



## Carry and Drag

*Michelle Frost*

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Lift. Eat. Sleep. Repeat.

Qualifying to compete on a national level is all that's on power lifter Dagen Rourke's mind. After an injury sidelined him the previous year, his only goal has been to overcome the physical challenges and mental demons to get back in the game. Falling into bed with the new artist at his brother's tattoo shop was never part of his training schedule. Now he has to find a balance between the time he wants to give Ollie and the brutal training for what could be the most important competition of his life.

Run. Tattoo. Doze. Keep going.

Oliver Vos jumps at the chance to work at Vidar Rourke's award-winning tattoo shop, Open Wounds. Getting out from under a nasty mentor and making it on his own is all Ollie has dreamed of for years. Unbeknownst to him, the room Vidar offers to rent him until he's back on his feet would have him sharing space with tempting gentle giant, Dagen.

Living together is an adjustment, and when the heat between them morphs into something more will old insecurities and new tests drag them apart? Or will they find a way to carry the weight of their burdens...together?

Carry and Drag is the introductory novella to the contemporary MM romance series Open Wounds. This book contains mature content meant for adult readers.

## Carry and Drag Details

Date : Published May 18th 2018

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Author : Michelle Frost

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## From Reader Review Carry and Drag for online ebook

### ?♥? Michaelle ?♥? says

3.7 Stars

Not a bad start to a new (for me) series. I do wish that there'd been less attention paid to the detailed minutia of working out & diet that comes with training for the Strong Man competitions. Maybe balanced with more details of the tattooing instead?

I'll put the next installment on the TBR though since there is a pretty big cast of side characters that could have their own stories...

EDITED TO ADD: While some people like the age-gap or other pairing tropes, I think that Bigger Bottom will always be my favorite. And this one has a ginormously tall, hugely built, musclebound strong man (with a refreshingly honest, perfectly average sized cock) getting what he's always wanted and can't find since so many potential partners assume he's a savage Top. He's so not. \*SWOOOOOOON\*

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### JenMcJ says

I had to force myself to finish this book. It was just a very basic book with a predictable plot and stale characters.

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### Dawn Nicole Costiera says

4.5 stars for this fabulous debut!!

Carry and Drag by Michelle Frost was such a pleasant surprise. I was looking for a quick read, so I figured I'd give it a shot. I am so happy I did. This lady can write. It is third person, which some times I have an issue with but she did a great job with it. I followed along effortlessly. I loved each and every character. I found the plot fun and endearing....

It revolves around a Tattoo shop, a gym and a great bunch of guys! The timid Tattoo artist, Oliver Vos and The Compassionate Strongman, Dagen Rourke. Along with Dagen's 3 spirited brothers, Vidar, Magnus and Harbor.....(All of which will be getting their own books! Woo hoo!)

Dagen is the gentlest, yet biggest one of the bunch. He is recovering from an injury and trying to make a name for himself in the Strongman competition world. This gentle giant prefers the solidarity of his home curled up with a good book rather then going to loud clubs. (He is the sweetest!) When he gets an impromptu roommate, he is not pleased, that is until he meets the gorgeous, but troubled Tattoo artist, Oliver ... His physical attraction is evident, although the man is skiddish and closed off. Dagen becomes even more invested and protective of Ollie when he gets some information into his past.... Ollie is running from that past in search of a new beginning. He has major trust issues, but patient and oh so sweet Dagen is slowly knocking down his walls.

I loved these boys. Their relationship took it's time developing by building trust. Becoming friends first, while hiding their obvious connection....

For a novella, it was well paced and nothing felt rushed. I do however wish Dagen and Ollie's story was longer. There was so much potential to make it a full size novel, but with the way it ended, I am sure I will be seeing more of them in the rest of the series.

The secondary characters that I met along the way were full of personality and storyline. Michelle gave me just enough about all of them to have me completely intrigued and needing more. This novella is jam packed with layers. I can not wait to get all the guys full stories.

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### **Lelyana says**

Aww...this is sweet and adorable. I was skeptical before, as this is a first book I read from this author. But I was wrong. I enjoyed the story. Dagen is a sweet giant, and Ollie cannot asked for better lover but him. I will sure read the next of the book of these brothers. REcommended!

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### **Barbara says**

Kudos to Ms. Frost for a job well done on Carry and Drag. This is a wonderful MM Novella that captured my attention and emotions from the very start. The book is very well written with characters you can't help but fall in love with. The storyline is funny, flirty and sexy as heck with all those Rourke Brothers and their friends. Plus, there are moments of aghast that will have you gasping.

