



Graceland

Ally Blue

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"To get to "Love Me Tender," they'll have to shake things up. "

Kevin Fraser has a good life-a good job, good friends and a nursing degree within his grasp. There's not a lot of excitement to be found in Asheville, but so what? He doesn't need excitement. Or love, for that matter. Until a big man with an Elvis fixation and the voice to match shows up in his ER and changes his point of view.

A diabetes diagnosis isn't the end of the world, just one more problem Owen Hicks doesn't need. It hasn't been easy finding his place in the Cherokee tribe, his family and the world at large since he came out. On top of that, learning to manage the disease that killed his mother is a daunting challenge. He counts himself lucky that the nursing student he befriended in the hospital is willing and able to help.

As their fast friendship deepens into something both of them want-yet fear-pressures from without and within stretch their bond to the breaking point. The only way to find the strength to love each other is to find the courage to let go...and hope love is strong enough to bring them together again.

Warning: This book contains medical drama, relationship drama, sex, silliness and a Cherokee Elvis. Sorry, no fried banana sandwiches. Thank ya very much.

Graceland Details

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Author : Ally Blue

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Download and Read Free Online Graceland Ally Blue

From Reader Review Graceland for online ebook

Maxie says

Graceland Ally Blue

Graceland written by Ally Blue, a story of two loving and caring gentlemen who quietly deal with their identity. Graceland's has a clearly defined plot, raising and falling action and resolution. The characters verbal exchanges are so fresh and uncensored which brings laughter, sorrow, and other emotions.

Ms. Blue key characters Kevin and Owen learn a great deal about the meaning of unconditional love. Lessons regarding developing self confidence and truly accepting yourself as you are and stand unwavering for the ideals you believe in. There are a host of colorful secondary characters that add a balance, tolerance, patience and true friendship in the book Graceland.

With a book entitled Graceland two things come to mind one Elvis Presely and two a place where a person can be happy, content, comfortable.

If you enjoy a great time with belly laughs and thunderous applause visit a spot in town that has Karaoke night or talent night.

Kevin Fraser, an African American nursing student whose parents are doctors meets Owen in the hospital. Kevin, Sahara, LaRon and Pam work together in the hospital's ER and as a stress reliever one evening they hit the club for entertainment and a couple of drinks. Kevin believes this man, Owen, is his heartthrob after watching Owen's impersonation of The King Elvis Presley.

Ms. Blue's settings are remarkably life-like of an emergency room along with the towns Ashville and Greenville, South Carolina

Owen Hicks is an extraordinary Elvis impersonator. His persona if possible could raise Elvis from his resting place. Elvis Presely would be in awe of Owen's performances. Owen is a very large man, Cherokee heritage and proud of his ancestry and its moral standards. Owen has a brother Jeffrey and endearing aunt and uncle as his immediate family since the death of his parents. Owen and Jeff's mother recently died from health issues surrounding diabetes. Owen works with his Uncle Mitchell and Aunt Winnie Owl in their antique shop which carries Native American artifacts and old books, jewelry, etc. This shop, Owl's Antiques, is frequented by tourist as well the locals.

Ms. Blue delivers plenty of drama as Kevin and Owen become friends because Owen refuses to accept responsibility for his health, therefore, has several visits to the hospital's ER. Jeff knows of his brother's sexual orientation and jokes about it often however Uncle Mitch is not amused nor does he accept Owen's lifestyle. Uncle Mitch is prejudice and homophobic.

Throughout the book a reader can feel the compassion, tolerance and the off- color humor. About mid-way of the book I found the jokes, Owen's actions a bit stale. I did appreciate the kid-gloves approach Ms. Blue takes showing how people can become more accepting of cultures and behaviors that differ from their own. Ms. Blue shares a few historical facts that I and perhaps many readers may not have been aware of and gave me pause. As a result, Ms. Blue piqued my curiosity which lead me to investigate further the historical information about Cherokee and slavery after completing Graceland.

