



## The Bells of Times Square

*Amy Lane*

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# **The Bells of Times Square**

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## **The Bells of Times Square Amy Lane**

Every New Year's Eve since 1946, Nate Meyer has ventured alone to Times Square to listen for the ghostly church bells he and his long-lost wartime lover vowed to hear together. This year, however, his grandson Blaine is pushing Nate through the Manhattan streets, revealing his secrets to his silent, stroke-stricken grandfather.

When Blaine introduces his boyfriend to his beloved grandfather, he has no idea that Nate holds a similar secret. As they endure the chilly death of the old year, Nate is drawn back in memory to a much earlier time . . . and to Walter.

Long before, in a peace carefully crafted in the heart of wartime tumult, Nate and Walter forged a loving home in the midst of violence and chaos. But nothing in war is permanent, and now all Nate has is memories of a man his family never knew existed. And a hope that he'll finally hear the church bells that will unite everybody—including the lovers who hid the best and most sacred parts of their hearts.

## **The Bells of Times Square Details**

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Author : Amy Lane

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## From Reader Review The Bells of Times Square for online ebook

### **Nick Pageant says**

#### **Tri-Country BR with Alona and Mark!**

Amy Lane is one of my favorite m/m authors along with Eli Easton and Jordan L. Hawk. These three never, ever, fail to hit it out of the park. The odd thing is, though, that I've actually DNF'ed Amy Lane more times than I can count. It's not that she ever writes a bad book, because she doesn't. It's because her angst books are like emotional quicksand; they're so incredibly sad that I'm left in a funk for days afterward. I love a good, snotty cry, but there needs to be some happy in there too.

This book tells the story of Nate, an elderly man who is trapped in his own body by a debilitating stroke. Each year on New Year's Eve, Nate travels to Times Square in the hopes of hearing the church bells that will signal his reunion with the only person he's ever loved. Now that he can't get there on his own, he's taken to Times square by his gay grandson, Blaine.

The story jumps back to WWII and Nate's service as a flight photographer. Nate's plane is shot down and he is rescued by another soldier, Walter. Together, the two men hide out in the woods of France for a few months. They fall in love and plan to meet each other in Times Square after the war is over.

The character of Walter is a wonderful creation. He's a nobody and he knows it... but he's a proud, resourceful nobody. His courage and ingenuity are what get both he and Nate through until they can be rescued.

The character of Nate is a bit of a conundrum. I didn't connect with him until the later sections of the book. I think that the magic of that is the fact that Nate wasn't really connecting with himself, but when he finally does it's a beautiful thing.

The final sections of the book deal with Nate's embracing, if not his faith, then his people's traditions. He uses these traditions until he can hear the church bells and be with Walter again. I really loved this section of the book. It was truly beautifully written and I know I'll be reading it again.

This was a swoony, exciting, tragic, romantic sob-fest. Amy Lane is an evil genius.

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### **Lisa \*-\* GiViNg It To YoU \* LoCk StOcK & TwO SmOkiNg BaRrELs says**

#### **6 StUnNiNg StArS**

*Unashamedly one of the most beautiful stories I have ever read.*

This story touched me to my very soul, a love story in times of war, a love so HEART-WARMING and

CONSUMING, *that it transcends the pages it is written on and etches itself into polarised images that I will keep locked in my mind forever.*

### **Corporal Walter Phillips**

*I was lonely" Walter slurred. "And God sent me you."*

This beautiful story starts off with Blaine taking he's beloved grandfather Nate Meyer to Times Square on New Year's Eve (present day).

*This is a trip that Nate Meyer has done alone every News Year's Eve since 1946 to listen for the church bells.*

And like the click of a finger, we're transported back in time

### **It's now 1943**

Whilst on a risky mission heading towards Stuttgart, *Ariel photographer Captain Nate Meyer's* plane is taken down by enemy fire.

**Rescued** by Corporal Walter Phillips of the 185th. This story tells of their time together.

*I couldn't possibly convey the sweet agony of this ACHINGLY beautiful story. You'll just have to take my word for it, that it is not to be missed.....and read it through Nates eyes.*

***I Simply Loved It***

The Bells of Times Square is due for release on 15th Dec'14

**I would like to thank Netgalley and Riptide for the privilege of reading this ARC.**

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**T.A. Webb says**

Oh Jesus. Where to start?

I can't really review this one. It hit a little too close to home with the holidays and what's going on in my life.

