



Positive Possibilities

Shayla Kersten

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Chicago attorney Gabe Layton's life has just turned upside down. His lover of six years is cheating and his supposedly straight best friend of twenty-something years claims to be in love with him. Throw in that his cheating ex has possibly exposed him to HIV and Gabe's world is a confusing place.

Paramedic Dean Bannon has always been attracted to both sexes but after seeing his lifelong friend Gabe deal with prejudice and hate, staying on the straight and narrow seemed an easier path. But his deepening feelings for Gabe push him to reveal his hidden side. Now to convince Gabe of the positive possibilities of taking their friendship to another level.

Positive Possibilities Details

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From Reader Review Positive Possibilities for online ebook

JenMcJ says

The other reviewers are right. This was rushed and felt left unfinished.

Marlobo says

2.5 stars

Tonileg says

Contemporary M/M romance with best-friends to lovers plot and some scary HIV positive themes. Hardworking up-and-coming lawyer Gabe Layton is shaken up and changed in a moment when he comes home early to find his long time lover, Lou in the middle of sexy time... with some stranger... without any protection! So not only is he betrayed but he might have gotten some terrible disease from Lou. These stressful moments you find out who is important to you. So Gabe goes straight to his straight best friend's house Dean. But he has too much time to get stinking drunk before he gets to Dean's place and then makes an inappropriate pass at him which becomes a full out make-out session (well, until he passes out). Paramedic Dean Bannon has been best friends with Gabe since childhood and so his friend-love easily became lover-love over the years, but he never mentioned it to Gabe so it hits him hard. Gabe doesn't believe Dean right away because of it being so surprising. This all goes down in a couple (maybe three) days which is quick, but they have a twenty plus year friendship to back up their blossoming relationship. Cute HEA and Lou gets kicked to the curb! Where he belongs because everyone hates a cheater! 85 pages and All Romance purchase \$5.60 This author is always a fun read, but expensive for such a short story.

Daisiema says

When Gabe Layton discovers his partner of six years having unprotected sex, he is understandably upset. The memories of his favorite Uncle's death by AIDS haunts him, and his fear is he will be following the same fate because of his ex-partners recklessness.

Gabe turns to his straight best friend, Dean, for comfort and support. Gabe has secretly been in love and attracted to Dean since they were adolescent boys together, but knows his feelings are one sided, because his best friend Dean has never shown that he has had any interest in being attracted to him, or men in general.

Gabe decides to drink the night away and wait for Dean to end his shift as an EMT at the local bar. By the time Dean arrives, Gabe is VERY drunk and Dean must somehow get the intoxicated man home intact. On the journey there, Gabe becomes bold with his feelings and attraction to Dean. Surprisingly, Dean starts

responding to his not so innocent touches and sweet, passionate and somewhat sloppy kisses. As things heat up between them, and they arrive at Dean's home, Gabe soon passes out right, much to Dean's chagrin, right when things were starting to get interesting.

Dean has always been attracted to men and women. Not wanting to deal with the label of liking other men, he decided to concentrate on his attraction to women and ignore his sexual feelings he has for men. Dean has always been attracted to his best friend Gabe. Lately, his feelings for Gabe has become more intense, and he is starting to think that his attraction and love for Gabe would be worth any controversy or battles they may have before them to be together. Now he just needs to convince Gabe of that.

I liked this story. I had some problems with it. I thought the AIDS situation was never settled, the ending was far too rushed and I honestly think this book would have been so much better if it had been longer and not so hurried and thrown together. I would have liked to see Dean and Gabe's relationship build. I would have liked to see the outcome of the whole AIDS thing, and how they fought some obstacles to be together. In some ways I felt cheated because I really think this story had so much potential. Plus, BOTH Dean and Gabe were obviously likable characters who had good chemistry together, I wish there had been more to it.

2.5 stars.

Tailiu says

3,5*

Michele says

This was my second time reading this book. I have friends like Gabe, who is the main character of this story. Gabe comes home early from work to catch his lover cheating with a "twink". (A new term for me) Lou, the cheating lover has the audacity to blame Gabe because he works too much. Seriously!

This idiot not only cheats but has had unprotected sex. Gabe watched his uncle die from AIDS and the disease terrified him. Dean, his best friend since grade school, who considers himself "bi-curious", has only been w/ women. He gets a message from his friend and goes to be supportive. He finds him drunk at a bar and now after all these years he begins to feel more than friendship for Gabe. Dean is afraid of losing a life long relationship over what may just be curiosity and his fantasies. I really enjoyed this story more the second time I read it.

Arzu says

3,5 stars

Simsala says

3,5 stars

Janna says

Ms. Kersten always writes wonderful characters, that I can feel connected with. The way she shows a snippet from their lives, makes you understand them completely. In this story we meet Gabe and Dean, who are such hot, delicious and sweet guys. And their chemistry is great! They are friends for decades and one is straight, the other gay. So, both my favorite themes are present: friends become lovers and GFY (gay for you)! Add some tension to the mix in the shape of a cheating boyfriend and the threat of HIV, and ***Positive Possibilities*** has all the ingredients that make me happy. The only thing that could've made me even happier, was a little more anxiety or angst, for example when they had to fight another obstacle to be together over a longer period of time. Now the complete story took place within only a few days. But it's my standard reaction to want more when I really like a couple, so nothing new there. I enjoyed this story anyhow, so I'll better put my demanding inner self back in the box. ;)

mah1 says

Positive Possibilities is one those books that had been on my wish list forever and when I finally got around to buying and reading it, I had no idea what it was about.

While the bare bones are those of a typical friends-to-lovers romance, there are a couple of things that set it apart from others like it.

Firstly, the love between the MCs wasn't the kind that had been denied for years and years and lived through pining, rather it was a virtually new development/realization and that is why I liked it.

The other, much darker factor is the threat of HIV that looms over the lovers. Sadly that part was never solved and I didn't like it. I would've loved to learn that everything was okay. Three stars.
