



The Blueprint

S.E. Harmon

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Kelly Cannon is satisfied with his life. He has friends, a wonderful family, and a great job. But his love life has reached a new level of pitiful. Why? Well, his heart decided to break all the rules. Don't fall in love with a straight guy. And definitely don't fall in love with your best friend.

NFL standout Britton "Blue" Montgomery has pressure coming at him from all sides. From his father, who's only interested in Blue's football career. From his coaches, who just want him to play without getting injured again. From the fans. From his agent. And from his mother, who has popped up on the radar after leaving his family years before. And now his relationship with Kelly is on shaky ground, and that frightens Blue more than anything.

When Kelly admits he's in love with Blue, bonds are tested, and Blue has to decide what's really important. He doesn't want to lose the number-one person in his life, but the cost to keep Kelly close might be more than he's willing to pay.

It's a good thing his nickname is the Blueprint—it's time to draft a new set of plans.

The Blueprint Details

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Author : S.E. Harmon

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From Reader Review The Blueprint for online ebook

Renée says

SE Harmon does OFY a little differently.

Blue is an NFL player on the field and a get-himself-some player after hours. It's not as if it's difficult for a famous NFL star to line up some company for the night. He takes advantage of the easy opportunities, there are no expectations, and no sleepovers.

Kelly is a college physics professor, tatted and pierced up, but a total nerd by his own admission. Openly gay, he has zero fucks to give about what people think. Except for Blue, of course - his best friend since grade school.

Kelly and Blue have a really close relationship. They talk multiple times a week, even with Blue travelling for football. Oh, and Kelly has been in love with Blue since forever, too.

I want to point out that this book does not delicately handle the OFY arc. Harmon has a knack for making her characters blunt with biting honesty and sarcasm. These MCs more so than any of her others. And while it totally worked for me, I can see how others may not take to Blue and Kelly's brand of honesty and humor. For example, Kelly coming out to his parents:

"[...]This was fairly anticlimactic."

My mother blinked at me. "That's a good thing, isn't it?"

"I need a story, Ma. This is not a good coming-out story." I raised an eyebrow. "They're going to take my gay card for this. I hope you're happy."

Kelly knows it's a lost cause with Blue. He knows there is no amount of bend to his sexuality. So he doesn't shy away from a random date or two.....or a quick hookup, during this story. (And for that matter, there is some page time with Blue and his lady friend of the night too - not too explicit, so don't worry).

Blue has some niggles about Kelly's dates though. He writes it off, for a while, as just wanting to keep his best friend to himself. He doesn't want to share Kelly's time with people.

And then a tipsy Blue decides to get his curiosity on.

This is the part of the story that made me a **tad** uncomfortable. Of course Kelly isn't going to say no. He's been in love with the man for years and has a chance to **touch** Blue! I can't say I blame him too much. But Kelly shares his feelings with Blue, and Blue is kind of a dick about it. He just wants his best friend. There's no need to go there or for things to be any different than they've always been. And, ultimately.....

"I'm in the NFL. You know how people are. That would be making a statement that I'll never be willing to make."

Shot to the heart. But fair enough, right? Everyone should be able to make that choice for themselves, but, damn, their honesty with each other consisted of repeated punches to the gut.

I was mad at Blue for satisfying his curiosity with his best friend, knowing how Kelly felt about him. How can you call yourself a best friend?

But, make no mistake, it ends well. I appreciated the way Blue's acceptance of his evolving sexuality played out. It wasn't hearts and flowers. But for an NFL player, I found it to be very realistic. All that internalized homophobia, I imagine, has to be a very real thing for athletes, especially the ones with fathers who felt a certain way about "the gays."

I'd say that if you want your OFY/Bi-FY to be a **delicate** evolution with tons of self-insight and discovery, using PC terms, this isn't the story for you. Harmon writes blunt and in-your-face characters with matching dialogue. I found that it worked for me.

The relationship angst was like crack to me. Add in best friends-to-lovers? I loved it. Recommended.

