



Faith & Fidelity

Tere Michaels

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New York City Vice Detective Evan Cerelli has lost his wife, the only person he ever loved and slept with. He's trying to get on with his life, build a life for his children. Former Homicide Detective Matt Haight is a ladies' man, all sex/no commitment. He's depressed, having a midlife crisis, and not sure where his life is headed.

The two find friendship in the bottom of a shared bottle. When the friendship turns to love, it shakes two straight men to the core and flips their lives inside out. Kids, families, careers that are not gay-friendly -- can all the love in the world overcome the obstacles to faith and fidelity?

Faith & Fidelity Details

Date : Published September 23rd 2008 by Loose-id

ISBN : 9781596327726

Author : Tere Michaels

Format : ebook 228 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Contemporary, Gay Romance, Gay For You

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From Reader Review Faith & Fidelity for online ebook

Mel says

I didn't plan to read this book. It was just that I forgot my book at home and I was in the train, bored, with another hour to go. So I thought I'd read a few chapters of this story on my ereader and continue the other book when I got home.

No chance. From the first page: I was hooked.

Faith & Fidelity is the beautiful story of Matthew Haight, *Ladies Man Extraordinaire*, and Evan Cerelli, *Poster Boy for Suburban Normalcy*, finding love. But it's also more than that. It's about loss, sacrifice, death, guilt and allowing one self a new chance for happiness.

This book took me on an emotional roller coaster. It made me laugh, made me cry, made me angry. I loved the way Michaels handled the romance between the two guys. I'm sad the sex seemed a little glossed over, but she did create a very realistic development of their relationship. From tentative friendship, to trusted companionship, to full blown love. With all the shock, doubts and angst to go with it.

I loved both Evan and Matt. You can't help but feel for them and invest in them. Same goes for the secondary characters: Helena, Vic and Evan's kids. They were wonderful.

The only thing I wasn't too happy about was the ending. It felt a bit rushed and I would have liked to see more of it, in stead of being told what happened. I needed more. But I heard the third book of this series is a revisiting of Evan and Matt, so I can't wait to read that one!

All in all: this is a wonderful story of two men finding love and it's the perfect opportunity for those who are curious about m/m romance, but want to start out slow.

A great read: 5 stars.

Rosalinda *KRASNORADA* says

FOUR SWEET STARS

This sweet and romantic book tells us the story of Evan. Evan lost his wife a year ago and was left with his four kids. He is still missing her every single day of his life and he doesn't want to meet anyone.

You grieve with every fiber of your being when the thing you love most is ripped out of your life

Evan's colleagues, Helena & Vic, try to keep him busy, they want him to have a normal life so he goes out with them one night and he meets Matt. Matt is an ex cop and he is kinda lonely. He doesn't have many friends so when he meets Evan he realizes they can have fun together (nope, not that what you are thinking). They are both straight or at least they think they are.

But Matt can't stop thinking about Evan when they are not together even if he doesn't know what that

means.

Pretended that he wasn't thinking of Evan when his hand finished the job his dream had started

Matt meets Evan family and he falls in love with all his kids and the kids love him back! They have fun together but Matt seriously can't hide his feelings anymore... So the inevitable happens and they kiss.

Evan doesn't want to hide what they have but is not easy for him. He feels bad for his kids, his colleagues, his neighbours, everyone!. But first of all he needs to know what he really feels for Matt.

I want something I can't have that you want to give me. I think. Maybe.

Things get more intense between them and Matt doesn't know how to handle the situation, he wanted ALL with Evan but he didn't want to scare him.

There's no way I'm sleeping anytime soon with the feeling of him on my skin and, woo boy, in my mouth. I've never been so fucking scared in my whole entire life. This is a man and I want him and I think maybe I lo... Nope, not going there, and oh shit, what the hell am I supposed to do now?

Sex scenes were not very explicit, they were VERY HOT but not what I am used to read. Anyway, I think this book was more about accepting the homosexuality in your life and it was very good.

They learned to love each other, to cope with life loving each other. It was not easy but boy, it was worth it.

