating/in a relationship, it was a major relief.

Chappy says

I really enjoyed this sequel to 911.

Mal is bisexual and when he decides to leave Trish, they part on good terms.

What he doesn't expect is to meet a handsome guy at a bar. They dance and their immediate chemistry leads to a pretty hot hookup. Mal is totally blind-sided when Will shows up at his fire station as a new transfer. They decide to pursue their casual but super intense romance and see where it goes.

Cindra says

3-3.5 stars. Short and sweet story that needs more story. And apparently that will happen in the next book, Turn the Other Cheek. Liked the characters, but I think my favorite parts of the book were the glimpses of ballroom dancing. My grandparents had a dance school, my parents participated in ballroom dance-sport competitions. But I love the idea of same-sex ballroom dancers, and wish that things had been different during the time my family had the dance academy. Just as you should be able to love who you want, you should be able to dance with the person you want to dance with. The steps are important, but being able to connect with your partner is every bit as important--it's what brings the magic to the steps. I'm so glad that things are different today; I've seen so many m/m dancers who perform beautifully, and I hope things in the dancing world will continue to evolve. Also hope there is more dancing in the next book!

Barb ~rede-2-read~ says

This review is an update to my original which was first posted in Sept, 2012. I re-read the story for the Rainbow Challenge and am happy that I did.

This book is a sequel to 911, highlighting firefighters Will and Mal this time. Their relationship, which is not a relationship according to Mal, develops slowly but Will does manage to find a spot in Mal's heart and it's fun watching Mal struggle with that.

Mal is bi and he and his former wife, Trish, are trying to come to terms with their new relationship as they team up again this year for the annual fire department talent show. In the meantime, Will, who is also a very good dancer, will be partnering with a friend and competing as well. When Will's partner falls ill on the day of the show, Trish steps in to help Will while also planning to dance with Mal. Mal has a surprise in store for him for the show's finale. Revealing that here would be a spoiler.

I enjoyed the dynamics of Mal's and Will's relationship, as well as the evolution of Mal's relationship with Trish. The story was shorter than I would have liked, because it was so good and I really liked seeing this couple together but I got a bit more of them when I read the sequel Turn the Other Cheek and was happy to revisit them then.

Alvin says

I liked this but would prefer a continuation of Drew, Scott, and Eric's story. But this was a great follow up! It was also really hot. And the dancing was a great touch.

3.25 STARS!
