



Looking for Adventure

Valentina Heart

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Genre: LGBT Contemporary

After being diagnosed with a brain tumor, Jonathan looks back on his career-focused life and sees nothing but empty years behind him. His desire for success has left him without a single happy memory, and completely alone.

While shocked by the news, he stumbles into Nino: a man without a steady job, without a permanent home and, as happy as a person can be. On the spur of the moment they set off to an adventure by the sea, with good food, loads of sun, and rising attraction. Only both hide secrets from each other as they fight against the sparks that keep on lighting the flames.

They set out for some fun, but found the adventure of both of their lives...

Publisher's Note: This book contains explicit sexual content, graphic language, and situations that some readers may find objectionable: Male/male sexual practices.

Looking for Adventure Details

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From Reader Review Looking for Adventure for online ebook

Leaundra says

This was a really sweet story. I just loved Nino and Jonathan together<3

? BookAddict ↗ La Crimson Femme says

(Mine is the second review)

Brain cancer is a life-changing event. Jonathan has no family and few friends. He focused purely on his career. He's wealthy and successful with a large office and great condo. It's debatable if his Pathfinder defines wealth. Personally, the Porsche Cayenne screams wealthy more than a Pathfinder. The inoperable brain cancer and less than two months to live is a wakeup call for Jonathan. He's worked so hard to succeed in his life and what happens? He doesn't even enjoy the fruits of his labour. He can't recall the last time he went on vacation.

Lost and confused, Jonathan literally trips over Nino. Nino is the antithesis of Jonathan. He's the happily little grasshopper playing and enjoying life. He's never held a steady job and he lives in the moment. It's serendipity they meet as Nino is the perfect companion to help Jonathan live out the last days of his life.

This story is really a story about first times and discovery. I like Ms. Heart's stories because there is always a moral to them. Perhaps I'm reading too deeply into her stories; perhaps it's because I feel she's teaching about life lessons through a story of "what if". In this one, I learn that focus may be great, but without stopping to experience life and "smell the roses", I'll end up missing the best part to living. We can't take for granted that we will always have good health and enjoy our successes. Tomorrow are no guarantees. It's not to say that we should all mimic the happy go lucky grasshopper, but we shouldn't be the ant who works so hard and dies without tasting the fruits we grow.

Nino is able to help Jonathan enjoy his last summer by something as simple as listening to music. Jonathan learns how to interact on an intimate level that he never experienced. Essentially this last summer, away from the office, Jonathan tries to complete everything in his bucket list. Nino is there every step of the way, unknowingly fulfilling the last wishes of a dying man.

When Jonathan's condition is finally revealed to Nino, there is a terrible falling out. I'm saddened for both of them -- Jonathan for not placing enough faith in Nino and Nino for finally finding the love of his life only to have it ripped away. This summer together was a magical time for both of them. Of course, since this is a Ms. Heart story, there is a happily ever after. I recommend this story for people who need a wakeup call that doesn't involve incurable disease. Readers who enjoy m/m romances built on friendship and companionship; this is the one for you.

Emanuela ~plastic duck~ says

Perfect summer read! First of all, I regret having booked my vacation before reading this book, because it made me want to go there! I was glad I spent a few hours in that slice of paradise!

I felt I had a few things in common with Jonathan because I've been work driven for such a long time and I suffer from chronic headaches, so I admit I was also a bit scared and sometimes I felt the story was a bit too close to me to make me feel really comfortable. Jonathan is a character that is not opposed to changes, but they have to happen to him. Like me. He is not the one who makes the first move or dives into things, but once he's there, he embraces them and gives himself to the flow with a surprising generosity. I'd like to add: like me. How much does it depend on the fact that he is been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor? I like to think that Nino would have rocked his world by proximity nonetheless.

Nino is one of those blessed people who try to make the best from the most difficult situations. He is not careless, because he gave me the impression that he always knows where he stands, especially when he is in a difficult spot, but he is not easily defeated and his enthusiasm and spontaneity are irresistible. So irresistible that even a guy in a suit like Jonathan can't help surrendering to him.

Jonathan and Nino are probably, for each other, the thought that they would have never considered and it was exciting to see how attraction turned to lust and then to love, especially how Jonathan learned to love Nino, and how the surprise became urgency in their rough love making. It was a bit sad that for Jonathan the intensity of it depended on the fact that he was on borrowed time, while for Nino it was the real thing since the beginning. But for Nino it was also his own very first real thing, because up until Jonathan he never had anything for himself.

I spent some time heartbroken and angsted (I know it's not a word, bear with me), but thank God, this is romance, so I believed the unbelievable and embraced the improbable and now I'm relaxed and almost happy, thinking about small heavenly islands in the Mediterranean sea and without a headache. Sex and a good story make it bearable, you know...

