

# Dirty Mind

*Roe Horvat*

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## **Dirty Mind** Roe Horvat

Alexander Popescu is a university lecturer in a quiet German town. He's a respectable man in his thirties who stays fit, has a decent career and travels alone—his only vice is an occasional greasy meal. And beer. And violent computer games. Nobody has to know about the other Alex—the acclaimed porn writer. His ingenious erotic fantasies earn him good money and keep his capricious mind harmlessly entertained.

When his young friend and protégé Christian transfers to Freiburg for medical school, Alex is overjoyed...and terrified that Christian will find out about Alex's indecent alter ego. The time they spend together, as lovely as it is, could overturn Alex's carefully balanced life. Suddenly, the writing is not good enough, his hair seems to be thinning, his careful hookups leave him unfulfilled, and his dreams are haunted by the innocent young man he's vowed to protect.

However, Christian is not a boy anymore. He's a grown man of twenty-one, clever and deadly attractive. And he's hiding some secrets of his own.

## **Dirty Mind Details**

Date : Published September 1st 2017 by Beaten Track Publishing

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Author : Roe Horvat

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# From Reader Review *Dirty Mind* for online ebook

## Jaime says

This is a great book! I was immediately drawn in to the story by Horvat's intriguing writing style. The voice of the narrator in this story is one that makes you chuckle to yourself while reading but also one that bleeds their feelings out on the pages.

*Dirty Mind* is a story that flows smoothly and quickly pulls the reader into the narrator and MC Alex's world. A world that is full of smut! While he may be a respectable professor by day, at night he sheds his suit jacket and gets dirty with the characters in his mind. It's his best kept secret!

Alex meets Christian while on a trip to Spain. They keep in touch over the years, even some visits, and lots of emails. Christian surprises Alex by announcing he is moving to Freiburg, the small German town where Alex lives; Alex has no idea his world is about to explode.

I found myself laughing at inner ramblings of Alex. I could totally believe someone would think that way, I mean we are all a little twisted in our own ways! Loved the support characters. Really enjoyed watching Christian go from sweet, angelic, young man to I-will-rock-your-world 21-year-old. I only wish we could have gotten in Christian's head. While it was obvious that he was in love with Alex, I would have loved to see how his inner ramblings matched with Alex's.

This was a great friends to lovers romance with the added boost of an age gap and time lapse, so we saw quite a bit of character growth in this short story. Don't let the shorter length make you think you are not going to have a well-developed story, because you would be flat wrong. The **slow burn** was fantastic. **First kiss** scene was perfect!

Overall, a great story and a **recommendation from this dirty mind to another!!**

Review Copy of *Dirty Mind* provided by Roe Horvat for an honest Review.

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## Christelle says

Roe Horvat's writing is really something. I loved it in *The Layover* and here, it was the same.

The blurb for this book caught my attention and it started very well. Alex and Christian meet while on vacation in Spain. Alex is 30, a teacher by day and a porn writer at night, a tad cynical, and Christian is 18, studying to become a doctor and sweetly exuberant. Being both from Germany, albeit not the same city, they exchange their emails and start a friendly correspondence. And then, Christian comes to study in the city where Alex lives, changing the dynamics of their relationships.

And that's when it went down for me. Out of the blue, something went off for me : first, I couldn't feel the switch in Alex's feelings towards Christian and then I couldn't relate to his less than "adult" behaviour.

I kept going until the end, because I enjoyed the writing, Christian as a character and wanted to have my HEA, but I never felt invested like I was with *The Layover*.

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## Ele says

**\*4.5 stars\***

Ok, this author's books have started to feel like home for more reasons than one.

First, the setting is so close to my heart, because it's always Europe. Just the fact that I don't have to convert dollars to euros, miles to kilometers and inches to centimeters is a huge plus!

Second, the prose is right up my alley. The writing, the self-sarcasm and the deadpan humour are top-notch.

I didn't love this as much as *The Layover*, but still a great book. Recommended!

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## Tanu Gill says

Oh, this book is something else. Just precious! \*laughing at myself and everything surrounding me\*

The book starts in your averagely normal way: nothing to suddenly make me feel that I am going to have the ride of my life, or nothing to say that I would get bored out of my mind. It was like a mist, slowly drifting into my mind, making me have mixed feelings.

On one hand, I was unsure about the type of character Aled would turn out to be, because the first part of the book is spent with him obsessed with his writing. And poor Christian did not have much of an active role for me to figure out where the plot will go and how.

