



## Heat Under Fire

*Andrew Grey*

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Justin Briggs can shout out directions all day on his job as a traffic cop, but put him in front of a hot guy, specifically firefighter Rock Sparks, and he clams up.

Rock finds Justin confusing. While saving a busload of children hanging off the edge of a highway overpass, the cute rookie is cool and confident. But when Rock tries to chat him up, he stutters and chokes. Frustrated, Rock teases Justin, and boy, is his temper hot.

Though Rock and Justin share a steamy kiss, Justin keeps his distance, still tongue-tied. Then, when Justin is injured on the job, Rock takes him to the hospital, and some of the barriers start to crumble. But getting his enigmatic boyfriend to open up brings up more questions about Justin's past.

## Heat Under Fire Details

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Author : Andrew Grey

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## From Reader Review Heat Under Fire for online ebook

### Nikyta \*Miss Forgetful\* says

#### 3.5 stars

I really liked this one. It's an easy read and exactly what I needed with the funk I've been in.

I really liked Justin. His inability to talk to people he finds attractive was pretty cute in the beginning. I found it amusing that he had to talk to the wall or face away from Rock to be able to talk to him. We get to know Justin pretty well, seeing him during his job, with his family, and then how he tries to deal with this relationship he's managed to form with Rock. I loved Rockland, too, but he had almost no character depth in this book so I didn't really know him, which is one of my complaints. Then again, I didn't read the previous books in this series, so that might have been the reason why I felt like Rock didn't have much depth.

I was surprised by this book. It starts off semi suspenseful and continually gives off brief moments of suspense throughout the whole book. I really loved that because it let me see Justin at work and the kind of situations cops get into. I *loved* that Justin finally stood up to his family. His mom is a serious piece of work and she needed to be slapped! I liked the relationship that Rock and Justin were forming but I really wished that there had been more of it. I think that was my biggest issue. They were sweet together but I felt like the story ended really abruptly. There are a lot of unanswered questions so I'm hoping that there's more to their story to come.

Overall, not a bad story. It's an easy, fun read that has sporadic adrenaline fueled moments. I liked both characters and the fledgling relationship they're forming so I really hope we'll get to see more of them soon!

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### Gigi says

*[Right off the bat, our heroes save a bus load of children, jumping from the bus at the last possible second with a disabled child, before the bus crashes from a bridge into the water below. There are chemically burned throats and lungs, saving restaurant workers at the last possible second from certain death from a dangerous gas leak (while off-duty), a terrif*

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### Francesca the Fierce (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

This book started out great for me. We have a cop, Justin, who knows he's gay, just never came out to everyone and hasn't really had any experiences. He's extremely shy around guys he likes as well, and seems to freeze and not be able to speak to them. Hmm this could be a problem. Of course he has the hots for a sexy EMT, Rock.

Rock is the larger than life type, big muscular, seems very alpha. Of course there's no way he could be interested, right? Well, turns out he's openly gay and Justin didn't know that. At the slightest show of

interest from Rock, Justin can't communicate.

I really liked Rock. He tiptoed around Justin enough to make him comfortable and dealt with all the problems Justin threw at him in a perfect way. He seemed to truly care for Justin. Justin on the other hand, I might've wanted to slap on the side of the head a bit. Yes, he has a problem. Which by the way, when it's resolved the why I was left a bit scratching my head and not believing it. But that's a different subject. Justin never took life by the horns and tried to take charge. He continually lets things happen to him, instead of him being the one to be proactive.

I normally would've liked this combination a lot, from everything ... jobs to personalities and physical types. But this particular book fell a bit flat. It would be build up and I was getting excited about something to come, and then it was a bit anti-climactic.

I've enjoyed this author in the past, so I'll definitely read anything I've missed, but I don't think this was one of his best. It was an ok, enjoyable read but it stopped at that. And I was looking for more.

\*Review copy provided by publisher

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## Grammy 1 says

5\*\*\*\*Stars

As the Review Chair for our Guild, I am the one who doles out books to my reviewers. When an Andrew Grey book is about to be released I receive many e-mails from the group all saying me, me like the birds in the Nemo movie saying Mine, Mine. Since I read them all for my own enjoyment, I thought today Mine, Mine.

Andrew Grey's quiet casual writing style is so wonderful, it takes no time to be immersed in the world he is writing about, whether it be cowboys, or lawyers or Fire fighters and Police officers. The Fire Series is a favorite of mine with two wonderful men Lee and Dirk, (who by the way we get to share a scene with them in this story) It was great spending even the short time with them and seeing they are 'good'

Justin is a Police Officer, sweet and shy; having no other life than his career. He has a hard time meeting people, being like the guy in your office that stammers and does not make eye contact when he does speak....awkward. But when on the job and all business Justin is The Man, able, controlled and on top of things.

