



A Little Complicated

Kade Boehme

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Ryan Borja met the guy of his dreams in college. Brady Novak was kind, responsible and easy on the eyes. Yeah, the guy had a kid but Ryan loved her too. What could go wrong? Well, Ryan's sister Ellie, that's what. Ellie is a flighty, love-em-and-leave-em kinda girl with a big heart who doesn't realize she dated the guy Ryan had fantasized about. But, like all of Ellie's other relationships, this one ended within two months, just in time to send Brady running off to take a job in Phoenix, taking Ryan's heart with him.

Ryan never thought he'd see Brady again until eight years later Ryan's sister blindsides him by announcing that not only is Brady back in Atlanta but she'd asked him out on a date. And he'd accepted. As if that wasn't enough to send Ryan on a tailspin, a neighborhood girl brings him face to face with Brady in an unexpected way.

Brady can't believe when he sees Ryan again. He assumed Ryan had moved on from Atlanta, like he'd always said he would. But Brady hasn't forgotten his cute, nerdy friend and wants nothing more than to have a chance to try the relationship they never got to have all those years ago, but convincing Ryan that he hadn't slept with Ellie proves difficult. Ryan is still hurt over the way they left things and makes it an uphill battle, but Brady has waited too long. He'll damn well give a good go of trying to get his man and with the help of his precocious teenage daughter and a little help from friends they may just get their Happily Ever After.

2nd Edition, has been re-edited and revised

A Little Complicated Details

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From Reader Review A Little Complicated for online ebook

Amy says

4.5 STARS! A light and fluffy afternoon read (with some angst and yummy sex thrown in)!! Ryan and Brady were great. I loved that they had history and had known each other years ago. There was no insta-love which plagues a lot of short stories. I wasn't a huge fan of Ellie. She was kinda self-absorbed and flaky. I adored Lila though, she was hilarious. One of my favorite teenage characters ever! Overall, a really enjoyable read!!

LiveYourLife BuyTheBook says

4 Stars

A "Live Your Life, Buy The Book" Review

This was a really cute story that dealt with one of life's eternal complications.... the old "who saw him first" conundrum :-P Friends have that unwritten law about never, ever going remotely close to someone that a friend fancies, but what about family? Isn't it just the worst scenario to fancy a guy that your sister fancies? You'd think a brother and sister may be safe from this little problem, but factor in the *minor* detail of sexual orientation and all of a sudden things get helluva complicated!!

Ryan met Brady 8 years ago at college. The attraction was instant and mutual. Brady was a single dad, so (of course) Ryan jumped to the wrong conclusion and assumed he was therefore straight. It never really occurred to him that Brady could be bi. Brady, sadly, never really tried to convince him otherwise – despite the fact that the more time they spent together, the bigger the attraction became. Then the worst of the worst happens Brady meets this "bangin' chick" ... yep, it is Ryan's sister Ellie. The three of them strike up this weird friendship – like a mutual appreciation society - but *he saw him* first, dammit! See what I mean?? Com.Plicated!! Brady knows that Ellie isn't for him so he isn't exactly heart broken when she dumps him. And off to Phoenix it is, for Brady and his daughter... on his last night in town he *finally* gets to make out with the guy that has been his crush for the last 3 months!! Yes. Ryan. Of course they both feel guilty as hell so don't stay in touch – and now 8 years later Brady is back in town. Naturally Ellie wants a second crack at the one that got away. Will Ryan ever tell her that he also fancied him, and that *he saw him* first, dammit! Plus Ryan is just such a nice guy – who honestly wants his sister to be happy, forgoing his own shot at happiness, even. But dammit Ryan.... YOU SAW HIM FIRST!!! CLAIM HIM!!! :-P

The rest of the story I will leave for you to discover – it is a lot of fun though!

I really liked this story and was saddened to see that for some reason the book has been removed from some book sellers – I am not going to lie; there were some pretty bad errors in the book. Wrong names or words being used, but these errors should have been picked up by people that proof read or even the beta readers – not all the blame can be laid on the author, how often do you spot other peoples mistakes, and skim over your own? I would *hate* for this author to feel discouraged and to stop writing, as he really has a wonderful writing style – just maybe check, check and check again before putting the book out to an often nasty and vindictive reading public.

