
Tom Lennon

When Love Comes to Town

Title: When Love Comes to Town

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Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 175

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 0862783615

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 8.7 MB

Download: allowed

Description

Meet Neil Byrne - try-scorer on the rugby field, prizewinning student, one of the in-crowd at the disco, regular guy, gay. Presenting one face to the world and burying his true feelings in fantasy, Neil tries to keep his secret.

Insightful reviews

Pamela (slytherpuff): **See more of my reviews at [Bettering Me Up](#).**

I recently re-read my one-star review of a previous coming-out novel. In it, I mentioned that maybe I just didn't "get it" because I am neither gay nor guy. That is clearly not the case here; it's exactly the kind of book I had hoped to read last time.

Though this book was first published twenty years ago--and the stigma surrounding homosexuality has lessened since then--I never felt like I was reading an "old" story. Yeah, it's easier to meet people on-line or within established gay communities, but I imagine that coming out is still difficult.

Take, for instance, Neil. An 18-year-old Catholic boy in Ireland, he has always known that he was gay. But knowing and being are two completely separate states of mind. On the outside, Neil is an excellent student and star rugby player. He's happy and quick with a smile. He has a nice group of friends, nice parents, a nice house, and nice brothers and sisters. It's all very...nice.

But on the inside? Oh.so.much.turmoil. Not that you can blame him. This poor kid can't talk to anyone about who he really is.

I loved reading about Neil's journey as he discovered more about himself, opened up to his friends and family, and tested the waters of the teeny-tiny gay community in Dublin. There's no fairy tale ending, and I ugly cried during the last chapter, but you get the sense that things will work out for Neil. I do think that the ending was a little abrupt, which is why I am only giving it four stars.

I highly recommend this book for fans of David Levithan and John Green.

I received this book from NetGalley in exchange for my honest review.

Bibliojunkies: This is the 20th anniversary edition of *When Love Comes To Town*. At first I didn't realize it was a re-issue. But I'm glad for it as I got the chance to experience a time and place as it was back then, not from memory but as it was happening.

The foreword by James Klise provides a stark reminder that this book arrived on the scene before the act of famous people coming out of the closet was common place. That provided an interesting perspective as I read through one of the best and sweetest books on the subject.

Neil truly is just one of the lads. He's bright, personable, athletic and charming, surrounded by many friends though still feels separate from everyone because of what he is hiding. Lennon does a fantastic job laying out the path that Neil begins on as he gains the courage to be himself. He starts by revealing himself to one of his best friends, Becky. Her reaction and instant acceptance are a surprise and relief to him. Having at least one person know this secret that he's held so close is like opening a floodgate encouraging him to be braver.

He stumbles upon a gay bar in Dublin where he's a little out of his element at first but ends up making new friends. As the story progresses, Neil balances between his two worlds – his gay friends and those closest to him and the rest of his oblivious family and friends.

When Love Comes To Town is a lovely coming-of-age story told in a very compassionate way with thoughtfulness, candor and wit. I instantly took to Neil. He has a wonderful personality that is so welcoming and devoid of pretense. Yes I know that is odd to say considering how he's been hiding his sexuality. But he's such a genuine guy who is trying to come into his own. That's a struggle every person goes through regardless of sexual orientation. And the story is not just about Neil. It's also about the people around him who are learning to adjust to changes in their own lives and relationships. Neil's observations are perceptive. His willing acceptance of some people's reactions is remarkably generous considering how close-minded they are.

I highly recommend When Love Comes To Town. It starts out with promise and delivers straight through the end.

Sarah *Saranghae yo*: This will be rushed, as I am forced to use the public library's computers due to irritating circumstances.

I decided to take a break from eroticas and mangas to hunt for a book with meaning, love, depth- something with at least a *plot*

I am happy to say that I'm a happy customer.

When Lover Comes To Town follows the life of one Niel Byrne, an in - the - closet young adult preparing for college. Tired of hiding his true self, he decides to enter a gay bar in town. He meets a sugar daddy, makes some new friends, and gets into all types of situations (decidedly unscathed) until he is attacked and his cover is blown.

This was a diamond in the mountain of coal we call the literature world. The main character has many depths, all wrapped up into a likeable character. He isn't portrayed ad an "Adonis", or a "Greek god";he's just a regular kid who wants a normal life- or as normal as it could be.

