



Something New

Sean Ashcroft

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Would marrying his best friend to get his hands on a quaint, small-town bookstore really be that bad?

Declan never expected to ask himself that question, but when an inheritance from a distant great uncle offers him the chance at a brand new start in a brand new town—with the catch that he has to marry before he can have it—he's forced to consider it.

Ash has been Declan's best friend since college, and he's the only person Declan can trust to help him. Getting him to agree to marry him is one thing, but dealing with the way it changes their relationship is something else entirely.

New surroundings leave Declan confused by how he really feels about Ash, the freedom of Hope Springs awakening something in him that he hadn't known was there before. Ash is happy to help him out, but what started out as a simple question soon becomes something much more...

Something New is the first book in a new series set in Hope Springs! It stands alone, has a HEA, and does not end with a cliffhanger. However, it does contain: a room full of second-hand books, a ridiculous will condition, cheating at video games, explicit sex scenes, and doughnuts.

Something New Details

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Author : Sean Ashcroft

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From Reader Review Something New for online ebook

Sylvie says

Favorite new-to-me author!

Declan is working at a soul-sucking marketing job when he receives a letter that changes his life. A great uncle he barely remembers has passed away, leaving him a book store in the tiny town of Hope Springs. There's even an apartment above the store. There's just one crazy catch: the will stipulates that in order for him to take over the store, he must be married. Fortunately, Declan's best friend, Ash, knows a thing or two about running a book store, and offers to marry Declan. It's legal now, right? And Ash has had a crush on Declan for years. If only Declan weren't straight. He is straight, right?

Crazy premise, but I love it! I also love the main characters, Declan and Ash. They are both smart, but a little insecure, which just makes them more likeable. And they are both so supportive of each other! There are plenty of supporting characters as well, and I hope we get to know more about them in future books.

This is my first book by Sean Ashcroft, but it definitely won't be my last. I have book 2 queued up and ready to read next. Then there is the Family Jules series and all those other titles. Can't wait to get started!

Bo says

This was sweet no angst friends to lover story. I loved the way the story flowed organically. There was not a 200 pages of push and pull. It was nice for a change. The MCS didn't spend all their time worrying about how the relationship would/could be ruined by the changes occurring. However, there was a severe lacking of backstory for me. I wanted more of their past together, as well as their past relationships. Be warned some might find this boring, but I found it somewhat refreshing.

Lisa Cullinan says

Love love love

There isn't a book of Sean Ashcroft's that I don't love! And ... there's never EVER enough times to go back and visit Hope Springs, the happiest, gayest, rainbow flag flying, friendliest, bestest (yes, bestest!) place on earth!!!!

Best friends since they met in college, Ash and Declan head to Hope Springs after Declan gets an odd letter from the lawyer of his recently deceased Great Uncle Marv to take over the ownership of the bookstore in town. One little teeny stipulation ... he needs to be married within thirty days to keep it all legit ... Hmm ... Who will be the lucky ... groom? Wait, Declan is totally straight! Oh no he isn't!!! No one in Sean Ashcroft's world is "totally" straight, and that's just fine with me!!!!

We get to visit so many of our friends from the happiest place in the world like Charlie, Marcus, Lexi, Scott ... squeeeeeee ...!

Does Declan feel like more than friends to Ash??? C'mon! You know the answer to that! The best part about Sean's books are that all of his characters are genuine—intelligent and compassionate with a perfect amount of sass!!!

If I ever need to make myself immediately feel fabulous from a bad day ... or not a bad day ... I automatically find myself immersed in one of Sean Ashcroft's books! Such a joy ~ always!! Five shining stars!!

Denise H. says

***** This is a special surprise ! *****

This GFY plot-line is new and exciting and a pleasure to read. I kept thinking I knew what would happen, but nope - I didn't know.

BFFs Ash and Declan, are both ready for change.

Declan inherits a bookstore,

and they both travel to check out the store, the will, and the stipulations.

It's a smooth flowing story with fabulous characters, and super sexy first times for Declan.

Ash is terrific, and this pair is destined to be.

Fantastic banter, deep thoughts and the amazing epilogue wraps us in a warm blanket.

I love a Sean Ashcroft romance.

ENJOY !

=====

namericawordcat says

3.5 Stars

Awwww! Bookstore in a LGBTQA friendly small town. Friends to lovers. I am in.

I can see this sweet piece of fluff become a comfort read for me. Ash and Declan are lovely together.

Ash has loved Declan forever and Declan has loved Ash forever as well but Declan thought about his sexuality and what love meant pretty shallowly and so he doesn't recognize that he is in love with Ash and attracted to him as well.

An then theme candy: Marriage of Con! Hee. Hee.

The best part of this book is that Ash and Declan are great characters but the friendship they have really steals the show and its super sexy joyful to have passion get mixed in...in a bookstore with secondary characters from the series this spins off from...