And then comes the part when suddenly they end up getting together. That's when the mist clears and you can clearly see the direction the book is taking. It certainly helped that Alex had then turned into this adorable, bumbling, shy character, who was busy sequestering his feeling for Chris so efficiently that he himself was not aware of them! It helped even more that Chris had gotten a more active role where we got to see him in action and were able to gather subtle cues which hinted at his feelings for Chris.

And that switching of roles was the catalyst the story needed to push it up from a routine story to a precious one. I am so happy I persevered and doggedly kept on reading, because I would have missed out on the great laughs I had later on.

And I loved Dieter! He was just the cherry on top of the cake. Such a good guy! ♥?

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## ?lleskelle - teamSøren? ?I like big b00ks? says

Loved this one! There is definitely something different about Roe Horvat's books. The care Roe take to flesh out their characters is truly paying off. I fell in love with Alex and Chris.


This was an adorable and sweet slowburn and once again a story radiating with raw and real feelings.

And please, let there be a book for Mattias and Simon!

### Full review to follow

Arc received in exchange for my review.

*More reviews and book talk at :*

You can find me here too 

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### Judith says

4.5 Stars.

Alex is 30 and Christian is 18 when they first meet one evening in Stiges, a small town in Spain. Christian is beautiful and Alex is not the only man to be drawn to him that night,

*He wasn't too tall, maybe one seventy-five, and had the shiniest blond hair. The sun-bleached mop of golden strands surrounded his head like a halo as if he'd descended directly from heaven to save our lost, dirty souls. But angels probably wouldn't come down to earth dressed in faded cut-off jeans and purple flip-flops.(...)*

Acting on impulse, Alex saves Christian from unwanted attention from other men and they begin an easy, comfortable conversation. Christian is from Berlin and Alex is living in Freiburg and over the coming years they stay in touch through emails and occasional visits.

Alex is more than a bit surprised when three years after they first met Christian transfers to study in Freiburg. Alex teaches creative writing but also writes erotic books, something he definitely doesn't want Christian to find out.

Told only from Alex's pov I got fully immersed in his head. He's only in his thirties but cuts quite a melancholy, jaded figure at times...the one light in his life is Christian. He's trying to deny his attraction/connection to Christian, not least because of the 12 year age gap.

I adored Christian, he might appear innocent, and in many ways he was, but not where Alex is concerned.....he knew what he wanted and by Alex's own admission he didn't stand a chance when it came to Christian.

The writing drew me in right from the start here. The slow burn was beautiful as they go from friends to lovers and when they do become intimate I found it extremely sensual.

Highly Recommended.....

*Review copy.*

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## ? Todd says

There was **a lot that I truly liked** about this story, but also **a few things I could have done without**.

Alex met Christian on vacation in Spain, when they were **30 and 18**, respectively. Christian was about to get eaten alive by some **seriously skeezy Eurotrash**, so Alex pretended to be his boyfriend to save him from that fate.

Then, after talking for hours, they exchanged contact information and **remained friends for the next three years** through constant communication and the occasional short visit.

**I loved how this story played out at the beginning**, as I got to know each character more in-depth. They were both great guys and very good friends, but *that was all*.

Then Christian transferred to medical school in Alex's remote hometown, which changed everything, including **blurring some lines for Alex** that he'd never even considered crossing.

All of this was great, **UNTIL Alex started mentally harping on their twelve year age difference**. Over and over and over again. *Ad nauseam*. That got extremely old, extremely quickly and **I really wanted to reach on-page and bitch slap him**. Also... over and over and over again.

But, as clueless, insecure MC's are prone to do, he finally pulled his head out of his arse, accepted the fact that **they were inevitable** and put in the work to make up for his previous, repeated, idiotic behavior.

***"I never stood a chance," I wheezed.***

**“Nope,” he murmured against my cheek.**

Unlike Horvat's previous story, " *The Layover* ," this story did actually have **a good bit of steam**, once both MC's were on the same page relationship-wise, which was nice.

This story **didn't have quite the same level of impact** as his first book, which I suspect was in part due to the fact that "The Layover" had both MC's living out of one another's pockets.

In this book, we're mostly in Alex's head, but with Christian across town in medical school. **Yes, Christian visits on occasion, but he isn't a constant presence.**

Overall, I really enjoyed the story and would rate this one at **around 3.75 stars** and recommend it for anyone looking for a nice, contemporary, M/M romance with **a \*slight\* -- but not immense -- age gap.**

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*My ARC copy of the book was provided by the publisher in exchange for a fair, unbiased review.*

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## **Elsa Bravante says**

Me ha gustado muchísimo, tiene el mismo tono que The Layover, en el sentido de que profundiza en los distintos sentimientos que flotan en la novela y dentro de un marco europeo, parece algo superficial, pero la atmósfera europea convierte la historia en algo más próximo, real, y con un tono en ocasiones melancólico.