I've already figured out what I want. It's time for you to do the same."

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

4 Confounding Stars!

I'm scratching my head as to why I thoroughly enjoyed this because for me, there were many things in this book that shouldn't have worked despite this containing the well loved trope of the classic friends to lovers progression. However, this features an adamantly heterosexual star athlete whose gay bestie is in love with him and is tossed liberally with female bits and in the closet overtones, understandably giving me plenty of reasons to furrow my brow.

So yes, I shook my head about 90% of time while listening to this, as Blue tries to reconcile these quasi-new feelings towards his bff. Once they cross the line, Blue's not sure about going all in, but he's not satisfied in going back to friendship only either. However, Kelly isn't about to let him have his cake and eat it too and therein lies the rub.

Props to Harmon in giving both Kelly and Blue distinct voices, completely likeable personalities, and a dynamic that obviously clicked. It doesn't hurt at all that these two were hot as fire. My brain short circuited no less than 8 times!

I absolutely believe that the narration by Alexander Cendese and Sean Crisden literally brought Kelly and Blue to life and made them and this story 10 times better. They delivered their lines with precision, expounding on the sarcasm, the snark, the doubt, the back and forth, and the above mentioned seriously-too-hot-to-handle chemistry between these two. *Unf.*

Despite my bafflement, this was smart and funny, and I immensely liked the push pull between Kelly and Blue, all the while fanning myself as I listened to this genius narration. I'm just happy there's a sequel since

this ended somewhat suddenly, and I look forward to more of this mind boggling goodness!

Thank you to the author/publisher for the audio in exchange for an honest review

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

4.5 Stars!

Something amazing happens in your world when the person you think is crazy special thinks you're kind of special too.

I don't know if it was just good timing or what, but I really liked this one. And I'm kind of mad at myself for waiting so long to read it.

It pretty much ticked all of my boxes:

Friends to Lovers - check

GFY/OFY - check

Banter - check

Sports - check

Steam - check

Plus relatively low angst.

I was worried a bit about Blue toying with Kelly. But it felt pretty authentic to me the way it all played out, given who Blue was and his background and being in the NFL. Yeah, Blue was an ass about it at times. But I really believe his brain just hadn't caught up with his body when it came to Kelly.

Now, with that being said the ending was HFN at best. I kind of wanted to thump Kelly for his reaction to Blue. So in one way, I am glad there will be another book but I also don't want a bunch of drama to go down.

For now, I'll be cautiously optimistic.

Shile says

Warning! Gushing, quotes that may be spoilers, Please proceed with caution.

I still can't believe how much I LOVED this book.

This book checked all boxes, sometimes it ain't that deep just go with the flow and you will enjoy this.

It was love at first chapter then I decided to get comfortable and enjoy the ride.

- Best friends to lovers
- Childhood friends, I have loved you for years.
- Butt Virgin (Yaaaaasss!)
- Geek/Nerd and Jock.
- Banter, Humor , Snark, Dry Humor, every kind of humor
- Bi/GFY

MC1 Kelly the professor

MC2 Blue the NFL player

Blue and Kelly are been friends and have been since they were 12. Kelly is gay and has been in love with Blue for years.

I was a little embarrassed to even voice the thought. I was a walking, talking cliché—the gay man secretly pining for his straight best friend.

One night when they are drunk, Blue decides to give into the attraction that he has been hiding and asks Kelly to Kiss him. I was afraid that the book would go down hill, or it will be your typical, straight guy kisses gay best friend then freaks out and stops talking for half the book. I was wrong, IMO it got better.

I loved that the two of them talked things out. I can see why this book got mixed reviews because of Blue. I understood him and did not feel that he was stringing Kelly along he was trying to figure things out. I loved how he did not make a big deal out of it and like me he went with the flow. And now I want a best friend like him. Blue genuinely loves Kelly, he just didn't know he was in love with him.