They were funny yet hot together and Evan's kids were adorable.

I think this is a great M/M book for beginners and I would recommend it to everyone!

Don't give us someone else to love if they're going to leave.

BR with my LOVELY Stella

Buggy says

Opening Line: "Matt Haight sat in his car, watching the entrance of the Stag Bar with butterflies in his stomach."

I don't even know how to put into words how much I loved this story and I'm having trouble writing a review that will do it any form of justice. I can tell you that author Tere Michaels has so hooked me with her unforgettable characters, heart wrenching love story and poignant writing that I'm now looking into spending several hundred dollars on an e-reader just so I can find out what happens next because for some reason the

following two books aren't available in print form yet.

I think what struck me most about FAITH AND FIDELITY was the fact that this is about two men is completely incidental to the story. This is so much more than just a gay romance and truthfully all the same sex issue does here is add another degree of difficulty to Matt and Evan's already complicated struggle to find happiness. This could be the story of any couple that's taken a few hard knocks from life then along with their skeletons managed to find their soul mate. I should warn you that if you're looking for graphic and gratuitous sex scenes every second page with a cheesy plotline to carry them along you'll be disappointed. What you will find however is an emotional journey between two men that never expected to find love with anyone much less another man. This story is heart wrenching, beautiful, funny, compassionate, intimate, sad, realistic, tender and ultimately unputdownable. Honestly one of the best romances I've ever read.

As you can guess this isn't a light-hearted read however I was immediately drawn in, starting with the tragic death of Evan's high school sweetheart wife. Sherri's the only person Evan's ever loved or slept with and with her gone he's now somehow got to find the strength to get up each day, continue with his job as a New York City Vice Detective and raise four children. Within the first chapter we're also introduced to Matt; a 40 something former homicide detective and ladies man who's having a minor mid life crisis of his own. Lonely and depressed Matt quickly becomes the perfect non-judgemental drinking buddy for Evan, each finding a form of solace in the others despair.

Matt and Evan's relationship starts out as honest friendship. Somewhere along the way though the lines begin to blur and a mutual physically attraction takes hold, shocking confusing and exciting both men. There are some very sweet scenes here as each tries to deal with these new feelings of desire and learns how to be with another man, because as much as they want each other neither of them knows how to scratch the itch. The sex scenes here are explosive and sexy without being explicit and I enjoyed their path to discovery. On some level I could even relate because we've all faced the exciting and unknown at one time or another.

Before long Matt and Evan have fallen in love and must face the reality of what effect their relationship is going to have on children, friends and coworkers, however its Evan's still palpable grief that causes the most damage during this time and brings in a third party. Damn if this part of the book didn't read like a suspense and brought me to tears as events moved forward, backed off and went forward again. All with this white knuckled reader saying no, no, no, don't do it. I just didn't foresee this happening.

I also just have to mention how awesome all the secondary characters are here, adding realistic levels of depth to an already incredible story that I can't recommend enough. Cheers I'm off to buy my e-reader.

Monique says

This book had me captivated from the first passage and took me on a path of discovery with Evan and Matt.....both lost, confused and disillusioned, both finding comfort in the most unlikely of situations.

This truly is a love story at it's best.....and it is a credit to your writing Ms Michaels that I too was so emotionally involved in this journey with them and the great cast of their family and friends.

However I did get to the last page and think 'is that it'.....but knowing there are two more books in the series, I am off to download!!

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

[butt sex!?!? Come on! I missed it *so*. I need some penetration and SOON, lady! Give me the goods! (hide spoiler)]

Elise X a.k.a Ryder's Pet X says

??????*Learn to live again*??????

There were some obvious mistakes in this book. Specially when it comes to the ages of the characters, because that changed more than once throughout the book... The story centers police officer **Evan Cerelli** (34? 35?) and disgraced former cop turned security consultant, **Matthew 'Matt' 'Matty' Haight** (42? 45?).

Maybe that was the connection then. You grieve with every fiber of your being when the thing you love most is ripped out of your life.

