



More Than Anything

Shawn Lane

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College freshman, Shayne Ralston, never expected to meet the man of his dreams on his first day of school, but star quarterback, Desmond Stratton, is a force to be reckoned with. Soon he slips past Shayne's reluctance and romances the shy history major.

Des has a decision to make about his future. His family has been pushing him toward a professional football career for years, but Des also has dreams of being a doctor. As his feelings for Shayne grow, Des's decision becomes more important than ever. Shayne is openly gay, and Des needs to remain in the closet if he wants a football career. Staying in the closet, however, could lose him the man with whom he's fallen in love...

More Than Anything Details

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Author : Shawn Lane

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From Reader Review More Than Anything for online ebook

orannia says

Three and three-quarter stars. I enjoyed my first foray into Shawn Lane's books. It was light and flowed, and was just what I felt like reading. If I was being picky, I would have preferred some more...I'm not sure if this is the right word, but...insight into the characters? What I mean is, at particular points in the story I really wanted to know how the characters were feeling - what was running through their heads. And that was missing for me. Especially when Des came out to his mother. The scene just happened. I wanted to know if Des was anxious, petrified...anything. I guessed he was all those things, but the author didn't tell me that. And no mention was made of sweat trickling down his back, his pulse jumping, so there was no showing either. To be fair, given the length of the book perhaps there wasn't room. IDK.

And speaking of the length of the book, I felt it finished right when it was getting started *grin* so I sure hope there is a sequel. I want to know where Des goes from here. What happens when he talks to his coach. How his teammates react. And...as per usual...I'm drawn to the relationship between two secondary characters (in this case Bart & Evan).

Chris says

Sweet short m/m romance about a college freshmen who thinks the hunky football player hitting on him is just doing it to make fun of him. I want to read more about these two!

Sadonna says

Short sweet story about a closeted Jock and the boy he's had a crush on since high school. They meet in college where Shayne is a freshman and Des is the Junior star quarterback who may be good enough for the NFL - but maybe not as the first openly gay quarterback. My only complaint is that I would like this to be longer, but maybe more in book #2???

Nik says

This was a sweet story. The characters were a little cardboard- nothing crazy original but, I liked it well enough.

Traci says

I did love this book, first from this author. Loved the quarterback, in the closet with the artist like student who is open and out!

Janna says

Originally posted at Rarely Dusty Books

Genre & Keywords:

M/M Romance, Contemporary, First love, College, Football, Jock vs twink, Coming Out

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**Rating:** 3 out of 5 stars

**Heat level:** 1.5 out of 3

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This was a cute college boy story with a coming out of the closet theme. Des is a football player, and looks like the typical straight jock while he's secretly gay. He and Shayne went to the same high school but hadn't much contact then. But we learn that Des had a secret crush on Shayne and now they meet again in college. Shayne is openly gay and afraid of being targeted by homophobic jocks, so when Des is nice to him he's suspicious. However Des is persistent and before he knows it they are kissing and having sex. The conflict in their relationship comes with Des' decision whether he comes out of the closet or not.

Although 'conflict' is perhaps a too big a word. There's not much room in this novella to explore the guys' feelings very thoroughly and to spin out their conflict much. Everything goes very quickly, from their first meeting, to their first date, to the first time sleeping together, to the 'misunderstanding', to the declarations of love and the happy ending. It all feels a bit rushed and forced.

Des and Shayne are likable enough characters but I didn't have the feeling I knew them very well. Their romance is a bit cliché too - hot jock falls for nerdy twink - without much that makes them stand out from other gay romance characters. It's a pity because this makes them rather forgettable, while I really enjoyed reading their story for the time being.

I always enjoy Ms. Lane's writing and narratives. In a vivid and clear style she tells the sweetest and hottest romance stories. However, her latest titles are more and more starting to feel like one and the same. This particular novella, unfortunately, is no exception.

Still, I keep seeking out Ms. Lane's books because her stories give me a peek into life as it could be and they have a feel-good vibe I like. Only, I'm hoping she'll write a long novel next, instead of these shorter novellas, so that we can enjoy her talent in a less rushed way, in a character driven epic with a healthy dose of angst or inner conflict. Ingredients that are already present in the novellas but in an underdeveloped manner.

Even if she sticks to the shorter stories though, I keep wanting to read them, since they're quite entertaining and a comforting way of spending a cold night cuddled up on the couch with.

So, the next book in this series, which is titled *More Than Enough* and is Shayne's best friend's story, is already on my e-shelf for another cold and quiet night that can use a little heartwarming sweetness.

Gigi says

This was actually pretty good! Recommended if you like college romances with older jocks falling for younger twink.

clear skies says

It's too short to have any real development, but Des has always liked Shayne but they ran in different circles. I thought Des was adorable but I found the drama of coming out vs. love a little superficial. Too big a theme to deal effectively in a short story, which results in a weak plot.

Heather♥ says

3.5 stars

L-D says

This was a nice story as part of the Hot College Daze collection of novellas. This one wasn't my favorite in the series but I still liked it. Shayne Ralston is unexpectedly asked out by Desmond Stratton, the quarterback of the college football team. Shayne does not know why Des would be interested in someone like him and is very suspicious of Des' intentions.

While I thought the characters were nice, I didn't really feel a great connection between the characters except for physical attraction. They didn't really get to know each other except in the sack which happened nearly right away. Des' struggle with being in the closet is the only angst in the story, but the ending was a bit anti-climatic.

Linda-Grace says

Why did i read this and liked it the first time? Nothing exciting for me.

Rachel Emily says

Great Shawn Lane book! Didn't feel as rushed as some of the more recent ones I have read, and I really enjoyed the characters. This is an author I know will give me a sweet story with minimal angst, and a happy ending. I can't wait for the next book!

Cee Brown says

Fun light reading I can always get from Shawn Lane. Liked it. Will read again and though it read like a HFN, I think the guys can make it work. Now for Bart and Evan... I want to see how this will play out.

Nic says

[It ended with Des coming out to his family but provided no real insight into what the impact was on him, the reaction of his football team and what it meant for his longer term plans (hide spoiler)]

Meggie says

I really didn't like this story. The plot was written in rushed unsolved way. Shayne and Desmond simply didn't have chemistry between them. Okay I admit, Desmond was sort of crazy about Shayne but truly, the reader didn't get a feel for Shayne at all. And the words "I love you" didn't feel right or even true. Blah... this couple was boring and bland.
