



Body Rocks

A.M. Arthur

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Everything is finally falling into place for Trey Cooper: his band has been accepted into one of the biggest music competitions in the country...too bad their drummer just quit to play with XYZ, their biggest rival. When Trey has a mind-blowingly hot hookup with a mysterious violinist, Trey definitely plans to see him again – just not on stage as a member XYZ.

Dominic Bounds' time to make his musical dreams come true is running out. If something doesn't happen fast, he has to head home to find a real job. This competition is his last chance, and Dom needs to come out on top – but he never expected to fall for his rival. As Dom and Trey risk everything to begin a secret affair, there's no denying their chemistry is off the charts – but could their band rivalry turn their romance into a one-hit wonder?

Body Rocks Details

Date : Published June 28th 2016 by Swerve

ISBN : 9781250105851

Author : A.M. Arthur

Format : ebook 300 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Contemporary, Music

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From Reader Review Body Rocks for online ebook

CrabbyPatty says

Body Rocks is the first book in A.M. Arthur's new series "Off Beat", published by Swerve, the digital imprint of St. Martin's Press. And it is a great introduction to the world of indie rock and the members of two bands - Fading Daze (Trey, Bobby, Danielle and Andy) and XYZ (Lincoln, Benji, Dominic and Tyson).

When Trey meets Dominic at an open-mike night at a local bar, sparks fly, neutrons sizzle, body parts tingle and oooh sweet jesus, explode. Yeah, no lack of chemistry at *all* between Trey and Dom. Dominic is a lean copper-skinned *god* of a man with dark hair and eyes fit in a slim pair of black jeans, while Trey has guylined green eyes dark hair and gorgeous cheekbones with a voice like Bruno Mars and James Blunt's love child.

With the Unbound music festival/competition only three weeks away (picture Coachella with a side of American Idol) and a \$100,000 recording contract on the line, Trey and Dom try to keep their relationship under wraps. Sure, there are some misunderstandings and miscommunication along the way, but Dom and Trey work through them and are willing to lay their souls bare as they each disclose issues from their past. The pace of the story is quick, with band in-fighting, the Unbound competition, meeting Dom's family and dealing with a family crisis, and a car accident that changes everything.

Body Rocks keeps the tension going until the end, giving us a perfect ending for Trey and Dom's story, while providing a fascinating glimpse into Lincoln, whose story is told in *Steady Stroke*, the upcoming second book in the Off Beat series. *Body Rocks* is a solid beginning to A.M. Arthur's latest series.

I received a galley copy from SMP Swerve, via Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review. Review also posted at GayBook Reviews. Check it out!

Alisa says

This was a really good start to a new series. Trey is a musician heading to a big competition with his band. They're having problems because they've just lost their drummer to their biggest rivals. One night playing in a local bar Trey watches an amazing violin player named Dom. The two young men end up playing together on stage and then hanging out together. Their night of musical passion leads to another kind of passion and they find themselves really attracted to each other. Imagine Trey's surprise when he finds out Dom is in the rival band.

Not only do the two guys end up having a secret affair but Trey is in the closet as well. As the bands head to the music festival things come to a head and they both have to make some big decisions.

I thought this story was a lot of fun. This author tends to do stories that have a lot of angst and dramatic events. This was no exception to the rule although I did feel it was toned down a bit for this story. I liked both of the main characters as well as all their friends and families.

The romance between the two guys was sweet in places and smoking hot in others. I enjoyed this a lot and

I'm looking forward to the other books in the series.

Pianka *call me PIU* says

Body Rocks is a sweet story about healing, battling demons and more importantly "Falling in Love". This is my 2nd book by A.M Arthur and as the first book, i loved this story as well. This book is about two guys with immense musical talent trying their best to make their dreams come true while falling in love.