Rock is an EMT in the same town, and when a school bus has been in an accident and is hanging over a highway ready to plunge with all children aboard, Captain America Justin, calms the children, climbs on the bus and gets the kids out safely putting his life in danger as Rock watches him from afar.

Justin has no idea why he has such a problem talking to men he is interested in as he and Rock slowly investigate the attraction they feel for the other. This story is a beginning for a young man to find himself and the answers are not always pretty. You hold your breathe to see if Justin is strong enough to follow his heart and not break his and Rock's along the way.

The story is sensual, and loving and scary and breathe taking. We still have room for more from these men.

This was a story about Justin, and although Rock seems to have it together, I think we need to hear more about him. So please Andrew Grey, what can we learn about Rock to make this relationship even more.

I as always look forward to reading your stories....Keep them coming.

Review by Gloria Lakritz

Sr Reviewer and Review Chair for the Paranormal Romance Guild Review Team

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**Yeochingyu says**

3.4\*\*

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**SoCalBookReviews says**

This is actually my favorite of the By Fire series by Andrew Grey. It can be read as a standalone since it covers a new couple Justin and Rock, and we don't really get any more of the story from the men featured in the first three books of this series.

Justin is super sweet, shy, has trouble talking to anyone he likes and finds attractive. Rock is the complete opposite and has no problem saying what he thinks and feels for others.

I was really happy when Rock confronted Justin and got to the heart of the issue when he felt like he was being blown off by Justin acting like a jerk. These two guys are super cute, have a good connection, chemistry together and complement each other well. I loved Justin's personality, although with the things that come to light in the book, it seems like his personality is kind of manufactured and not the way he should have been if he would have grown up differently. Justin's mom is a horrible person and I could not believe the horrible things that come out about her and the things she had previously done to Justin in the past. Justin should really never forgive such deplorable acts, no matter that it's his mom or not. Good book. Brings up some odd topics. But overall I liked it and it was another decent read from Andrew.

Audio – This book has a different narrator from the first three and I really liked that. Paul Morey did a great job narrating every character in this book and nailed their personalities and voices perfectly. I really enjoyed listening to this one. I also will be looking for more books with him as a narrator in the future.

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**Jacq says**

Ok read didn't want to finish...to boring.

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**Chris Jeffreys says**

In this most recent novella, "Heat Under Fire", Andrew Grey demonstrates why he is the king of m/m to

romance novels. This is a continuation of Mr. Grey's "fire series".

In the first few books in the fire series, we became familiar with Lee and Dirk, two firefighters who make cameo appearances in this novella.

In this new story, we meet two characters, Rock and Justin. Rock is a musclebound EMT operator, and Justin is a local police officer. We also learn that Justin has never been in any kind of relationship due to certain actions that were taken by his family when he was a young man. (I won't spoil that plot twist here.)

Over the course of this novella, a relationship blossoms between Justin and Rock. There are, of course, some hurdles that are placed in the way of these two lovers (I.e., a little smoke inhalation, a bad car accident, a demented psychologist, and difficult relatives). But through it all, we are drawn to the relationship between the two main characters.

Like many of Mr. Grey's other works, this novella reads very quickly. There is a bit of a teaser at the end of the novella concerning Rock's life before meeting Justin that would seem to be fodder for a sequel between these characters. Mr. Grey has a special way with dialogue between characters, and descriptive settings. It is a pleasure to read his writing.

Clearly, this is just the beginning of the story between Rock and Justin. Hopefully, we will not need to wait too long for the next installment of the series to come out. Five stars for this novella.

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### **Serena Yates says**

Not being able to speak to the people you are most interested in, because you are too shy to the point where you freeze and clam up, must be utterly frustrating. Especially when you're an in-charge kind of guy who has no issues talking in any other situation. This is what Justin's life is like, and the story of him and Rock, the hot EMT he falls for, is very interesting for that reason alone. I mean, how do you overcome something like that? Add the mystery around Justin's past to the picture, with a few hints that the two might somehow be connected, and I was glued to my seat as I read this book.

Justin is a cop on traffic duty. He isn't really enthusiastic about it, since it is mostly boring, but there are enough other activities he gets involved in to make up for that lack. From rescuing kids in a school bus, to assisting at a fire, Justin's life is never monotonous. And he may not be able to talk to any of the men he is interested in, but Rock quickly becomes an exception. And that is only the start of their adventures!

