



Special Needs: The Complete Story

K.A. Merikan

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— **Caretaking – You're doing it wrong.** —

Liam slept with his boss. Again. And lost his job because of it. Again. Set on changing his ways and tired of sleeping in his car, he applies for a job as a live-in caretaker, even though he has no experience in it whatsoever. He has a lot of practice in lying his way out of any situation though. Only problem is, his new boss – wheelchair bound owner of a sex hotel – is gay, cute, funny and oh, so fuckable! There is only one logical solution to Liam's dilemma – pretending he's straight. Brilliant!

When Ryan inherited his aunt's B&B, he thought he'd hit the jackpot by changing it into a fetish sex hotel. Things didn't go as planned though, all of his marketing efforts seem to fail, and the debt is mounting up. Being a wheelchair user doesn't help in actively promoting his hotel, but his luck starts to change when he hires a new aide. Liam is open-minded, helpful and caring. All that Ryan needs from a caretaker to kickstart his business, but things would all be a lot simpler if he didn't start crushing on his new employee. And even if, in some other dimension, Liam did return his feelings, how long can Ryan keep his fetish a secret?

The web of lies they weave around each other is more bondage than any of them enjoy.

Contains book one and two of 'Special Needs'.

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Genre: contemporary erotic m/m romance, dramedy

Length: ~248,000 words

Themes (possible SPOILERS): disability, deception, alternative lifestyles, stalking, tattoos, self-image issues, financial trouble, boss/employee, BIID, abduction, communication issues, transability, self-harm

Erotic content: explicit m/m sexual scenes

Special Needs: The Complete Story Details

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Author : K.A. Merikan

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Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Disability, Erotica, BdsM, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Special Needs: The Complete Story for online ebook

MaDoReader says

Mi DNF es totalmente personal, el libro tiene una temática que me ha incomodado, soy una gran fan de las idas de olla de las Merikan, pero aquí ya ha sido too much.

Tanja says

>>Diese Rezension und viele mehr findet ihr auch hier: <http://wort-welten.blogspot.de/>

Was ich mir unter dieser Story vorgestellt habe? Amüsante Unterhaltung, bisweilen angebrachte Ernsthaftigkeit, ein wenig Humor, und das Ganze mit dem Hauch eines Einblicks in die Fetisch-Szene. Was ich da gelesen habe? Nun, einigen wir uns doch darauf, dass das Buch so ziemlich gar nicht meinen Erwartungen entsprochen hat. Mit Ausnahme vielleicht des Anfangs. Damit hat es sich dann allerdings auch schon. Obgleich ich mich eigentlich immer für recht weltoffen gehalten habe, hat Ryan mich dann doch eines Besseren belehrt und mich irgendwann nur noch tierisch genervt, obwohl ich noch immer der Meinung bin, dass jeder auf seine Weise glücklich werden sollte.

Und dann die Tatsache, dass es sich hier im Grunde um zwei Bücher in einem handelt und zu Beginn erst einmal die Körperkunst der Protagonisten aufgelistet wird - nun, mich hat das Buch halb wahnsinnig gemacht. Umgerechnet mehr als 700 Seiten, meine Güte! Wären mir die Protagonisten nur ein kleines Bisschen sympathischer gewesen ... nur ein ganz kleines Bisschen ... Aber so, wie ich diese Geschichte erlebt habe, kann ich sie leider nur so bewerten ...

Skye Blue ?*~??('`?)~*? says

Okay..this is weird.

Book one 4 stars

Book two 4 stars

But put together as a whole 5 Stars.

Don't ask me how that works? I know my math is wrong.

I reviewed each book separately.

If you decide to start...you definitely want book 2 waiting in the wings....because book 1 ends it WTF WTF WTF! (quite possibly the reason I gave it the fourth star) But without book 2, it wouldn't have made it's way into my long term memory.

As a whole, the whole story is stronger than it's parts.

Does that even make sense?