Following the advice of his best friend and bandmate, Trey Cooper, the lead singer of "Fading Daze" wanders into Off Beat, the local bar, looking to get laid. He has a lot on his plate with finding a new drummer for his band after their previous one abandoned them for a different band. What was to be a night of simply cruising a few guys and landing a hook-up, turns into a fantastic musical experience that makes Trey's soul sing as well as his dick hard for the charismatic but shy and good looking violin prodigy Dominic Bounds. They create music together like magic and their hot as hell session of car sex is an added cherry on an already notes filled cake. Their one night together was a hook up for both but they also don't want it to end. But on the next day **when Trey comes to know that Dom is the competition and he is actually sleeping with the enemy, Trey and Dom's less than a day old connection is on the verge of breaking.** Trey and Dom are too attracted to each other to let the small detail like being on rival bands, deter them from pursuing the connection between them. They need to hide their budding relationship from their bandmates and **when they fall in love despite of all the road blocks, all the hiding and the heart ache leading to their happy ending, was worth it.**

Trey and Dom were pretty amazing together. They did not have much in common other than their huge love and talent for music. They connect pretty quickly. Trey and Dom's first jam together in Off Beat was awesome. I could feel the music through the pages. Trey and Dom's clandestine hook ups was thrilling, sweet and sexy. Their bands are competing against each other and they know that the fall out would be huge if any of their bandmates learn about them, but both of their bandmates were really great when their relationship comes out, given the circumstances. I loved Danielle. Trey's happiness was more important to her than their band winning. A true friend like that is very hard to find.

Dominic had a very brutal past which made him stop playing violin. After 6 years of therapy, Dom overcomes his fear by playing his violin publicly which also leads him to the love of his life, Trey. Dom had an awesome support group which comprised of his loving, super protective family and also his best friend Lincoln but **Trey was the missing piece that finally heals him and makes him complete.**

Dom's family was absolutely amazing and i loved them all. Dom's siblings are all adopted including him and the love and support that his parents provided to nurture each of his siblings was awe inspiring. Lincoln was another rock and champion for Dom. His family had abandoned him when he came out and Dom's family has welcomed him in their fold with open hearts. Trey is also estranged from his family and the Bounds welcomes him in their family not only as Dom's boyfriend but also as their son.

This book was a very good introduction to both the bands "Fading Daze" and "XYZ". I wanted to know more about Tyson and hopefully his story will be a later addition to this series. Lincoln's story is next and I am eager to read about another musical journey to his HEA.

All in all, Body Rocks is a sweet and loving music filled story about healing love and conquering demons. It was not intense or dark but soothing and healing with loads of love and support. Plus, Trey and Dom were HOT between the sheets so that is an added bonus for any romance lover. A very good start to a brand new M/M series, full of music and love.

*****A review copy was provided by the publisher through NETGALLEY in exchange of an honest review*****

Debra says

Full release day review posted at Sinfully

3.5 stars

This is a good start to a new NA series following the members of two up and coming rival bands, XYZ and Fading Daze. Trey aka Coop and Dominic's story is a Romeo and Juliet style tale. Unbeknown to either man when they meet, Trey is a member of the band Fading Daze, whose drummer just defected to join Dominic's band XYZ on the eve of the big Unbound Festival competition they are both competing in.

The attraction between Trey and Dom is one of those that instantly crackles for both when they meet at an open mic night at the bar where Trey works and his band is a regular act. Not only are they physically attracted, but they literally make beautiful music together; Dom a violin prodigy and Trey a singer/songwriter. When the truth about their respective bands comes out, Trey and Dom continue their new relationship in secret, keeping the news from their bandmates and outsiders as Trey is not out to his band's fans, many of who ship him with singer and his best friend, Danielle, and he is afraid to damage that image right before the Unbound Festival.

While both men share a love of music and rely on the support and friendship of their bandmates, their family lives are completely different. Trey's lack of family support is a big reason for him doing anything in his power, including hiding his sexuality, to keep the band together as they are the people he considers family. Dominic, on the other hand, not only has his bandmates, but he has amazing family support in just about everything he does. They both also feel they have something to prove to their fathers and that it is all riding on this competition.

