



## Out in the Deep End

*Lane Hayes*

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*Dear Author,*

*My water polo team is the most LGBT friendly team on campus. Literally half the team is queer and it's ok, you can be jealous. One of the reasons I was hella excited to come here, ha! But I don't care about the rest of the team right now, because all I can think about is this new freshman with the mad skills. Zev.*

*He has this gorgeous lob shot and makes our intense practices seem effortless. I swear if I hadn't just played an entire game, I would have gotten hard at the backhanded skip shot he scored last week. Seriously. It was amazing. And why does Zev have to be just as stunning out of the water? He's all dark hair and heavy brows and these hazel eyes that make me stutter like a fool.*

*I don't know why he's warmed up to everyone on the team but me. I'm the main driver, and he's a leftie, so we should clearly work together... I mean, aside from the fact I want into his pants.*

*Fuck it.*

*This is California, and it's college— it's pretty much the definition of fun. So what happens when we're assigned roommates for the three-day tournament in Long Beach?*

### Photo Description:

Two fierce competitors lunge up out of a pool of placid water, only their bare torsos showing. Their athletic bodies are bronzed and toned, and each of them wears a swim cap. They face each other, reaching up with arms extended aggressively. One player holds a ball in his left hand while the other, facing him, moves to block with his right hand. Their actions send sprays of water, foaming about them.

This story was written as a part of the M/M Romance Group's "**Love is an Open Road**" event. Group members were asked to write a story prompt inspired by a photo of their choice. Authors of the group selected a photo and prompt that spoke to them and wrote a short story.

This story may contain sexually explicit content and is **intended for adult readers**. It may contain content that is disagreeable or distressing to some readers. The M/M Romance Group strongly recommends that each reader review the General Information section before each story for story tags as well as for content warnings.

## Out in the Deep End Details

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## From Reader Review Out in the Deep End for online ebook

### Didi says

Another cute entry with water polo athletes as the main pairing. Sunny disposition golden boy versus dark brooding and handsome.

Lighthearted and feel-good reading.

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### ~◊~Doxni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~◊~ says

~3.5~

This is a very enjoyable read about two water polo players who discover they have more in common than just the sport during an away team tournament.

Adam has no idea why the new freshman player, Zev, is so standoffish with him, but Adam is the life of the party and decides he just doesn't care.

Except he does, because Zev's ass in those tight shorts is something to behold.

### Water polo is hot ... all those slick, wet bodies in nothing but speedos rubbing up against each other.

And this story includes some steam ... some, but not much. Most of the sexy action is briefly summarized.

Zev's coming out at the end is also way too easy, considering he proclaims himself "not gay" 48 hours before.

Likewise, the ending is abrupt and rather unsatisfying. I expected several more chapters when I read "The End." I wasn't ready. This is a tentative HFN at best.

### FUN, though ... this story is FUN and easy, perfect for a quick summer read.

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### R \* A Reader Obsessed \* says

College setting?

Hunky athletes?

OFY and a virgin?

What's not to like? *Exactly*.

You really can't really go wrong with such a set up. A little bit of angst, a lot of heat, nice fireworks. Seriously too short, but I immensely enjoyed what I got.

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### **~Kristin~ says**

#### **4 Stars**

I adore the Love is an Open Road series. This was a great story, with sweet, funny and incredibly hot swimmers...who could ask for more. This prompt would make a wonderful full length book.

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### **Ele says**

\*3.5 stars\*

Funny, sexy and light story with some angry sex and a HFN. I liked the characters and I loved the hypochondriac Justin. I'd like to see more of them.

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

#### **3.5 Stars!**

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### **Jewel says**

This is actually the first thing by Lane Hayes I've read. It was very enjoyable, short and sweet and full of first time exploration (for one of our guys, anyway). I look forward to reading other stuff by this author.

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### **Anke says**

This was a nice little story. The sports stuff wasn't too much, it kept me interested although I know next to nothing about it. Perhaps the development was a bit too smooth, but, well, this is a short story, right?

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### **Ami says**

Nice -- but I have never been a huge fan of enemies-to-lovers theme (the transition needs to be VERY convincing for me to like it!) to begin with and this one fell short in making me believe of Zev's change of heart. What can I say, maybe I just don't buy the whole "*I treat you like leper because I like you*" stuff. Also the ratio of 'sex vs. story' was not balanced enough for me :)

I liked Adam's 'voice' though.

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### **Trisha Harrington says**

This was a fun, sexy story. The ending was a little bit of a letdown. But apart from that I really enjoyed it.

I would love to read more of these two.

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### **♦\*Arianna♦\* says**

**3.5 Stars!!**

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### **aksana - 4 - 8 - 15 - 16 - 23 - 42 - says**

3.75 Stars

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### **? Todd says**

This story was **very cute**, with both MC's making me root for them.

And the whole **gay'ish water polo team** trope was new to me. And **hot**.

**Adam**, sophomore:

**And sooooo many, many fit collegiate team mates. Mmmm...**

But the way that it ended, I felt **hopeful**, but would have liked **a bit more**. Maybe make a dinner date or something, I don't know.

This short story as a full-length book would definitely be a winner for me, but it came off as a little abrupt.

**One more romp in the hay** and some more cuddling after would've probably gotten it **another star** from me.

But a few good **looks around the locker room or a hot shower scene** would've probably done the same.  
\*wink\*

But, sadly, those didn't happen, so **3.5 \*cute-and-fun\* stars** for this one.

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**BWT (Belen) says**

*[But I like you, Adam. A lot. I'm going to have a hard time pretending I don't want to shove you against a locker-room wall and fuck your brains out after practice, but I'll try. If I manage to not get a boner in my Speedo when I see you in the pool, I'll call it progress. When we're at practice or a game or a team event, we'll keep things kosher, but I don't see why we can't be together in*

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**Dalia says****3.5 stars**

Sweet and sexy story about water polo players.

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