



L.A. Mischief

P.A. Brown

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If you have already read L. A. Heat by author P. A. Brown, you have met David Eric Laine and Christopher Bellamere. If not, get ready to make their acquaintance in L. A. Mischief, a fast-paced novella that details the early months of their relationship. David-a LAPD Homicide Detective-is stubborn, proud, and barely out of the closet. As the story opens, he is struggling to find the balance between his intense feelings for Chris, the urges of his newly liberated libido, and the demands of a job where bodies pop up on an all too regular basis. Chris-blonde, smart, out and proud-faces his own set of challenges, including helping his best friend cope with his ongoing grief after the brutal murder of his lover. Life events conspire to bring David and Chris together while at the same time keeping them apart-will they be able to push their way through and find a common ground for happiness and their shared love?

L.A. Mischief Details

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From Reader Review L.A. Mischief for online ebook

Kelly H. (Maybedog) says

[in a relationship with Blair and it had only been a month since he and Chris broke up! He was enjoying himself too much. Blair has his phone number]

ElaineY says

I'm so relieved to be done with this book. It started out rather negative for me in that the last thing I was expecting was Chris in bed someone else, not David. I had to go back and read the first page again (hate it when I have to reread to understand) just to make sure I didn't miss something like it was a flashback. But no, it is present-day and Chris has just woken up with a stranger in his bed. He doesn't know how that guy got in his bed and neither did I. I was so upset with him. He's wondering what else he and the stranger did apart from fucking, whether Mr X wore a condom and is relieved when there's no blood coming out of his rectum.

After that Crossroads nunchaku incident by Keta Diablo, I was relieved, too.

It goes on this way much of the rest of the story with Chris going back to the bar, Nosh Pit, David going back to Nosh Pit, various men copulating, trying to go home with them, David has something going with Blair, an EMT and Chris is busy dealing with his best friend's PTSD following the events of the previous book, L. A. Heat.

It's exactly as the blurb says - the whole story is about David struggling to accept his homosexuality, refusing to see Chris, being mean to Chris when they do run into each other and Chris mooning after David, deciding he no longer wants strange cocks in him. Just David's. I found David a more attractive man in the previous book and more points were minused from Chris with the way this story opened.. But by the time I was nearing the end of the story, my sympathies - so to speak - were with Chris for the shabby way David was treating him.

Good part: the ending. A little rushed but, as I said earlier, I was relieved to come to an end of this rather agonizing read. I got a strong HEA so no complaints there.

I need to find a book now without any of this "I-hate-being-gay" thing dragged out through the whole book! I think I'll read that new Z A Maxfield one.

Tj says

There wasn't a mystery at the heart of the story like last book which I think was a huge change and made me not like this book as much. The story is focused on Chris and David and them trying to work out a relationship again. I really think Chris needed a kick at the beginning of the book. He went right back to his old ways and he was messing up with helping his best friend, Des. (Poor Des. I really hope he gets a good guy for himself soon.) It was a ok story. I just couldn't connect with it, it seemed to drag for me.

J.L. Merrow says

Um. If, in your novella, you're going to include a sympathetic portrayal of a man devastated by a brutal rape and the murder of his lover, it is probably not a good idea to then append, as a "bonus" story, a tale of his best friend being blindfolded, abducted and forced to have sex with a man who then turns out to be his lover. Who was, apparently, just doing it for kinks.

The main novella was okay, I guess. I didn't feel I really got what was going on with David and Chris, but maybe I just wasn't paying attention? They seemed to go from together to never-going-to-be-together with neither rhyme nor reason.

Hugely disappointing after LA Heat.

Helen says

[has David kidnap Chris and blindfold him, the

Kassa says

This is a collection of three stories that focuses on the relationship between Chris and David from LA Heat. The first story is about David and Chris' relationship and the next two are short, erotic encounters certain to raise the heat level. Be sure to have read the first book prior as the characters and past events play heavily into this continuation. These stories are not a second book so much as a deeper look into the main characters from the first book.

