



Out of Frame

Megan Erickson

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Romance trades the open road for the high seas in the latest from the author of *Focus on Me* and *Trust the Focus...*

Perpetually shy, Quinn Mathers is content to remain in the shadow of his brash best friend Jess Hartman. But before their college graduation, he and Jess have planned one last hurrah: a spring break Caribbean cruise.

And it won't be just any cruise. On board are members of the reality show *Trip League*, which follows young twenty-somethings on adventures around the world. Since the show's beginning, Quinn has been fascinated by J. R. Butler, with his amazing body, warm eyes, and killer grin. Unfortunately, he's straight—or so the world thinks.

At nineteen, J. R. signed a contract to play straight for the show, and there's no way to get out of it now. Yet with each passing day, Quinn and J. R. find it harder to keep their hands off each other and to keep out of the camera's frame. But when the lens finally focuses on them, J. R. must decide if he's willing to risk his career by admitting his bisexuality, and Quinn must determine if he's bold enough to stand in the spotlight with the man of his dreams...

Out of Frame Details

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From Reader Review Out of Frame for online ebook

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

3.5 Stars

A chance to let loose. A growing need to be one's true self. Hard to resist attraction.

Cautious Quinn can finally relax and have fun with his BFF on their long awaited spring break trip. He's tired of being the responsible one, the predictable, boring one. He's ready to have a great time, all the while secretly ogling his reality TV crush from afar.

JR is tired of hiding who he is, tired of being pigeon-holed into a persona that's not him. Quinn catches his eye and is the impetus to having him reevaluate his career path and choices. As hard as they try to avoid the other after an unfortunate mishap, a cruise ship is never too big to avoid that one person you're trying to hide from.

Overall I liked this. The writing was still great because it's Erickson, but this installment had less emotional depth and sexy than the previous two books in my opinion. Apparently I'm not one for sneaking around, waiting for the other shoe to drop. Because it will. And it does. That kind of anxiety I can go without. Regardless, still enjoyable, with a great supporting cast.

Meags says

4 Stars

This story follows Quinn and his best friend Jess (both of whom we briefly met in *Focus on Me*) as they spend their final spring break partying it up on a Caribbean cruise.

Also on this cruise is the cast of the reality show *Trip League*, which includes the broody and enigmatic J.R. Butler. J.R. has always had big dreams of being an actor and he figures this reality show is a stop off on the way to bigger and better things. He's bisexual and proud of the fact, but when he joined the cast of *Trip League* a few years ago, he made the mistake of signing a contract which required he play straight for the shows duration. For years he's been able to live with this, up until the moment he boards the cruise and lays eyes on Quinn.

Quinn and J.R. share an immediate chemistry. Around each other they both feel like they can truly be themselves - a feeling which up until now has been fairly lacking in the previous relationships of both young men. The problem is there are cameras everywhere, and with a fictional girlfriend in play and the knowledge that his hard earned money is going towards helping his family back home, J.R. has a lot at risk if he breaks his contract by openly showing his interest in Quinn.

The problem is that J.R. can't seem to keep his eyes (or hands and lips) off Quinn. He needs to decide what price he is willing to pay to be his true self, but he's pretty confident Quinn is worth it.

I really liked both of these characters. I related a lot to Quinn and his neuroses, his shyness and his

insecurities. J.R. took a little longer to warm to, but Quinn slowly brings to light the real J.R., who ended up being a sweet, scared, but brave guy, who showed what he was made of in spectacular style when it truly mattered.

This story was not as emotionally intense as its predecessors, but I think that's a good thing. As much as I loved the first two books in this series, I was left feeling mentally drained afterwards. They were fantastic stories which I highly praised - both exceptionally well-written and emotionally engaging - but, boy, were they tough to handle! On the other hand, this offering was lighter in theme, and as a result, easier to read. I didn't feel like I was being attacked by angst ninjas this time around and I'm grateful for the emotional reprieve.

I think I've just reached a point where choosing a Megan Erickson book to read is a safe bet.

Mirjana **DTR - Down to Read says**

*****4 Stars*****

"Life's too short to be something other than who you are."

This was a really sweet read about becoming your own person and basically...adulting. That transition can be daunting and scary, but with the right support system the steps are a little easier to take.

Jay and Quinn were so damn honest and cute together. The potential for drama was high, but thankfully the drama llama never boarded the cruise ship.