K.A. Merikan says

Now with this amazing new cover by Natasha Snow <3 :)))

~ Lei ~ Reading Is An Adventure ~ says

[vagina

Gwynn says

I got this book for free in return for an honest review and I'm glad I did because otherwise it probably would've stayed on my TBR-shelf indefinitely.

Book 1:

The reason I wanted to read the book was the first line of the blurb: *Liam slept with his boss. Again. And lost his job because of it. Again. Set on changing his ways and tired of sleeping in his car, he applies for a job as a live-in caretaker, even though he has no experience in it whatsoever. He has a lot of practice in lying his way out of any situation though.*

That and the fact that it played in a kink hotel, was bound to make for a fun read. And it delivered: I read the entire thing with a smile on my face.

It were not Liam's lies or his unhealthy habit to fall for authority figures that made the book so great for me. It was messed-up Ryan that made it intriguing. I don't know if the author has done her research right, or hit a homerun guessing, but I love a book where psychiatric diseases are done right. (view spoiler)

I read some of the other reviews and I think that most don't understand what the author meant by Ryan's secret kink as mentioned in the blurb. It is not bondage people, or being overpowered. He's completely open about that.

Book 2:

3,5 stars rounded up because the book is different, it made me think, and it kept in the back of my mind all week. An important thing is that because of my profession (I'm a psychologist) I've probably read this book on a different level than most people would, so my review might be completely irrelevant for anyone else.

Let's start by saying that I loved book one for its realism and its originality and I couldn't wait to find out what would happen once Liam found out Ryan was faking his disability.

The good thing was that Liam broke up with Ryan. The unbelievable part was Liam didn't move out and Ryan didn't throw him out. Apart from everything else, Ryan is the worst business owner ever. He was no money (and no use) for a cook, just like he has no use for a caretaker (because most disabled people I met prefer taking care of themselves as much as possible).

I didn't mind that last bit so much because from book one was obvious that Ryan is seriously disturbed, and I entertained myself with trying to fit the correct personality disorder to Ryan. I missed the boat with thinking Ryan had Factitious disorder, while the authors were going for (view spoiler)

What I didn't like was that all other issues Ryan had were suddenly solved as well. Maybe the self-esteem part, maybe. But pushing down kids that insult you is not normal behavior. Not even when you're forced to feed a goat, because 1) you should've told that new caregiver of yours (Rufio) that you don't like animals (and who doesn't like animals? Makes him seriously unlikable imo) 2) you don't assault kids. Not even if they insult you about not being able to walk (and well, you can walk, so don't be a fuss about it!). Apart from being too dependent, he's also too theatrical. He cuts himself. He tries to commit suicide in an impulse. To summarize: he's very seriously disturbed, and that's more than simply the BDD, because he showed much of that in book 1 as well.

I shouldn't blame Liam for falling for that. He can't see into Ryan's head like we do, and he's not that smart anyway. I do blame the authors for that being magically solved the moment he's back with Liam and Liam accepting him.

Also I didn't like Liam at all in this book. He was so immature, and at times portrayed as almost mentally challenged. Maybe that was what the authors were going for? That whole hiking plan was so unbelievable stupid. Apart from the complete insanity of having your brother act like an old lover, there's the stupidity of thinking a guy that has spend most of the last 10 years voluntary in a wheelchair and who has a badly fitting prosthetic foot is able to walk for days.

I might give the impression that I didn't like the book at all, and that isn't true. There was much to enjoy: the banter between them, the teasing of Rufio, the very, very, very hot sex (though I still don't really understand the mega-ism of being tied to a plush octopus), some great quotes (forgot to highlight them while reading, you simply have to believe me).