Kevin's mother, Dr. Colleen Fraser's attitudes is a mirror image of Uncle Mitch about loving an individual outside of one's ethnic background. This plays a key role in Graceland.

The sensual nature of the lovemaking between Kevin and Owen is bewitching. Ms. Blue's depictions leaves the reader breathless as the two become comfortable with themselves, their relationship and how they demonstrate their love. The acts of lovemaking are mesmerizing. Ms. Blue brings fire and heat to the pages. As a reader, I rejoiced for Kevin and Owen's leap of faith and love. However, the constant episodes of Owen's self-loathing and hospitalization grew tiresome for me. Graceland's conclusion/resolution was nicely done and not a moment too soon.

DL says

I enjoyed the characters very much. Both were likable and normal, everyday men. It was rather nice reading about average people for a change. The men met and became friends before falling in love which was a breath of fresh air in this genre. I do so hate insta-love. The main issue the characters needed to overcome was prejudice which is never an easy topic. Amazing to me what constitutes a reason to dislike another person in some minds. Even in the minds of good people. The book did get up on it's soap box a bit which detracted from my enjoyment. Overall, this was a sweet story about nice people that never descended into sappy.

Natalija says

Can't say anything bad about this book. I was deeply invested in the characters and was reluctant to say goodbye to them at the end. Recommended!

Thursday Euclid says

The cover really didn't begin to tell the tale of what's inside... This is nothing like I expected from the cover, and everything and more that I expected from the blurb. This book is fantastic. Let me break down why I loved it:

Owen, a burly Cherokee Elvis impersonator, steals every scene completely. He is an AMAZING character and a beautiful soul I wish I could count among my real life friends and definitely a "book friend" I want to visit again. He's complex in a way that I rarely see in fiction, and romance tends to be even more hesitant to deal with real world problems like racial tension, body image, and health concerns.

I was a little nervous Ally Blue might falter in her depictions of two very different men than are usually given a happily-ever-after in m/m romance, that it might grow patronizing or hit a sour note, but for me at least it was consistently a winner, solid, not triggering or "cheap." I didn't feel she exoticized the characters. They're both fully developed and richly unique individuals.

Now, for the romance... It's a slow burn. It's a really good, really intriguing dynamic between them as their very natures draw them together. They fulfill needs in one another. It's not the drag race to orgasm you find in some books but rather a push-and-pull that builds on itself until there's really no alternative but to fall into

one another completely.

This one has stuck with me, and now, long after I first read it, I'm moved to write a review because it stayed in my mind.

Cee Brown says

Mm, interesting. Enjoyed the medical aspect... I'm a nurse.... Not really an Elvis fan per say, but it was received. Needed more dimension out of Kevin and Owen, and the abrupt ending...

Chris says

Very good m/m romance about a nursing assistant and a slightly overweight Elvis impersonator who isn't managing his diabetes very well. Definite bonus points for breaking out of the perfect white male mold of so many m/m romances - not only is the Elvis impersonator a bit overweight, he's Cherokee and the nursing assistant is black.

Kaa says

Not reading because: Look, when I'm trying to decide whether I should trust a white author to write an interracial romance (involving a Native character), finding an oblivious and microaggressive exchange with a queer Native woman at the top of that author's Twitter feed is not going to encourage me to read their book.

Vicktor Alexander says

Wow. I could feel the emotions of these characters, the gripping fear, the heartbreak, the joy, the passion and the love, they oozed and bled off of every page. I laughed out loud and hell if I didn't cry at some parts.

Being both black and Cherokee Indian I was both excited and nervous about reading a book where one of the main characters is black and the other is Cherokee as there is still some hostility between Cherokee and Freedmen, but Ally handled it with grace, even discussing the tension there. My granny would have loved this book as she was proud of both her African and her Cherokee heritage and she would have found Owen adorable and Kevin sexy.

At one point I could almost hear her say "'Dem boys need to stop actin' a fool and just get together already."

And at the end my Granny Mary would have sighed and looked at me and said, "Now baby, that's real love and commitment. That's trust. That's forever. I want that for you, because if you have something like this, you know it's real."