Rock is an EMT, and he gets really angry with Justin at first. Once he understands the problem, all of that anger goes away, and the passionate man underneath emerges. Rock is a wonderful ally to have, and when the proverbial mess hits the fan, he is right there for Justin. And even though Justin is an idiot at first and really hurts Rock, he doesn't give up. Rock has his own issues, but we don't get to see many of them in this book. I sure hope there'll be another sequel so we can find out more about this amazing guy!

Justin ends up having to work through a lot of issues, family and his past included. I loved the way he deals with everything, and how Rock was right there with him. If you like stories with quite a bit of drama, growing relationships, and dealing with the past as the main character redefines his place in the world, you will probably like this book. I think it's a very touching story, with plenty of passion that makes it a very

emotional read.

NOTE: This book was provided by Dreamspinner Press for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

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## **Monique says**

### **Fire Fighters, Cops and EMT's... this should be a winner for me!??**

#### **2.5 Stars**

I have read quite a few of Andrew Greys previous books and loved every one, *Heat Under Fire* is unfortunately not one of them. The premise was great, Fire Fighters, EMT's and Cops... just my kind of book but this was sadly lacking and as hard as I tried I just could not connect with our two MC's Justin and Rock!

When a school bus crashes into the side of a bridge precariously balancing over the edge... Justin jumps into the fray with very little time to save the children before the bus tumbles over the edge, and the first EMT to attend the scene is non other than Rockwell Sparks, who just so happens to be the man of Justin's dreams and fantasies and also the man that leaves him tongue tied, nervous and stumbling for his words. But it's not only Rock that makes him uncomfortable in his own skin... it's every man he has ever taken a liking to, which obviously plays havoc with his sex life... or lack of!

Justin seems to spend most of his time analysing his own reactions to situations rather than taking action... but Rock is gentle with Justin, easing his fears and anxieties, recognising his lack of experience with gentle assurances and gestures.

Justin has an interfering, manipulative and very overbearing Mother that should have been put in her place a long time ago, add to that three sisters, two of which are clones of his mother and the poor guy didn't stand a chance growing up, especially when all his Mothers love was poured out to his sisters leaving him starved of affection!

So, this is where we have to suspend our disbelief as these two men are constantly running into trouble, first

we have the bus, then toxic fumes from a burning building and then at lunch it's carbon monoxide poisoning they have to deal with... and this is a novella!?! Then we discover the real reason why Justin is unable to have any kind of relationship and that was it, my eyes were rolling... beyond ridiculous! I am a very forgiving reader and most of the time I can just go with the flow if the characters and plot engage me... but for the most part, even though we have the incidents the rest was mundane and I was getting bored with Justin's daily traffic duties and writing up speeding tickets, his life was dull! ...which is probably the reason for spicing up the action with the unbelievable plot lines, and for me there was zilch in the emotional factor, with the only spike being the mother who just had my blood boiling! The ending was too contrived with no emotion and the "I love you" at the end was just all wrong and that's coming from someone who doesn't usually mind the whole insta love thing!

So sadly this was not a book for me... It may just be me and maybe I was not in the right frame of mind, who knows, but it will not deter me from reading Andrew Grey as I really have enjoyed his previous novels... and this one I will put down to just a blip as I am only too aware of Mr. Greys talent as a writer.

*For more reviews, please check out [Sinfully Sexy Book Reviews](#) and you can also find us on Facebook*

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### **Elspeth says**

You can also read mine, and MLE's reviews on our blog.

I cannot review this book without spoilers, so be warned.

This book was so disappointing, it could have been so good, but it wasn't, it just wasn't.

Justin has problems talking to guys he finds attractive, it has always been so as far back as he can remember. He gets horrible dry mouth, stammers, and stutters uncontrollably so it has been easier to be alone. Enter Rock, built, beautiful, kind, pretty much a walking wet dream; Justin has been watching him for a long time. So when an accident happens, and both Justin and Rock have to save a bus full of children Justin has no problems talking to Rock. They work together smoothly, like they have always been together.

Sigh.

After the action stops, back comes Justin's dry mouth, and inability to talk to Rock. Scared, and giving up, and putting himself down thinking what would a beautiful man like Rock want with him he leaves to go home.

Now this is where it gets just plain ignorant, Rock comes to Justin's house angry thinking Justin is homophobic, and to prove his innocence Justin kisses Rock then flees back into his apartment.

