



More Than the Ball

Brandon Redstone

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What happens when one experimental night in college turns into years of regret about opportunities lost?

Best friends and college roommates, Dev Bandi and Elliot Gates spent most of their time together in college hanging out, drinking, and being teammates in their NCAA soccer team. But before they parted ways, they spent one experimental night together, becoming more than just friends.

Now, just a few years later, out and proud Dev is a promising young director who is asked to do a feature on his old soccer coach and mentor, a man he greatly admired. The only thing is, taking the job would mean interviewing many of his old teammates – including the now professional player, Elliot Gates. It's been years since they last spoke, but that doesn't mean he'd forgotten his former best friend. Or their steamy time together.

Elliot is living in London, playing for the Spurs, when he gets a surprising email from Dev asking him to participate in the documentary. Despite how long it's been since they'd spoken, he certainly hasn't forgotten about his handsome college friend, either. Still, Elliot lives with his girlfriend Jemma now, and isn't sure meeting Dev again would be such a good idea.

But the memory of their final encounter has never left his head, and remembering it now is bringing some of his old feelings back to the surface. Could it be that Elliot had run from something for all the wrong reasons, and chosen a path in his life that has kept him from true happiness?

It might be time to find out.

More Than the Ball is a stand-alone gay romance novel and ends happily ever after, with no cliffhanger.

More Than the Ball Details

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From Reader Review More Than the Ball for online ebook

Cleo says

A nice unremarkable tale of friends to lovers to distant friends...to lovers again?

As someone who really enjoys watching the English Premier League, this was a nice read for me...imagining my favourite players in a little bromance/romance.

Amanda says

Quick, easy read. Could have done without reading about each MC with other people but all in all it was good.

DW says

There was potential to be really good but it didn't work for me. I really like a second chance romance but this was rushed and skipped like 5 years before I realized what happened. I read the whole book hoping it would get better for me but I could not connect with Dev or Elliott.

My first mistake was I didn't read GR reviews first and I ALWAYS read them first. Amazon give it 4.5 stars and it was only .99 so I went for it. Oh well, move on to the next book!!

Love Bytes Reviews says

3.5 Heart Review by Amber

This was a pretty good book. There was nothing that stood out for me as exceptional and nothing that I absolutely hated. I am unfamiliar with this author but I enjoyed the writing style. There were a few minor editing issues and some name switch ups here and there that caught me off guard but nothing I absolutely could not deal with.

Dev Bandi and Elliott Gates lived as roommates for 4 years during their time in college. Growing extremely close with each other personal space has all but vanished. So much so that they don't even realize how close and comfortable they are with each other until a night a pot and porn sends their relationship in a whole other direction.

Years pass, Dev and Elliott lose contact until Dev is offered an opportunity to direct and create an independent film about his old soccer coach in college. This opportunity puts him back into close contact with Elliott and the heat between them has not diminished in the slightest.

Elliott is a professional soccer player so he finds coming out and being open with Dev extremely difficult. There's a lot of push pull and Dev allows Elliot a lot of leeway when it comes to being upfront about his feelings. When Dev and Elliot are together, they're smokin' hot and you never get a sense for how much Elliot is struggling when it is just those two.

The end really pushed this into “good” book status for me. It is just too damn sweet and cute for words. I absolutely adored the end, way to redeem yourself Elliot!!!

Like I said, good book. I'd be interested in other books by this author.

This book was provided free in exchange for a fair and honest review for Love Bytes. Go there to check out other reviews, author interviews, and all those awesome giveaways. Click below.

John-Torleif Harris says

Good first-time gay romance

This was a pretty fun first time, sport romance. I think that Dev should have been more assertive when he was timid, and less insecure when he was being forceful, but it made for some delicious drama. Elliot was your fairly typical pro jock who was so deep in the closet that he didn't even realize he was there, at first. This would have been a five star review if Elliot could have been more than just a cookie cutter example of this trope.