Alex y Christian se conocen en España cuando tienen 30 y 18 respectivamente y una relación de amistad se va convirtiendo poco a poco en una de amor en la que Alex tiene que afrontar todas las dudas que le invaden por la diferencia de edad. Hay amistad, tristeza, miedo y mucho mucho amor.

Le habría dado sin pestañear cinco estrellas, por la profundidad, por los personajes, por la originalidad. Pero, hay un error que me parece imperdonable y hace que le baje una estrella. Uno de los personajes secundarios es español, hay en todo el libro creo que cinco palabras en español (bien escritas) y el nombre de este personaje, se llama ANDRÉS pero en el libro escriben una y otra vez ANDRES, quizás para alguien que no es hispanohablante es algo irrelevante, pero para nosotros es una falta de ortografía grave, que lo peor es que denota falta de interés en hacerlo bien, o al menos esa es la sensación que le queda a esta lectora hispana/española.

Un libro intimista, con una redacción muy bella. Un autor al que no hay que perder de vista, para mi un soplo de aire fresco en este mundo del MM donde lo que triunfa son siempre las mismas historias.

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## Mirjana **\*\*DTR - Down to Read\*\*** says

**\*\*\*3.75 Stars\*\*\***

A wonderful sophomore book that has solidified my love for Roe Horvat and their books! You've got a serious fan in me!

Alex and Christian meet in Spain while both men are on vacation. When Alex spots Christian at a bar, he's immediately intrigued by him. Boyish good looks and an air of innocence make others take notice as well. When a couple of shady tourists won't stop hitting on Christian, Alex comes to his rescue...and so a friendship begins.

Fast forward three years later, and Christian has decided to transfer to medical school in the town that Alex lives in. Alex is both excited and torn. He's protective of Christian, but it's clear that he's also developed feelings for the guy. And Alex is all kinds of hung up on the age difference (Christian is 21 and Alex is 33).

As much as he wants Christian, his "I'm too old for him" insecurities keep him from acting on his feelings...but they certainly don't keep him from low key pining for Chris.

Told entirely from Alex's POV, I struggled with him at times. His obsession with his age grew a bit frustrating as the book wore on. I definitely understood his hesitations and insecurities, but it was a constant roadblock that kept him from seeing the bigger picture. Chris wasn't that innocent 18 year old that Alex kept him boxed in as.

But when Alex finally pulls his head out of his ass, it's an epic grovel that had me swooning and made my heart melt!

"I want you with me all the time, for dinners and breakfasts and trips to the mountains. I want you in my bed - you have no idea. I'm so starved for you it's like I have phantom pains at night, *almost* feeling you there."

I like that although Chris was younger, it wasn't a story about him having to prove his maturity...but rather Alex coming into his own. Feeling secure about where he is in his life, his work as an erotica author, and what it means to love someone.

"All the grand things you're going to do in your life, I want to be there on the sidelines. I want to be the one who gets to take care of you when you're sick. I want to be able to see inside your head, even if the workings of your brain intimidate the hell out of me most of the time. I want to know what you think, what you wish for. So I can try to get it for you."



I wish we would have had Christian's POV for a couple of scenes, but I can understand why this book is entirely from Alex's POV.

I can't wait to see what else Roe Horvat has up their sleeve....and I'm hoping it's a book for Mattias and Simon!!!!

***\*\*ARC received in exchange for an honest review\*\****

I'm so excited for this!! The Layover has been one of my favorite reads of the year!!

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## **Lost in a Book says**

Apparently I'm fashionable late to the squealing party for this author. I haven't read their first book, but I'll be fixing that sooner rather than later. I liked this book and enjoyed it more so as the second half came along with its sweet and sexy friends to lovers journey.

Alex and Christian (aka Squirrel) met in Spain three years prior to this story unfolding. Alex stepped up at a bar and saved Christian from being the 18 year old prey to all of the lions that were out on the hunt. Alex pretended to be Christian's boyfriend and from there they formed a deep bond of friendship. Christian was looking for a mentor and with the 12 year age difference between them, Alex was the perfect candidate. Living in different parts of Germany, they exchanged emails, phone calls, and even visits over the three years.

Alex was a university lecturer by day and a ~~porn~~ romance novel writer by night. **"I was high-maintenance and an intellectual snob. That was why I mostly lived out my fantasies through my writing."** Alex writes under a pen name and only his best friend knows what he writes. Besides the few friends he has, Alex was very lonely until Christian transfers to a medical school where he lives.