Yeah I do too Granny.

That's the feeling that I had when I finished this book. That my spirit had reconnected with my Granny's and we'd read this book together. I felt more connected to the Cherokee part of my heritage and the African part of my heritage, but more than that Kevin and Owen's love came out of the book and wrapped me in its embrace.

I wish I could give the book more than 5 stars, but that's the maximum Goodreads will allow me. I totally suggest you read it, especially if you don't think a book has the power to make you *feel* loved. And read it if you know that it does.

Just read it.

Susinok says

4.5 stars. Owen Hicks is an overweight, diabetic, Cherokee Elvis impersonator. Kevin is an African American nursing student. To be together they have to overcome social pressures from family, financial differences, and Owen's inability to control his illness.

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

3.5*

Two average normal guys, Owen is a Cherokee Elvis impersonator, works in his uncle's antique shop and Kevin is african-american nursing student from a very well to do family.

Kevin first sees Owen as Elvis in a club and then again the next day when he is brought into the ER and diagnosed with diabetes.

Owen is overweight and has a few bad habits but Kevin really likes him and they start as friends and progress slowly to lovers.

They both have a family member who is less than supportive of their partner, not so much being gay, but of who they choose to date. I think it was well done, usually one family is over the top supportive and the other is evil, but here there is neither.

I did feel some of the 'glares' they received was maybe overdone, not that it doesn't happen, it was just a lot of it in the book, I felt a bit hit over the head with it.

All in all a slow friends -then lovers story, with a few (very) small bumps in the road between two very likable normal guys. A nice change from all the rich, powerful, built, gorgeous and successful guys that usually make up the MC's of most books!

(view spoiler)

I wouldn't have minded a few more pages or maybe an epilogue.

Purplegirl says

I would first like to give Ally Blue a high five for the beautiful cover art!

This story had several aspects that were different than other m/m stories and I appreciated and liked the differences. Both MCs were men of color (Owen was Cherokee and Kevin was African American), they

were not perfect specimens of manhood, the story dealt with family issues involving racism and family member disapproval more so than the family being upset that Owen or Kevin were gay.

The story focuses on Kevin and Owen evolving from friends to lovers. Graceland was a normal and sweet read. Nothing monumental happened in the story. It flowed nice and easy. There was very little angst. There were some points that were brought up in the story that could have been expanded on but, I suppose, that would have made the whole story too "cluttered".

The ending was fitting but I felt it was abrupt. I would have liked an epilogue. All and all, it was a good read.

Kevin's roommate was dating a Russian, and I love Russians in stories so I wish there was more of them. lol

Jenre says

It's been a while since I've read a book by this author and this one looked interesting with its blend of themes containing not only an interracial romance but also a character who suffers from acute diabetes which has to be carefully monitored and controlled.

The story begins with Owen collapsing at work. He's rushed into hospital where it's discovered that he is suffering from diabetes - the disease that killed his mother. Kevin is a trainee nurse in the trauma unit who helps to calm Owen and afterwards they become friends. Both men are attracted to each other but factors such as Owen's disapproving uncle and Kevin's mother who thinks that Owen is lazy, get in the way of their relationship. Added to this is Owen's lackadaisical approach to monitoring his health and things are not plain sailing for the couple.

The part of the story I most liked was in the transition from friends to lovers for Owen and Kevin. By mutual consent they stay as friends for a while before committing to a relationship and this allowed for many scenes where they hang out and get to know each other. The build up in tension between them was nicely done and made it all the more satisfying when they get together. It also meant that there's a foundation of friendship to the relationship which stands them in good stead when things get a bit rocky.

Another aspect which worked well for me was the way that the interracial romance caused friction, not between themselves but amongst others. So, for example, Owen's uncle isn't keen on Owen seeing a black man (or any man for that matter), and Kevin's intelligent parents rely on the stereotype of Native Americans being feckless and lazy to disapprove of Owen and his Cherokee heritage. Both Kevin and Owen handle this situation with good grace and I loved how they didn't allow it to affect their relationship, even strengthening it through their mutual support of each other. The importance of family on both sides was another theme in the book that linked to race, especially with Owen. In particular I liked Owen's relationship with his aunt and uncle and the respect he shows both of them, even when Owen's uncle openly disapproves of Kevin.