Evan lost his wife a almost a year ago and his life has been bleak ever since. He's keeping himself a live and fighting for his kids; **Miranda** (16? 17? <--- changed three times!), **Kathleen** (how old?), **Elizabeth** (8) and her twin brother **Danny** (8), but he's stopped *living* and is just surviving for his kids.

“You become a cop and they teach you about protecting people and keeping them safe. But they don’t tell you how it rips your heart out when you realize you can’t do it. You can’t save everybody.”

Until he met Matt, that is. Shock befalls both of them, who has been straight all their lives, only to find themselves extremely attracted towards one another. But can Evan let go of the past, and start living again? **Overall, the book had potential.** But the wrongs, and the too little build up just didn't work for me. I liked the characters, but I felt like an outsider that was missing too much to fully get into the story. Also, what kind of ending was that? There was also the missing (view spoiler)

Words just confused things -- when they held each other like this, it made so much more sense.

Quick basic facts:

Genre: - (Adult) Contemporary Romance (M/M)

Series: - Series (Standalone?), Book One.

Love triangle? - (view spoiler)

Cheating? - (view spoiler)

HEA? - (view spoiler)

Favorite character? - Matthew 'Matt' 'Matty' Haight

Would I read more by this author/or of series? - Unsure.

Would I recommend this book/series? - Unsure.

Will I read this again in the future? - No.

Rating - 2.5 stars.

Exina says

2.5 stars

Wounded widower and depressed ex-cop meet – angst guaranteed.

Evan Cerelli had lost his wife in a car accident, and had been left alone with four children. It's been a year, and he is still in deep grief, suffering in pain and misery, living only for his kids.

Matt Haight is a former cop, a 'casual sex / no commitment' type of guy. But he is tired of the one-night stands, depressed and lonely, and he hates his job.

When Evan and Matt meet, they **recognize something familiar in each other.**

Over the din of conversation Evan caught Matt's eye and shrugged at his friends' nonsense, smiled again. He wasn't exactly sure why he was reaching out to this man— maybe force of habit. You see someone sitting that far down in the gutter, you lend him a hand.

Matt Haight let the conversational buzz and beer settle into his bones; it'd been a long time since he'd been drinking with anyone else around. And Evan Cerelli — well, there was something in his expression that Matt recognized. Neither one of them was entirely comfortable here, but, in the same breath, where else were they supposed to be? So Matt smiled back.

They find unexpected acceptance and open up for each other. The weekly meetings for a beer quickly **turn into a deep friendship.**

It was the highlight of his week, sitting in the near-dark, just talking, listening, drinking. They created a little cocoon of their misery, a safe haven in which to feel like a piece of garbage. To be tired and bitter and a failure, with no apologies. How exactly that moved to daily "shoot the shit" phone calls, he couldn't exactly say.

And though both of them were heterosexual in all their lives, **they start to have romantic and erotic feelings for each other.**

He couldn't pinpoint when he'd started noticing the little things, like the odd silver-blue color of Evan's eyes, or the way he moved... in control. He tried not to spend too much time dwelling on any of it, because it posed a much larger question than Matt was willing to ponder. Of course the not pondering didn't help the situation once the dreams began.

The story is told from both of the main characters' point of view (and from a couple of more, but later about that). Evan is broken: what happened to him is tragic, of course, and it is also very recent (IMO). BUT this time span is given, so let's get over it. If the author made him capable of developing romantic feelings for someone else other than his wife, I think **he is ready to move on. Still, he behaves like he is not**, and he still punishes himself for Sherri's death.

Evan sighed. "I would have made a fantastic martyr right?"

"Jesus would've given you a medal himself."

Then it turns out that it is all because that the other person is a man. Evan's fear of possible homophobic reactions takes over, and he (view spoiler)

(hide spoiler)]

Of course, everyone makes mistakes, and I really don't want to hold it against him, because it is the part of the plot... but **I didn't like Evan.** My rational self sympathized with him and felt for him, but the emotional one just couldn't connect and get to love him.

I liked to be in **Matt's** head. **He was surprised more by falling in love than the fact that it was for a man.** Of course, his desires for another man shocked him first, but the love issue was the bigger hit.