We don't get inside Christian's head outside of the inferences we gather through Alex's thoughts and observations. Christian is very smart and responsible. He adores Alex and you can tell he craves any time Alex is willing to give him. He has hero worship going on and wants to know more about the tight lipped Alex. Christian is also a virgin at 21. He has a very controlling mother who scheduled every minute of his day which left little time for the one hand job and few make out sessions he had under his belt.

I loved Alex and Christian together as friends and then as lovers. Unfortunately, Alex suffered from a very common medical condition where his head is firmly lodged up his ass for more than half of the book. Alex was soooooo noble with his mentor/"brotherly" role. He fought very hard for so long against his feelings and doing the "right" thing that it got in his way. Their relationship was one sided for the first half. It was such a unique dynamic because Alex was there to be and do anything for Christian and all Christian really wanted was for Alex to be himself and *give himself*. Alex was caught up on their 12 year age difference which wasn't a problem to Christian. Their characters were written in a way where Christian seemed to be the "adult" and more sensible one. When the head/ass removal surgery was finally complete, it was game *ON*.

There was a lot of heat throughout. The heat in the first half came from the scenes Alex was writing for his

novels and his many dreams. Those didn't do anything for me but I understand that it was necessary to show his style as a writer and how love translates through sex. I do wish the sex frequency was more balanced and not so heavy on the dream and novel scene front; The MCs got the short end of the stick in that department. Their first time together, I think legit fireworks shot out of my kindle. The tension and heartbreaking build up had me on the edge of my seat begging them to make a move.

**“There was a moment of stillness. Neither of us spoke or moved, yet our breathing seemed as loud as screams.”**

Unf!

Alex really steps it up when he decides to *give* himself to Christian. It was almost the equivalent of a boombox playing a love song outside your window.

\*swoon\*

I'm a big fan of the secondary characters, Dieter and Mattias. Hopefully Mattias gets a story next with Simon. \*hint hint\* I even liked Christian's crazy mother because although she was a hot mess of rigid control, she had the best of intentions and loved him.

I wish there was more insight into Christian through his POV to “see” his range of moods. I would have enjoyed his thoughts when he seemed more melancholy instead of his always eager and full of life persona. All in all, I liked this book and loved the 2nd half. I would definitely recommend it and will be on the lookout for more from Roe Horvat.

**"I love this love. It's guilty; it's unavoidable. Mine. The only thing worth anything, and it's mine."**

<https://boymeetsboyreviews.blogspot.com>

*Copy provided for honest review.*

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## **Dia says**

5 stars

Loved this one SO much!!! I have no idea why I waited so long to read it.

It's my first book by this author and I am in love with the writing!!! This story felt so real. I highlighted a lot, and now that I finished it, I feel like rereading my highlights. That's how much I loved these characters. Extremely sweet and hot.

“Every man tastes different. How I hoped his taste would be my last. I wouldn't ever need to try anything

else. He owned me.”

I am looking forward to reading more from this author!

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~☆~Doni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

While *Dirty Mind* doesn't pack the same emotional punch as Horvat's first book, *The Layover*, it's still a worthy contender in the MM romance genre. Horvat has a lyrical writing style that never comes across as flowery. Their (this is the pronoun the author uses) words are stark; the descriptions, emotive.

***Dirty Mind* is set in Freiburg im Breisgau in Germany. Can I get an AMEN, please? It's so refreshing to have books set somewhere besides the English-speaking world.** Horvat is European, so they pull it off flawlessly.

When Alex, a creative writing professor cum gay erotica writer, meets the beautiful Christian, then 18, at a beach club in Spain, he notices that Christian's "sun-bleached mop of golden strands surrounded his head like a halo as if he'd descended directly from heaven to save our lost, dirty souls."

Alex becomes Christian's long-distance friend and mentor, but when Christian transfers to the university in Freiburg, boundaries blur. Alex is obsessed with keeping Christian at arm's length and terrified Christian will find out that he writes porn, even though Christian is now 21, hardly an innocent.

**Alex is the first-person narrator of this story, so we are intimately aware of his self-delusions.** The reader can see how badly Christian wants to be with Alex, but Alex is determined to self-sabotage himself and preserve Christian's precious virginity.

His biggest concerns is the twelve year age difference between himself and Christian. He's not willing to try, because he's certain Christian will finally notice his receding hairline and leave. Alex's stubbornness and insecurity were maddening! Christian wants inside Alex's dirty mind, yet Alex pushes him away time and again.

**The secondary characters in the story are pitch-perfect:** Dieter, Christian's dorm mate who is fascinated with all things gay and says exactly what he's thinking; Christian's controlling mother, who wants Alex to report on Christian's comings and goings; Mattias, Alex's one-time casual fuck buddy and also his best friend, who suffers from dark moods and has a backstory that was sadly never fully fleshed out.