LaVon Lyman says

Ok I guess

Let me start off by saying I'm I'm biased because I have cerebral palsy and I'm "paralyzed on my right side" in some aspects I found this story offensive and insulting to us suffering from any disabilities... kind of a mockery of the struggle. I personally know what it feels like to be looked down on treated unfairly and unkindly.... to hate my body and it's malfunctions especially growing up... to have disabled people be exploited and degraded so frequently throughout the story was disheartening. I found myself wanting to stop reading so many times but I'm not a quitter and really wanted to see if it improved like maybe he would find his self worth he didn't. Even the sex was disabled based like why I'm married and have had a healthy sexual life and my diagnosis never played and or plays a part. I just wish the author would have considered the effect on those who have been amputated(my father)and those with disabilities I'm being generous with 2 stars because I'm a sucker hea

Emma Sea says

Giada says

Ed è dopo più di un mese che FINALMENTE ho concluso la lettura della duologia Special Needs e ancora... non so che dire!!! Mi sono messa qui ora, dopo aver appena letto l'ultima pagina, e sto facendo non poca fatica a riordinare i pensieri per descrivere un libro che mi ha stregato e tenuto compagnia per così tanto tempo. Mi sembra ieri quando ho avuto la brillante idea di caricarlo sull'Iphone e pensare "Ma sì... alla fine sono solo 757 pagine in inglese... che sarà mai? Le finirò in una settimana. Non ho voglia di metterlo sul Kobo, lo leggerò dallo schermo dell'Iphone rischiando di diventare cieca per colpa della retroilluminazione! Che sarà mai?!" ed è così che ridendo e scherzando... è iniziato il delirio fatto di risate, scleri contro il povero Iphone, ricerche sul web e sul dizionario e... chi più ne ha più ne metta! Un piccolo viaggio che nonostante tutto rifarei altre mille volte questo perché Special Needs è una storia che DEVE essere letta assolutamente da tutti gli amanti del genere M/M, le due autrici (che scrivono sotto lo pseudonimo K.A. Merikan) sono riuscite a fare un lavoro magistrale e creare un libro che non è solo erotico ma riesce a mixare senza problemi anche altri genere senza mai perdere la sua forma. Questo libro è folle, simpaticissimo, ricco di spunti di riflessioni, dolce e romantico, il che lo rende perfetto per tutti i palati. Fin da subito mi sono ritrovata immersa nell'atmosfera molto atipica e alle prese con due personaggi... che definire bizzarri... e dir poco. Ci ritroviamo in un hotel a tema, utilizzato per lo più dalle coppie e pieno di stanze che spaziano dal bizzarro all'erotico e se già questo non basta a mettere un po' di pepe ci pensano subito i due protagonisti che fin dalla prima comparsa erano già diventati due "fratelli" per me. Troviamo Ryan, un ragazzo disabile con i capelli blu, tatuato e... parecchio timido.. ma non abbastanza da non avere un sito web fetish e gestire un "porno" hotel a tema, Ryan è un tesoro, un ragazzo che non si piega troppo agli stereotipi del povero disabile che piagnucola e si lamenta della sua sorte, è un peperino con la lingua lunga e che nonostante tutto riesce a sembrare una papera imbranata, questo suo dualismo, da una parte tigrotto e dall'altra anatroccolo sfigatello mi ha fatto impazzire, ho passato metà del libro a ridere e l'altra metà a desiderare di coccolarlo ma... non è stato lui quello che mi ha rubato il cuore bensì il suo fidanzato Liam... ahhhh LIAM! Che dire di Liam? Liam è la rappresentazione dell'amore, il fidanzato perfetto. All'inizio ci viene presentato un po' come un playboy, tanto da essere stato licenziato dal suo vecchio posto di lavoro per essere andato a letto con il capo, vizio che a quanto pare lo perseguita, ero già quindi pronta con i miei "Ecco, ci risiamo, ora lui farà il maschio alpha e l'altro povero dovrà rimanere muto e subire abusi" e invece no.. perché è vero che il nostro Liam è un po' un perverso/maniaco ma è anche ADORABILE, è buffissimo e simpatico, il classico ragazzo che riesce a far sorridere anche la persona più incazzosa e triste del mondo, è leale e sincero (tranne per qualche piccolo dettaglio trascurabile) e nonostante tutto fin da subito si comporta come un vero amico nei confronti di Ryan. Non si fa problemi per la condizione del ragazzo e anzi... cerca di aiutarlo come può, farlo sentire amato e normale e addirittura in un primo momento cerca di rimediargli un ragazzo (con il doppio fine di levarsi la crush dalla testa ma.... è comunque ammirevole come gesto)