A few weeks ago he would have never imagined being in this state, being aroused and emotional and so... go ahead Matty, he thought wildly, admit it... So fucking in love he could barely function.

The words were still frightening but their power has lessened. Every time he confirmed and confessed his love for Evan, the rightness of it was reinforced.

I was pretty okay with the plot up until about 88%. But from that (from (view spoiler)) the story turns into a cheap melodrama. And what pisses me off the most is that after all the angst we don't even get a proper ending. It's rushed, gappy, and told rather than shown.

(view spoiler) We have two adults here, don't we?

(view spoiler) The reunion is awkward and tentative, and far from satisfying. **Where are the beautiful words, redemption, sweet absolution, the reassurance of their love for each other, and most importantly, the hot make-up sex???**

And (view spoiler)

Random other problems

- Jumping / quickly changing / too many / unnecessary viewpoints.
- Too much melodrama: (view spoiler)

- A longer time span would have been more believable.
- Lots of things are told rather than shown.
- The non-communication was pissing me off at the end.
- The ending altogether was pissing me off.

- The sex scenes were lukewarm and awkward; there wasn't even REAL sex...

It was not all bad though, there were some great moments (see my quotes), but I don't think I will continue this series for now. Maybe later I'll give the second book a try.

Originally posted on my blog on December 7, 2015.

My favorite quotes on Tumblr.

Susan says

2.5 stars

I have a love / hate relationship with this book.

I really, really like the MC's. As broken and lost and hurting as they are, Evan and Matt are good men who deserve happiness...and each other. I liked how we got to see them meet, befriend each other, and eventually realize their attraction and love for one another. That's enough to make me feel ok about having read the book.

But, there were a few things that absolutely drove me bonkers and irritated the CRAP out of me and made me want to literally scream:

(view spoiler)

I'm undecided if I will go on and read the rest of the series. I have no connection or desire to know more about James, in all honesty. But, I may want to read more about Evan and Matt. I just don't entirely trust the author not to ruin it w/ lame story arcs and a confusing writing style.

Ingie says

★★★★★ 5 Huge Stars for a warm and tenderhearted novel which is feeling like a "True Life" story about male love.

Often, I love stepping into a sort of *fairy tale world* and "live with" heroes and heroines in the Romances. What's happening is hardly likely or very credible with it being a romantic, exciting and often sexy world. I love alpha males, the noble lords, the beautiful women or tough girls, the paranormal unreal, suspense,

adventure and puzzles to be solved or just a beautiful world of luxury and glamor. **Sometimes, it's however**, wonderful to read a story that feels like it might actually be an everyday true love story from reality. This is such a story, this two men could be my neighbors (if I had the good fortune to live in NY), colleagues (if I become a police) or any of my friends (well you never know).

The police Vice Detective, Evan Cerelli, father of four children and widower then little more than a year, is still in mourning. He met his beloved wife at school and loved her immeasurably. Through friends of friends, he becomes acquainted with, **the few years older and former Homicide Detective, Matt Haight**. Matt is dejected, bitter over life and his lost loved job, but most of all - he is so lonely. This two men become beer-drinkers buddies and meet at a pub one night a week to drown their sorrows of life. Both men have always considered themselves as completely straight. As the friendship deepens, new, unexpected and unfamiliar feelings forward.

There is uncertainty, attraction, emotion, fear and guilt. It is steaming hot, heartbreakingly tender and painfully real. I read and my heart reaches out to these two gentlemen and their struggle to deal with love for another person of the same sex - all in addition to family, children, prejudice and fear of being different.

How do you tell your four children, who recently lost their beloved mother, that your best friend is not ONLY a good friend but also the person that you love and want to live with? How do you respond to friends and colleagues and explain that you might ALSO be called bisexual or gay and realized it now as mature adult? Questions that Evan and Matt must deal with.

At 300 pages and a few months, it's the "ups and downs". It's the first tentative kisses and caresses (gay sex premiere for Matt & Evan - how do you do?), there are also fights and harsh words and I have to get my tissues and sometimes I get a little stab in the heart. This is however, as I started with, a nice real life story and things are, sooner or later, resolved.

