



(Just Like) Starting Over

Pepper Espinoza

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After a horrible car accident, Guillermo “Guy” Rivera doesn’t even remember who he is. Suffering from amnesia, bound to a wheelchair with a broken arm and a broken leg, he relies on his in-home caregiver, Dane Mathis, to help him with everything from bathing to eating. Guy wants Dane to be more than just a caregiver, but Dane keeps his distance.

Six months after their relationship ended, Dane Mathis drops everything to help Guy put his life back together. It’s difficult to treat Guy like a stranger, but he knows he must not give in to his deep desires. He won’t risk Guy’s anger by revealing the true nature of their relationship. Or the reality of their past together.

Even so, Dane can’t help but hope that this is their second chance at love...

(Just Like) Starting Over Details

Date : Published 2008 by Amber Quill Press

ISBN : 9781602723184

Author : Pepper Espinoza

Format : ebook 102 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Contemporary, Disability, Adult Fiction, Erotica, Lgbt, Gay, Novella, Medical, Fiction

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Kati says

What I liked about this book was that Dane's past, his decisions had consequences. Once you knew why he and Guillermo had split, you understood his reluctance to start their relationship anew without Guillermo remembering what had gone wrong between them the first time around. I liked the fact that there was no magical, instant solution for their problems, that it took time for both of them and especially for Dane to deal with stuff before they could both say that they were ready to get back together. I think that their relationship had a much stronger foundation the second time around.

Read for the J-U-N-E challenge.

Elisa Rolle says

I like a lot this short novel by Pepper Espinoza. It's really angst, it's not a simple and sweet romance, but I like it.

Guillermo Rivera, Guy, is a 27 years old Spanish MBA student; while he is in United States he had a bad car accident. Now, one month after, he not only has bad injuries that force him in a wheelchair, he has also a short term amnesia. He doesn't remember his previous life, nor who he knows or doesn't know in this stranger country. He needs a caregiver and lucky him he has Dane.

Dane is the perfect nurse, he always knows what Guy wants, like he has the memory that Guy lacks... he is so perfect that Guy is becoming dependent from the man. And it's not what Dane wants... Dane is not an unselfish nurse who is paid for doing a job. Dane is Guy's former lover, and in their past relationship, Dane did unforgivable things. But now Guy needs him, and Dane can't mistake a second time. This time he will do the right thing, and not to have a second chance with Guy, but to have a second chance for his own life: for Dane is vital to do at least one thing right, to have the right push to continue in doing the right thing.

Guy and Dane, in different way, are needing a caregiver: one for physical injuries and the other for emotional ones. In this perspective, Dane is not a saint, and he has his reasons to fear what will happen when Guy will remember everything.

Pepper Espinoza is very good in rendering Guillermo uncertain behavior the first day after the accident. The reader lives with him his fears, his needs of comfort and reassurance. And she is also very good in penning, with only few words, Dane's world and life outside the safe heaven of Guy's apartment. The story could be short, but it's a complete tale and very good.

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1602728623/?...>

Natalija says

So far, this is the best book I've read by this author. A very emotional and affecting story about healing,

forgiveness and second chances. It is guaranteed to tug at your heartstrings and bring tears to your eyes. Highly recommended!

V says

no much fan of the cover but nice story.

Erotic Horizon says

Guillermo “Guy” Rivera, wakes up after an accident that leaves him with short term memory loss and finds himself with a caregiver that he wants to get closer to. Having no idea of their past relationship, he naturally acts on the attraction he feels for his caregiver. When he finds out that a lover was with him in the accident, he makes an instant decision - go with your heart.

Dane Mathis broke up with his long time boyfriend six months ago, only to find himself now his main caretaker after a serious accident that leaves him not only with amnesia but also in a wheelchair. When the attraction that has always been between them becomes an issue, he decides to make the ultimate sacrifice and leave Guy’s care to someone else.

Can past differences be overcome, and will both men realize what they have before it’s too late?

In usual Espinoza style, she has given us a story of love lost and found. (JUST LIKE) STARTING OVER is a story filled with heart, with characters that realize the meaning of not only love, but also accepting loved ones for the best and the worst of themselves.

Both men are likable, with strength and determination their biggest assets. Dane’s unselfishness in wanting to do anything to make is Guillermo happy is absolutely fantastic. Even with amnesia, the love that Guy has for Dane cannot be denied.

KimberlyRose says

Riveting. Serious issues deftly handled. (Although I considered taking a half star off for the unfortunate cover art.)

"Thank you."

"For what?" Guy managed.

..."The second chance."

Guy shook his head. "You did that. Made your own second chance."

Dena says

3.5*

OkayKim says

Don't care much for the cover, but I really enjoyed this one.

Familiar with the disease, and know that one can change if they decide to follow through with the treatment. I like second chance story's, and Dane really went the distance with this one.

Daisiemae says

This book caught me by surprise. This author is a hit or miss with me. I have had this book in my TBR mountain for some time, and for some reason I bumped it up...I am glad I did.

Guy is recovering from a horrible car accident. He is suffering from injuries that is keeping his mobility hampered, so he must use a wheelchair to get around. Not only does he have hours of pain and physical therapy ahead of him, he is suffering from Amnesia, too. He doesn't remember the accident, or anything about his past. Even though the doctor's say it's temporary, he constantly struggles to make sense of the jumbled up puzzle that has become his mind.

The one thing Guy is sure of is his in home care person, Dane. Although, there is a mystery to him, Guy finds himself drawn to the handsome, kind man the more he is around him. He finds himself comfortable around Dane. It is easy for him to talk with him, to want to touch him, and to fall in love with him. But, the mysterious Dane insists on keeping their relationship on a friendly and professional level. This makes Guy more determined to get past the walls Dane has seems to built up around his heart and possible make a life with him forever.

It is killing Dane inside to watch his beloved Guy suffer so. Being around his ex-lover and one true love day in and day out, without revealing the truth to him, has been devastating to say the least. He is trying to keep their relationship on a friendly and professional level, but Guy is determined to work his way past the barrier he has unsuccessfully put around his heart. Dane knows he must be strong, and keep Guy at arms length. When Guy remembers the past...he will once again hate Dane, and push him out of his life forever.

I really liked this book. Poor Dane is determined to make Guy's transition to becoming well as comfortable as possible. The mystery of their past, and the fear and knowledge that he will most likely lose Guy again once he remembers everything kept me rooting for Dane to be forgiven for his past sins, and I hoped that Guy would have forgiveness and love in his heart for Dane.

This book is about fresh starts, forgiveness, personal growth and has the love conquers all feel about it. It was a very sweet romance with some emotional intensity at times, and I enjoyed it. Both Guy and Dane are very likeable, flawed people that was easy to care about and cheer for when they got their happy ending.