But...Nate Meyer is drafted into the Air Force in WWII as a photographer, accompanying British fighter pilots in identifying potential bombing targets. Nate's Jewish, and in the closet. During a mission, the worst happens and as a result, he meets Walter, the sole survivor of a battalion sent to fight. He's been hiding to avoid capture, and rescues Nate.

Jump to present day, where Nate lives with his daughter and grandson, a stroke survivor who lives to go to Times Square to hear the bells of a nearby church, which supposedly rang them during the war years to call the soldiers home. Blaine, Nate's grandson, takes his balls in one hand and his heart in the other and introduces his *Zayde* to his lover.

To find out what happens between the time Nate meets Walter until he sits in his wheelchair, silently contemplating Blaine and his boyfriend, read this book. It's...heartbreaking, breathtaking, and just f'ing brilliant.

I left a bit of my heart and soul on the pages as I read it, and full out did the ugly cry at the end.

Amy Lane can lull you into a lovely spell then stomp on your heart with steel toed boots and make you beg for more better than any author out there. Bless her black little heart, I wouldn't have it any other way.

I loved this book. It's like...that sweet sadness you hear in the best love songs that make you remember that romance that almost broke you.

Read it. See if you don't agree.

Tom

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**Alona says**

BR with Nick and Mark.

\*mild spoilers ahead!\*

This book killed me!

I can't believe Miss Lane did this to me! I trusted her to mend my heart after breaking it... Some may think she did in some way, I didn't!

This was, though, the beautiful story, of two American soldiers, during WW2.

Walter:

The "simple", yet sweet, 18 (!) year old soldier, who saves Nate, after his plane crashes in the French woods, where Walter was hiding in a remote cabin.

Walter takes care of Nate, and after saving his life, the two form a quiet friendship, that leads to a sweet, "forbidden" love.

Nate:

The more "sophisticated", city boy, from a religious, Jewish family, knew he was gay, but never intended to do anything about it, (because according to his religion, a man that is attracted to men, can't really do anything about his "shameful thoughts", but he should never act on it).

That all changes when he meets Walter. They are both changed for good.

I loved this book so much, but it left me aching, because I really expected and needed a HEA.

I still get teary eyes when thinking about the short amount of time these two boys had together, and how their time together ended so suddenly.

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If you are OK with a story that has not a "traditional" HEA, go for it, please, it's beautiful and touching. but if you need a perfect ending, pick up another Amy Lane, she is brilliant!

## **Kaje Harper says**

I finished 2014 with an Amy Lane story, knowing that her way with words would round off my reading year without disappointment. And I was right - a sweet-with-a-hint-of-bitter ending to my year. This one is a frame story, that begins in the present and jumps to the WWII past, and then back. The present is poignant, and short, bookending the heart of the story.

Nate Meyer is an interesting hero, a man with a religious but not fanatic Jewish family, who was a WWII hero, not for charging enemy fire but for his quiet and unheralded actions as a photographer and photo analyst. The action he saw was well-depicted in this story, and unfamiliar enough to be fascinating. And his love story, an oddly slow idyll in the heart of occupied France, is a sweet, tentative and mismatched coming

of age for both men. I loved watching Nate discover Walter, and Walter discover his own worth.

Perhaps because the present-day frame necessarily bleeds off some of the past tension, I didn't have my heart shredded by this story. There were also a lot of decades to cover, and things we readers wanted to know about what happened next, which had to be simply told. That meant parts of the story were more softly contemplative than emotionally immediate.

I liked Nate, and I adored Walter. The ending was right and I finished with a little lump in my throat, and an appreciation for how far we have come, and how far we have yet to go. I did wish we'd followed Nate after the moment of crisis for a bit longer, rather than seeing its reflection only decades later in retrospective. I think the pain I wanted to feel with him was mellowed and diluted by time. But perhaps that was a deliberate choice, to not be too manipulative in wringing our hearts.

If you like WWII settings that are not generic battle scenes, if you like first times between young men, if you enjoy watching someone let go and surrender to the imperatives of love, however difficult it may make their life, then you'll probably enjoy this one. This book is neither on this author's lighter end, nor one that tore emotion from me. But it earns a solid place among stories that I enjoyed in 2014.

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### **Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says**

\*3.5 stars\*

**Good, classic angst/pain Amy Lane... but for some reason I didn't cry and this book is MADE to make you cry.**

It is almost like Amy Lane plotted this book to have maximum devastation effect. When you are reading WWII historicals with a Jewish MC and then you add gay to the mix, you know you are in for a world of hurt. And you are. This book is rip-your-heart-out painful... or at least it would be if I felt a bit more for the MCs.