Karen says

I struggled with rating this book -- I liked the basic premise behind the book, and was prepared to enjoy it. It had decent ratings here on Goodreads. But there were sooo many problems:

1. The characters were supposedly Southern, but the accents were inconsistent, sometimes none, sometimes Southern, sometimes West Virginia, and sometimes African American. It was annoying.
2. Brady's 14 year old daughter tells Ryan (to try to hook him up with her father) that if he "got a dick up his ass it would get the stick out of it". Ugh, no. If a kid really said something like that about her father, I would suspect sexual abuse.
3. Brady's mother also encourages him to pursue Ryan by lifting up his shirt to show off his ass in front of his daughter. The nurse calls him a hot piece of ass in front of the daughter. Really??
4. Ryan was an idiot about not wanting to date Brady because he had dated his sister in the past. Despite all his friends telling him to talk with them about it, admitting to himself that he should talk to them about it, he chooses not to. And not for any particular reason. It seemed that the author just wanted to drag out this story by saying the same things over and over. There were so many opportunities to make these characters real, and they were all missed.
5. There are typos and omissions throughout. This book was very poorly edited.

I made it about 90% of the way through (I hate to give up on a book), but in the end, I was just too irritated to take it any further.

Jenn says

So, sorry, I'm going to say it. This was just really bad, and the author had the bones of a decent story there, but that editing...

I don't know who looked over this, but there should have been several other people or someone else entirely. Spelling mistakes, character name switch outs, missing words, tense issues, etc. And this wasn't every blue moon. This was close to nearly every page or so. Then there's the content.

Aside from that, I just wasn't invested in the characters or the plot. I don't like flashbacks, especially when they continue over and over within a novella, even alternating POV. I don't like when the flashbacks are repetitious, either. The plot needed to be bulked up with *new* events or ideas to keep things fresh.

The humor was sorely lacking. I didn't even crack a smile once, and I get that the main characters' thing was awkward humor, but this just didn't work for me.

I loathe masturbation scenes, but at least this one wasn't in the shower. Still, the sex scenes weren't hot for me, so they felt like throwaways. Clichéd phrasing such as: "...coming unglued in my hands." Or "I felt myself coming apart at the seams." Even the orgasm seemed very unsexy to me: "I'm coming. Jeez."

That sister annoyed me beyond reason. Flighty, selfish, and one-dimensional. She really was only in the novella as a way to provide a way to bring the couple back together after years apart and to provide imagined tension. How hard would it have been for Brady or the sister to quickly tell Ryan there was nothing between them and there never really had been? It went on and on, which just felt repetitious and unnecessary.

Then there was the Big Misunderstanding that I'm never a fan of in my books. During a flashback, Ryan and Brady kiss and fool around the last night Brady is in town before he takes himself and his daughter out of state. Immediately after the sexual activities, Ryan flees in the night, and Brady takes off the following morning. They don't speak again for seven years, and low and behold they are neighbors in the same apartment complex. And I simply don't understand how Brady could have been comfortably bisexual hanging out with a comfortably out gay man for a couple months, attracted to him, and never once did the topic of his bisexuality come up in conversation. Yet, they were best friends... Also, if Brady was genuinely attracted to Ryan, and had never brought up his attraction why on Earth would he think dating Ryan's sister (and not having sex with her, really what was the point?) be a smart idea?

The writing felt simplistic and very much like a first draft, and like I said above, with another round of edits - both copy and content - this might have worked better for me.

Bev says

Well, it definitely *was* a little complicated, but a really cute story. 4 stars (deducted one for the editing again) and

Shortie review. This is the tale of Ryan, his sister Ellie, the man they both have the hots for..Brady, and his daughter Delilah ...or Lila, who I thought was a really cool character. The story unfolds over 8 years, and we learn that Ryan and Brady really love each other but that old non-communication nonsense gets in the way. We also discover that Ellie fancies that she's in love with Brady, but she's a little flaky and keeps changing her mind about the men she goes out with. Brady gets a job in another part of the country and returns to Atlanta eventually...Ryan hasn't forgotten him or Lila, but isn't aware that Brady and his daughter live in the disabled apartment at the bottom of his block. I'll leave you to find out why and what happens.

T.M. Smith says

Ryan and Ellie Borja share more than just blood, they also happen to be attracted to the same man. Brady Novak stormed into their lives eight years ago when they were in college, then blew out just as quickly several months later, taking Ryan's heart with him. Brady was graduating and had landed a great job that would give him the ability to support himself and his young daughter, Delila. Miscommunication and Misunderstandings led Ryan to believe Brady was upset over his breakup with his sister. When in fact, Brady was more upset because he was losing Ryan.

