



Best Chance

Aria Grace

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Book 6 of the More Than Friends Gay Romance Series

Each book may be read as a stand-alone. Reading in sequence is not required.

More Than Friends #1 (Free)

More Than Friends #2: Drunk in Love

More Than Friends #3: Choosing Happy

More Than Friends #4: Just Stay

More Than Friends #5: Hands On

More Than Friends #6: Best Chance

Vinnie is happy as a bartender at Ray's and not looking for anything serious to complicate things. He has great friends and a simple life. When Chance comes into his bar, he brings more than just the possibility of a fun fling.

Vinnie isn't sure he's ready to commit, especially when there is a toddler in the mix.

Best Chance Details

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From Reader Review Best Chance for online ebook

Alexis Woods says

(This book was received free in return for an honest review via the Goodreads Don't Buy My Love program.)

Ms. Grace's More Than Friends series has reached eight stories, and I lucked out that I had just recently picked up and read #5 before Best Chance came up for review. Where the first five stories focused on interconnecting characters from the prior books, Best Chance can stand alone (which was actually a good thing since I was a tad lost in number five).

Best Chance is a quick moving story of past lovers finding each other, a pleasant tale of high school friends to lovers finding one another again after eight years, the proverbial breakup and confusion that follows, and wrapping it all to come back together. It was predictable, enough said.

When I first started reading Ms Grace's stories in late 2013, I was new to the m/m genre and really enjoyed her contemporary stories. As I've sunk further into the many authors and styles, I still like Ms. Grace's writing, but find it languishing in the same telling style. Her characters often lack distinction and the emotional component is sometimes missing. The most important scene in the whole story---(view spoiler)---needed the most emotion and fell woefully short.

I'll still read Ms. Grace's stories, she's one of my "fall back" authors. Her stories are a pleasant distractions, easy reads and on-the-surface enjoyable tales. Best Chance is no exception.

Erth says

Every book in this series is enjoyable, and I can't stop reading them. Totally addicting!

Annery says

Portland continues to bubble up with M/M romance pairings, particularly for the guys who work or frequent **RAY'S**.

Vinnie is one of the bartenders and he's just feeling blah and left out seeing his friends pair-up. One fateful day Chance, his long-lost high school crush, comes for a drink. Sweet. This is a second-chance, grab-the-one-who-got-away romance.

Vinnie & Chance went to the same high-school and had one magical, exploratory, summer together. However Chance freaked-out at and proceeded to date & marry a girl with whom he made a life away from Portland. Things have happened and years later he's back to the town where Vince has remained going through the motions of life. There are a couple of bumps in the road but thankfully nothing illogical or that goes on for too long. I did want to smack Chance up-side the head once or twice but nothing too bad. Vinnie turns out to be a seriously nice guy and makes a case for always looking beyond first appearances. The audio is by Michael Ferraiuolo, which makes everything worthwhile.

Taya says

I so needed this book today. Why I haven't read this series yet? Now I'm off to find the rest.

SoCalBookReviews says

A second chance book between the two main characters Vinnie and Chance. They were each others firsts in High school until Chance decided he "wasn't gay" and ended up dating and then marrying the high school cheerleader. Vinnie and Chance meet up years later in the bar Vinnie is working at. Chance isn't sure about giving Vinnie a second chance once he finds out Vinnie isn't sure about having kids. Vinnie has no clue why Chance won't give him another chance. Once they actually communicate with each other it all comes together. It seems like Communication was the key in making their relationship work. This book was good. I like when the characters have a chance to get back together after a time away from each other for whatever reason.

Narration - Michael did a good job for each character and used enough emotion to make this story sound believable and keep you interested in it.

Chance - chance. The characters name should not be Chance in a second chance type book.. LOL.. My review sounds kind of ridiculous when I read it back to myself.

Mary says

The audiobook was given to me, under DBML, in exchange for an honest review.

The story is well named, it is all about getting a second chance at love and not letting it go. The MCs Chance and Vinnie were high school lovers for one summer before Chance got scared about being gay. For Vinnie it confirmed what he knew. They meet again several years later and must get past misunderstandings before they can come together as both had always wanted.