I was hoping with a title like *Dirty Mind*, this would be a Dirty Book, but it wasn't, not really. It takes a long time for the MCs to get together, although I'm not complaining. The slow burn was appropriate considering Alex's neurotic nature. The included steamy scenes are sensual and erotic, but there was more sex in Alex's dreams and fiction than on the page between the MCs.

The story ends with a fairly satisfying epilogue. Alex is still waiting for the other shoe to drop ("Christian, I'm terrified that one day, I'm not going to be enough for you"), but Christian holds firm. He branded himself Alex's Squirrel, and he's not letting go.

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## Jewel says

4.5 Stars

Roe Horvat's second book, *Dirty Mind* was another winner for me! I'm so happy to get to read their words and go on the journey with their characters. So happy.

As with the last book I read, by this author, *Dirty Mind* is full of feelz and realness and even though it is short, it never felt lacking. Honestly, not many authors can accomplish this. All too often, books under 200 pages just feel incomplete. Either there isn't enough plot development or enough character development or enough relationship development. Roe Horvat manages to hit all three with such precision that I can hardly believe it is only their second book. It is clear that writing is something they've always done and they've taken the time to hone their skill into a finely crafted tool.

*Dirty Mind* is a story about learning to let go and learning to love. And sometimes, the older person is not necessarily the wiser one.

**Alex Popescu** teaches creative writing at university. He also writes gay erotica under a pseudonym. Alex always thought that he would be able to find someone to share his life with, but then he found that life passed too quickly and here he was, 33 and still very much single. Luckily for him, life doesn't end at 30. But he worries. He worries about being alone. He worries about not being alone. He worries about getting old. And most of all, he worries about failing Christian.

**Christian König** was just 18 when he met Alex, and after three years, Alex is still the most important person in Christian's life. Christian has always been happy and a bit innocent and, at 21, is still a virgin -- by choice. Christian is a very determined young man. He has dated, but he never wanted to sleep with anyone that wasn't Alex -- so he didn't. But getting Alex to see him as anything other than that 18 year old kid he met three years ago is quite the challenge.

I enjoyed watching Alex spin. There is some angst in this story and it is all in the form of Alex's insecurities and fears. He tripped all over himself trying to keep Christian in the box marked "unattainable". I loved their relationship development. They're best friends, and though Alex does tend to keep part of himself locked away, Christian might as well be a locksmith because was a master at digging beneath the surface. Alex didn't stand a chance.

*Dirty Mind* didn't quite reach the same emotional level that *The Layover* did, but it was still pretty brilliant and I loved it. Roe Horvat writes characters that just feel real and that's often my favorite kind of story. Easily relatable characters in easily relatable situations trying their best to find their happy ending. Simply put, I loved it.

Recommended!

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*ARC of **Dirty Mind** was generously provided by the author, in exchange for an honest review.*

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## Renée says

*"An irresistible force meets an unmovable object. What happens next?"*

What happens, indeed? Thus is the story of Alex and Christian.

Roe Horvat is officially on my autobuy list. I am so in love with his writing style. I think this author could even make the corniest MM story readable.

Alex met Christian three years ago in a Spanish bar. Christian, a "baby gay," was being eaten alive like a newby. Alex, feeling white knight-ish, befriends Christian and saves him from the sharks circling fresh blood. Even though there is a 12 year age difference, the two exchange numbers and spend the next three years building a solid friendship from afar.

The story is told exclusively from Alex's POV, and we see his growing attraction and love for Christian once Christian moves to Alex's city in Germany. He struggles, though. He doesn't think he has much to offer Christian because of the age span. He also thinks Christian will break his heart once he finds someone his own age later. It takes a while for Alex to realize that he doesn't get to make Christian's decisions for him.

*"Yes, that's true," my friend said, nodding in all seriousness. "You are exactly that much older. And yet here we all are, still waiting for you to act like a grown-up."*

I love this author's prose. I love his wit. I love every word on page. This was a simple story, lower on the angst scale, and yet I **FELT** it. On a deeper level.

This novella, in its simplicity, will be a reread for me in the future.

This author, with their skill, will be a reread always.

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## Eli Easton says

It's not every day you encounter a new author that is impressive af. Roe Horvat is that author! I enjoyed the unusual setting of Freiburg, and the May-December aspect of the story. But mainly it's the writing that shines. There's considerably more depth of characterization and emotion in this slow burn romance, and the writing is far above the par. Welcome, Roe Horvat, to the m/m genre! I hope to read many more from you.

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