They were born to love and fall in love, even though their relationship was somehow codependent bordering unhealthy, i enjoyed it.

And while looks were nice and all, that's not what made me love him. He was sweet under that tough football-player exterior. He stood up for me, usually when my smart mouth got a little too smart and got me in a pickle. And when he got drafted to the NFL, he could've gotten a big head and left me in the dust. He didn't. Instead he paid off my student loans and helped me financially through graduate school. No questions asked. And he didn't bat an eyelash when I told him I was gay. I didn't even think it crossed his mind to make me feel weird about it.

I adored Kelly with his tattoos and piercings and he was a geek.. I loved that he was not a doormat, he stood up for himself and was not afraid to call Blue out when he was being a little bit of douche. I loved his sense of humor I was laughing out loud while reading his POV. His family was good too.

I glanced over at the stony face of my ex-fiancé, Robert—also known as a suspect in my future murder. To be fair, he'd only been my ex for three minutes. I kind of just broke up with him. He didn't take it well

The chemistry between these two was on fire and bounced off pages, after all they have been best friends for years.

The Sex scenes were hot and funny, yes! Kelly and Blue cracked jokes while having sex.

“Let me in, sweetheart.”

“Trying,” I said with a grunt.

“It’s gonna take me a while to get used to this sucker.”

“I guarantee you will.” He chuckled softly, almost ruefully. “I’m pretty sure you were made for me.”

“Made for you?” I raised an eyebrow, but my sassiness took a hit when he finally eased inside me. We both sighed with pleasure. “I’m going to give you a back rub after we’re finished. You must be tired from hauling that ego around all day.”

He snorted. “Shut up, Kel.”

“How do you know you weren’t made for me?”

“I’m older. I was around before you were even a thought.” He stuck out his tongue. “Deal with it.”

The secondary characters were well written and there was no manufactured drama. Just a story about best friends who have loved each other for years finally figuring their shit out.

I love SE Harmon’s writing and her sense of humor. Ever since I read Stay with me I got hooked, I am just sad that she has not written many book. She is one author I would have loved to binge read.

Overall I loved it hard! I can’t wait for book 2 and maybe 3 and 4.

This book deserves 5 stars from me!

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

***The Blueprint* gets a THUMBS UP for:**

- Best friends to lovers (I never get tired of this trope!)
- Sexual discovery 101 (Blue knows he's not the straight arrow he appears to be, and whom better to ask for a gay trial run than his best friend?)
- Banter and more banter (These two have known each other for eons, and it shows in their easy conversations filled with inside jokes and casual snark.)
- Opposites attract (Blue is a cocky, self-assured athlete; Kelly is ... not.)

- Fun twist on the OFY trope (Blue doesn't go all drama-llama; yeah, he's worried about what others will think if he embraces his gay side and he waffles on whether he's bi or not like every other hour, but he doesn't get all weird and angsty. If anything, he's too laidback and takes Kelly for granted.)

So it's all fun and games until someone gets hurt; THUMBS down because:

- Blue is kind of an arse when Kelly admits that the "experiment" is more to him than just sex.

Blue thinks only about what HE wants. His epiphany is triggered by jealousy and a talking to from one of his friends, which, FINE, we all get places on our own terms. But I wanted Blue to delve deeper.

- The steam was just so-so. For a gay virgin and a whole lot of UST, the steamy scenes were really tame; they weren't fade-to-black exactly, but they were truncated and perfunctory. I needed way more sexy for the OFY angle to feel real.

- The ending kind of sucked, and surprisingly it wasn't Blue's fault. It was Kelly's. I don't even get where Kelly was coming from in trying to, what . . . PROTECT Blue?

Blue didn't need protecting. He's a grownass man with his own damn mind, and he strung Kelly along like, enough already; let the man do his thing before he flip-flops yet again. I didn't really trust Blue to stand by his decision, so the ending didn't feel like much of a HEA.

S.E. Harmon just doesn't write good endings; correct me if I'm wrong, but I don't think she's ever written an epilogue.