This being an A.M. Arthur story, I expected angst and baggage and that is what I got. Both do have extremely serious issues from their past that they fight to overcome, however, both men have so much baggage, that at times it felt like almost too much and I thought that some of the issues didn't really add to the story, but were just piled on top of the other more prominent issues they were facing.

The story is far from a complete angst fest though. I enjoyed the dynamics both Trey and Dom's bands had, Fading Daze especially as some find out what is going on and try to continue to keep the romance quiet. I could understand Trey's fears of coming out as far as the band goes as they are all he has, but Dom is not in the closet (in fact all the members of XYZ are gay and don't hide it) and while he agrees to give Trey time, he has no intention of hiding anything past Unbound. His only sticking point is that if anyone asks Trey about them, that Trey doesn't deny him. The two MCs are young (Trey 21 and Dom just a couple years older) and I appreciated that they acted their ages, at times showing maturity and other times not.

Not only do Trey and Dom have amazing sexual chemistry, but they literally make beautiful music together.

Some of my favorite parts of the book were when Trey and Dom connected through their music, whether on stage together or through Skype jam sessions as they worked out their long-distance romance. That was really the heart of this book, the romance between Trey and Dom and their shared love of music.

The secondary characters consist of Dom's family and the members of the two bands, and they all had their different parts to play. I expect Dom's best friend and bandmate Lincoln to have an interesting and difficult story and I'm looking forward to reading it.

Mandi Schreiner says

Trey's passion in life is his band, so when they lose their drummer just days before they are to play in a big indie music festival, things look dour. If they finish first at this festival, they could win money and their own recording contract - it would be a dream come true. Letting off some steam as they search for a new drummer, Trey goes to one of his favorite hangouts to listen to open mike night and have some drinks. Trey is gay but in the closet - only his best friend knows. That doesn't keep him from looking at hot men, and when a man by the name, Dom goes on stage and wows everyone with his violin, Trey is hooked and even goes on stage and sings while Dom plays.

Their intensity on stage turns into Trey and Dom having sex that night. While normally I'd be cheering at this part of the story, I was a little let down. Trey is a virgin when it comes to actual intercourse, and there was no build up or sexual tension leading up to this. I felt that way throughout the book. They had chemistry and a lot of make out scenes but no build up to anything.

Soon after this, Trey finds out Dom is in a competing band, going up against them for the recording contract. So they have to keep their relationship a secret - and after this more things come out, and Trey's secret of being gay is exposed as well.

The premise of this book really drew me in - two competing indie rockers who fall for each other, but the reality didn't work so well for me. This story felt really slow. The lack of sexual tension definitely added to the pace. Trey and Dom get together so fast and fall for each other so easily, all that was left in the story was the music competition which didn't wow me so much. For it being an "Indie rock" competition, they played Katy Perry and Taylor Swift - songs I wouldn't necessarily consider Indie Rock.

We get both Dom and Trey's back stories which have darker moments, but for some reason I was never drawn in. At one point, Dom has to rush home when one of his sisters is assaulted, and I felt like it again slowed the story down instead of engaging me.

I liked Trey and Dom - they have sweet personalities, but overall I was bored with this one.

Grade: C

Vivian says

Way too AfterSchool Special for my taste.

My expectations after reading the blurb weren't close to what this ended up being. I was hoping for a youthful expression of sexuality (early twenties) and romance with issues of coming out under the aegis of a band competition. What I got was a smorgasbord of social issues crammed into a story.

And the trauma. I didn't sign up for this, and the blurb gives no inkling aside from some OFY issues, which I get and seemed absolutely reasonable. So, the add in of attempted rape, blackmail, coercion and raping a minor, cutting, autism, suicide attempt, major character trauma, panic attacks, and ... I might have forgotten one. Oh yeah, blended families and interracial relations.

Just when I was getting invested in the main characters situation there was a new "issue" thrown in to upset the dynamics. Tackling one or two of these issues is challenging, grappling ten of them became overbearing and desensitizing. I don't mind, in fact I often enjoy a bit of communicating relevant issues and for the genre, the focus is spot on, but the other thing that was really off-putting about it was the presentation.