For some reason, I had trouble connecting to the MCs. I don't know if it was some sort of self-preservation thing, where I knew what was going to happen and I disconnected a bit so I wouldn't have to *feel* everything. Whatever the case, I felt oddly detached from the story.

I wasn't a huge fan of the past/present juxtaposition and the story told in flashback. I got it but I thought it was a little heavy handed, with the side story of Blaine and Tony. However, that is a minor complaint. The story is really very heartfelt and moving, even if I wasn't as engaged as I ought to have been.

And, as always, Amy Lane did a stellar job with the writing. Careful, erotic, and emotional, this story was another example of what a pro Ms. Lane is.

A hard read and not my favorite from this author, but a competent and important story.

**\*\*Copy provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review\*\***

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## **Alex says**

Dear Amy,

Would you like my heart on a platter?

With love,

Alex

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## **♦\*Arianna♦\* says**

### **4.5 STARS**

*“So if we get separated during the war, that is where we will meet, yes?”*

*“Times Square on New Year’s Eve,” We’ll meet at Times Square, whether or not there’s bells, right?”*

*“Of course,” Nate whispered. “That is where we’ll meet. God will call us home.”*

“*The Bells of Times Square*” was one of the most beautiful, heart breaking books I’ve read. A World War II historical, this book it’s emotional, angsty, raw, powerful, that will touch your heart and your soul. It’s a book about life, war and true love, a forbidden love in a time when being gay, a “queer” was a sin. It’s a story that certainly will hit you hard in the feels!

*“If you knew who I am, knew my faith, knew me, before this little house, you would know how very much I have become for you.”*

The book starts in the present day with Nate a old WWII veteran. He’s for some while in a wheelchair after he suffered a stroke, not being able to talk or walk. For nearly 70 years he has a tradition, to walk to Times Square every New Year’s Eve. Even if he is old, he wants to go this year too, to keep his promise, a promise to someone who changed his life forever. Nate’s grandson, Blaine, takes him to Times Square and with them is Blaine’s boyfriend, Tony. Nobody knows Blaine is gay or about Tony’s existence. Blaine wants someone to approve his relationship with another boy, he wants to be sure he will be loved no matter who he loves. He needs someone’s blessing and someone who will love Tony as much as he does. Nate wants for Blaine everything he never had, to be with the one he loves.

We are taken back in 1943, when Nate was serving as a OSS officer taking photos for military intelligence. Even if his father thinks that his job is useless, he loves his job. However, he knows it's very risky to do what he does.

***“Too shy. Too different. Too Jewish for the goyim, not Jewish enough for the Jews. Too afraid of looking too long at the wrong person.... Alone”***

On a mission, Nate's plane crashes in France, his pilot dies, but he is rescued by an American GI, named Walter, who escaped months ago from being a prisoner. Walter lives alone in the woods in an abandoned house. He takes care of Nate, treating his wounds and offering food and a place to stay.

Walter is 18 years old. Even if he knows that is no one, he is a proud young man. Nate and Walter become friends and a little later they start a beautiful forbidden relationship who has a tragic end for both of them, just in different ways.

I must admit in the beginning I wasn't so hooked like I was expected to be. But with every chapter I was moved more and more by this tragic, fantastic love story. This story and these characters truly made me feel. I felt so much reading this novel. I felt their fears, their hopes, their love, their passion, I felt their need to be together and to live, to fight for their love in a time when a relationship between two men was seen as a sin. It was heart warming and heart breaking to be part of their journey. My heart broke for both of them, individually and as a couple.

Both Nate and Walter were wonderful characters and they were so well developed. They give each other what they need and more. Until Walter, Nate only existed. Walter will teach him to live, to love, to accept himself as he is, to be himself. Being a Jewish, Nate has his own beliefs. He knows from the start to love a man is forbidden, a real sin in his world. He tries to block what he feels for Walter, but the need to be honest with himself and to feel for the first time something real is more powerful.

***“I had never dreamed of being in love. I did not know the mechanics, the nuts and bolts, the quirk of lips, the texture of skin, the dimension of another’s hands upon my body. Forgive me, Father. I did not know you made this thing as vast as the sky, so that we may see the sky and not tremble.”***

I admired Nate very much. I liked his transformation and how in the end he realizes what he truly matters for him in a time when freedom was just a concept. His need to be with the man he loves, to care for him and to love him is what he gives him strength to accept who he truly is. His characterization is so well done!