Ho amato Liam, è il ragazzo perfetto che tutti vorrebbero avere. Quando si innamora infatti di Ryan non diventa un mostro ossessivo alla Christian Grey/Hardin, non è il classico tipo che prende a botte chiunque guardi il fidanzato o osi respirare la sua aria, è sì gelosetto dell'amato ma con il giusto livello e non arriverà mai a spaccare la faccia a nessuno per aver condiviso la stanza con il partner e già questo lo fa salire in classifica ma non è l'unico pregio, Liam si fa in quattro per aiutare il compagno e anche se commette umanamente degli errori (tutti li fanno per amore) è sempre pronto a salvare il suo Ryan, è dolce e romantico e all'occorrenza sa tirare fuori il suo lato kinky che lo rendono irresistibile ai miei occhi. Liam è sicuramente il prototipo di ragazzo che mi piacerebbe avere accanto anche solo come amico, con la sua spontaneità e follia non ci si annoia mai con lui!

I due protagonisti sono quindi... incantevoli e si completano a vicenda non solo nei pregi ma anche nei vizi e

difetti.

Le autrici sono riuscite a delineare personaggi realistici e unici, che colpiscono il lettore e lo fanno innamorare. Non si sono però limitate solo ai due piccioncini, hanno creato anche dei co-protagonisti ugualmente irresistibili. Impossibile non amare infatti il pazzo Matt, porno divo amico di Liam, Rufio caretaker dal cuore di panna, un po' verginello e imbranato oppure Cole, il fratello intelligente (ma non troppo) di Liam di cui ho amato le battute e i siparietti, soprattutto se rivolti contro il dolce fratellino. Ogni personaggio ha una sua storia e personalità e sembra prendere vita attraverso le pagine e ogni battuta e parola è perfettamente in linea e scelta con cura, una piccola gioia.

