



Rainbow Blues

K.C. Burn

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Having come out late in life, forty-three-year-old Luke Jordan is at a loss about how to conduct himself as a gay man. As a construction manager, he's not interested in being out at work, but he'd like to find a boyfriend or at least some gay friends. Two years after his wife got all their friends in the divorce, he's no closer to the life he wants.

Zach, Luke's adult son, takes charge and signs him up for the Rainbow Blues, a social group for gay blue-collar workers. At an event, he not only finds friends but meets Jimmy Alexander, part-time stage actor and full-time high school biology teacher. Jimmy loves the stage but wishes potential boyfriends weren't so jealous of the time he devotes to it. When he meets Luke and finds him accepting of his many facets, he thinks it's a dream come true.

Their relationship quickly moves into serious territory, but their connection is tested to its breaking point by the offer of a juicy movie role that takes Jimmy to the opposite coast and into the path of a very sexy costar.

Rainbow Blues Details

Date : Published June 20th 2014 by Dreamspinner Press (first published June 19th 2014)

ISBN : 9781632160102

Author : K.C. Burn

Format : ebook 204 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance

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From Reader Review Rainbow Blues for online ebook

Elsa Bravante says

Poco puedo decir salvo que me ha parecido un mal libro, no hay por donde cogerlo. Los personajes parecen caricaturas, totalmente planos, sin ninguna profundidad, simples y en ocasiones también simplones. Y la trama..., hay instalove, instalust e instadetodo, no hay un proceso de enamoramiento, no existe la construcción de una relación, todo sucede muy rápido con unos cuantos clichés alrededor. Una pareja que la primera tarde que se conocen ya están pensando en una relación seria y al poco en comprar una casa o.O, ¿de verdad? A eso hay que añadirle situaciones que juegan peligrosamente con lo ridículo y poco creíbles. No he sentido a lo largo de la lectura ninguna emoción excepto un WTF? constante.

Valerie ✶M/M Romance Junkie✶ says

This was such a cute story. I loved reading about a later in life couple (not old by any definition, but well beyond 20s). It is very low angst, but it isn't syrupy sweet. I have yet to read a KC Burn title that I didn't like.

Tina says

The premise of Rainbow Blues intrigued me, I love books featuring more mature characters. Those men are so much hotter than all these twenty and something guys who are crowding most of the m/m romances.

Luke is 43 and Jimmy is 38... these two have life experience and the story benefits from that. They are not perfect and they make mistakes but they know what they want. They talk, they fight, they get through some misunderstandings... they want to settle down, they plan a life together.

Usually I'm not a friend of insta-love stories but this one is really well done. You just feel the chemistry and the instant connection between the guys, the sizzling tension is hot as hell!

KC Burn's writing style is warm and smooth, and the characters just drew me right in and I couldn't help but fall in love with Luke and Jimmy. They are just so adorable, cute and sexy all wrapped in one. Highly recommended for those who want a well done, sweet, funny and delicious romance without too much drama.

Heller says

Luke and Jimmy were a fun read for me. This is a sweet, slow progression that's more than a bit instalovey but wonderful and quite a rollercoaster of emotions near the end. I adored these guys.

I want this to be a series because what happens with Bennett? What happens with Ryan? I need to know! More please!

Tamika♥RBF MOOD♥ says

4.5 stars.

Read: 06/15

Re-read: 07 /16

Out of the blue, I was thinking of you.

This has been the only K.C. Burn book I've read. I love this book so much. Low angst, insta love, older men!! I'm in heaven. Luke is the PERFECT guy. I mean, he did everything right. I absolutely adored them, he was so sweet, observant, lovable and very sincere about his feelings for Jimmy! I truly liked Jimmy. I'm probably like him a lot, he's emotional and at time so am I! Ha. No, but he was a really good character. One of my favorite scenes was where Luke kindly told his son that at his age, he knows what he is doing. I loved seeing him being confident and passionate about Jimmy.

This who out of the blue, I was thinking of you gifts were so sweet. I've read this book now 4 times, and it never gets old. GAH someone write this author and ask if a possible sequel is getting churned out. I would love to see them with a baby! They are adorable. It's an easy read and sometimes that's what I think we need. Hands down one of my favorite CR MM books EVER!

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

There are many things to love about *Rainbow Blues*:

Both MCs are over 35 (Jimmy is 38 and Luke is 43).

Both are ordinary guys (Jimmy a high school biology teacher and part-time stage actor, and Luke a construction manager).

There is the sweetest damn lock-eyes-for-the-first-time scene EVER. Luke sees Jimmy on stage and is completely smitten. He can't even follow the play, he's so googly eyed over Jimmy. But when Jimmy glances at Luke, thinking Luke is the finest man he's ever seen, Luke seems to be glowering, and this worries Jimmy. Until Luke stalks over (at the urging of his friend) to Jimmy...and they just stare. And stare. Dear god, it was hot.