The narration by Michael Ferraiuolo is very good. He manages to convey the characteristics of each character across easily. The story switches between Chance's view and Vinnie's viewpoint and it is clear which character you are listening too.

A very enjoyable afternoon listening to a sweet story of love finding its way after many years.

Anke says

Nice story, read it in record time, liked it a lot, although I had problems to follow the not-telling around the kid. Most of the storyline based on that, so that took away a bit of my reading fun. Throw in a couple of mixed names, so 4 stars are the result.

Stephen says

Two guys, Vinnie and Chance who'd fooled around one summer when they were in high school meet up again after 8 years. Chance is a widower with a kid. Chance's marriage had been falling apart before the kid due to his innate but unaccepted homosexuality. Vinnie is a bartender that's never met anyone who's measured up to his high school lover.

When they get back together after all that time it's like Kismet. Chance is finally willing to admit who he really is and Vinnie is thrilled to get a second chance at Chance but an almost laughable miscommunication derails their relationship.

While I liked the characters and enjoyed their dynamic together, the trite miscommunication that provides the main dramatic tension was ridiculous. I hate it when TV writers over-use this "If only they'd talk" style of tension to seemingly endlessly delay the reveal and the happy ending. In print it's even worse. I know it's a pet peeve but I've deducted a full star for this.

The story is satisfying and has several charming scenes that make it a worthwhile read but I do wish more art and thought had gone into the construction of a more reasonable main plot line.

Michael Ferraiuolo does a good job in his narration giving distinctive voices to the various characters and he even manages to keep his women's and children's voices from reaching a level that bothered me. At just under 3 hours this is more the audio equivalent of a novella than a full length book.

*** Note: I received a copy of this audio book for free in exchange for an honest and impartial review as part of a GoodReads M/M Romance groups Don't Buy My Love event***

Barb ~rede-2-read~ says

Note: This audiobook was provided to me by the author through the DBML Program in exchange for an honest review.

Vinnie enjoys his life as a bartender, never planning on having a long-term relationship, and certainly never any wife or kids in his future. He enjoys his bar hookups but doesn't look past that for a forever with anyone. His only choice would have been Chance, the guy he fooled around with and fell for in high school. But Chance shunned him after that, and Vinnie hasn't seen him since they graduated, and Chance left town. So imagine Vinnie's surprise when he looks up and sees Chance sitting at his bar.

Chance has loved Vinnie since high school, but he was too afraid to act on his attraction at the time. He was so afraid, in fact, that he dated and married a woman—a woman who died last year, leaving him with an infant to raise on his own. He and his best friend have opened a gym and are at the bar so Chance can scope out Vinnie in the hopes that Vinnie still finds him attractive. When it's evident he does, the two spent time chatting, and they might have had a chance to hook up if Vinnie hadn't mentioned his position on children and fatherhood. That immediately shut down all Chance's hopes of finally being with the man he loves.

This is a short, but sweet story of a romance that manages to survive the test of time, mixed in with

misunderstandings and a little angst. How will the two ever get together? Will Chance ever trust Vinnie enough to tell him about his son? And if so, will Vinnie walk away?

I reviewed and loved the audiobook version. Michael Ferraiuolo did a wonderful job with the narration, clearly distinguishing the voices of the MCs as well as the secondary characters. I highly recommend this story as a delightful treat to take on your vacation, or if you are not going away, simply sit and listen to the audiobook, and you'll be taken on a virtual vacation while you enjoy the story of Chance and Vinnie as they take their "best chance" to be together again.

Veronica of V's Reads says

I received a review copy of this book via the Goodreads' Don't Buy My Love program.

This is a short second chance romance that is really sweet.

Chance Bodin and Vinnie Brady were closeted high school boys who spent one hot summer exploring their sexuality. Chance was a year older than Vinnie, and when his senior year began he left Vinnie behind, dating a cheerleader, Katie, instead.

A lot has happened in eight years.

Chance married Katie, and tragically lost her just over a year ago. Not that they were "in love"; Chance admitted that at least. He now works at his own personal gym, with his best friend, Melanie. Melanie has been a rock, and super helpful in helping Chance care for his toddler son, Carter. She insists Chance go out on his own one night, and he drops into a bar where he finds Vinnie working the taps. It's a happy coincidence, and they seem to hit it off--but Chance gets cold feet. He's never been with a guy besides Vinnie, and he's afraid he'll mess up--ruining the memories he cherishes.