If this book had explained a bit more about the heroes families of origin and had Declan really articulate and learn about his sexual orientation (we get a bit of the gay for you vibe which is not my favorite) then I would

have loved this book even more. Figuring out your sexuality on all levels is a big deal for most people and sexuality is fluid too so the change is also compelling so I always feel a bit let down when this aspect of a character and couple is skipped over but the relationship between Ash and Declan carried me though.

This is a light and lovely romance that should delight you.

Coty says

This is a sweetheart of a story. The two best friend main characters are very committed to each other. Events happen early on that will bring them to see they are more than best friends. There is very little angst and this story may be classified as dessert. Yes, you may partake before dinner. Hope Springs is a wonderful little town / community. I hope we see Declan and Ash again. I need to know if they get a cat or a dog.

Tiffaney says

A little too fluffy and sweet for my taste.

This story was very short so I managed to finish it but about half way into the book I just stopped caring about it.

I liked Declan and Ash's friends and the town but everything else was meh.

Leaundra says

3.5 stars rounded to 4.

Aki | nose buried in books | ❤️? | says

3.5 stars

This is a best friends to lovers cute novella, angst free and awfully sweet.

I wasn't in the mood for something sappy, but I liked it anyway.. I'm such a softie when it comes to sweet romance and HEA!

It's a nice reading when you're in the mood for something easy, light and heartwarming

Pixie says

DNFd at 70% - This book wasn't for me. Very Hallmark moments. A lot of repetitive thoughts about how sweet/in love/bff's these two were. I wanted them to just get on with it & from 60-70% just developed a deep resentment until I realized I no longer cared to see this through.

TK Maj *TK MAJ BLOG* says

One of the reviews for this book called it something out of hallmark and not as a compliment. I love all things feel-good so instead of putting me off, the review actually inspired me to read the book. This book did not disappoint in hallmark moments and I was there to soak them all up with gratitude.

The premise of the book is simple but intriguing! Declan's uncle, Uncle Marv, who is the black sheep of their family that few know much about, dies leaving his second hand book shop in the small town of Hope Springs (a town with many a happy same sex couple) to Declan on the condition that to receive full ownership of it Declan has to be married! With no prospects in sight and recently self-liberated from a terrible job he decides to accept his inheritance...and marry his gay best friend Ash while he's at it. Two slight wrinkles ensue...Declan is quite clearly straight and Ash secretly in love with him. Can the two ever find happiness?

This book was an easy to read. I demolished it in a few days and was so happy. Honestly this book had all the gratuitous sweet moments a romantic like me could ask for. First of all Declan was hilarious. He starts off the novel in a downtrodden position but as he comes out of his shell he gets this funny personality and I just love how relatable he was. We've all been in situations we don't care for that change our outlook on life and it was so satisfying to see him come out of that. He was so blindsided by his sexuality and I thought that was cute! I wasn't too surprised but it was fun for one of us to be!

Ash! Wonderful, besotted and big hearted Ash! He was really keen to follow Declan around. He also was the first to recognize the change in Declan from the disappearance of dark circles under his eyes, to becoming more energetic and outgoing (for Declan anyway). He was also really adorable with his fear of dogs but his effort with Scott and Charlie's dog. His love of books was so relatable it was crazy. I mean if I could run a second hand bookstore with my husband in a small town where everyone is accepting of each other I wouldn't have to think twice!

Scott and Charlie were such gifts to the narrative! I love how Charlie gave each of Ash and Declan a chance to come out of their shell and talk to other people, especially since both had been isolated without other friends in the city. Charlie had such a bubbly personality I just wanted to jump into the story and be his friend. I loved how he and Scott were a new couple but so comfortable with each other. Not to mention how Scott offered them a rescue dog (or cat) within five minutes of having them over to dinner.

Sean Ashcroft started a gem of a series with this one and I will be heading back to Hope Springs as soon as I get through some of the other items on the TBR (to be read) list (last I counted there were about 20 books on the most pressing items list)! His writing style was easy but gripping, sweeter than a bon bon but so necessary! I like how relaxing the book was and it's earned its rating of: 3.5 lovey dovey sweet as honey stars!

T.L. Travis says

Very cute tale

Of best friends to lovers. Sometimes those looking in from the outside, see more than those of us who are actually involved.

Emalie says

This was... do I dare say sweet. It was angst-free and cute. Cute to fill a few hours, but nothing special in my honest opinion.

~nikki the recovering book addict says

3.5 Stars

This was a drama-free, feel good story of best friends to husbands that was executed really well. I'm glad I had this to read today. It's gentle and sweet enough for me to read through my migraine.

Zainab says

Hey, we've been friends for a million years, and I'm 100% straight, but you're my best friend and my only shot at happiness, so marry me maybe??!!!!