Unrealistic dialogue, people just don't talk like this. It felt very contrived. Painful.

Gender studies speak, bleh. I get that this is aimed towards a younger crowd. I should make a note that new adult isn't really my thing and save myself the agony of explaining. Don't explain things in terms characters aren't going to really say. I don't need the lingo.

Pep talks. This reads more like a self help motivational book than a romance.

Finally, there a couple of quick instances of phrases that automatically turn me off, both just for the verbiage and second for intention behind it. "Dripping pussies", I never want to read that description supposedly coming out of an adult male. Reeks of misogyny. Just no.

And then there's the music. I'm the musical reject in a household of talent that spans oboe/english horn to twelve string guitar with most everything between aside from percussion being played, and I'm not a huge let's shove things into tidy little boxes to label it for my comfort. But, BUT... the majority of songs referenced really don't bring to mind Indie Rock: Katy Perry, Beyonce, Taylor Swift, Bruno Mars, Rhianna-- I stopped noting them because I was bored, and to be fair there were a couple that rang true. Nonetheless, if you're a hardcore indie fan going with expectations just dial it back and ride the Pop wave. Mind you, this is INDIE ROCK, not indie pop.

So, this wasn't the read I was hoping for going in and the angst and trauma of the constant bad luck and injustice was too much. It eclipsed the romance.

Overall, a social issues whack-a-mole read.

~ARC provided by NetGalley~

Vanessa theJeepDiva says

Following the sage advice of his bandmate, best friend, and roommate, Trey Cooper leaves their beach house to “go out and get laid already.” He assumes he will just go to Off Beat (his place of employment and the establishment that helped his band get started with regular gigs) and enjoy the show of open mike night. What he gets is a show he will never forget performed by a gorgeous man playing a violin. His boss even suggests that he get on stage and play with this handsome new comer so that he may wow the crowd some more with this talent on the violin. Trey can’t get enough of Dom on stage. He’s thrilled that he followed Danielle’s advice because Dom isn’t ready for their time together to end when their stage time is up.

Performing in front of a crowd is nothing new to Dominic Bounds. It’s his dream and he and his bandmates of XYZ are at the top of their game and have just been added to the list to compete at Unbound. While on an out of town gig Dom sneaks away from his bandmates to play at an open mike night at a venue they’ve never played. This is something Dom feels he needs to do on his own. It’s something he has to do for himself. Dom and his violin in front of a crowd is a huge hurdle.

The fact that Coop and Dom embark on a secret romance while competing for the same end goal where Unbound is concerned lets readers know there is all sorts of tension and angst within the pages of this book. There’s so much more here than just that. Coop has let his followers believe in an image that he never put out there, but he’s never denied it either. That image puts Dom in too close of proximity of a closet that he left years ago. Both young men have pasts that are dark. They’ve both went through hardships that no one should have to go through. All these things made them such amazing characters to read, they put me through an emotional rollercoaster while reading them.

It’s not a secret that I love A.M. Arthur’s books. So I knew I couldn’t go wrong grabbing this one. I have never been a fan of rock-star romances. I still jumped on the opportunity to read Body Rocks though. These guys aren’t rock stars, yet. They’re young college age guys who are in rival bands that are both after the winning position in a music competition. I feel that this is a big difference from rock star. Apparently I just don’t dig music themed romances. I still loved the story and enjoyed all of the characters. I’m looking forward to the next book Steady Stroke, big time. Readers are introduced to at least one of the main characters here. I believe he will have an interesting story to tell.

Pjm12 says

I was interested to find this in the 'erotica' section of Netgalley not the 'LGBTQIA' section. But the point is, I found it, because if you follow my reviews you'll know I am a huge fan of AM Arthur's work.

This one doesn't disappoint in the ways that matter. Both boys are young and still figuring things out. Not about who they could love... no, that part is sorted (Boys! Boys! Boys!), but about their life choices, their music decisions, their band members... some of that is a mess.