***“I loved him in all the ways there is to love another human being.”***

I loved Walter. Walter is a lonely man and most of the time he felt to me like a big child. He is strong, but at times he's sensitive too. He had a hard life and he lost his hope. He believes love is just an illusion and that joy and happiness are not for anyone, not for him. He doesn't believe Nate loves him. He doesn't have any hope left, thinking that's impossible for them to live as a couple. I love how Nate tries to show him there's always hope when you love and you are loved and how they could make a future together after the war is over.

***“I want you to see heaven tonight,” Nate interrupted. “I want you to see it with me.”***

There's so much tenderness between these two men. From the beginning they felt right to me. Even if I think their relationship progressed a little fast, I loved it. I loved how there are with each other as a friends at the beginning and as a lovers later. The sex scenes are emotional and you can feel their love and their passion every single time.

The last chapters present Nate's life, an empty life. He married, had children and grandchildren, hiding Walter in a little room in his heart for nearly 70 years. Not many knew about the only love in his life, the redhead boy with aquamarine eyes. Not his wife, not his family. He always talked to Walter in his head. He visited Walter at his grave and he never forgot his promise, every New Year's Eve he went to Times Square to listen the bells.

The last scene was emotional, a real HEA for Nate and Walter, the HEA I wished and hoped for them.

Overall, a wonderful story that I'm sure will stay with you for a while!

***“...there should always be a world in which you and I meet.”***

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## **Wart Hill says**

You can read this and other reviews at [Things I Find While Shelving](#)

*I received a free ARC via NetGalley*

Ouch. This book hurts.

Well, I mean, it's a WWII novel with a gay Jewish main character so the chances of not hurting were very slim, and the amount that it hurts is just a testament to how well Amy Lane has crafted this beautiful, moving

story.

We begin with modern times. Our main character, Nate, has had a stroke and can no longer talk and is wheelchair bound. But he still insists on going to Times Square every New Years, listening for bells he knows will never ring, as he has been doing since the end of WWII, listening for the bells that will connect him and the love he lost.

This year, his grandson takes him. And his grandson's boyfriend comes to, and it begins with a sweet, heart wrenching coming out scene as Nate thinks of his own first love and struggles to speak to his grandson, to give him the words he's hoping to hear.

And then we get Nate's flashback. We go through everything he went through, from a crashed plane to a lost midwesterner nursing him back to health. Walter has been holed up in a house in the German countryside for quite awhile after escaping a POW camp. Now he brings Nate into his sanctuary, his safe haven, and they slowly develop a friendship and, deep down, Nate longs for something more. He won't admit it at first, between a lack of cultural acceptance and a religious background that generally frowns upon such things, Nate has been denying his attraction to men for a long time.

But he's falling for Walter. It isn't just physical attraction, he is truly falling in love with Walter. And though it takes a lot for him to admit it - living in a world that insists it isn't possible for people like them - Walter falls for Nate.

And then they have a chance to get out, to get back to relative safety. And they have resistance members who will help them - partly because one of them is the reason that they can't just hide any more.

But...well.

I won't tell you any more. Because this book. It is quite the story, very well written, well crafted, and heart wrenching. And beautiful. Very beautiful.

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### **Isabel says**

This is not an easy book to review... I have conflicted feelings toward it... There is one thing that I really love in a book, I don't want to say mandatory, but it's crucial and that is a "happy ever after"! If you read the blurb of this book you will think that probably there isn't HEA, but you don't know for sure. But after reading the first chapter, you will know! And for me, that was very discouraging to continue. But it's an Amy Lane's, so I didn't give up. And I am glad I didn't, because Nate and Walter story is really beautiful. Their time together was one month during WWII, but was a month rich in friendship, love, tenderness and promises... but also very, very sad! In the end my feelings were of true sorrow for these men, mostly for Walter! He was so young and he deserved a better ending. I also couldn't feel very connected with Nate... I think that he made

very poor decisions, denying what he was, and choosing a path, that in my humble opinion, betrayed Walter's memory. I know that those times were really difficult to gay men, but as he realized with two of his best friends, it was possible to be happy.

The Bells of Times Square rang in the end, but for me it was a little too late...

So, that month and the absolutely brilliant writing, worth my four stars!

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*Thank you Netgalley and Riptide for the privilege of reading this ARC!*

## **Rosa, really says**

Seriously. Seriously. This is fucking ridiculous.