The ending made me really cranky, and cranky is not the new black.

Fabi says

I liked it! This story incorporated some of my favorite tropes. GFY, Sports, Friends to Lovers, it's all in here. Plus, it's a rom-com featuring Kelly's awesome dry wit. My favorite kind of humor.

Kelly made the story for me. A science nerd with a hopeless lifelong crush on his straight, athlete, best friend. His sarcasm and self-effacing ramblings were LOL moments.

Kelly's best friend, super star NFL player, ~~non~~ hetero, Britton "Blue" Montgomery was a little harder for me to like. His decisions and reactions sometimes rubbed me the wrong way. I also wondered at a couple of plot flows with him. I came away thinking he was very lucky to have someone like Kelly in his life.

Overall a lovely, enjoyable read.

*A huge thank you to **Elf Wide Minds and Blue Skies** for gifting me this book.*

Jewel says

Keeping my original review and rating.

-----Original Review Feb 2018-----

I have a weakness for self discovery stories, the best-friends-to-lovers trope, and banter. In my opinion, SE Harmon nails all three, here. I love her style of storytelling and relationship development, too. It wasn't an easy road, for the MC's, but I liked it.

Britton "Blue" Montgomery is a veteran NFL player. He works hard, plays hard, and knows what he wants. Well, career-wise, anyway. He's never really been in the market for a relationship, preferring to play that field, too. Finding sex isn't difficult when you're a rich, built, tight-end in the NFL, after all, but trusting that someone is interested in you and not your status, is tough.

Kelly Cannon is a physics professor. Geeky and academic, but with the twist of piercings and tattoos. He's a bit unconventional in the class room, but he loves his job (most days) and his life (again, most days). He teaches, meets friends at the local pub, goes to Blue's home games and has what he wants. Mostly. He's also in love with his best friend...but doesn't see any way that could end well.

Blue and Kelly have been practically inseparable since they were 12 years old. They each have the other's back. They speak their minds and tend to be pretty open and honest with one another. The one exception was Kelly's feelings toward Blue. I mean, Blue knew Kelly loved him, but didn't know Kelly was in-love with him. For Blue's part, he wasn't honest with himself about his feelings toward Kelly, so he sent all kinds of conflicting signals Kelly's way, being possessive of Kelly, wanting more and then backtracking several times. Blue just had all kinds of trouble finding his feet, sexually speaking, and it really showed.

I thought I'd be bothered by how Blue kept backtracking, but I kind of got it, here. Blue does not shift gears quickly, at all, and though - once he started seeing Kelly in a sexual way - he acts on his curiosity, he has a lot of trouble reconciling his feelings for his best friend with the expectations of his father and the NFL. You could say he has some trouble getting out of his own way, but once he finally made the decision to move forward, I trusted it. He took the time and thought it out and made the decision.

Though I trust Blue and Kelly's HEA, here, I would have loved to have gotten an epilogue, just to seal the deal, further. I see other story opportunities, here though, with other MC's, so maybe we'll get to see them happy and settled in a future book. That is my hope, anyway!

*ARC of **The Blueprint** was generously provided by the publisher, in exchange for an honest review.*

BWT (Belen) says

Let me begin with what I liked about the story: I loved the humor, the banter, and the snark.

I checked under the throw pillows and between the couch cushions, and she scowled. "What're

you looking for?"

"Someone who gives a rat's ass about your opinion."

I should've known he was lying to me. Mostly because Bel Biv Devoe had it right—never trust a big butt and a smile.

I loved Blue's friend Ivanovich, Kelly's family, and Kelly's friend Connor (and really hope he gets a happy ending some day). The supporting characters here were really well done and fleshed out and wonderful on their own.

"How long have you been in love with him?" Connor asked.

I finally shrugged. "It's hard to remember a time when I wasn't."

"Messy road, that is." He took a sip of his drink. "Or do you really believe in that gay-for-you nonsense?"