But Trey and Dom meet, connect, and then find ways to be together. This part of the story is terrific. It is always great to meet supportive parents, and they are here too. The angst is up around 'Arthur Level' - we have anxiety, guilt and secrets to deal with - so yeah as the story progresses, more is revealed.

It's the little niggly things that could hinder reading enjoyment - some of the music that these supposed 'indie' musicians enjoy... Hmm, they are not indie, more like commercial pop. But if you don't know them, you could be okay. Tyson's reasons for leaving Trey's band are reduced to a couple of lines late in the story, and the ending is just a little too happily ever after.

Copy provided by Netgalley, and was released yesterday.

Kim says

Trey Cooper and his band Fading Daze are set to perform in a Regional Unbound music competition, but they just lost their drummer to a rival band, XYZ. One night at the bar where he works, Trey meets a violin prodigy named Dominic Bounds and they have a fun night full of making music together on stage and striking a strong personal connection off stage.

Dominic initially has no idea who Trey is affiliated with, but eventually learns that his band XYZ poached their drummer. He does not want to lie to Trey, but also holds off telling him so they can spend more time together. But it is a bad situation that was destined to come out and explode.

Trey is a realist, introvert, and a worrier. He does not have strong family ties, but is close to his friends. He is inexperienced, in the closet, and the public assumes he is in a relationship with his female best friend/band mate. Dominic has secrets, anxiety, but is more experienced and dominant. He is gay, out, and does not want to hide. But in the short term while waiting for Unbound, he can understand that Trey needs to maintain his public image.

These two had an immediate connection and bonded over music and a sense of fun they found together. They quickly developed an easy going rapport and chemistry. They are on opposite sides, but do not want to be. Their bands have bad feelings between them and they are fighting for the same major prize. There is a definite conflict of interest, but these two just cannot help trying to steal time together while trying not to upset anyone in the process.

This is a journey of self discovery and building a real bond with someone for both of these characters. It involves the need to trust, open up, be honest, and heal. It is about both of them following their dreams not only with their musical careers, but also on a personal level. But they both have demons, fears, and insecurities that haunt them and can cause anxiety and pain. Sometimes they react strongly to situations and have a hard time navigating the challenges together.

The side characters of the bands Fading Daze with Bobby, Danielle, and Andy, and XYZ with Lincoln, Benji, and Tyson added drama, conflict, and support. They all have interesting personalities and back stories that could make them future main characters in upcoming story lines. I especially got attached to Linc and Andy.

This was told in dual points of view that helped increase understanding of the characters and showed us their vulnerabilities. The characters had complex histories and depth that resulted in some emotional and personal issues. Trey and Dominic's connection was really endearing and passionate. This was more of a new adult M/M love story as the characters were young twenties, but they were mature beyond their years due to their pasts.

This was my first book by A.M. Arthur and his writing style was engaging and easy to get pulled into due to the humor and interpersonal relationships of the characters. The plot had depth and hidden issues that were slowly revealed and it was not predictable. I will definitely read more in this series (bring on Linc!) and try some other books from this author.

I was gifted a copy in exchange for an honest review.

Jay says

3.5 stars – I typically love books that have a music theme behind the romance, because music is something that never fails to give rise to strong emotions in me. So as my first exposure to author A.M. Arthur, I had high hopes for *Body Rocks*. It's a good story, but in spite of being able to feel the music, I never quite got to the point where I felt the connection between the main characters as strongly as I wanted.

Trey Cooper and his bandmates in Fading Daze are weeks away from competing in a national music competition when the band's drummer bails on them to join XYZ, a rival band in the competition. So after an amazing up with Dominic Bounds, a phenomenal musician who performed at open-mic night in the bar where Trey works, the last place he expected to see Dom again was on stage as the keyboardist for the very same rival band. Winning the competition is important to both men, but for Dom, it's his last chance to prove that he can make it in the music business before being forced to find a real job. Falling hard for Trey wasn't part of the plan, and the rivalry makes it an impossible situation. Can they survive keeping their secret relationship from their respective bands and the public, or will circumstances and their pasts prevent them from finding happiness?