Time heals all wounds, and over the next eight years Ryan got over Brady, or so he thought. Until his sister shares the news that Brady is back in town, worse still, she has a date with him. Old feelings that Ryan thought were long buried resurface and he's flooded with the memories he's tried so hard to forget. Ryan is nothing if not stubborn and hard headed, the more Brady tries to talk to him the more Ryan pushes him away. Add to that the precocious teenager that lives in Ryan's building who is hell bent on setting Ryan up with her dad, and these two have several hurdles to climb. If only Brady could get Ryan to stand still long enough to be honest with him about his feelings.

Boehme is quickly becoming a loud voice within the M/M genre with stories that are based on realistic life events and contain extremely likeable characters. I'm not usually a fan of angst within a storyline, but Boehme has a knack of knowing how to mold the angst into passion and love that make it bearable and believable. I think the moral of this story is to be honest about your feelings, not only with yourself but with that person as well. How do you know what he or she is thinking, if you never ask? Oh, and have some mind blowing sex and blow jobs coupled with some toe curling kisses on that journey as well, I mean what's life... without a little fun?

Candice says

4.5 Stars

EEK! I was so excited about this, that I completely forgot to write it down on my calendar. Luckily, I was only 2 days late reading it :)

I don't think I can stress enough how much I loved Lila. Spitfire, that girl. Holy hell. Favorite teenage character, EVER!

To be honest, I really didn't like Ellie at all. I mean, she's supposed to be Ryan's sister and best friend, but she doesn't see his how tense he gets or acts weird whenever she mentions Brady? That would be clue number 1, right? There were signs that something was going on, I think she chose to just ignore them.

As far as Brady, poor guy. I felt for him, but (view spoiler)

To say this entire situation was "a little complicated" was an understatement. But, it could have easily solved by a little thing called, erm, oh yeah...communication ;)

Overall, great novella! I recommend.

Suzy says

Great little book, couldn't put it down! Full of great characters - wasn't sure if I was going to like Ellie but she was fab and Lila, what a kid I loved her, did not let Ryan and Brady get away with any shit! Little bit of angst, lots of laughs, big love and a brilliant epilogue - must read!

One little niggle - could have been edited better, had a few little mistakes but didn't stop me enjoying it.

Lisa The Novel Approach says

This book was a refreshingly funny read with just the right amount of angst to remind you that you are reading a Kade Boehme story. Ryan struggles against his own heart trying to be loyal to his sister, and Brady has a full cast of southern women fighting on his side. I don't know who I felt sorrier for. I love the snarky humor in this book. I don't think anyone pulls the snark off quite like Kade. Then he turns around and makes you just fall in love with the characters. If you have read any of Kade's books before, you know these two are going to have to get out of their own way to find their HEA, but I love the assist they get at the end of this book. With friends like theirs they have no options but to succeed.

You can read the rest of Jackie's review at The Novel Approach

Nic says

Such a wonderful story and a great way to spend an hour or two!

The story is sweet, as Ryan and Brady reconnect after eight years apart. But things are complicated by Ryan's sister's interest in Brady, both now and then. In true romance fashion, no-one is properly communicating - it's definitely complicated!

The characters are wonderful, particularly Brady's daughter Lila. She's smart and brave and wants her Dad to be happy and that means she wants her Dad to have Ryan!

There were some really special moments that had me smiling stupidly at my Kindle with a silly grin on my face, particularly Lila's 'proposal' at the end of the book! In a room full of people....(view spoiler)

At \$0.99 this was really good value too.

I now publish all my m/m reviews on my blog so if you want to see all my m/m reviews in one place come visit at Because Two Men Are Better Than One!

Vanessa North says

I love the Southern flavor to Kade's writing and this story is adorable. Editorial issues are significant. I would recommend for someone looking for a lighthearted read if they are able to read past those issues.

Mark says

A little complicated? I found this situation to be completely convoluted, but needless to say things untangle themselves at the end thank goodness

Ryan works as a bartender and is very close to his sister Ellie. When it comes to dating men Ellie is a complete flake and has the attention span of a four year old, however she still has the romantic dream of true

love and being together with one person for the rest of her life. Then out of the blue Brady turns up, a boyfriend that Ellie had dumped some eight years ago and decides to give it a second go. To Ryan's horror he thought Brady had left town years ago too, but apparently is now living below him in the same block of flats with his fourteen year old daughter. Ryan's life is now sent into a flat spin.