I worked my jaw. That's exactly what it was. Nonsense. Despite that, I found myself asking,

"You don't think someone can... turn?"

"Sure. Into vampires, zombies, and the like"—his mouth kicked up on one side—"which is just about as likely."

"Fuck. Forget I even said that." I sighed. I was a little embarrassed to even voice the thought.

I was a walking, talking cliché—the gay man secretly pining for his straight best friend. Ugh.

I liked that the story is told from both Kelly and Blue's POV. Unfortunately, **it's much harder to explain why I didn't like the story as a whole.** It's a bit slow-paced at times without actually being a slow burn, and the friends to lovers aspect didn't really work for me here, mostly because of the almost schizophrenic changes in attitude that Blue kept having.

I wasn't gay or bisexual. It was just that simple.

I'll admit that Kelly and Blue's whole will-they-won't-they simmering tension was *real*, folks - and it kept pulling me back in.

"You don't get to play with me, Blue." I wiped a hand over my mouth as though I could erase his taste from my lips, from my mind. I stabbed a finger in his direction. I was strong, and I was resolved, shaking finger be damned. "You don't get to play with my feelings."

And because of the dual POV I could see where both Kelly and Blue coming from, but even though Kelly occasionally stood up for himself, it made me sad more than hopeful that the one thing he couldn't get away from was the one thing that was destroying him, because Blue kept pulling him back in like a tractor beam.

"You're afraid if you lose me, you're going to lose your family, and that's just not true."

"That doesn't have anything to do with this."

"Doesn't it?" We stared at one another and had an entire angry conversation with eyes alone.

"You tell me that you were feeling it the way I was feeling it, and I'll let this whole thing go. Just tell me that."

I could see the misery in his eyes as he swallowed. "I'm not willing to lose you over this. If this

"You can deal." I laughed, and the sound was so bitter that we both winced. "I'm glad you can fucking deal with me wanting you."

"You're being so fucking dramatic. It's sex. Just sex."

When he finally spoke, his voice was so quiet I could barely hear him. "I'm in the NFL. You know how people are. That would be making a statement that I'll never be willing to make."

Part of me thinks I could fall in love with you. The other part of me knows I already have.

The entire book is a will-they-won't-they kind of story, so at the very end **when you get that tentative HFN ending, I didn't trust it because the entire book is Blue making an advance toward a relationship or physicality with Kelly and then immediately retreating.**

An epilogue would have gone a long, long way in assuaging those concerns - but there's no epilogue.

So I liked parts of it, but for those reasons, on the whole, this was a miss for me.

Advanced Review Galley copy of The Blueprint provided by publisher in exchange of an honest review.

***~**~**~**~**~**~**~**~**~**~**~**~**~

Initial thoughts: I am very dissatisfied with that ending. Very.

Judith says

I was a walking,talking cliché--the gay man secretly pining for his straight best friend.

Friends to Lovers story with two highly likeable characters with great sexual chemistry.

Ever since I read P.S. I Spook You,I've been a fan of this Author.I love her writing and she always delivers on the witty banter.

Blue and Kelly have been best friends *forever*.Inseparable in their youth and their strong friendship hasn't wavered over the years.Sure,they love each other but what Blue didn't realize was that Kelly has been *in love* with him for as long as he can remember.

Blue is a successful NFL player.It's his passion,his life.He's never really been interested in anything serious and he's definitely not been attracted to men before.

Kelly is a Physics Professor and what can I say apart from the fact that I absolutely ADORED him,

He's gloriously geeky and a bit of a hipster type with his piercings,tattoos and he's got a whole lot of sassiness going on.I could have read about him forever.And he's out and proud.

When Blue gets drunk one night things get messy,a bit complicated....something neither of them saw coming.Blue definitely finds it difficult to embrace the physical attraction he's feeling towards Kelly.He's always been possessive in a friend's only way but this is something completely foreign to him.