Vinnie was taken aback encountering Chance, but he's hurt again when Chance takes off, yet again. And he's mad when Chance returns later, with a woman. Until he learns that Melanie is just Chance's friend, and that Chance is (in fact) interested. It seems like Chance and Vinnie are going to pick up all their pieces and start again, when it goes bad. Again. Vinnie wants to know why, and he gets some answers through Melanie--in a roundabout way.

This is a sweet read, with two guys who I really wanted to talk more. Though, honestly, I could see the problem would not have been solved by discussion. He needed to see Chance and Carter together, be a part of their world, to see himself with a role in it. The characters are both super decent guys who don't want to be hurt. Their reconnection romance had me cheering, and shaking my head! That Chance is so darn secretive! Still, the resolution is adorable, and delicious.

Dawn says

I received this audiobook for free in exchange for an honest review.

This is book 6 in the More Than Friends series, and I read books 1 & 2 quite a while ago. The author states that each book can be read as a standalone, and I didn't feel like I was missed anything by skipping to this one.

Vinnie is a bartender who works at a bar which I think this series might revolve around. He has not committed to any relationships since his heart was broken in high school. Chance is a newly single dad of a toddler who has recently moved back to town. Yes, Chance broke Vinnie's heart in high school by abandoning him after a wonderful summer and dating a girl when they returned to school.

They meet at the bar and rekindle their romance, but of course lack of communication drives a wedge. I love reunited stories and this was good, but I would have liked to have had more of them together. I love to see families develop and this family has the potential of being a very a sweet one. Maybe I'll see them in the next one as it focuses on Vinnie's fellow bartender Brad.

The audio was quick, just under 3 hours and the narrator was very good. I could clearly hear the changes in character, even the secondary ones and before I knew it, it was over. I listened to it one session.

Dreamer80 says

[hand job (hide spoiler)]

Lucy says

I think I'm in the minority here but I really didn't like Chance. As in, at all. I thought he was such a shit for asking Vin's friends to lie about Carter, never telling Vin about Carter and basically judging the hell out of him for no reason. I actually hoped Vin would choose Trey.

Lisa says

I was given a copy of this book free by the author in exchange for an unbiased review.

I've liked all the books in this series and this was no exception.

Chance and Vinnie were in high school together and they were each others first when it came to hand and blow jobs. However, when they went back to school, Chance took up with a girl whom he later married and left Vinnie.

Fast forward 10 years. Vinnie is a bar tender at a local bar and Chance is a part owner of a gym. One night Chance walks into the bar by accident and reconnects with Vinnie.

One morning, the conversation turns to kids, with Vinnie saying the doesn't want kids. That's a problem because Chance has a 15 month old boy. Upset he leaves.

This book does suffer from miscommunication between the 2 MCs. A bit of angst until Vinnie accidentally discovers the baby.
However, all is well in the end.

Wax says

This audiobook was provided for free by the author in exchange for an honest review.

This is book 6 in a series, but can be read as a standalone.

Chance and Vinnie fell in love during an amazing summer together when they were in high school. Chance wasn't ready to face being out, though, so when school started he ignored Vinnie and began dating a cheerleader, Katie. Now, he's a single father after Katie was involved in a fatal accident. He doesn't get out much, focusing on fatherhood and running a gym. His best friend Melanie convinces him to have a night out and reluctantly he goes to a bar. Imagine the shock when he sees Vinnie there for the first time in eight years behind the bar. Vinnie has never really moved on from Chance. and Chance is drawn to Vinnie as before. However, they may have grown too far apart over the years to make a go at it.

I enjoyed this book, but really wanted the MCs to talk to each other a little more. Also, I did think that Vinnie forgave Chance a bit too easily to be believable. However, overall I would recommend this for anyone who likes second chance romance and stories with children.

Audiobook review: This is the first audiobook I've listened to narrated by Michael Ferraiuolo, and I thought he did a great job of separating the character voices to make it obvious who was speaking. There were a few instances where an accent make its way in, but there weren't any big slips.