The first story has a bit of a confusing timeline. At the end of LA Heat there is a sweet Christmas interlude some four months after the Carpet Killer murders have been solved. Everyone is moving on and doing well with no mention of any problems. Not an epilogue but a tidy and satisfying romantic ending to the book. Well in this story, the author doesn't clarify when these events take place. The best guess I have is that it occurs sometime after the murders have been solved but before the happy ending at Christmas was depicted in the previous book. There are numerous continuity errors that also make the timeline confusing. For example, in LA Mischief it's around Halloween and a few months after the murders had been solved. Clearly this few months is bandied about a bit much making the actual timing wrong. The author also states that David and Martinez have been partners for seven years whereas they'd only been partners for five years in LA Heat and this takes place a few months after that.

So clearly the author didn't check her details very well thus leading to the confusing timeline. Also David and Chris have broken up already at the start of the story and are going out, sleeping with random men to get over the breakup they both felt was inevitable. But if you can get past the lack of continuity, this isn't a bad look at their relationship. Unfortunately Brown's writing strength is in the procedural, cop style of the book and less so on characterization, which falls flat and empty. Chris and David spend a lot of time pinning for each other and even attempting to see each other but repeatedly claim their relationship is over and must move on. Their actions and words are direct contradictions leaving the characters and reader confused and

mystified. Thankfully these two do end up together, but the journey is rather random and not very emotionally satisfying.

Chris and David are likable characters and you do want them to end up together, not only for the sake of a romantic and happy ending. Clearly they have issues and it's nice to see the complexity worked into their relationship highlighting their very different needs and experiences. However, the excessive sleeping around and almost bland actions towards each other contradict this passionate, true love the author is trying to depict. While I didn't quite buy into their deep love affair, I did want it to end well and hoped they'd work out. The additional two erotic encounters were fun to read and definitely had the temperature skyrocketing, although they didn't add much to the relationship. These are purely for the sake of some hot sex scenes.

If you liked LA Heat, you'll most likely enjoy these three stories if you can get past the obvious errors. It's always a welcome treat to see two liked characters have some fun and work on their relationship even if it reads a little bland and contradictory. Hopefully the next offering will play to the author's strengths, but even so this is a quick, interesting story that was nice to read.

Nicole says

Spoilers for books 1 and 2

Anyone else have whiplash watching these characters make a decision and then immediately change their minds? Some very loosely transcribed examples:

Chris: "Come on, Des. We have to move on from David and Kyle."

Des: "Yeah, let's move on."

Chris: (two scenes later) "Squeeeeeee! David invited me to a policeman's ball!"

Des: "OMG, it's finally happening. You and David are going to be together!"

Chris: "Des, you know you can't drink while you're on these meds!"

Des almost kills himself mixing wine and meds.

Chris: "We're going out for coffee to celebrate my new car."

They arrive at restaurant, Des ordered a Mojito. Um????? Is he really unmedicated enough to drink just days after his accidental overdose???

And one of those bad decisions Chris mentioned? Letting total strangers bareback him while drunk, then later having unprotected sex with David. How selfish can this jerk be? That's beyond selfish. It's irresponsible and potentially life threatening. He can do that and still claim to love David? Then again, David is in a quasi-relationship with another guy in the blink of an eye after breaking up with Chris, this guy already has a key to David's house, and they engage in a threesome with another guy. But one sighting of Chris later and all of sudden, Mr. Has-A-Key isn't good enough for David?

And for all the "Chris is a bad friend to Des because he gets drunk and missed a therapy appointment" but what about how Des is a bad friend to Chris? Chris broke off a relationship with David because David tried to shove him into the closet and refused to be seen with him in public, yet Des has the nerve to tell Chris he really fucked up by breaking up with David? Wow, Des, be a little more shortsighted. At least Chris supports you through your survivor's guilt even though Kyle was a total asshole and his demise was no great loss to anyone but you!