I kind of got Blue.I don't think he consciously led Kelly on with the friends with benefits thing,I just think he was really conflicted and yes,there was a lot of back and forwards between them until Blue finally acknowledged his feelings.He definitely gave mixed signals to Kelly who tried so hard, time after time, to abide by the friends only thing but really neither of them stood a chance.

These two had some delicious chemistry going on and I was more than happy with the sex scenes,not too long and drawn out-perfect for the story.

Recommended read...

Review copy

Elise X a.k.a Ryder's Pet X says

??????*A letdown*??????

The book centers around professor for a smaller private college, **Kelly 'Kel' Holden Cannon** (29) and NFL standout (tight end for the Aventura Outlaws), **Britton 'Blue' 'Blueprint' Montgomery** (30). Kelly is in love with his best friend, and though Blue loves his best friend, he believes himself straight. However, he doesn't like other men circling around Kelly. He's a jealous man. But he has no right to be jealous, now does he...? **Overall, the book has huge potential**, Kelly had that sarcasm that I like in characters, however so much was missing for the story. The big miss was pain. There was absolutely no pain in the book. I thought that being rejected or having ones heart pulled back and forth would make one feel pain. **But there was nothing**. Not even mentioning of pain. That kinda ruined the book for me. There was also the fact that I didn't like how Blue kept pulling Kelly in, only to let go again. **I hate selfish people**. I did like his jealousy though...

Despite my bitterness about the subject, deep down inside, I think I was waiting on the fantasy, still hoping for the impossible. And I wasn't willing to compromise. I sighed inwardly. I was as delusional and optimistic as any Disney princess. It was going to look fantastic on my eHarmony profile. I'd use Snow White as my fucking avatar. She found seven men. Surely I could scrounge up one.

Other characters:

- ? **Robert 'Rob'**, an architect and Kelly's ex.
- ? **Kennedy Cannon**, Kelly's sister.
- ? **Connor O'Rourke**, Kelly's coworker.
- ? **Paige**, one of Kelly's coworkers
- ? **Evan 'E' Ivanovich**, fellow teammate of Blue, and the best damn defensive lineman in the NFL (according to him anyway), good friends of Blue.
- ? **Austin Warnerm**, Blue's team's cornerback.
- ? **Andrew McAdams**, a rookie and had a two dates with Kelly.
- ? **Mike**, Kelly's father, **Kelly Ann**, his mother. Awesome parents.

"No one treats my brother like that."

"You're right," I said. "But people only treat you how you allow them to. One of my favorite quotes growing up was from Eleanor Roosevelt. Remember? I had it on my door. Mom had it made into a poster. I guess now I know why. She understood what I was up against before I ever did."

"You kept that thing up there until the decal peeled and the letters went white." Kennedy shook her head and recited, "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."

Quick basic facts:

Genre: - (Adult) Contemporary Romance (M/M)

Series: - Series (Standalone?), Book One.

Love triangle? - (view spoiler)

Cheating? - (view spoiler)

HEA? - (view spoiler)

Favorite character? - Kelly 'Kel' Holden Cannon.

Would I read more by this author/or of series? - Not sure.

Would I recommend this book/series? - Not really.

Will I read this again in the future? - No.

Rating - 2.5/2 stars.

Karla says**4.25 you were made for me stars!**

I don't know what it is that I love about gfy reads. I guess is the fact that you think your this person your whole life and then you meet or realized this ONE person you fall for changes your whole existence.

That what happens to Blue has been best friends with Kelly since childhood more than friends his family. A football player for the NFL and straight he doesn't understand why the attraction he starts to feel for Kelly, who is gay. And then we have Kelly who's is secretly in love with Blue. In other words a big angsty mess but one that I enjoyed.

There's plenty of pull/push from Blue but I don't know I didn't find myself frustrated, well, not much anyway. I sympathize with Blue having the career he had all the pressure for appearance sake. I kinda felt bad for him and one thing was for sure though, Blue really loved Kelly, that was never a doubt.