Luke's coming-out and divorce were done off-page, but the references to his married life and reasons for staying in the closet were believable. Luke was so dreamy with Jimmy, tentative but willing to truly be with the man he loved. When he first openly introduces Jimmy as his boyfriend to a coworker, I melted and got all choked up.

Luke's 24-year-old son, Zach, was realistically portrayed. He wanted Luke to move on and date, but he was also a little jealous of Jimmy and worried about his dad getting hurt. I loved that Luke stood up to Zach, and that Zach wasn't a whiny jerk. I also adored Zach's friend, Ryan, and definitely would love to read Ryan's story.

For the first 70 percent or so, this was like a total rainbows-and-unicorns read.

Both Jimmy and Luke want a long-term relationship. They want to settle down. They talk and get through some mild misunderstandings. They plan forever. I loved that!

And then Jimmy leaves town to film a movie, and there is a bigger misunderstanding and the distance apart wrecks some havoc on their relationship, and, yeah, Luke overreacts. So we get some angst and tears. But, hell, separations are hard. And my soul was soothed in the end.

The epilogue, dear mother of all that is holy and gay, was dreamy and perfect. **swoony sigh**

BUT

The fade-to-black sex scenes about killed me. They were so fucking aggravating. We get one (short, mild) on-page kissing/groping scene and then we get NOTHING.

Well, okay, we get:

Oh, he was ready for that amazing blow job....FADE TO BLACK.

First they could christen this room....FADE TO BLACK.

They were ready to take the next step with penetration...FADE TO BLACK. (We don't even know who tops whom, or if it was Luke's first time to bottom; we don't know anything! THE FUCK?!)

And my all time favorite:

Here's this glass dildo, throw it on the bed, stalk over, lick, dirty talk, wouldn't it be fun to...

Yeah, you guessed it...FADE TO FUCKING BLACK.

So not fair! I don't need smex fests in every book. Plenty of books are sweet and tender and read young, and that's fine.

But this book TOLD us all about how hot and dirty and amazing the sex was between Luke and Jimmy, and these men were ADULTS, but we didn't see/experience any of it. And that's just....

It's teasing and bullshit, is what it is.

It's a testament to how much I liked this book that I'm still giving it 4 stars despite my diatribe/temper tantrum above.

But, Ms. Burn, please: more ON-PAGE steamy scenes in the future! I'm willing to beg. And bake a cheesecake.

Jennifer?Pher? says

Ugh. I am going to sleep on it.

Debra says

An overall sweet romance between two grown men, somewhat opposite, but ready to settle into a relationship. Jimmy is 38, but appears much younger, a teacher/actor, with an outgoing personality. Luke is 43, in construction and it's been two years since he came out and divorced the woman he was with since school. He hasn't had anything more than some hookups since that time and his adult son, tired of seeing him alone, signs him up for the Rainbow Blues social group for blue collar gay men. It is an outing arranged through the group that brings Luke to see Jimmy starring in a play. When the two men lock eyes across the room, the attraction is instant and electric.

While the two men move rather quickly in their relationship, it didn't strike me as unbelievable. Both are older, know what they want and are not looking to play games. Of course there are bumps in the road with Luke's family, but the relationship is really tested when Jimmy is offered a job that will keep him away for Luke for months. Although honest and level headed throughout, Luke does something while Jimmy is gone that is at the top of my personal pet peeve list for relationships, and could destroy the good thing they had. (view spoiler) Other than that, I enjoyed the story quite a bit, although I would have liked to witness a few story points that were fade to black or glossed over.

There are some very likeable secondary characters including Luke's son Zack and his best friend Ryan, who is like a second son to Luke, and Bennett, a friend he makes through Rainbow Blues. Ryan could use a mentor and Bennett might fit that role rather well.

Aki | nose buried in books | ❤️? | says

3.7 stars

this is a sweet and angst free book, nice and heartwarming. (also steam free, but it's ok). I was in the mood for something fluffy, so this book worked just fine. I would have preferred the epilogue longer, the ending is nice but compared to the rest of the story it seems a little bit rushed to me. I recommend this one when you want an easy reading and you need sugar! ?

Sandra says

YAY, a novel with men who are not young whippersnappers, but older, in their forties.

Luke Jordan is 43, divorced with an adult son, having come out much later than most. He works construction, is not out at his job, but yearns for friendship and companionship with men of his own age and sexuality. Unfortunately, he has no idea how to go about finding these men, so he languishes alone and lonely until his son Zach signs him up for Rainbow Blues, a local group that meets once a month, where Luke can find like-minded guys.