What didn't work so well for me was Owen's reaction to his diabetes. The effect of diabetes as a disease was sensitively shown but I lost a lot of sympathy for Owen in the way he tried to fudge his diet. This is probably because of my own annoyance that he would deliberately try to hurt himself in that way, or at least think he was impervious enough to try to ignore the advice of doctors, and maybe some readers wouldn't find this as distressing as I did. On the plus side it showed how hard it can be to adapt to a new lifestyle and therefore was perhaps a realistic way of letting the reader see Owen's struggles.

* This next bit could be slightly spoilerish *

One final niggle was the use of a forced separation towards the end of the book. It was one of those where one character leaves another 'for their own good', a theme I find rather annoying. This led to the inevitable moping by both characters, which I had no sympathy for whatsoever. Having said that, I understood that there needed to be some reason for Owen to snap out of his spiral and I suppose this did the job. I just wish there had been a less annoying way of doing it and I would have rated the book higher if not for this part.

* End of spoilerish bit *

Overall, this is a nicely written romance with two good characters and a story which kept my interest. The Elvis angle was thankfully not too overplayed with the focus being on relationship and trust, rather than on too many overt Elvis references. Those looking for a story which is strong on character with a romantic core, should pick up this book.

Lily says

Very enjoyable story. I liked the storyline and the fact that the MCs aren't the usual gorgeous/perfect white males.

Lisa J. says

This is a pairing I don't read about every day in m/m romance: a black man and American Indian. Hooray, for diversity. It also had a few other unusual romance elements: Owen is an Elvis impersonator, he's described as having a "gut," and he's just been diagnosed with diabetes, a disease that killed his mother.

He meets Kevin, a nursing student, when he's rushed to the hospital. Kevin is the only one who is able to calm him down. They're immediately attracted to each other, but are hesitant to take the next step. Instead of jumping into a romance, Owen and Kevin become best friends.

The diabetes angle was handled very realistically. Owen doesn't just change his habits and conquer his disease. He struggles to change his diet and exercise habits. He doesn't want to give up his sweets and doesn't follow doctor's instructions with his medications. More than once, he messes up and ends up the hospital. I imagine a lot of people initially struggle with this drastic lifestyle change, no matter how much they want to live. Kevin is understandably frustrated and angry with how Owen jeopardizes his health.

This was a slow build. Kevin and Owen get to know each other and their families. Owen's uncle doesn't approve of the relationship (I'm never quite sure why: because Kevin's black or because he comes from wealthy family). Kevin's mother doesn't think Owen is good enough for him. But there's no major angst there. The families express their opinions, but don't shun or threaten the pair. Hooray, for not manufacturing drama.

This book had so many different elements, and they all meshed well together. I enjoyed getting to know these unconventional MCs and reading this unconventional story.

Shelby P says

This was my first Ally Blue novel and it won't be my last. This book wasn't very long but it was a full-bodied story. You don't see much diversity in m/m romance so it was a pleasant surprise to read about a Cherokee man and black man finding love.

Usually in friends to lovers books the guys are already friends when we meet them. I liked very much that we got to see how Owen and Kevin meet and how they became friends first. The guys were pretty normal, average guys too. It was nice to see that Owen had a gut and not an six pack. Although Kevin's parents were well off, he was a nursing student and not some hot shot doctor.

I also liked how Owen's diabetes was handled. I'm not surprised he ended up in the hospital so many times because it's very hard to break bad habits, I know this first hand. I'm just curious how he managed to pay all those hospital bills.

I came to care very much about the outcome of the characters. Usually when I finish a book and am about to write my review, I can't even remember the characters' names. Didn't happen here. I feel like I personally know Kevin and Owen. I was very impressed with this book and will seek out more novels by Ally Blue.