I really liked the way the relationship was played out even in those frustrating moments. The angst and emotions these two battle, it wasn't easy for either of them to give or take. The chemistry they had was hot more so, because they had this deep bond.

My first book by S.E. Harmon another author that impressed me! Love the story, the flow, and an added bonus for me, the dry sense of humor. Which if you know me you know I'm super picky about but this one was the right amount and at right parts that had me laughing. **Can't wait for book 2! ♥?**

Wendy says

Normally I don't change my rating for a book, but I am gonna do it this time. See, when I read and reviewed this book, I didn't know it was gonna be a series and that there was gonna be a second book. This changes a few things for me...at least the way I feel about the ending and how things felt a bit rushed. So I am upping my rating with half a star ;)

The blurb of this one looked all kinds of promising to me... I mean "**Sports**", "**Friends to Lovers**" "**Opposites Attract**" and "**GFY**" all in one go !!

There were definitely parts of this book that I was very pleased with....but I am sad to say, that there were also parts I was not too happy with.

Blue and Kelly have been friends for a very long time. Blue is a NFL player and Kelly is a physics professor. Pretty awesome friend duo..."*the nerd and the jock*" ;)

Blue is straight and Kelly is gay. Kelly is not completely out, but he isn't really hiding either. It's just his family he still has to tell. His coming out to his family was one of the greatest scenes in this book !!

"I need a story, Ma. This is not a good coming-out story."

Kelly has been (not so) secretly in love with Blue for a long long time. Kelly knows that Blue is straight as an arrow, and he knows he has zero chances but that doesn't stop him from pining for his best friend....and yes I do mean pining ...

One drunken night changes everything for these two close friends though....

Now I normally have no problems with GFY stories. I love them, I am especially a big fan of the straight guy figuring out all the pleasures, of gay loving :P

What I am not a fan of though, is the straight guy stringing along his best friend, who is madly in love with him, and using him in secret just to get his rocks off !!

"I have a plan, Kel, and this is nowhere in that plan. Eventually I want to get married. Have kids. You know how important family is to me."

I was angry with Blue and I was hoping he would make up for his behaviour....and in the end he did....but it was too late for me.

Now don't get me wrong. There were definitely parts I really enjoyed in this book. It's also extremely funny, so I really laughed my ass off. I was just so disappointed with Blue's behavior ... It was very hard to get passed that. The ending feels like a HFN not a HEA.

Optimist ?King's Wench? & MANTIES Champion says

I was piddling on Amazon & noticed this is one 94¢! IDK how long but as of 12/4/18 it's 94¢

Get it while it's hot: <https://www.amazon.com/Blueprint-S-Ha...>

3.5 Hearts

Tag Team Review with The Ginger

Sometimes the heart just wanted what the heart wanted, and to hell with the consequences.

There is SO MUCH to like/love about this story: **the banter, the heehawlarious family dynamics, these characters, witty writing, great team dynamics and verisimilitude that spoke to me.** *The Blueprint* is the story of the evolution of platonic into romantic love and how uneasy that road can be. It's not fluffy and possesses a genuine melange of emotions. Maybe I would've liked more fluff, but throughout I respected where Harmon took the narrative. She stayed true to them and I applaud her for that.

Part best friends to lovers, part sports romance and part jock/nerd trope this is the story of Blue and Kelly who **have been best friends since forever.** Through thick and thin. Through a mom leaving. Through bunk beds and a shitty father. Through a metric ton of peanut M&Ms and a surprise peanut allergy. Through a trouble making sister and a plethora of bad decisions. Through high school when the jock/geek dynamic was fertile ground for a breakup and even their experimental college days. So something as fickle as the NFL doesn't stand a chance at separating them. **They are family.**

Family could be awkward, but you stayed.