Felicia Eddy says

This is the first M/M book I have read from Brandon Redstone and I don't think it will be my last.

Dev and Elliott were best friends in college, they are roommates and play on the same soccer team. A few days before graduation while, packing one thing leads to another and the have a night together they didn't expect but both secretly thought about.

Flash forward 5 years – Elliot living in London still playing soccer and has a girlfriend; Dev a documentary film director is living in Los Angeles with his boyfriend. Dev has been asked to make a documentary on their old college soccer coach that requires him to track down his old college teammates – including his former best friend Elliot. The problem is Dev never forgot the one night they were together and neither did Elliot.

I really enjoyed this story though a tad bit cliché. The gay man sure of himself and the man who is straight until he realizes he is not. Moving past that I thought the writing and the diversity of the characters was extremely well done. How Elliot deals with coming out and knowing he has had feelings for Dev all along – while Dev has compared everyone he has ever dated to Elliot was extremely well written. The dialog between the main characters was fantastic and I got a kick out of the secondary characters as well. The joy and heartache the main characters go through was something I am still thinking about a few days after reading the book – that to me is a reason alone to pick up this book.

If you enjoy this genre and are looking for a great read I highly recommend More Than the Ball.

CJ says

This one just didn't really work for me, there were too many 'gaps of time' in the story.

Jessica Mitchell says

Two college guys, a drunken high night and a kiss that neither one never forgot.

Dev since graduating college went from playing soccer to photography. Now a somewhat big name, money and a somewhat steady boyfriend. He has it all. But the boy from his college days. So when a chance to see everyone back home and one particular person in London. Will he hold his feelings in check or will he go for the gold and tell him how he feels?

Elliot is at the top of his games for the Cavs in London. Since graduation from college his career had skyrocketed. He may have the money, a steady girlfriend and the life he always dreamed about. But there's that little feeling at the back of his head every time he thinks of that night with his roommate Dev. The what if. Then he gets a phone call from him. Will he take the chance to see if they still click? Will he ever come out to Dev?

Jennifer says

Quick, entertaining story. More tell about important points in the story than experience; that is why it was only okay. I liked the quick, erotic short story after the main story more; the reason for this- the author told you exactly what you were getting.

Dolores says

I received this book for free to give my True and Honest Review

This is my first Brandon Redstone's novels and I tell you it is HOT from the very start abs yes this is guy on guy book but no matter what your sexuality is so if you're STRAIGHT, BI, MALE GAY OR FEMALE GAY.

when you have that connection with your very close friend and decide to and try the attraction or at the very least the feelings for each other, it leaves a ever lasting feeling and yes some of us might want to run away so you can forget about and move on with your lives and here we see Dev who knew he was gay whilst in college and had become a successful Director and Elliott who felt like it was the weed and the porn that made him have these feelings for Dev but more importantly even if he admitted he was gay he wouldn't have been able to come out as he knew the career he was determined to go down was to become a professional Soccer Player in the Premier League in the England.

The men lose contact and have relationships Dev with guys and Elliott with women. But then that was until Dev's been asked if he'd do a documentary to celebrate their Old Soccer Teacher and that was it they CAN'T

help the attraction for each other. Dev's boyfriend leaves and the guilt Elliott feels for kissing and enjoying it makes them to split up even though Elliott had run away and hadn't contacted Dev again until he shouted up for the viewing and then the hot connection has made Elliott have more confidence until others come into contact with them and he shuts him away and I'm telling you Dev has always known his feelings for Elliott but to me Elliott's playing games with Dev or is it the running scared where he can't admit. So how or what can happen between these two old best mates who have ALWAYS had HOT emotionally connection and feelings for each other.

I actually would say give this book a read even if you don't usually read M/M novels this I saw as 2 best mates who have such strong connection and feelings for each other no matter what Sex you or what Sexuality you are love story

Billy J Stratton says

Good book.