"I wish to God I had an answer for you right now. All I know is that...I'm not turning this car around. I'm going home with you...and we'll see what happens from there."

~~~~~

"Tell me to stop," Matt whispered. "Last chance."

**Not to forget** are all the other nice (credible) characters in this novel. Evan's three daughters and little son are gorgeous. They invite immediately Matt into their family home and it's pizza, DVD movies and much laughter. A life Matt missed and longed so much for. Friends and colleagues are all sympathetic, and I look forward to the stand alone continuation in book #2 in this series about Matt's new acquaintance, the police James, and his story.

"Words just confused things -- when they held each other like this, it made so much more sense."

**Strong, comprehensive and incredibly well-written story**. Two gorgeous men who are showing emotions,

dealing with problems and makes me shiver with pleasure. Hot and sweet...

Recommended to anyone who likes to read about *guys who love guys*.

**I Like - "true love & life" on 300 well written pages.**

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### **Lenore says**

I'm gonna be the odd one out. Again. Because even though most of my GR friends love this story, it was just meh for me.

So. Evan and Matt. They're both heteros. At a certain point, they realise they are attracted to each other. Then they realise they love each other. OK. I can buy that provided it's done well. But I didn't buy it here. Not really.

I got the emotional/bonding part; both men needed someone to lean onto, someone to count on. They became good friends through their commiseration. Fair enough.

Friends is one thing. Lovers though? Errrr ... not so much. The romantic part lacked depth; it felt inadequate and rushed. Where was the spark? The built-up? Plus, I had so little info on Evan's romantic feelings I seriously thought he would blow Matt off. Then I learned he reciprocated, but only because I was told. I didn't feel it.

Also, maybe it was due to the prologue, or due to Evan's grief over his wife's death (which was there throughout the book and often overshadowed his feelings for Matt), but it felt more like "Evan's story" than "Evan and Matt's" story.

Then there was that other guy, James. (view spoiler)

The writing was clumsy and there were some issues with the POV shifts. Also, in my opinion, there were too many POVs in the story. Matt and Evan's were more than enough. I didn't feel I got anything substantial from Evan's little son's POV or that of Evan's partner, for instance. There were also typos and grammatical errors, the formatting was poor, the punctuation all over the place. I lost count of how many redundant ellipses there were (yes, Kate, you were right), the use of spaced hyphens instead of em dashes grated on the nerves of my inner editor, the unnecessary extra line breaks confused me.

I mentioned Evan's partner and remembered another issue. Her name was Helena. And his sister-in-law was called Elena. Yep. Helena and Elena. I had to stop and think who was who sometimes (when the context didn't help) and it was irritating. Very poor choice in names if you ask me.

Overall, it was a decent story—I've read much worse—but all the raving reviews had me going in with high expectations. Sadly, they weren't met.

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### **.Lili. says**

**Faith and Fidelity is the beautiful story Evan and Matt. Evan, who is dealing with the loss of his high school sweetheart and mother of his four children. Matt, who is depressed after having been forced out of his job at the force. Their journey is one that will touch you. You feel their anguish, confusion, and above all their love for one another in every page. 5 Beautiful Stars!**

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### **Josy says**

~3.5 stars~

I think this book shows a very realistic struggle of two men, who identified as heterosexual for all their lives and suddenly have to come to terms with their attraction to another man. What's happening to me, how can that be, how do I explain this to my kids, what will my friends / colleagues / neighbors think, is this real?

As if that's not enough, both Evan and Matt have to deal with other life-altering events that happened to them prior to their meeting. Evan has lost his wife and the mother of his four children. He has fallen into a depression, struggles with the responsibility of raising his kids as a single parent, and can't deal with his guilt for being attracted to another person.

Matt has lost his job as a cop and thus most of his friends and his purpose in life. He has somewhat of a drinking problem and rather drifts through life without really accomplishing anything satisfactory.

In the end, both men find in each other what they were missing and looking for but the transition from friendship to relationship didn't come without difficulty.

IMO, the L-word came a bit early and the resolving of the tension at the end was a bit too easy. But I guess both men had enough trouble to deal with at this point so why not cut them some slack. I also would have like to see them discovering their sexual relationship a bit more but in the end, I think the way it was handled here was true to the newness of the situation. Them being more forward or suddenly being experts without any fumbling or uncertainty would have felt unrealistic.

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### **Julio Genao says**

**This is another really shitty book review.**

"Tedious. Oh, the angst, angst, angst men. But some good bits if you can tolerate that kind of thing."

Seriously. That's all I wrote.

Helpful, right?

You should probably flag this.

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### **Mo says**

This was a heartbreakingly beautiful love story. I could feel the anguish of Evan throughout the whole story, the guilt, the guilt, the guilt. But seriously, how could something so beautiful be so wrong. Evan loses his wife - he is straight, he has four great kids, some fairly shitty in-laws - but hey, I suppose I should give them a bit of slack as they did also lose their daughter. He meets Matt, sweet, sweet Matt, who is also straight..... or so they think. They strike up a great friendship and then their feelings become more clouded as they begin to have sexual feelings for each other. It was a very well written story. I don't often read too many M/M books as sometimes they are a little too graphic for lil' ol' me but this was beautifully written and all I could feel was the love and devotion between these 2 guys. It finishes sort of at the beginning of their "proper" relationship and it will be interesting to see how it all pans out. Thought the secondary characters were great also, Evan's work partner, Helena - hope she gets her HEA and Vic, his boss. A truly wonderful, tender love story.

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### **DarienMoya says**

#### **Always and forever 5++++ ??s**