Kelly has *always* been in love with Blue. No relationship has ever worked because they all suffer by comparison. Blue is straight and Kelly knows his pining is futile but there's a big difference between knowing a thing and accepting a thing. Even more confusing, every time Kelly tries to pull away, Blue tightens his hold. **Blue knows he needs Kelly, knows he loves Kelly. He just doesn't know what that means or what to do with or about those confusing feelings.**

***The Blueprint* tells the story of their watershed moment from both of their perspectives.**

The things that I loved about this story are many including how accurate I found the portrayal of the NFL to be (**it's NFL heavy**) from the locker room dynamics to the pressure to perform and *conform*. Blue is 30 but in NFL years, that's old. He's two years older than Gronkowski, who's basically held together with twine, duct tape and Gorilla glue, so that sense of *always* looking over his shoulder for the replacement that's breathing down his neck resonated. I also loved how much he loves the game, because it's literally all he knows.

Which is why I think Kelly will be good for him long-term. Kelly won't allow him to give up once he's hung up his cleats; he'll bolster his self-worth. Because he is an indomitable SassMonster who will stay on his heels like a terrier. That's precisely what endeared him to me. He's snarky, witty and kind of a dick at times. Gawd, I hearted him and his dry erase markers and love of all things *Star Wars*.

Neither one of them are perfect, but they are soulmates.

The sex was true to them and sometimes funny. Really, many things about their interactions had me tittering and I liked that they could have fun during the sexy times. They have a synchronicity in all things that translated well to the bedroom. What they do seemed like a natural progression for a virgin. I enjoyed their **size difference** most of all, but there is also a **big guy bottoming, rimming, frottage and oral**. Also, there are mentions of sex with other people and some on page kissing for those that are sticklers for the couple to be true blue.

As much as I appreciated the truth of Harmon's narrative, the organicity of it, the push/pull is interminable. Harmon showed me why, showed the emotion and the angst they both struggle with, and as much as I understood their struggle I needed more of a payoff at the end. I would've liked more of them being incandescently happy together once they decide they're going to give boyfriending a go, though I did appreciate that there wasn't a manufactured/unrealistic ending. **But an epilogue probably would've gone a loooooonnnnggggg way.**

There are only two tragedies in life: one is not getting what one wants, and the other is getting it.

Regardless, I thoroughly enjoyed Harmon's writing style and look forward to reading her in the future and were she inclined to write Connor's story, I would be tickled pink to read that.

Recommend to readers who enjoy a hefty dose of realism in their friends to lovers romance and sports romance fans.

An ARC was provided by the publisher.

Lyn says

Audio - 2.75 stars. I can't believe it, but I was disappointed with the performances of two narrators that I normally enjoy. Alexander Cendese (3.5 stars) and Sean Crisden (2 stars).

Story 3 stars.

I'm not a fan of rom/coms. I have managed to enjoy a few, but that has everything to do with the author's style of delivery. In the case of this story, it didn't work for me. The tone was too comedic. I did chuckle every now and then, but mostly, I was shaking my head and/or rolling my eyes. I found it hard to believe the MCs were 29 and 30. They acted more like high school/college aged boys.

Based on the ratings, it's me and not the book. I will gladly wear a "defective reader's" pin. :-D

Christelle says

****3.75 stars****

Friends to lover : I love that. I might add "life-long" friends.

Opposite attracts, with a teacher, I might add a gay teacher, and a football player, so far seemingly straight : bonus points.

And cherry on the top : derision, sarcasm, banter,...I'm sold !!

Blue and Kelly have been friends since childhood despite being so different. And now that they are reaching their thirties and have different temperaments and lives, they are still as close as can be. But for one thing : Kelly is in love with his straight friend and it's getting hard to hide his feelings. Maybe putting some distance could be good. But Blue won't have any of that.

It's full of wit, of chemistry, but also of complication, interrogations. Yes, there are a lot of "push and pull", which I'm not fan of, but nicely softened by Blue never backing away.

My only complaint : the abruptness of the ending. I'm glad I knew beforehand there's another book, or it would have been too brutal.

***Note for Judith : thank you so, so much for this book, hun. That was for sure a lovely and fun surprise"*

<3**