I did enjoy this story. Dev and Elliott were college room mates for three years and both on the soccer team. They had a very easy going friendship. They were good with just laying around in their apartment together watching tv. Right as they were graduating they were suppose to be packing up the apartment but Elliott wanted to just relax and watch tv. Dev was lying on the couch with his head in Elliott's lap with Elliott caressing his stomach. Elliott puts on some pornography because they have smoked some weed and are high. Dev winds up giving Elliott a blow job. They go their own way. Dev is a small independent film maker and Elliott is a pro footballer in England. Dev is openly gay and is living with his boyfriend Jordan. Elliott is living with his girlfriend Jemma. Dev is contacted by the University to make a film about there college coach. He reaches out to the team to set up interviews. He hasn't had any contact with Elliott in a long time. He thinks about him a lot but is aware it will never go no where. Follow this story and see what happens with these characters. Spoiler Alert thank god that Jordan doesn't stick around the whole book. I felt like he was strictly only using Dev.

Mantastic says

Lots of stuff going on in this book. Love the Friend/Teammate/Roommate-to-Lovers trope and this was a good one. I especially liked the dynamics of both main characters. Each POV had a distinct voice with specific concerns. There was never any doubt whose head we were in.

Something I really liked about this book is the balance the author stuck. There was some instant gratification for those who like that sort of thing, but instead of getting stale from peaking too soon, it created a great hook that built up to something better. That is rare.

Also, a pet peeve of many readers is huge time gaps. As the master of the universe, an author who leaves big blocks of time unaccounted for is usually criticized for not using their word/page count wisely. However, this is the 2nd case of Brandon Redstone founding the magic combination. There story jumps weeks, months, sometimes years ... yet there didn't seem to be anything missing. I put this down to the author knowing exactly where they wanted to go with the story, and therefore putting everything on the page so we didn't have to wonder what was going on off the page. It was clear to me that sometimes the characters just needed to live a bit in between the important bits. Instead of getting fake or muddy content, the author showed restraint,

which I appreciated.

The only exception to this is the ending. It was abrupt. Luckily the flow was saved by a sweet epilogue that told us what we needed to know. Honestly, I could split hairs here. I wanted to see how things unfolded in real time, but really, it probably would have only added unnecessary drama. The epilogue gave us the highlights, and it seems like things worked out in less dramatic fashion, so I've accepted the fact that the author was probably right to not add the additional scenes.

The romance was pretty straight forward, the conflict was primarily man-made and took as long as it took, the main and supporting characters were vibrant and interesting, and the tone allowed for some entertaining and heart-felt events during their journey.

Overall, very pleased with this book. I don't usually mention price in reviews because it's so hard to put a dollar amount on someone's art, but More Than the Ball is a steal at \$.99. It would hold it's own among books costing 5 or 6 times that much.

Jasmine says

More Than the Ball was my first book by Brandon Redstone. It also was my first M/M romance. I was curious just from the blurb about the story being that it would be something different than what I usually read. But, I truly enjoyed this story! Dev and Elliot's story was so real you couldn't help but connect with it, even if you weren't experiencing the same struggles. Your heart feels for both Dev and Elliott throughout the story as the two circle around their true feelings and almost lose something so real. This story showed that love is love, whether you're man/woman, woman/woman or man/man and screw anyone who doesn't accept it! Life is about being happy! It also showed that when you have someone who truly loves you for you, accepts you, supports you, inspires you and lifts you up, that's when your life feels complete. Redstone wrote a beautiful love story and I looks forward to more! I received an arc in exchange for an honest review.

Raj says

If the sun & the moon shared the same space for a brief moment of time, the attraction between both these celestial bodies would burn as brightly as does the fire that sparks between the Dev & Elliot. No length of time nor distance diminishes the heat that flares between these two best friends & the end result is a blaze worth reading about.

Amanda Svensson says

It was okay but never really felt like it built up to anything