Candice says

Even though I read the blurb and knew that the MC was diagnosed with a tumor with only months to live, I still decided to read it, but was still a little wary about how this was going to end up. I am glad that I continued with the story. This is truly a wonderful story about living life to the fullest and falling in love. There are some parts of the story that you have to let go of realism to a certain degree, however I was enjoying Nico and Jonathan so much that it really didn't bother me. This book was a comfortable and relaxing to read with very likeable characters.

Wendy Ann says

Completely satisfying on multiple levels! This was a page-turner that I didn't want to put down by a new author for me. It definitely made me constantly think, "What would I do"?

I picked this book to read as part of my monthly category challenge. I went into it with a sizable dose of

trepidation based on the blurb. I like books that draw out my emotions, but probably like many people, don't necessarily want to knowingly head into a story that's sure to make me cry like a baby – right? Please, please, please fellow readers do NOT let the blurb scare you off or you'll be missing an incredibly beautiful love story!

Nino and Jonathan – sigh. I adored these characters. I loved how they met and every step of their developing romance. This was absolutely one of my favorite gfy stories. The progression from "holy shit" to "hold on with both hands and don't let go" was a very believable and steamy journey. Who couldn't love someone that smiles at the world every single day and someone who isn't afraid to grab every new experience for the precious gift that it is?

If ever there were a book that embodied the message "Live life to the fullest", this book would be it. Who among us doesn't get caught up in all the little stresses and struggles of everyday life? It happens, and unfortunately it also makes us lose sight of the bigger picture and the things that are really important. The not-so-hidden message behind this book – a reminder to seek with a vengeance the people and experiences that will make every day the best day we could make it – was worth the price of the book alone!

Mmm, mmm, satisfying! Loved it and will be reading everything I can by this author:)

Lexi Ander says

Two months. That is the generous time period that Jonathan was given with his diagnosis. Stunned, rudderless he literally collides with Nino. Jonathan allows himself to be drawn along with Nino into a vacation (well commandeered Nino's vacation idea), learning along the way what it is exactly that he has been missing in life.

Discovery. Friendship. Adventure. Love. Living. Change. Watching Jonathan evolve was beautiful and so very heartbreakingly. His words...his beautifully romantic words had me in a puddle...even though he still fumbled. *sigh* Everyone needs a Nino in our life to remind us what is important, how to live.

I had this much (...) left to read and thought that I could finish it at lunch and then...nooo! I had to stop at crucial point and wait ALL afternoon to finish the last few pages. One Week Valentina! I was dying for Nino all afternoon. Very distracting. You try to go to a P&L meeting and stay focused when you don't know what happens next. I sat in the car in the parking lot and read the last dozen pages because I couldn't wait until I got home. Loved it! bzzzzzz

Janean says

Read as part of my QGB Q2 Challenge picked by Lexi. I really got sucked into this book. I was a little leery because I thought I was not going to get my HEA... but I did! So I am a happy camper. Jonathan's journey was bittersweet yet profound and life-changing for him. Nino is a keeper and I loved his outlook on life and his ability to draw Jonathan out of his shell. Sigh... A great read!

Nikyta *Miss Forgetful* says

You know, when I read the blurb to this one I couldn't help but think of the movie *The Bucket List*. Lol

Anyway, I really enjoyed this book. It's the kind of book you want to read when you want a little bit of angst with a dying character but know for sure there's going to be a miracle at the end. It's a sweet read that had me shedding a few tears but had me smiling by the end of the story.

I loved Nino and Jonathan and how they just seemed to be the complete opposite of each other. Nino is adventurous and spontaneous; he doesn't much care whether he has a job one moment and none the next, he's optimistic. Jonathan is a workaholic, a hermit that has never done anything adventurous in his life.

When Jonathan learns of his terminal brain tumor, his life is flipped upside down. He's not sure what to do but running into Nino (literally) makes him realize he doesn't want to spend his last days just working. He wants to relax and does the first spontaneous thing in his life by hiring Nino as his chef/guide and takes off for the island, unwittingly falling in love with Nino in the process.

It's a light-hearted read that'll give you a few laughs while you watch how Jonathan lets loose and learns to actually live and gives both Jonathan and Nino the home they've been looking for. (Haha, loved how you fit in, who was it? Steppenwolf's? Born to be Wild song, Vale ;-P) Definitely recommended.

Lucy says

I liked the idea that stressed out, uptight lawyer Jonathan finds out he has two months to live, and actually does something to improve his remaining time. Namely, going away on vacation, with a new friend that he literally ran into. Nino is a free spirit, going where he wants as the urge comes on. Spending summer on the island sounds perfect for both of them. The descriptions in this book are amazing, and made me want to visit. Their story flows quietly and sweetly. I completely loved the tattoos, both sets.

