



## **Dark Nights and Headlights**

*Bailey Bradford*

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*A familiar road can still be full of surprises.*

Joe Jacek loves his life for the most part. All he ever wanted to do was be a rancher, and that's what he's doing. He feels bad that his father didn't leave the ranch to him and his brother Trent both, but Joe would never short his brother out of his inheritance. Lucky for them, they're close brothers. They like to hang out in the evenings, get stupid then get on with work the next day.

But it can be a lonely life. While Trent is a great brother, he can't be everything for Joe, and vice versa. Joe would like to get laid sometimes, and living where he does, that's a rare occurrence. So he drinks and does a little something else now and then. It's all good—he's just relaxing.

He knows the road between his house and Trent's trailer like he knows his own soul. Turning off the headlights one night just to make the drive more exciting isn't a big deal.

Until a werewolf jumps on his truck. Then the rules for everything change.

## **Dark Nights and Headlights Details**

Date : Published August 1st 2014 by Totally Bound (first published July 31st 2014)

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Author : Bailey Bradford

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# From Reader Review Dark Nights and Headlights for online ebook

## Victoria Rainey says

Hearts on Fire Review

\*\*\*\*4 1/2 stars\*\*\*\*

Original Review Published here: <http://heartsonfirereviews.com/?p=29164>

Joe Jacek is a rancher. He grew up on a ranch and it's the only life he knew and wanted. Joe is also a gay man who is single. There is a shortage of gay men in the area. Joe has old fashion manors and values. Joe comes across as a nice sweet man.

Diego is on the move since he decide to leave his pack. Diego is a shape shifter and was an omega in his pack. He was always beaten up and was not allowed to defend himself. Diego has never known kindness until Joe.

The connection between Joe and Diego is intense. It grows stronger each day they spend together. It was wonderful seeing how Diego reacted to Joe's kindness. The sex scenes were hot and steamy. Diego and Joe had a hard time keeping their hands off each other.

I found this book well written with a unique plot. The main characters and the secondary character were both interesting and fascinating. This book kept me on my toes all the way through. I loved the ending a lot. My biggest issue with this book was that there was never a satisfactory answer as to why the Alpha was hunting Diego as bad as he was. Overall, this was a magnificent book.

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## Ann says

3.5 Stars -

Much better than the blurb would lead you to believe. Bailey Bradford shifter stories are my shifter crack and this one didn't disappoint. I like when the "alpha" dude has weaknesses and the "omega" dude is the strong one, tis a good formula and it works well for Joe and Diego.

Unanswered questions and a serious need for more Trent has me hoping this is the start of a series.

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## Crystal Marie says

I enjoyed this book for the simple fact of how different is it than most shifter books out there. I am a fan of Ms. Bradford's other works out there, but this one was just awesome because of how much it stands out from all of them.

This book certainly had Ms. Bradford's normal style of writing; the characters were very well crafted, the

storyline was one that I enjoyed quite a bit, and there was tons of suspense that kept me interested and turning the pages. I really think that Ms. Bradford has a great skill when it comes to writing a story that will not only grasp your attention, but also keep you thinking about it long after you finish the story. Another thing that I enjoyed about this book is how strong the characters were, especially Diego. Even though at times it seemed as though he wasn't strong, as you read through the story, you realized just what he had to deal with and how he was able to overcome it all. To me personally, that was part of what made the story so great.

This is not your typical shape-shifter story, and once you start reading you will completely understand what that means. There is no insta-love that takes place, we are able to follow along with Diego and Joe as they discover what it's like to be in a relationship, and find out if they will be able to work it out together.

\*Copy bought for review\*

Reviewed by Crystal Marie for Crystal's Many Reviewers

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## **Gaele says**

Far more engaging and deep than the blurb would lead you to believe, my first encounter with this author's work will have me seeking out more of her titles.

In this story, Joe and Trent are brothers who run an isolated ranch, inherited from a homophobic father who's abuse didn't end with their mother's desertion when they were small. Both Joe and Trent have identified themselves as gay, but neither is attached or in a relationship.