Quinn's friendship with Jess was almost a scene stealer, but they were no match for all the awwwww's between Jay and Quinn. Did I mention how cute these two are?

The epilogue brought together all the couples of the series, and I'm pretty sure I pulled a muscle in my face from all the smiling.

Another hit from Megan Erickson!

Megan Erickson says

If you've been following this series, then you know the first two books were single POV. You only got to hear from Landry and Riley in blog posts or emails.

I'd planned to do the same with this book. It was going to be all in Quinn's POV. But J.R... well he wasn't okay with that. He kept telling me his POV, and how scenes should be told by him, and so I listened. This book is dual POV and I hope you love it! Both of these characters really wormed their way into my heart.

Oh yeah, and it's spring break on a cruise ship!

If you want to be notified when this book releases and get up-to-date news on all of my books, you can sign up for my newsletter here. You'll also have the chance to enter exclusive giveaways for my books and others. Thanks!

Carole (Carole's Random Life in Books) says

This review can also be found at Carole's Random Life.

I found this to be a fun, sweet, and sexy story. This was one of those books that I seemed to like the characters more and more as I read further into the story. By the end of the story, I was cheering for things to work out for Quinn and J.R. which is exactly what I want to happen when I read a romance novel. This book is the third book in the In Focus series but I read it as a stand alone with no difficulty.

Quinn is going on a cruise with his best friend Jess during the last spring break before his college graduation. Quinn has spent his life playing it safe and following the rules. He is looking forward to having fun on this cruise. The cast of a reality TV show, Trip League, is also on the cruise which just adds to the excitement for Jess and Quinn.

J.R. is almost at the end of his contract to be on the reality show, Trip League, and he is ready for it to be over. He signed a contract to be on the show as a straight man and is ready for the show to be over so he can finally be the bisexual man he really is. He is portrayed on the show as a tough guy who is often mean to others but that isn't who he really is in reality. When he sees Quinn on the boat, he can't make himself look away.

I liked Quinn and J.R. together in this book. I thought it was great how they had an instant attraction to each other and how Quinn had been drawn to J.R. just from the television show. I thought that each of these characters seemed stronger together than they did apart. I liked how they were able to open up to each other and seemed to understand each other from the very beginning. The chemistry between them was intense and played out well on the page.

I thought that the reality TV show added an interesting twist to the story. I found the scenes when they were trying to be together but having to hide from the cameras to be well done. I thought it was great how creative they had to be to find time to be together and the fact that friends helped it happen was even better.

I would recommend this one to fans of m/m romance. I don't tend to read a lot of m/m romance but I have enjoyed the ones that I have picked up. This was a very well done story and I wouldn't hesitate to read more books written by Megan Erickson in the future.

I received an advance reader edition of this book from Berkley Publishing Group - InterMix via NetGalley.

◆*Arianna◆* says

4.5 Stars!!

'*Out of Focus*' is the third installment in Megan Erickson's m/m series entitled '*In Focus*' and can be read as a standalone even if you haven't read the first two books. The first two installments are as awesome as this one, so they are definitely worth checking out. Once again, Megan Erickson delivered a sweet, enjoyable read. A great mix of heart and steam, '*Out of Focus*' is an entertaining read, written really well with a great message I love to read about.

This third installment in the series follows the story of Quinn and J.R., two individuals who will help each other finding who they are and finding the strength to be the people they wanted to be all their lives.

"I was going to act like a real, live college student rather than the old man I'd been since birth.

And I couldn't freaking wait." - Quinn

Quinn decides to have some fun so he agrees to go on a cruise with his best friend, Jess. Quinn is shy, an introvert and openly gay. He hopes to have a little fun on this cruise, live in the moment and maybe also meet someone. This cruise is like no other cruise because on board are the members of the successful reality show 'Trip League'. Quinn is excited, not only because he loves the show, but also because he has always been fascinated with J.R. Butler, the straight black boy on the reality TV.

"He didn't even know I existed. The thought was sobering and comforting all at the same time."

J.R. signed up for the show two years ago when he was nineteen and when the show had been on for only two seasons. He'd always wanted to be an actor, so at the time he thought the show was the only shot to be known in the industry. While he's bisexual, he signed on to play the straight guy, so he has been living a lie for a long time. He is tired of it, but he can't do anything about it since he needs the money. His brother is sick, so he will do anything to help his family with medical bills and everything. He believes his career will be over if everyone finds out the truth about his sexuality, so he has to stay away from boys in the upcoming two months when his contract will be over.