I'm going to start by stating that there is a lot of angsty drama in this novel. There are several characters in the book that have major issues, both personal and situational, particularly stemming from physical, emotional, and sexual abuse in their pasts. None of this takes place in the present time in the story, but one character's past abuse is discussed in a bit of detail, so be forewarned if any of these issues is a trigger for you. I'll admit that I was concerned that the volume of issues exposed in the book would mean that many of them would be handled in a less-than-satisfying manner for resolution. Fortunately, that didn't turn out to be a problem.

In fact, the story line as a whole worked pretty well for me, even though I was able to predict most of the big plot points in the last third of the book. The writing was very smooth and never came across as mechanical, and I don't recall any problems with confusion in whose point-of-view I was reading nor who was speaking in dialogues, including those where many of the bandmates were present. I can't point to any structural problems at all.

What was problematic for me, though, is the fact that I never felt the intensity of attraction between Trey and Dom. I think a lot of this stemmed from the fact that they hooked up very early in the book, within the first 10%, in fact. Because of this, there was no burn of desire leading up to the initiation of intimacy. In addition to this, there were three separate times in the book where they broke things off for some reason. The first I can say without giving any plot away, since it's mentioned in the blurb: when Trey realizes Dom is a member of XYZ but had failed to tell him after being informed of Fading Daze's drummer being swiped by XYZ. So a chunk of the book is spent watching one or the other, or often both, pine over hurting the other. Since they are keeping their relationship secret, and it is a long-distance relationship, the times when they are able to get together happen when their bands are in close proximity. I think the author missed an opportunity

here to add some of the missing slow burn during these scenes. The ability for them to arrange secret rendezvous under the noses of their friends was just too easy for it to add any feel of urgency even.

The reason I read romance is that I want to feel the connection between the main characters. Even the cheesiest of plots can be forgiven if the characters' need for each other is palpable, if the interactions between them spark, and if the sex between them threatens to melt my tablet. Unfortunately, the best I got in *Body Rocks* was the impression that they wanted each other, but I couldn't feel it. Too bad, because I'm sure the music was great.

I received a complimentary copy of Body Rocks through Netgalley in exchange for this fair and honest review.

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Julie (*Happily Ever Chapter*) says

[There is talk of a past rape and attempted suicide with one MC, and past self harm from the other MC; and also past parental abuse with another character (hide spoiler)]

Kimberly says

My review cross-posted from Wit and Sin: <http://witandsin.blogspot.com/2016/06...>

Body Rocks is a great mix of sweetness, eroticism, and angst. What starts out as a sexy story about two young men from rival bands develops into something much more. Trey and Dom are endearing heroes who both possess an innate goodness and optimism that made me smile more than once over the course of the story. It's easy to root for them because they're likeable, and I became invested in the story because there's so much joy to be found in their burgeoning romance. When they meet onstage at an open mic night – not knowing they're each from rival bands – things heat up fast. Yet even though *Body Rocks* is a hot and heavy story, there's an innocence about Trey and Dom, and the lack of cynicism keeps the story buoyant even through its darker moments.

Trey and Dom fall fast and hard for one another, but the rivalry between their bands isn't all that threatens to keep them apart. This is where (strangely enough) the story's strongest point is also its weakest. A.M. Arthur makes this book stand apart with her diverse cast and how they cope with heavy issues. However, though I loved this about the book, the sheer abundance of issues Dom and Trey face also took the story down a notch for me. *Body Rocks* tackles abuse, sexual assault, attempted suicide, blackmail, self-harm, special needs, coming out, and more. Don't get me wrong: I loved that Ms. Arthur isn't afraid to approach serious topics and she treated each one with honesty, emotion, and respect. However, with so many serious issues packed into the story, I didn't feel like any of them were given the depth they deserved; there were simply too many topics and not enough time to delve into them properly.