When Joe, in a drunken haze hits a wolf with yellow eyes on his way home one night, he believes all that he has seen, on reflection, were drug or drink induced dreams and hallucinations. But Diego is not a hallucination: a wolf-shifter who also happens to be homeless has been watching Joe for a while, and the accident just gave them time to interact.

While a little fast-moving after the accident, and Joe's decided questioning of the reality of events, these two characters do have sufficient build and backstory to make their connection and attraction plausible, even after suspension of disbelief for the whole 'shifter' situation. Sex is scalding hot, tempered with some poignant moments as backstories are told, and the story has a decent conclusion, even as it feels like the start of a new series.

I received an eArc copy of the title from the publisher for purpose of honest review for the Jeep Diva. I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility

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## **Amber says**

I'm left mildly ambivalent about this book, there was some good and some meh. I wouldn't say "never read it" because it wasn't bad it's just...\*shrug\* I honestly don't know how I feel about it.

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## Love Bytes Reviews says

4 star review by Roberta

Joe Jacek is this really sweet guy whose life hasn't been the best. He and his brother, Trent have worked that ranch their entire life. Their father was a hard man. He was quite conservative and lived his life hard and wanted to raise his sons the exact same way. Joe is gay and even though he tried to be straight for his father, he knew that it was wrong. He hated every moment of pretending being someone he wasn't. So, Joe has accepted being who he is and knows that in Texas, it's not easy to be gay, but he's just going to live his life. He wants to have someone in his life that loves and cares about him besides his brother. He accepts that he'll live on the ranch his entire life and he's fine with that, he just hopes that he won't have to do it by himself. Joe is really a sweet guy. He's kind and helpful and he's such a giving person. You instantly like him.

Diego is this cute, younger man whose life has been Nothing but pain and humiliation. He's been on the run from his pack for a while now. Just trying to save his very life. He is on the run and just trying to survive. Diego is the omega of his pack and they abuse him. I say abuse, but it's more like torture him. What this pack does is just awful. Diego is so naïve and yet, he's just the sweetest, kindest, most loving guy that I've seen in a long while. I love that he is taken with Joe and can't leave because he's just so smitten. Diego is this wonderful character who has been abused and yet, you see the strength that he has. I mean to run away from the only life that he's ever known, the only pack and to run away into nothing familiar and just run. I love that about him. I love the strength of character and will that it took to do that. The fact that Diego just wanted to live his life and took the chance to do it, I absolutely LOVE THAT!!

Trent, Joe's brother was a wonderful secondary character. He ALWAYS had his brother's back. He had Diego's back as well, once he realized what had happened in Diego's past. I really liked that Trent was balls to the wall in regards to keeping not only Diego, but his brother and the ranch safe. I really can't wait for his story.

The sex in this book was pretty Raw!! I really liked that these two guys were so attracted to each other and yet, that wasn't the only thing holding them together. They got to know each other. However, the sex between these two guys was SMOKING HOT!! These two guys found in the other their perfect match. Joe had what Diego wanted and needed. Diego needed his pain and pleasure and Joe wanted and needed to give that to Diego. It was strong and binding, the feelings these guys had for each other.

Overall, the book was a really good. I enjoyed myself. I was so intrigued with these two guys and the way that they bonded together. How this sweet, naïve young man who'd been abused his whole life had the courage to leave his pack and still find the ability to trust and to love. That was such an amazing thing to read. I loved that Joe was this great guy who only really dealt with his brother, was such a perfect match for Diego. I loved how when he learned the extent of what Diego suffered, he was right there standing tall and firm about keeping him safe. A great read. I can't wait to read the second book and read Trent's story.

A copy of this book was provided in exchange for an honest review. Please visit [www.lovebytesreviews.com](http://www.lovebytesreviews.com) to see this and many more reviews, author interviews, guestposts and giveaways!