Eight years ago although Ellie was dating Brady who is according to him, bisexual, the one person he really was attracted to sexually was Ryan. Well they have a fling just before Brady is about to leave for Arizona. Ryan runs off ridden with guilt having sex with the man his sister is dating.

Brady is back and the fun starts again, although this time Brady's daughter, who Ryan would baby-sit for back then, is now a precocious 14 year-old and decides to play matchmaker.

Let's just analyse this whole situation for a moment; sister is dating man whose brother is attracted to, brother has sex with said man and falls in love even he can't except it because his sister is going out with this guy. This guy hasn't had sex with said man's sister and only wants to be friends the second time around, but also says he's bi. Like I buy that! Brother doesn't know this and is guilt ridden for shagging his sister's boyfriend. Everything comes to a head (no pun intended-lol!) and resolves itself with said bi-man falling in love and being happy with said girlfriend's brother. Confused?

Well, the deal here for me is that anything gets complicated as soon as bi-sexuality is involved. Sorry, that may sound prejudice, but through bitter experience not a theme I feel comfortable with. Not only is Brady torn in two, but it's also the complications it causes the third parties as well. Kade picks up this theme quite nicely,

"Gay men preach all day about being tolerant but they sure ain't when it comes to bisexual guys."

This is possibly true, but I know from experience as a gay man that date or have an affair with a bi-guy, at the very worst one who is married with kids, generally you'll end up on the losing side and your dreams of a loving relationship and skipping happily off into the sunset are shattered. Therefore if you can "shag 'em and leave 'em" then fine, but if not then it all becomes ***a little complicated*** to say the least.

Although Brady says he's bi (maybe due to his daughter; a result of a teenage pregnancy) I never really got the feeling he was. It felt more to me that Brady was a closet gay, who thought he would never be accepted by another man with a fourteen year old daughter in tow and would be more accepted by a woman. Although all the time he was apparently doing Ellie (both times and again no relationships between) he never once had sex with her! The big attraction was / is for her brother Ryan. Doesn't sound very bi to me now, does it?

Kade creates what seems at the beginning an impossible situation, with real and authentic characters but it all unravels itself in the end. Once again two men not communicating their true emotions with each other. But then if you could sort things out with a good chat for 30 mins then it would never be a story, would it? And to be honest the latter never really is the real one anyway, is it? People talk conveniently about characters communicating, but there are so many examples in real life where communication has broken down through various reasons whether private, political or international. I like the way that this story resolves itself and everyone gets their HEA.

.Lili. says

A Little Complicated is a cute tangled mess. This is the story of two men who missed their first chance and get a second eight years later.

What I loved:

*LILA, Brady's daughter. She stole the show. She was such a spitfire. I loved her humor, bluntness, and most of all her loyalty.

*Brady and Ryan. Though there were a few instances there I swear these two were making my eye twitch.

So was Ellie to be fair. lol

*Ellie. She was the fun cooky older sister. :)

*This story was just cute and fun

*Not many sex scenes but what it did have-

This was a winner for me. Kade Boehme's books just always hit the spot. They make me happy. 4.5 Stars rounded up to 5 because Lila was awesome like that. :)

This review is based on the re-edited 2nd Edition of this book.

Deanna Against Censorship says

4 1/2 stars.

A sweet story of past love and hope.

Ryan had loved from Brady from first sight. They became friends but Ryan wanted more but knew Brady was straight.

Brady had a child and struggled to finish high school and now college. He was more than attracted to Ryan. Brady was bi but so tired of interesting guys rejecting him because he had a child.

Ryan's sister, Ellie, flittered from man to man with barely a thought. She loved her brother but was a complete dunce when it came to reading his feelings for Brady. She only considered her own wants. She never gave a thought to other's feelings.

Communication was not part of these three's lives. There is the story.

I loved Lila, Brady's daughter. I loved Ryan's relationship with her. She was adorable and smart.

A sweet, quick read with nice people. Wonderful.

Lenore says

The idea behind this story was decent, but the execution was lacking. It didn't help that it read like a rough first draft. Some further editorial involvement would have been beneficial.

It's 1.5 stars rounded up because of the cute cover.