I hope Amy Lane is happy because she gave me a sinus headache.

So. Much. Snot.

Sometimes a book hits me so hard in the feels I can't judge it for quality--I can't tell you if the writing is excellent, or if the characters are believable or if the plot is too plotty. That wasn't quite my reaction here. Yeah, I spent 30% of the novel almost unable to read due to puffy eyes, but I was still disappointed Nate's grandson Blaine and his boyfriend Tony didn't play a larger role. (I thought for sure their happy-happy relationship would balance Nate's wartime love for Walter—NOPE.) I still noticed two major plot points that went from lots-o'-lovely-angst to oh-come-on-that's-just-fucking-melodramatic. (No, I'm not going to tell you about them—spoilers, people!) And I still wasn't quite sure why Nate and Walter were so epically in love. Other than the fact that they're two “poofs” hiding out together in a house in the woods in Nazi-Occupied France and it's convenient to the plot. Their time together covers a large part of the novel, but it still felt sudden to me when Nate declared his undying love. There just wasn't enough there for me to think, “Yes! Yes! *This is a love that will last a lifetime!*”

But you know what, people? *You know what?*

That's right, I don't give a fuck. I guess I don't need to be fully convinced of Nate and Walter's epic love to *adore* every snot-ridden moment I spent crying over them.

It's Nate who started off my blubbering. At the beginning of the novel he's an old man, trapped in his body due to a stroke, unable to speak or move at all and his memories are more real than the people around him. Just imagining that, the loneliness and the frustration, is enough to start the waterworks. But by the end of

the novel it occurred to me that that situation wasn't new to Nate. His stroke is a physical manifestation of his emotional and mental life. Nate had spent his life trapped in his head, unable or unwilling to share what he loved most with those around him. \*cue wailing\*

And Walter...OMG *Walter*. He just killed me. He's an 18-year old farm boy who joined up so he could eat on a regular basis. He's seen more death than I'd see if I lived 3 lifetimes. He has no one and knows that he *is* no one. Just another grunt, a foot soldier, *cannon fodder*. He's one of the millions of boys you and I will never know existed because their stories aren't dramatic enough to make it into a Ken Burns documentary or a Steven Spielberg movie. Boys like Walter exist only in the minds of those who fought with them, those that loved and lost them. \*cue caterwauling\*

At this point you may be saying, hey, all your talk of crying and snot is fascinating, Rosa, but is there an HEA? Well...maybe? Kind of? It depends on your definition. It doesn't *quite* match mine but at the same time I wasn't completely wrecked by the ending. Read the blurb, make a few realistic guesses as to what may happen to two forbidden lovers or any two people during a war and you'll probably come to the right conclusion. But the experience is worth any upset you may feel. Is this such a wonderful novel that I'll remember it forever? No, probably not. But whenever I do think about it I'll remember Walter and other boys like him and I'll remember Nate at the end of his life...and, you know, that makes *The Bells of Time Square* a pretty great novel.

\*\*Copy provided by Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.\*\*

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### **Barbara says**

\*\*ARC courtesy of Riptide Publishing via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review\*\*

### **5 NEVER BE AFRAID TO LOVE STARS**

I've been hesitant to write this review because I just don't know how to put into words what I went through while reading this book.

This book is so meaningfully beautiful! It is written with such brilliance, that I was going to say this book destroyed me but though it may have brought me to my knees quite often and made me cry but was wondrous tears, nevertheless in the end I survived and was left with a feeling of hope and happiness ... Amy Lane did it again... wrote this story so so beautifully. I felt everything. Everything ... It reached into the very marrow of my bones.

I want to say this book was amazing but that's not good enough. I can think of only one word. –

### **PERFECTION**

Really can't recommend this one enough. Do yourself a favour and read this one.

Some quotes and pics only a few because If I will be putting all that I love it would spoil everything: D

**In 1943 during the World War II in a Cabin on Moselle - France, Captain Nate Meyer and Corporal**

**Walter Phillips forged a loving home in the midst of violence and chaos.**

*"Ahava, the love of passion. I would love Walter above any woman as Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah. There is no story that says that is wrong. I would love him as a partner and friend, raya, as my passion and lover, ahava, and bound to him in both loves, I would find dod. The mishkav zakhar we can keep to ourselves. And even that was lovely, ferocious and beautiful, the merging of bodies and hearts."*

*"I loved him in all the ways there is to love another human being."*

*"If you knew who I am, knew my faith, knew me, before this little house, you would know how very much I have become for you."*

*"I like it," Walter murmured. "I like who you are. Who you are with me. Stay like this. Stay like this, and I'll stay."*

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**Adam says**

**This is the saddest holiday story I've ever read.**

**And it was so flippin' good!**

*"Times Square on New Year's Eve," Walter murmured, and Nate could feel the smile against his lips. "We'll meet at Times Square, whether or not there's bells, right?"*

*"Of course," Nate whispered. "That is where we'll meet. God will call us home."*

Amy Lane's angst-heavy books are addictive. I love reading them. I also curse myself the entire time. 'The Bells of Times Square' was no different.