And then there's the finances. Chris left his job, worries about money, isn't making what he used to, yet can still buy a designer Italian suit from his friend's boutique and, in order to save money, trades in his gas guzzler not for something used and fuel efficient. Nope, he buys a brand new SUV. Um, in what world does that save money? Does he really think it is less expensive to insure a new vehicle than one with a few years and miles on it? That's not how insurance works.

The dialogue needs refining, and the characters could certainly have used some developing. I thought L.A. Heat was okay, but this follow-up was poorly executed.

DaisyGirl says

4.5 Stars

I thoroughly enjoyed this one. It was different from book one not only in length (this one came in at 164 pages versus book one's 307 pages) but also because book two focused on the relationship development between David and Chris. *the romantic emo in me preens* I LOOOOOVED it. Although the mystery doesn't drive the plot the way it did in book one, it's still good.

Also, there are two short stories included in this publication: Halloween Pickup and Kidnapped. They occur in sequence (between books 2 and 3) and offer quick (and smexy) peeks into the developing relationship between David and Chris.

Bottom line: I'm hooked.

Kati says

2nd in the L.A. series. I loved Des and I loved the friendship between Chris and Des and between David and Des. But I just didn't feel the mad love between David and Chris. I mean, Chris was pretty much head-over-heels for David, but David... David loved having sex with Chris - not making love, having sex - but he disliked everything Chris did and was outside the bedroom. I mean, he didn't even want to teach Chris how to drive stick or be seen with him in "his" bar. So yeah, I felt that Chris was selling himself short with David. And what really bothered me was that everybody blamed Chris when his and David's relationship failed. Seriously!

Betryal says

3.5 stars

Be forewarned this story is not about any ongoing major crime like the first. It's mostly focused on Chris and David getting their shit together and about Des coping without kyle in the aftermath of his tragic death. I'm still shivering when I think about it. It was sick I tell yeah!

But I need to express my thoughts so here it goes...

What a horse hoof up the arse situation. First they both broke up, then together again and the same song and dance repeats itself. Let's add to that little riff the messing around with other guys during their little hiatus apart. Like being broken apart meant diddly squat. What. A. Royal. Mess!

Me? I'd be despondent and in no shape to fawk around after professing to each other those three important words: I love you. Seems to me these words were fickle between Chris and David and full of untruths. Maybe they should be telling each other: I love you today, we'll see about that tomorrow. Both men are dumbasses in this story. Still enjoyed the whole read though.

Ami says

3.5 Stars

This is a sequel to "L.A. Heat" and from my point of view, the focus of this book is actually David' and Chris's relationship, NOT a murder case. There are two murder cases and both are resolved pretty quickly. I think this is more on the aftermath, how David and Chris try to walk things through since they are pretty much opposites. It's nice to read about Des too, how he deals with his life after what happened in "L.A. Heat". A nice read, and this have two short-stories of David and Chris, pretty much erotic :), as bonus.

Chris says

Good gay mystery in which David and Chris and their relationship (or lack thereof) definitely take precedence over the rest of the story. Two steamy short stories are tacked on to the end of the book.

Natalia says

3.5 stars

Jen says

I don't know what happened with this ePub file. It seems like they took a paperback book, cut the binding off, and scanned it into an ePub file that wasn't edited well before being sold. There are places where words are missing or just plain wrong. There are sections where the ending bold or italics tags were missing causing large sections to be bold or in italics. I was able to overlook it for the most part.

I didn't think this one was as good as the first one. There's no real meat to the story... it flits from one subject to another while Chris and David work on their relationship. Then it ends rather abruptly.

Cheryl says

Rating would have been higher but there are some continuity errors... Main character is named Christopher Robin Bellemere in book 1 and then Christopher Ryan in book 2. Also, the backstory of Chris' family's acceptance of his sexuality was not consistent between book 1 and 2. Chris told David one thing and his bff told David another in book 2. I'm continuing to read book 3 but if details just keep changing to suit the moment... blech.