Le autrici sono riuscite a creare un mondo unico e a creare una storia ad effetto. Nel primo romanzo possiamo incontrare Ryan e Liam e imparare a conoscere i loro pregi e difetti e vedere il loro modo di innamorarsi, mi sono fatta prendere dal mio lato fangirl per tutto il primo romanzo e vedere i due a tratti così imbranati è stato molto divertente e perché no a tratti frustrante, spesso avrei voluto urlare "Mettetevi insieme e scopateeee" a forza di vedere i due così affiatati e cotti l'uno dell'altro ma troppo "timidi", per diversi motivi, per avvicinarsi, tutto il primo libro è quindi molto più romance e nonostante un piccolo momento più angst possiamo apprezzare tutta la dolcezza di questa storia, le parti erotiche in esso sono parecchio contenute se non accennate e lo rende più godibile anche per i non amanti del genere erotico. Il secondo romanzo invece... è tutta un'altra cosa. Inizialmente devo ammettere di non averlo amato molto, ritroviamo infatti i nostri cuccioli in crisi per colpa di bugie non dette, mezze verità ecc soliti problemini che possono insinuarsi nelle coppie e vederli rompere mi ha fatto temere di rivivere uno Special Needs 1 versione 2.0, ho pensato "Ecco, di sicuro andremo avanti per secoli, ste due faranno i musoni per tutto il libro e si rimetteranno insieme alla fine" e invece... no... fortunatamente non succede e anzi... le autrici mi hanno sconvolta arrivando a tirare fuori argomenti e temi scottanti e... complessi. In questo secondo romanzo infatti vengono tirati in ballo temi molto forti quali l'autolesionismo irrimediabilmente legato alla non accettazione del proprio corpo e possiamo di conseguenza conoscere una realtà che mai mi era capitato di ritrovare in un romanzo, meno che mai in un M/M, si parla infatti di transabilità, una condizione che porta le persone a desiderare di diventare disabili e disposte anche a mutilarsi pur di diventarlo, scopriamo quindi un nuovo lato oscuro di Ryan e devo ammettere che sono rimasta sconvolta... assistere alla prima volta in cui Ryan si taglia davanti a noi e quel "He WOULD be normal" mi hanno... annientato, spinto a capire che di Ryan non avevo... capito proprio niente!! Assistiamo a momenti pesanti e drammatici e riusciamo ad entrare nella sua testa e in seguito in quella di Liam, possiamo assistere all'amore che i due provano l'uno per l'altro e come per amore una persona sia disposta a sacrificarsi o a scendere a compromessi con se stesso. Qualcosa di cui non voglio troppo parlare per evitare spoiler più pesanti ma che sicuramente non mi aspettavo in questo secondo romanzo, che ha reso il tutto più intimo e umano. Non è però solo presente dramma e dolore fortunatamente, troviamo tanto fluff dolcetto perfetto per i romanticoni, umorismo e black humor a go go e... tanto, ma tanto smutt! Se eravate infatti alla ricerca di qualcosa di erotico verrete accontentati in quanto molte parti sono parecchio piccanti, le descrizioni accurate e.... HOT, decisamente hot, se le uniamo a due protagonisti puramente kinkster e amanti dei giochetti di ruolo in camera da letto, troverete un piccolo paradiso. Amanti del Fluff & Smutt è il vostro momento e luogo. Insomma... la verità è che ho detto tutto e niente di questa duologia, mi ero ripromessa di scrivere una recensione come si deve ma dopo aver finito la lettura ed essermi resa conto di come questa duologia mi abbia acchiappato troppo.... sapevo che non sarei MAI riuscita a rendere giustizia e scrivere qualcosa di più complesso o filosofico e per evitare ulteriori deliri ho preferito essere più spontanea possibile e tirare fuori di getto una riflessione a caldo della lettura, posso dire che mi sono follemente innamorata di Special Needs e ora che ho finito la lettura mi mancherà fondere il mio Iphone in piena notte e sclerare come una pazza sull'imbecillità dei miei due dork preferiti. Questa lettura è stata come detto precedentemente un piccolo viaggio e spero con tutto il cuore di poter "replicare" magari rileggendo la versione italiana, spero infatti che vengano tradotti, ho notato che altri libri sono stati tradotti di recente, uno dei quali con Liam e Ryan come comparse e di conseguenza spero questi due non siano l'eccezione alla regola perché sarebbe un vero peccato. Credo che... se non verrà tradotto me lo rileggerò, probabilmente tra un annetto e nel frattempo lo consiglio caldamente se

- Siete kinkster
 - Amate il genere erotico
 - Cercate una lettura che tratta anche temi importanti e complessi
 - Cercate qualcosa di dolce, simpatico e un po' piccante
 - Siete alla ricerca di personaggi di cui innamorarvi follemente e non i soliti protagonisti Uke/Seme noiosissimi e banali o stereotipati fino al midollo
 - Cercate un libro che vi faccia emozionare e coinvolga tra risate e lacrime
-

Anna says

DNF. I gave up at 23%. I generally love K & A's work, but this one was just dragging along! Maybe some other time, but not right now.

Debra says

3.75 stars

(3.5 for Book 1 and 4.0 for Book 2)

Although this book was not what I expected, I found it very enjoyable. I went into it thinking it was going to be a crazy, kink filled, fetish exploiting story. What it turned out to be was a story with two likable MC's who love role play in their sex and a bit of light BDSM and just happens to take place at a fetish hotel.

Liam has just lost his job, his place to stay and his lover, who just happened to be his boss. Liam has a kink for the power play of bedding those in a position of power, so this isn't the first time it has happened. He knows when he sees Ryan that it is a bad idea to take the job since he is immediately attracted to the younger, goth, wheelchair bound man, but Liam decides to just play it as if he is straight and find Ryan another man. Ryan is disabled, but not quite as disabled as he has led others to believe. Ryan is not playing up his disability for fun, he truly believes that his body is not as it should be and finds being wheelchair bound to be a more natural state for him. As the two men grow closer, their stories start to unravel and their relationship is tested.