In this book, we meet Nate Meyer, an infirm Jewish USAAF veteran from World War II. Due to old age and health complications, Nate is unable to walk or talk. But he has a tradition which he's fulfilled every year since the end of WW2, which is to go to Times Square on New Year's Eve and listen for church bells. This year, his grandson, Blaine, takes him to Time's Square. Nate suspects that Blaine has a secret, in particular a

boy named Tony.

Unbeknownst to Nate's family, Nate has his own secret, one which he has kept for over sixty years. That secret is Walter Phillips. Nate and Walter met in the midst of WW2, in very dangerous circumstances. Throwing away the expectations of society, religion, and the responsibilities of war, they were able to create something special for a brief time.

By loving Walter, Nate learned for the first time what it truly meant to live. However, unfortunately, Walter has seen too much, has lost too much, to believe in a happy future. But even so, the two struggle for their present. They build a home, first of friendship, then desire, and then love. They also build hope. And this hope is what sustains Nate and Walter through the decades, until they finally get their happily-ever-after.

Yes, folks, **there is a HEA**. If you've read the blurb, you'll know what to expect. There will be angst. There will be heartbreak. There will also be anger at the senselessness of it all. But it is worth it! Because in the end, Nate and Walter finally get to hear their church bells. I'd also add that much of the sadness was simply 'life,' it was the realities that so many live through every day.

Overall, I really enjoyed 'The Bells of Times Square.' If you don't mind a lot of angst before you get your happy ending, I'd definitely recommend this for you!

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My pre-read gloating is under the spoiler. I regret nothing. =P  
(view spoiler)

*\*Copy provided through NetGalley.\**

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**? Todd says**

\*\* This is not a big, happy, sparkly review, so just warning you up front... \*\*

I kept wishing that I would get completely immersed in this story more than I actually did. Because, duh, **\*that\*** is the magic of the vast majority of Amy Lane's books. They grab you by the short hairs (via your heart) and twist. Hard. And you love it. A little too much.

Yes, for me Nate and Walter were both amazing characters and I fell completely and totally for them both. And I would have dearly, dearly loved to see them grow old together. But I just knew that wasn't meant to be, and I was 100% dead on.

I think for me, once it was no longer possible for Nate and Walter to grow through the years together, the sentiment behind the phrase, "***I'd rather be alone for the right reasons than with someone for the wrong reasons***" is what my heart kept dwelling on. (Nod to John Hughes' movie 'Some Kind of Wonderful' for the quote.)

So when (the very **\*gay\***) Nate returned from the war and married Carmen, I felt that self-betrayal wasn't living up to the hero that he'd previously proven himself to be.

[ *I say that as a gay man who grew up closeted in a homophobic, redneck town of 500 God-fearin' Christian folk, so I feel that my frame of reference for the pressure that Nate must have been feeling is relevant here.* ]

But in spite of my own fears, I refused to date girls or conform to what "normal" people expected. And I'm definitely no hero, so, yes, Nate marrying Carmen lessened my view of him a bit. **\*sigh\*** ]

Up until the point where the resistance plane arrived to spirit them away from their perfect little bubble of happiness in the woods and take them out of France, the story was perfect to me. Very much what I've come to love about Amy Lane's stories.

But after the departure from France, the book just felt more for me that Nate was waiting to die, so that he could be happy again. No plot points of strokes or gay grandsons could really keep me fully engaged after that point. : (

[ This is one reason why I avoid historical books like the plague. It was a different, much less accepting time, where people just smiled and ate their own unhappiness and plodded along, without making waves or fighting for more than simply surviving. It makes me NUTS. Every. Single. Time. ]

The book was still a solid 3.5 stars for me, but did it give me what I wanted? And was I completely enthralled, dreading for it to end, as I normally am with her books? Sadly, no. : (

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### **Bitchie says**

This one got the ugly cry. Just wonderful!

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