Body Rocks is a compelling read that's packed with action and emotion. Even with all the hard topics woven into the story, *Body Rocks* never feels weighed down by angst. This is a story of love (romantic, familial, and between friends) and healing. Trey and Dom are such vibrant characters that the book moves at

a fast pace and the families they have made for themselves are simply wonderful. I can't wait to read the next Off Beat book, *Steady Stroke*!

*FTC Disclosure: I received this book for free from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does **not** affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.*

Lustful Literature says

Jen's Review

I love a good rock star book and it feels like it's been a while since I've had my hands on one that I was completely enthralled with. I can't tell you how happy I am that this was everything I hoped it would be and more. The first chapter had me. From beginning to end there are so many feels on every page. I had such an intense need to know more about these characters and their story. I seriously could not put this book down. I just never wanted it to end. I've never read anything by this author before but I can tell that is going to definitely change. A.M Arthur has really created such a special story between some very loveable characters that not only was I completely, emotionally invested but also where I totally believed in these characters. I loved every moment and there isn't anything I would have changed. This author really has done an outstanding job with this story.

Trey and Dom's story is one that should be made into a movie. Two rival bands competing in one of the biggest music competitions. Sparks fly on and off stage when Trey and Dom meet at an open mic and create beautiful music together. These guys initially didn't know who the other was but after their first night together there is such a pull that there is no denying what their bodies want. These guys were just so amazing together.

"Dude, your ass better be ready to cash the check your mouth is writing."

"Oh, it's more than ready,"

who cared if Coop was a total slut or pickier than a vegan in a steakhouse. Dom was getting fucking laid tonight, and he was very, very eager to judge Coop's cute ass for himself.

This story wasn't filled with too much angst and honestly I'm so thankful for that because there are some pretty tough, heavy moments, and some things that were really hard to hear so we didn't need added angst thrown in. My heart broke for these characters that have been through and experienced more than anyone should. The highs are high in this story. The love between Trey and Dom is undeniable. Their story is passionate, innocent, exciting and very special. A once in a life time true love. These guys had my heart beating and filled with so much joy. Trey and Dom are just so perfect for each other. Not saying their journey was easy because it wasn't. They did have bumps in the road and some serious demons to overcome, but these guys were just so real, raw and honest that you just want to cheer for them on the sidelines.

They became one entity, creating beautiful music and baring the soul of a beautiful man.

I am so excited that this is the beginning of a series. This book was so well written and the vivid descriptions and dialog kept this reader completely engaged the whole way. The banter between these characters is a perfect balance between the heavy and the light. I'm so looking forward to seeing more from all these band

members. If you are looking for a rock star book with some pretty incredible characters then this is one you definitely want to pick up.

Karen says

Do you like angst? I mean serious over the top, oh-my-god-when-will-it-end angst? No, well then this is not the book for you or probably the author for you because her books contain more angst than conceivably possible. I kid you not. While I neither want or need over the top angst in my books all the time for whatever reason I occasionally feel the need to read a book that pushes the limits in this regard and this is one of my go to authors when I feel like being angst ridden and this book definitely delivered in that department.

'Body Rocks' is the story of Trey Connor and Dominic Bounds. Trey belongs to an Indie Rock group called Fading Daze and Dominic plays with the group XYZ. Trey and Dominic first meet when Dom performs at an open mic night at the bar where Trey works. Their attraction is instantaneous and neither is aware of who the other one is, but this is short lived when Trey tells Dom the story of how they've been selected to perform at Unbound the music competition that's going to give some lucky musicians their big break, if they find someone to replace their recently defected drummer who now belongs to the band XYZ...the enemy. Dom could confess who he is at this point...but...nope doesn't happen.

Throughout the story we are given a veritable laundry list of issues that our MCs and some of the secondary characters have to deal with. For the most part this is pretty much the norm for this author so I knew this going into the story and truthfully have no real issue with it. Not all of these issues occur on page, several of them in fact occur prior to the story but have some impact on events that occur during the story. I'm not going to go into specific details of all the issues presented by this story because truly this review would become considerably longer than I have time to write and you have time to read. My friend Vivian described it as 'a social issues whack-a-mole' in her review. Which for me is such an accurate description because as fast as one issue was dealt with another popped up, just like those little mole heads you hit with the hammer when playing whack-a-mole...see it works.