Neither MC is perfect and Ryan, especially is dealing with some serious issues that Liam may not be able to deal with even if Ryan could tell him about them. Add to that a failing business, a stalker, a serial killer and you've got Special Needs.

This book is long, but I never found myself losing interest in the story. There are also quite a bit of editing and language issues, although I understand English is not the native language of the authors and it is self-published, so I am forgiving. However, the relationship between Ryan and Liam was so intriguing and different from anything I have read before. The authors really let you spend a lot of time with them building their relationship, their trust and ultimately love. Ryan's physical disability would be enough to have to overcome, but his transability issues add a whole new layer to the relationship dynamics. This was a surprisingly emotional romance and if you like something a little quirky you'll probably enjoy it.

Anja says

5 Big Stars for this beautiful story

I met Liam and Ryan when I read Break my Shell. They fascinated me so of course I had to check out their story in "Special Needs." I read this whopper of a book in two days!

K.A. Merikan have a way of creating really unique characters. At first you may be thinking they're weird or slightly crazy but then you come to love them including their crazy kinks and you wouldn't want it any other way. The same thing happened in Special Needs. Ryan and Liam were so well fleshed out, you couldn't help but root for them. I loved Ryan so much that I even found myself sympathizing with something I would have definitely frowned upon before. Sometimes K.A. Merikan make me question my sanity :D But they did such a good job of explaining Ryan's thoughts and emotions that I just wanted to hug him! It's not his fault he feels the way he does. I loved his eccentricity and that he stayed true to himself.

Ryan and Liam's relationship was just a beautiful thing to witness. I felt like their relationship developed very realistically. It was really nice to see these two very different people come together. Liam was a typically hot, kinda slutty, surfer boy but he underwent a lot of growth in this book. He became more mature and in the end his true love for Ryan shone in his acceptance of Ryan's 'special needs'.

Chelsea says

Well I devoured that. **Devoured it.** It was not at all what I was expecting! Ryan was sweeter, more innocent, kinkier and more messed up than I imagined. While Liam was more of a man-whore, angrier and well... more perfect for Ryan than anyone else could be. I did have some serious issues with Liam, he has one hell of a temper which he doesn't have a great handle on. Their break up is very ugly and was dying for it to be over with!!!

But let's move onto some good stuff! I adored **adored** Ryan!!!!!! He must be one of my favourite KA Merikan characters now! He's sweet and thoughtful and just messed up enough to be realistic. He's also kinky as hell.

By now most of you would know I love *love* **love** roleplaying!! And these guys are right into the roleplaying, especially with non-con/power imbalance, they do abusive doctor and psycho mental patient. It's all so yummy!!!!

There's your typical overdone drama with rescues needed from and attempted rape and murderers, but I kinda love that. Then there were some surprisingly raw emotions with some super serious issues to do with Ryan's body image.

Overall there wasn't much I didn't love about this series (the breakup and Liam douchebaggness being the loss of that one star).

Ele says

I read this a couple of weeks back, but I still don't have the words for a review. On one hand, I'm banging my head against the wall for not reading it sooner, but on the other, I'm glad I read K.A.Merikan's latest work first. In this duology, I can see things, and really...**see** them. Like toying with the idea of devoteeism that was fully fleshed out in *His Favorite Color Is Blood: Coffin Nails MC*. Or fully appreciate a character in super crazy jealous mode, you know?

Lengthy, but I never got bored. Sweeter than I thought it would be, and fascinating regarding Ryan's...special issues. In other words...unique. Yeah, *Special Needs* is pretty special.

Gemma says

This is a great book, with flawed characters and playful language, and playful, somewhat kinky role-playing sex. But you have to wait a while for it as the complete story is long, which suited me perfectly.

Both the m/cs are immature in different ways and make quite a few poor decisions. But they both also have strengths and depth to them. They become an adorable couple without the story descending into saccharine territory.

This was a re-read for me, and a satisfying one. I sought it out of my library based on hazy memories of body image issues, disability, fun language, a sex hotel, a Mega Shark in the swimming pool, and a plush octopus whose arm pockets contain dildos.