"It wasn't just the contract; it was my career, it was my life, and I had people depending on me."

J.R. is drawn to Quinn from the moment he lays his eyes on him. He likes what he sees – the reddish hair and all the cute freckles, but he also likes his shyness. He knows he has to stay away from the good looking blue eyed boy, but as they get to know each other, staying emotionally detached becomes impossible for both guys.

"I was caught in his blue depths—as blue as the ocean that buoyed this massive ship we were now on—and I was drowning. Good as gone. Drifting to the ocean floor. But instead of

struggling against the cement blocks tied around my ankles, all I felt was peace.”

This one was such a sweet, enjoyable read. In some way it was my favorite in the series...at least so far. The storytelling was fantastic as always. Megan always delivers great stories with fun, endearing characters. And here they were exactly that. I loved Quinn and J.R. individually and I loved them together. I liked the fact they were so different from each other and I enjoyed the way the author portrayed them. Quinn's voice was honest and as the story progresses you will sympathize with him for one reason or another. He was sweet and so thoughtful with the J.R., being an endearing character from start to finish. I liked how he treated him like a 'normal' boy and not like a young celebrity.

J.R. was a character I felt deeply for. It must be awful, to say the least to live a lie. He has a big heart willing to make certain sacrifices for his family and I really admired him for that. I liked how the relationship between these two guys progressed. The sweetness and tenderness between them were simply endearing and I have to say I loved the romantic aspect. They were so sweet together. They absolutely warmed my heart!

“...you didn't fall for me.”

Quinn didn't move, didn't breathe, as he stared up at me. “I didn't?”

“You fell with me, Lucky. We fell together.”

I have to mention the cast of supporting characters, because they were super awesome. I enjoyed them all, especially Levi, another cast member of the reality TV show and Jess, Quinn's best friend.

“He kissed me like he couldn't get enough, like I was the last drink of water on earth and he wanted that cool, crisp liquid before he perished.”

The story is not as steamy as the previous books in the series, but I enjoyed it nonetheless. Unlike the other two installments, 'Out of Frame' was told in dual POV, which I loved. I really felt I knew these two boys and I liked how well their backgrounds were developed.

All in all, this was a sweet, sexy and fun tale about family, friendship, finding who you are, taking risks and last but not least finding love.

“Life's too short to be something other than who you are.”

Mandi Schreiner says

Favorite Quote: "You are the cutest ginger on the seven seas."

I love this series by Megan Erickson, featuring road trip romance. This time, we leave the car at the dock and go cruising. J.R. has been part of a reality show for the past year, traveling around the world with his cast mates.

Trip League was a reality show in its third season. The cast was billed as regular people picked to travel to exotic locales while being filmed. The cruise ship was this season's big send-off, a party before the next cast would be chosen.

The final stop is a spring break cruise, and J.R. is about ready to be done with cameras capturing his every move. J.R. wants to be an actor, and his agent pushed him to take this reality gig, as a straight man. As a black man, and also bi-sexual, his agent thinks he won't get any roles so he has signed the contract that he will play straight. The reality show has cast him as the "angry black man" and that doesn't portray J.R. at all. While at first he didn't think he would mind, having a fake girlfriend back at home and not being able to act on any attractions pay men has taken its toll. J.R. has a sick brother back at home and the money from acting could really help pay for his treatments - so J.R. has resigned himself to play straight.

Quinn is white, awkward, shy and gay and in his final year of college. He grew up with over-protective parents who would prefer he stay in their safe bubble. He worries about everything and is high-strung. His best friend Jess accompanies him on this spring break cruise and Quinn is cautiously excited. He gets to drink and eat for a week - and he will make sure his red hair and freckles are well protected from the sun. Quinn and Jess know the reality stars are going to be on the cruise. Watching them on TV, Quinn is obsessively in lust with J.R. but knows he is straight. That doesn't stop him from drooling over him when he sees him in person. Since they are on a boat, they are bound to run into each other, which they do. J.R. has an immediate attraction to Quinn, but again, can't act on it due to his contract. But when they start to hang out, and become friends, J.R. can't keep his attraction hidden any longer.