Kendra T says

[Although I wonder how realistic the ending is, I was grateful to have a HEA. But, Jonathan made all of these arrangements for the "what if" and then didn't need them. What happens to the characters after the HEA?]

Snowtulip says

Synchronicity. Sometimes a book comes along that reminds you of all the things that should actually be important in life at the right moment in time. I needed this reminder. I loved Jonathan and Nino's story. As characters they were great to get to know and they complimented each other perfectly. There was always truth to the depths of their emotions and that greatly appealed to me as a reader. I felt the peace and security that was oozing through the pages as the story developed. A great read!

Ami says

Hmmm, I like the beginning of the story. Jonathan and Nino seem like such an opposite side of spectrum (Jonathan is the corporate guy and Nino is the "live free and loud" guy), it's nice to throw in these two individuals in searching for an adventure, a nice vacation in an island (by the way, OFF topic, but this feels like it should be a summer release, rather than February, no?). The structure of the story is having both men as narrators, with Jonathan narrating first chapter, then Nino the next chapter, then back to Jonathan, and so on. So at least I know what happens in the mind of the two guys.

But something missing for me to get more emotionally care for the two guys. Maybe it's my problem, been a bit burned out with m/m romance lately (cannot finding good ones can make me cranky), but I feel like the story is just stretching a bit too long for me to actually give a damn. While the ending is HEA (which of course, you have to believe in miracles), it doesn't touch me as I expect it would.

It's a nice story, though. I don't hate it. AND one point for cute nickname (Nino calls Jonathan "Bee", after an event you have to read by yourself).

Yeah, I know, this review sucks! I can't even make a coherent writing of my own thought. Sorry!

Michael says

I enjoyed it. It was a cute love story and a happy ending (no spoiler, really) The chapters bounced back and forth between the Nico and Jonathan's point of view. Confused me at first. Overall, it was a good book easy read.

Valentina Heart says

This is my longest 'soon to be published' book. I would also dare to say it is the best so far. The idea didn't come from a movie or a book this time, it was a collection of experiences which I wanted to share with people who have never visited my country.

I focused on the beauty of one of the islands here and modified my own memories to better fit the story. But the feeling I had when I spent my summer there was very real and I think I managed to give the characters as good of a time as I'd had it.

Imagine what it would be like to let go for one summer, forget about work, your problems and all other baggage we carry daily. And instead experience all those things you never even hoped you would. You have the sun, the sea and a gorgeous man by your side to stir your imagination to the heights you never even knew it could go.

That is what this book is about; finding yourself even when you didn't know you were lost and falling in love next to the whisper of the waves in the heat of summer.

Side note; You have to believe in miracles;

Karel says

For about 85% of this book, I was probably too busy wondering 'Hey, what happened to the tumor?' to properly enjoy the book.

If my thoughts had a form it would have been constantly jumping up and down screaming hey tumor hey tumor hey hey hey hey

Anyway.

This had all the makings of a Korean drama series back from the days when the stereotype that all Korean drama series ends with someone dying from Cancer still applied. The story comes pretty much as advertised: J finds out he's about to die and begins his metamorphosis from this

to this.

What doesn't come as advertised:

The people don't really sound natural. They talk like they're on scripts. The explanation for the 'problem' (Nope no spoiler tags. I mean, this is a romance novel, if it had an unhappy ending you can be sure it'll have an average rating of 2.0 stars) was basically 'haha oops'. For a lawyer, I would have expected J to serve them with enough papers to make the LOTR trilogy book look like a flyer.

But nah.

And then there's the fact that someone having a brain tumor should be suffering from

- Headaches
- Seizures
- Sensory and motor loss
- Deep venous thrombosis
- Hearing loss
- Vision loss
- Fatigue
- Depression
- Behavioral and cognitive changes

Endocrine dysfunction

And you would think that if he can Google how to light a fire, he would Google his tumor and wonder why he's having so much sex one month away from his deathbed.

The story was pretty sweet, but I felt like it was stretched thin to the point of meandering. That and I felt like I was being told what to feel by the plot. I'm *supposed* to feel sad that J is dying. I'm *supposed* to feel anxious that they have very little time together. Except I don't.

There's too little focus on that part. No blood puking and fainting spells and stuff to underline the fact that J is dead meat. Just a lot of internal monologues full of *gonna die gonna die duwanna die* on his part.

It could have been much more compact, cut back on the sex, and focus more on their relationship. Instead, a whole part of the book was all about 'He stared at my ass, he stared at my ass not.'

Still. It's an okay book if you're into the un-angsty angst.