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**Rachel Emily says**

I enjoyed this a lot more than I thought I would just based on the blurb for the book. I liked the writing, the story, and the characters. I do hope there is another book to this and it's a series instead of a standalone. It's a typical Bailey Bradford story, and I did enjoy it!

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### Gwendolyn says

Went downhill very fast. I'm Was excited for this too.

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### Jenni Lea says

3.5 stars

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### Dee says

A bit over 3 stars - 3.25? - but not enough to round up to 4 stars.

This is available from Totally Bound as an ebook early release.

Also, I'm a bit daunted to be writing the first review!

Firstly, the blurb. It sucks. Luckily I have enjoyed other of Bailey Bradford's works otherwise I would've brushed this book off. It pretty much tells you nothing and gives the impression this is a short story where maybe a drunken car crash results in kinky wolf sex. So not the case. (*The other impression I had from the blurb was maybe there's incest - there isn't*). Joe does not just decide to randomly enhance the drive by switching off his headlights - he has drunken logic on his side and it made sense. Also he doesn't go "oops it's a werewolf" after doing so. And the entire driving/hitting/wolf scene? Happens immediately, as in the first few pages of which there were 226 (or 3463 locations if you prefer). So it's not a short story and the blurb doesn't really cover **any** of the rest of the book.

I suppose seeing as I'm the first reviewer and I've declared the blurb useless I should try a bit of actual plot description, aside from the general "I liked it", "well written" and "hot sex" that I normally use. Deep sigh. And since that means it'll have more info than the blurb (like the other MC's name for a start) I better spoiler it out. More deep sighs.

(view spoiler)

Now I think, even if I do say so myself, that this would've been a way better blurb and I for one would've preferred more info (*minus my little asides of course*).

Essentially what we have here with this book is a lot deeper and stronger than the blurb makes it out to be. There are traumatic moments, hot sex moments and pretty damn poignant moments too. As with most Bailey Bradford books it's well written and suffers no disturbing editing errors or shoddy phrasing and paragraphs. The only thing holding this back from 3.5 or more stars is the abysmal blurb and the fact that I'm pretty sure this is a book 1 of a series - even if there is no mention of that being the case. Because frankly, if it's not got a sequel, either directly involving Joe and Diego, or swapping to feature Trent as MC (my personal preference) then I actually feel a bit cheated. It's practically screaming for those pesky loose ends to be tied

(view spoiler).

So if it does prove to be book 1 in a series (*it reads like it is*) I'd switch it up to a full 3.5 stars. Add a change of blurb and I'd inch to 3.75 stars rounding up to 4 for goodreads.

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## **Duck says**

I was looking forward to this...sentimental but the setting is a small town that my family vacationed in when I was a kid.

I was disappointed with the story though. Cowboys, shifters, and hurt/comfort themes are normally right up my alley but it just didn't work here. Diego had potential. I felt bad for him but I don't think he was developed enough to really get an idea about him. Diego is an omega wolf that suffered horrific abuse from his pack with the accompanying scars to prove it. And that's really the only aspect of Diego that is presented to us in detail. A victim is more than their experiences and I wanted to see more of who Diego was.

Joe, the other MC did not catch my attention at all. His character was flat and I felt no interest in learning more about him.

I think the author may have been a tiny bit over enthusiastic with ideas. With the cowboys theme, shifters theme, and abuse/hurt/comfort theme all in one book it felt like plenty. On top of that we have pseudo-bdsm and a murder mystery thrown in. Too much of everything and not enough of anything.