What I didn't like and what kept this from being a better than ok read for me was the conversations. I found I couldn't decide if I was at a pep rally or a self help conference...Dr. Phil would have been proud. I was finding myself incredibly bored at times. Also my pet peeve about the use of the word babe or baby as a term of endearment reared it's ugly little head. A quick count showed that this occurred approximately 32 times and that was excluding any uses of the word in a non-endearment form (this added about 6 more to the count).

While it didn't necessarily bother me, I was a little put off by the music that was supposedly representative of what an Indie Rock artist would either play or listen to. I just had a hard time believing that it would be artist such as Katy Perry, Beyonce, Bruno Mars and Evanescence. Don't get me wrong personally I enjoy these artist. I love the song 'My Immortal' but I think maybe if there'd been some Arcade Fire, The Cardigans, Teagan and Sara, Radiohead, The Killers, Imagine Dragons. These are all successful Indie Rock bands that are just a google away and I find it a little doubtful that a band wanting to get into this genre wouldn't listen to those who have already made it in the industry and perform music more in sync with the style of these bands than someone like Bruno Mars or Taylor swift who are more mainstream pop...it's not a right or wrong it thing it just would have felt more realistic to me that a performer would immerse them self more into the music genre that they wanted to succeed in.

So what did I enjoy you might be wondering...well, I liked Dom and his family. I loved that Dom understood and appreciated the family that he had. I liked Trey, I liked that he focused more on making the life he wanted for himself over being bitter about the family that he'd been born into and that didn't deserve him. Dani and Lincoln, they were Trey and Dom's best friends and while they were good friends and loyal they were also the type of friend who spoke truth rather than taking the easy way out and telling their friend what they wanted to hear instead of what they needed to hear. As well the last 30 to 35% of the book just flowed better for me and that constant thread of boredom that I'd had in the first part of the book stopped.

As far as this author's writing style goes there weren't any surprises for me. The story concept was good and held strong potential, however, maybe it was a case of trying to deliver too much that kept it from being an awesome reading experience and just left it at ok for me.

A copy of this book was received from the publisher via Net Galley in exchange for an honest review.

Joyfully Jay says

A Joyfully Jay review.

4.5 stars

I was really excited for this story because I love a rock star book (or an up and coming rock star in this case) and I thoroughly enjoyed Body Rocks. Looking back over my summary, it seems like a lot of the book is focused on secrets and hiding, and to an extent it is, but it is also about the bloom of first love and of two guys who fit together really well, but have some major hurdles in their way.

I liked the way Arthur develops the relationship between them. They start off hot and are pretty into each other right away, but there are also small conflicts between them throughout the book (starting with Dom hiding that he is in XYZ once he realizes who Trey is). The conflicts between them were interesting in that it wasn't a build up to some big issue at the end, but instead small things that happen that the guys work out along the way. It felt very natural and organic, the way a real relationship would be, and so I liked that a lot. Both of these guys make mistakes, but they are also both committed to one another. They are sweet and caring and sexy together, and you can't help but want them to work it out, even as you see the conflicts looming.

And these guys have two big conflicts they must face. First is Trey not being out. Again, I like how this is handled. Yes, he is closeted, or at least intentionally misleading about his sexuality, but from fairly early on it is clear that he is going to come out and he is not just dragging Dom along. He has to not only deal with the impact on himself of coming out, but also the band. But this leads to lots of sneaking around (and lots of furtive sexy times, which are awesome), especially since for a long time the bands hate each other. So there is a great tension as these guys long to be open about their feelings but can't. But the bigger issue is the bands are pitted against one another. Both Trey and Dom have reasons why winning the competition is critical and with only one winner, one of their dreams will be shattered for the other to succeed. It is kind of delicious, and I was pleasantly surprised by the way it all ends in a fashion I didn't see coming.

Read Jay's review in its entirety [here](#).