I like how the book is set in the '90's, when organizations like LGBT were growing their legs and Homosexuals, transgenders and such were speaking out against their injustices. I found the setting in Ireland to be surprising as well; usually, all the stories about gays coming out are placed in places like Ohio or new york, or California.

Anywho,this book is getting a solid five stars out of me, as I laughed and cried with the character, I felt pain for him as he lamented about how restricted he felt, I laughed for him when he was untied with his crush. A good book(IMO) is a book that evokes *emotion* from the reader; if you cannot accomplish that, then you have failed as an author.

I hope to see many more books by this author in the future.

Christoph Segers: Eerst en vooral: het aantal pagina's van dit goodread-item zit er a hundred bladzijden naast. Dit gezegd zijnde: Wat een aangenaam boek. Even teruggekatapulteerd worden naar de vroege jaren negentig met een personage dat precies even oud is als ondergetekende toen. Het tijdperk voor de GSM en voor het internet. Een tijd van brieven en vaste telefoons op plaatsen waar nauwelijks privateness was. En dan een jonge homo die zijn eerste stapjes zet in wat Obi Wan Kenobi 'een veel grotere wereld' zou plachten te noemen. Sterke punten van deze roman zijn de vlotte schrijfstijl en de innerlijke dialoog van de protagonist. Minder sterke punten: de protagonist die, zeker naar het einde toe, erg vervelend wordt. Het einde is mooi en open, al dreigde het weer zo'n typisch deprimerend slot te worden (zoals zo vaak in holebi-films en -boeken uit die periode).

Geoff: I bought a duplicate of this through request on NetGalley and i'm so chuffed I asked it. this can be my sincere opinion and that i acquired not anything in go back for it.It's occasions like this while I want I went into instructing at a few point to proportion a narrative like this with my students. It's heartbreaking, yet hopeful and that i can simply think what it'd be like if I have been an Irish teenager analyzing this within the mid Nineteen Nineties after it used to be written. Honestly, I would've felt similar to Neil while he figured out he wasn't 'the basically homosexual within the village.'I wasn't certain what to anticipate of this novel and Tom Lennon (a pseudonym to guard his Catholic-school instructing id and he's nonetheless unknown) as an Irish writer writing approximately LGBT characters had the decks stacked opposed to him: Jamie O'Neill can do no wrong, John Boyne received me over with The Absolutist, Damian McNicholl submit a great attempt with A Son known as Gabriel and Oscar Wilde is, well, Oscar Wilde. pointless to say, Tom Lennon didn't disappoint, and as I indexed all of these authors i spotted his tale pre-dated the entire relaxation by means of at the least a decade apart from Oscar Wilde, so i'm excited his tale is being brought to the US.Click right here to proceed interpreting on my weblog The oddness of relocating Things.

Sally: i did not rather get pleasure from this to be honest. it is simply no longer the kind of publication i am mainly in. it's totally bleak and that i came upon Neil's inner narration to be a piece flighty at times. it really is an enticing examine eire within the 1990s, and on the homosexual scene on the time, yet many of the queer characters began to consider an excessive amount of like stereotypes and never genuine enough. i would have cherished to have noticeable extra of 'Penelope' and 'Gladys' and much much less of 'Uncle Sugar'... and positively extra of 'Daphne' who used to be the main vibrant of the bunch and type of jogged my memory of Angel from Rent. She was once hysterical. it's totally of the time though. It wasn't simply set within the 90s, it was once written then, which type of makes it even sadder simply because that is what it was once quite like, you know?Also Neil had such a lot of siblings i could not continue music of all of them apart from Jackie! Whose therapy of the queens form of rubbed me up the opposite direction - they gave the impression of toys to her and as great as she was, it felt like she used to be mocking them.The attitudes of Neil's mom and dad have been rather unhappy as well. Like, you are our son and we like you and we are ok if you are homosexual yet you cannot do "any of these queer things" like, you know, be with one other guy. WTF guys. i do know that is extra life like although than like mom and dad who simply nod and move ok like you will have informed them you got a brand new t-shirt or whatever inconsequential after which ask what you want for dinner that night. (My mother, everybody! She da bomb.)All up, miserable and gritty and a piece too blunt now and then for the likes of

me. attention-grabbing and fast - occasionally a section too rushed, regrettably - however it simply did not absolutely click.

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