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## **Joyfully Jay says**

*A Joyfully Jay review.*

### **3 stars**

Normally, I'm very much the gung-ho type when it comes to all things Bailey Bradford, especially when it has to do with shifters. Her Southwestern Shifters series is one of my favorites. But I'm don't know that I'm feeling this world as well as I do her other paranormal ones. First off, I like the set up. It's sexy. Bradford does a great job introducing us to Joe and Diego, as well as turning up the heat and tension between them. So I expected a lot from them and their relationship. I was not disappointed by that at all. Joe and Diego are the best part of this story. Diego is the better of the two, but he has more to work through. Torn down and abused his entire life, Diego finally ran when the fear he'd be killed came a little close to reality. But for an Omega, leaving is not an option, so he's being hunted by the baddest of the bad and on his route to escape, he meets Joe. Joe is human, through and through, but he's obviously open to whatever Diego is going through. Diego's scars speak of brutality so deep, Joe wants nothing more than to shelter him and protect him from the entire world. So here's where these two characters are—damsel (or don) in distress and his white knight. I kept expecting Diego to turn into a snarky version of himself or grow a pair, but he's pretty tame and diminutive compared to what I was looking for. Joe, on the other hand, had dominant alpha down pat. The man couldn't have been much sexier.

**Read Crissy's review in its entirety [here](#).**

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## **DaisyGirl says**

1.0 Star

Ugh. I didn't like this book. The enigmatic blurb had me wondering ... and hoping ... for something new and different. Granted, this was not your typical shifter story. These shifters were characterized as evil, vile, abusive beings. So that was different. But there wasn't much world building regarding the shifter population.

On the other hand, there was a shit-ton of hurt/comfort and character development on the human side of the equation. Sadly, Joe, Diego, and Trent were totally underwhelming. I never felt the chemistry between Joe and Diego. And, Trent as the little brother side-kick was awkward. The show down with the evil shifters was all kinds of levels of ridiculousness and the threat to (view spoiler) was, in a word, fucktarded.

Bottom line: Nuh-uh.

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## **Serena Yates says**

I admit that the reason for me to want to read this book was the author's name, not the blurb (which is more than a little misleading, if not outright confusing). I enjoyed Bailey Bradford's previous shifter worlds, I'm always up for exploring another one, and I suspected there'd be a lot of heat in this story. I am happy to report that I found the shifter world in this book (and its sequel 'Texas and Tarantulas') interesting, the characters unusual and very likeable, and the heat? Kinky and off the charts.

Joe is a Texas rancher through and through. He loves the land, and he loves the ranch he inherited from his father. He even loved the father who "disciplined" him physically when he was a kid and, from the sound of it, quite harshly. All in the interest of making Joe a man. Ahem. Even though Joe inherited all of the ranch, for reasons he would rather not think about, he insists on sharing it with his younger brother Trent. And then one night a wolf jumps onto his truck and everything changes.

Diego is on the run. He is his pack's omega and, in this world, that makes him everyone's punching bag and sexual toy to play with. The wolves are extremely cruel in this world, and think nothing of killing their own children if that will keep them in power. Diego is used to the treatment and has been taught that is all he is good for, but one day he breaks and runs. Now he has nowhere to go and he knows they will catch and kill him. He just isn't ready to let that happen. Then he sees Joe on a ranch near Uvalde, Texas, and his world is turned upside-down.

These two men may come from different worlds, but they are made for each other. Joe is a big strong cowboy who likes to play rough games in the bedroom, but he is a big softie inside who will only kill mosquitoes and flies. And even then, he'd rather not. He has no clue shifters even exist, and Diego isn't supposed to tell him, but once the secret is out, Joe changes. He will do anything to protect Diego. Diego may look like a big bad wolf when he is shifted, and he is incredibly strong to have withstood the years and years of abuse his pack put him through, but he has no self-confidence and very little self-esteem when he first arrives on Joe's ranch. That, too, changes over time, but it isn't easy.



If you prefer your shifters to be of the “big bad wolf” persuasion rather than the “fluffy” kind, if you enjoy seeing two men having to struggle for understanding each other and their worlds, and if you’re looking for an adventure filled with tension and very hot and kinky bedroom action, then you will probably like this novel.

NOTE: This book was provided by Pride Publishing for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

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### **Sabi says**

I don’t know what happened to me with this book, but I couldn’t connect with the MC.

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