I don't think this book is quite as emotionally angsty as the first two in this series, but it is just as engaging. I love that Quinn has led this protective life, but get a beer into him, and he is ready to spread his wings. Don't we all love a little liquid courage? He wants to get out from under his parents shadow, but it's hard. Jess is a good friend though - supportive, not forcing him to do things he isn't ready for, but there to be his cheerleader when he makes a big decision. Although he is a bit shy, he holds his ground pretty well with J.R.

J.R. has such a big heart. In a way, it's J.R. that has discovered himself more over the past year than Quinn. J.R. was only briefly out until he signed the contract to play straight. But now that he is locked in, he knows this is not the life he wants. His honesty with Quinn is endearing.

They also have really hot make-out sessions and sex. Duh.

As I said in a previous review of this series, I love a road trip romance. Throw them on a boat and it's just as good.

For those that have read this, Levi's (fellow reality cast mate) book is next. He meets a man name named Thad while hiking the Appalachian trail. Give it to me now.

Grade: B

***J* Too Many Books Too Little Time says**

Solid 4 star read.

This one was a really nice, easy read.

Likable characters.

Entertaining story.

Some nice steam.

Low drama.

I blame real life on this crappy review! :)

~☆~Dαni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

Rating and review removed.

https://www.goodreads.com/user_status...

Jewel says

Review removed.

Karen says

Rating & Review removed.

Gigi says

I am putting this on the DNF shelf. Here are my reasons:

1. I try to stay away from romances between young men, usually teens, because I have a teenaged daughter who has many friends who are LGBTQ. And I love each and every one of them, but get skeeved out thinking about them in a sexual way. I'm 47 years old and am perfectly happy reading gay romances featuring men. With hair. And experience. Throw in a silver fox and I'm in my happy place. This book does *not* focus on a teen romance, rather a group of fourth year college students partying it up for spring break. Actually? Worse for me than a teen romance.

2. I **love love love love** Megan Erickson's books and this series in particular. If I finish this book, one that is not anywhere *close* to my wheelhouse, I will have to review it. And that wouldn't be fair because my personal bias would be the cornerstone of the review.

3. I'm not having fun and don't want to read anymore. I made it to 55% which is my definition of the 'ol college try. (See what I did there?!) (view spoiler)

So, if you love Megan's books and gay men on spring break, this is your book! I hope you enjoy. Honestly!

ARC provided by NetGalley in exchange of an honest review. Sorry for a non-review.

Elsbeth says

BR, March 16th with Paul and Sonia.

I didn't like this as much as the first two.. Probably has to do with the "me-being-uncomfortable-reading-sexscenes-my kids age".

I know the first two installments were about young people as well but Quinn and Jay really felt very young to me....

"The house didn't win. We did."

I *am* looking forward to Levi's book. He was awesome here.

Vanessa North says

Reading this book was like being on the receiving end of the most wonderful hug from the oldest, dearest friend who knows you best in the world. Instant favorite. I can't recommend it enough.

.Lili. says

This book left me resembling this gif:

Out of Frame is the installment of the In Focus Series. It focuses on reality star JR Butler and shy college student Quinn Mathers. The two meet on a cruise while JR's show is filming and Quinn and his best friend are on spring break. Due to life being complicated as it often is they know all they'll have is their time on the cruise. You see, under his contract JR cannot come out as bisexual, or he risks getting in legal trouble.

My highlights:

- Quinn. He had me at shy ginger. He was so sweet, thoughtful, and loyal. It was impossible not to fall for his character.
- JR, who is considered the volatile cast member is the opposite. He's stuck between a rock and a hard place and you can't help but root for him.
- The secondary characters were great, and I'm stoked that one of them will be getting his own book. :D
- The stolen moments between JR and Quinn. They were full of feels. ♥
- The pace of the story is flawless.
- We get a dual POV.
- And the epilogue, it was super sweet.

As far as this being book three in three series- can it be read out of order? I think so. The other two books are pretty good and worth checking out, though.

In the end, I'm going to give this book 5 Stars. It's simply a delightful story about family, friendships, and taking chances. If you want a fun, sexy read that will give you butterflies in your stomach, then look no more and give this a shot!

ARC kindly provided by InterMix via NetGalley for an honest review.

This review is cross-posted at Gay Book Reviews.