You see you find out later that Justin's shrew of a mother couldn't handle her baby boy being gay, and after finding him kissing another boy sends him off to a head shrinker with no morals. She signs a bunch of waivers and lets the good doctor brain wash her son into being afraid of anyone he finds attractive. He finds this out mind you when he starts seeing Rock, and the mother wants to fix him again.

Now this part of the story I really could get behind, this is the stuff that Grey excels at! This is why I am really disappointed, I felt he just didn't do it justice.

The story after the big explosion, the fight after the drama bomb went off the story goes all Harlequin romance.

Stupid junior high stuff happens, misunderstandings abound...and then an accident occurs. Which at this point was ridiculous, these men must have accident magnets in their pockets.

Now I could deal with all this, but for the fact that in all this mess they went on maybe three dates, and every one of them had something go wrong with them.

So in just three dates they find out that its twu wuv, and they are going to be together forever.

Yeah, this wasn't for me.

Thanks, but no thanks.

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## **Melissa says**

Heat Under Fire by Andrew Grey

Justin Briggs is a police officer in Carlisle, PA, his home town. He is the new officer on the force and therefore and so right now he is on the speed traffic patrol. He has known for a very long time he is gay, but he can't seem to talk to a guy he really likes. He gets tongue-tied and a very dry mouth whenever he tries, unless it is for work or he is agitated or angry.

Rockland (Rock) Sparks is an EMT in town, a very large male; he is also gay and likes Justin a lot. But he can't seem to get Justin to talk to him at all and he is getting fed up with what he is seeing as someone who he thinks is prejudiced or just doesn't like him being so rude.

One day while chasing a speeder, Justin witnesses a bus crashing into a bridge railing and hanging part on and off. He responds and calls for back up. While working, he and Rock talk just fine, then when the emergency is over and the last child handed off to their parents and Rock tries to ask Justin out, Justin can't say anything so he leaves and goes home; Rock is tired of this silent treatment and go after him. It ends in a kiss on the street.

The next time they work together, Rock gets Justin mad and he is able to talk to him, until he is over come with smoke from the fire he is working when the spoke changes. He ends up in the hospital from poison in the fumes. Rock comes to visit him and is there when Justin's mother shows up. She is not pleased to see them together, especially when Rock kisses her son as he leaves.

After Justin is released and home he finds out why he has always had that reaction to men he liked. It causes a rift between him and his family and an argument with Rock.

Then when again chasing a speeder, Justin sees the speeder cause an accident and when he gets up on the accident he sees Rock's convertible. He visits Rock in the hospital, even though he is now on night shift.

A wonderful 5 star read by Mr. Grey is, again, not afraid to tackle the hard questions of family manipulation and in denial, or a man shaking off the bonds that had held him captive for so long. These two men are very real and believable, they touch your heart and I want to know more about them. We also get to see old friends from the Carlisle fire department. I loved this story and can't wait for more from this wonderful little town.

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### **Katy Beth McKee says**

Both Justin and Rock are strong and dedicated to their job and their community. And together they learn to care and build a relationship.

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### **Sarah says**

The opening action sequence in this novella is fantastic. A rookie traffic cop finds himself saving a school bus full of children as the bus hangs over the side of a bridge. So, a little unbelievable but I loved the part where he falls into the arms of the handsome firefighter...

And then the story seems to hurtle out of control. Neither Justin nor Rock can stay out of the hospital. I hate it when authors use hospital stays as plot devices and here, in a very short novella, the emergency room seems to have a revolving door.

There are far too many things happening in this story. By the time I met the man using aversion therapy and hypnosis as a 'pray the gay away' conversion tool, I was ready for the story to end. Sadly, there was still a bout of crazy angsty misunderstanding, another high speed car chase and another hospital stay to make it through before the end.

Andrew Grey is usually a slightly predictable but reliably good story teller. This lacked the emotional depth of most of his writing and it really didn't work for me.

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review for Inked Rainbow Reads.

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### **BWT (Belen) says**

Welp. That ended rather abruptly.

This was...interesting. I was horrified by the whole hypnotherapy as a kid plot. I definitely liked that Justin didn't just forgive his bitch of a mother or fold like a house of cards under pressure from his jerkoff sisters.

But...I didn't warm to Rock, and, ultimately, didn't feel like their relationship was either well fleshed out or going to last.

To quote "Speed":

"...'cause, you know, relationships that start under intense experiences never work."

However, I did enjoy Paul Morey's narration.

So 2 stars for the story, 3 for the audio...I'll leave it at 3 Stars.