And Luke not only finds a great friend, but also meets Jimmy Alexander, a teacher and amateur actor, and

falls hard. The two begin a romantic relationship, and despite their differences are well suited to each other.

This book was cruising for 4 stars until Luke does a stupid thing that pissed me off, and hurt Jimmy unnecessarily. And that's my hang-up, so don't take my word for it. I'm just so over this trope that seeing it used here made me mad. In all honesty, it does fit the character of Luke to a T to see him do what he does, so I can't really fault the author for writing him that way.

The writing was lovely, with nice flow and believable dialogue, the characters well fleshed out and realistic. This is a true late bloomer romance that didn't need explicit sexy times to be superbly satisfying.

Give this a try.

** I received a free copy from the publisher. A positive review was not promised in return. **

Deanna Against Censorship says

This felt so real. Luke was a mature man in the construction business lately trying to live the his life as it should be not as it was expected to be. He married young, knowing he was gay but she was pregnant. His first girl beard and he had gotten her pregnant. They lived as friends and raised a wonderful son. Now they were divorced (still friends), she was remarried and he was lost, wanting a relationship not just hookups, but not knowing how to accomplish that while working in construction. That is what was so appealing from the beginning as the MC was older, blue collar and a nice man.

Luke's young adult son, Zack, gifted him with a Christmas present of a gay construction worker social. Luke had also practically raised Zack's best friend, Ryan, as Ryan had had a bad home life. We were never given details of this home life, but hopefully that will be in another book.

Jimmy was a biology teacher and local stage actor. He had tried Hollywood out of high school but gave up after one year. He enjoyed teaching high school. He enjoyed stage acting. He was funny and full of energy. It was "eyes across the room meeting with lust" but it worked in this story.

Luke slid his hands up from Jimmy's waist and cupped that narrow-boned face, so unlike the broad planes of his own. Stereotypically, men didn't like to talk about their feelings or weren't willing to commit. He might even scare Jimmy off, but he'd spent so much of his life concealing his innermost thoughts and desires. So much time afraid of being himself. The spike of uncertainty when he'd woken alone had only cemented his resolve to stop hiding. If it scared Jimmy off, so be it, but he was too fucking old to play games.

"I was scared. You scared me... You scared me. When I woke up alone this morning, I thought I'd imagined our connection last night...I thought I'd mistaken a one-night stand for something more. Embarrassing, yes, but mostly disappointing. Because I like you, Jimmy. I want to get to know you better, in and out of bed. I don't want to play mind games or worry about power struggles."

Wow! A man who said what he thought. Loved it. Loved Luke. Loved Jimmy. Loved Luke's boys.

Anna Goerlitz says

4 solid stars

Well, wasn't that just sweet? Lovely little story about coming out late in life. A bit too insta-love-ish for my liking, but Luke and Jimmy were just so adorable, that I could roll with it.

Luke is 43, out since his divorce two years prior, and completely stuck in a lonely little life of work and isolation. The only highlight are his sunday brunches with his grown up son, Zach. Zach ends up forcing his father out of his isolation by signing him up for a gay men's social club, specifically for blue collar workers, Rainbow Blues.

Through this social network Luke suddenly gets a life: Friends, social interaction and trips on the town. On one such trip to the theater he meets Jimmy, the lead in the play. And after that Luke is a goner. Their meet is probably one of the sweetest 'eyes meet across a crowded room'-scenes ever. And the two are lovely together, right from the start. Insecurities, flaws and all.

Jimmy is 38, a high school teacher who acts in his spare time, still pining about the Hollywood dream he had to leave behind when he was a youngster. He puts his heart and blood into his acting, but his passion has been the reason for most of his failed relationships in the past, so even if he is as drawn to Luke as Luke is to him, he is a bit wary to begin with.

These two are wonderful together. Honest and refreshing, even if they move incredibly fast. But life is what happens when you are busy making other plans and when Hollywood comes calling, Jimmy's dreams of a life with Luke versus his life long dream of being a film star suddenly collide.

This is a slow and sweet story, which mainly revolves around the relationship of these two middleaged men, as well as Luke's adjustments to the life he wants to live and Jimmy learning what dreams are really important.

It is well written and flows nicely, even the insta love, the frustrating fade to black sex scenes (I wanted to know!) and the kind of annoying 'I am doing this because I love you' conflict at the end, is not enough to stop me from warmly recommending this story.

Post script: Did KC Burns ever write Ryan's story? Because I would read that!

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

I have read and enjoyed many of this author's other books and was glad to be able to read this one for review.

This was such a sweet and hopeful book. Luke has always been gay, but when he got his high school girlfriend pregnant, he married her and has a son he adores.