~~~~~|~~~  
^^BLOODY AWESOMENESS!^^

What can I say about this book, it has everything I love about M/M lovin. Guys with no previous experience about all that is man love, real men no wet behind the ears young boys, plus it has heart and leaves you with a tear in your eye, then makes you smile because its that bloody good.

THE RUNDOWN- Evan just lost his wife and he is feeling the pain. The book begins with him getting ready for the funeral and its so heartbreakingly instant that leads you to tear up. His pain and anguish is so real you instantly want good things for him.. What then follows is Evan's descent into depression and the fake smile he has permanently glued to his face. What does one do when they have literally lost the love of their lives and you have four kids to raise all by your lonesome. His friends are treating him like glass and he just wants the pain to end. What he never expected is his saviour to come in the form of Matt Haight. Matt has known his fair share of pain, and he is like the lone man always from the outside looking in. A friendship sparks new ideas and it also starts to heal.

EVAN- He is just so believable in his pain, he was a loving husband and a so-so father. Now with his wife

gone he just feels like a failure, and he blames himself for her death. As a cop he knows about protection and he failed the one person he swore before god and man to protect. Evan is like an eggshell he is one crack away from spilling his yolk. Life has no meaning and the ache in his heart is eating at him slowly.

MATT- Is the epidemic of lonely, he gets his kicks from one night stands and putting himself in the category of a ladies man. Ostracized from the police force because he nailed some crooked cops, he leaves and moves on to personal security. All this changes when a friendship leads him to some truths about himself and he realizes how very alone he has been.

PLOT- Its very simple in all its complexity, two men with no previous desire for men start falling in love. Let me tell you its no easy road, Evan has a whole lot to overcome such as telling his children, and coming to terms with the fact, that he might be happy without his wife. It's an emotional rollercoaster for both men, where one is willing to put his all, and the other is scared of losing everything.

FEELINGS- Loved it, so sweet and genuine. It's a slow moving grind that makes it so authentic Evan has real issues that makes the story line all that better. Matt is bloody awesome and sexy, the things he says just blows my mind. Evan is sweet, almost childish in his discovery of a new love. Together they are explosive, I had a girl boner through the entire book. There is no actual sex in the book, but the foreplay is all sex on the beach, and lust like teenage necking, a new discovery in feelings and a fierce passion. So good y'all, Evan and Matt don't disappoint.