Now, many years later he is starting over, but life as a free-and-footloose gay man isn't quite what he thought it would be.

But one evening he meets the gregarious Jimmy and it's like a lightning strike for both of them. They are drawn to each other and fall hard and fast.

I really liked this book, the calm and stable Luke and the more emotional and outgoing Jimmy are really great guys and all they want is to have someone to love and be loved by.

The road is a little bumpy, but not very. I think since they literally fell head over heels in such a short time

that left more room for their insecurities.

I found it interesting that the normally unflappable Luke was thrown for a loop and Jimmy the more emotional one was able to be the rock for Luke when he needed it.

There is more kissing than sex in this book, which I didn't mind one bit, it's a sweet feel good story that I thoroughly enjoyed.

I have to add that I loved that Luke and Jimmy are a little older and that they can appreciate the second chances life is giving them.

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

3 Stars

If you want a no frills romance involving a more mature couple, then look no further.

Having been in the closet for his entire adult life, Luke is ready to finally be out and proud. However, that's easier said than done. When his thoughtful son signs him up for a group for gay blue collar workers, it proves to be a most fortuitous endeavor as Luke gets the chance to meet local actor Jimmy.

Jimmy hasn't been so lucky in love, and he's kinda resigned himself to never finding his Mr. Perfect. However, sparks fly immediately when he catches the eye of Luke and these two hit off with nary a hiccup. Jimmy can hardly believe his good fortune at finding such a catch!

When low or no angst works, it works and this proceeded quite easily. Oh sure, there are a few speed bumps (mainly in the form of Luke's seemingly understanding son who suddenly becomes not so understanding and the requisite conflict that inevitably occurs towards the end) but overall, Luke and Jimmy don't play games, attributing their ages and mutual goals to seamlessly mesh their lives together nicely and smoothly.

Though disappointingly low on the smexy details (hugely missing and ignoring the potential for exploring Luke's sexual awakening), I liked reading about the steps and missteps of those first few heady weeks of dating someone you can't stop thinking about and watching how things just naturally progress from lust to like to love. This doesn't break romance records, but it was still a nice easy read and sometimes, that's just what's needed.

Meags says

2.5 Stars

This story started out strong. I liked the fact that the MCs, Jimmy and Luke, were of a more mature age (38 and 43, respectively) when they finally found this big forever-type love together. Although their relationship was practically insta-everything, it didn't bother me so much because they were both old enough to know their own minds, and they most certainly knew what they wanted from life and what they were looking for in an ideal partner. It didn't take them long to work out that they fit perfectly in each other's lives, sharing a sizzling chemistry that sparked the moment they first locked eyes, and solidifying in the realisation that they shared a lot the same values and hopes for the future. They were a sweet pair and I enjoyed watching them fall for one another and begin building a shared life together.

Unfortunately, I had a bit of a disconnect with the writing itself, and I certainly wasn't a fan of the path that was taken during the final 30% of the story. There was a pesky separation towards the end (due to one character needing to leave for a prolonged work situation), but it was the unwelcome miscommunication arc, and the even more ridiculous reactions that came from it, which sadly provided the final nails in the coffin of my ever-decreasing enjoyment. For a while there, Jimmy and Luke felt really solid and trusting of one another, but then with the events towards the end of the story, I felt like they made Luke into a bit of a dithering twit, not staying true to the level-headed, mature adult that he was portrayed to be earlier in the piece. His reactions (or lack of reactions) didn't sit right with me and even the lovely gestures at the very end – which lead to all things sunshine and happiness for the couple – weren't enough to win back my affections.

Also, I did not like Luke's son Zach or his friend Ryan, both 24 years old. In the opening scenes they seemed like promising support characters, but then Ryan was used in a secondary story arc that fell flat on its face and left me wanting, and Zach turned into an irrational and stubborn little brat, seemingly out of nowhere. They both came across more like teenagers, and annoying ones at that, than the college graduate twenty-somethings that they were meant to be. They just shit me, which was an absolute shame, and probably not the intended reader reaction the author was looking for.

And what was with the fade-to-black/off page sex scenes?! I know there is a time and a place for such things, depending on the story and the characters involved, but this definitely felt like the kind of story and relationship that would have benefited greatly from having some of those more intimate scenes shared with the readers, if for no other reason than to bolster our connection to the characters and their growing relationship. I have no doubt that the lack of sex scenes in this particular story reduced my overall enjoyment somewhat, but it was mostly the blatant teasing leading up to such moments, followed by the mention of how amazing it was afterwards, constantly, that just had me all frustrated and grumpy.

Okay, so this story was not a hit for me, but there was enough good going on here that I'm hoping potential readers are able to discern for themselves if this will work for them personally.