Ms. Frost's flair for words will keep you turning page after page as we meet the Rourke brothers and the situations and people that drive them. Trust me when I says these brothers are a force to be reckoned with and I sure wouldn't want to be on their bad side. The book features what I call gentle giants; men that are the strong protective macho type yet have a soft side and huge hearts. This is so true with Dagen and Oli.

Vidar (Dagen's brother) owns a Tattoo Shop and Gym and Dagen lives in the apartment above the the shop. Vidar informs Dagen he is going to have a temporary roommate (something Dagen isn't really happy about as he like his privacy). But when Oli shows up looking oh so sexy yet broken on the inside, Dagen's protective nature comes out. But can he break through Oli's walls and get him to open up to him? Oli lives with deep rooted fears, self loathing and trust issues. While he has never met anyone like the Rourke brothers, especial Dagen, he can't shake fears from his past. Does he dare let them in? Does he dare tell his secrets? Has he finally found a place he can call home or will his past put him on the run again?

I can't recommend this book enough. It will have your emotions running the gambit while taking a journey of hate, trust and love. Carry and Drag is a fantastic start to the Open Wounds series and this reader is looking forward to Take Down (Harbor's story) which is

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### **Chris says**

Not bad at all for the start of this series. I liked these characters and really enjoyed the family vibe.. love it when a group of people band together and show acceptance. compassion and love.

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## Lyn says

Solid 4 star read for me.

I know when I read novellas chances are I'm going to be left wanting more. This case is no different. However, I'm hoping to get more of Dagen and Ollie in the coming books. It's obvious these two care deeply for one another, but I need a declaration of love. I want to read about their plans as a couple. Ollie is still in need of some emotional healing, and what are Dagen's career goals now?

Overall, I'm impressed. I think this is a strong start to a great series. It was well written, and even with the many characters introduced, I never felt overwhelmed. I even got attached to them and look forward to each of their stories.

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## AussieMum says

### Re-read September 2018

Still just as sweet as the first read but still wish there was more time spent with the two MC together. Now on to the sequel.

### Original review

I really enjoyed this and wish it was longer. A good introduction to a new series. Although the sex initially kind of came out of nowhere I really liked Dagen, the sensitive power lifter. As well as the rag-tag bunch of men that make up his family. Look forward to the next one.

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## Line says

Freebie at the zon.com right now: <https://smile.amazon.com/Carry-Drag-O...>

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## Anne Boleyn's Ghost says

**3.5 stars rounded up** because frankly, I don't tend to expect much from novellas by new-to-me authors. And frankly, I was pleasantly surprised here! *Carry and Drag* may be a novella, but it is a **well-written one, with an engaging premise and well-crafted characters.**

Gifted tattoo artist **Ollie** needs a fresh start. He gets one in the form of a new job and a new roommate, **Dagen**. An aspiring strongman who epitomizes “gentle giant”, Dagen wants Ollie. More than that, he wants to care for Ollie. Ollie doesn’t think that he wants that. That he *can’t* want that. But his walls begin to crumble in Dagen’s soft and steadfast presence.

Their relationship is a **sweet slow burn** from roommates to friends to lovers. Given Ollie’s past, it had the potential to devolve into angst.com. Instead, they trusted and communicated with one another.

The novella occasionally suffered from **series opener syndrome**, with new characters introduced and new relationships teased. It wasn't always easy to keep things straight. There is a muted suspense element that flirts with melodramatic but doesn't cross the line. The editing could have been tighter, and the pacing wasn't always on point. But since this appears to be one of Frost's first published works, I anticipate that she will improve upon these issues.

The ending is a HFN, which I can live with since we will surely see more of Ollie and Dagen (and their inevitable HEA, right? ?) In the meantime, I look forward to additional stories. I would l-o-v-e a story for Kayla, seeing as female fighters are all too rare as romance novel heroines, and I would like to learn more about Harbor (and yes, I am still wrapping my brain around some of these names). To be honest, I wasn't feeling Vidar and Niko; it seemed forced, and Niko was too young. And if we learn that (view spoiler)

*Carry and Drag* was a **sexy, fun, and quick** read - if you're looking for that, pick this up.

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### **Eden Finley says**

This was a decent read :) and a great start to a series. I'm definitely interested in all the side characters and want to know their stories, especially Niko and Vidar, and Magnus and Rory.

I just wished there was a little more of everything. More emotion and more depth. Ollie and Dagen just happen, and apart from finding each other attractive, I don't know WHY they fall for each other. Just that they do.

That being said, it was a great and quick read, and I \*think\* it's a debut novel/novella? Could be wrong, but for a debut it's really impressive :)

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### **Amanda says**

A very nice satisfying short read. I was skeptical going in after finding out this is a short story but since there are already 3 books in, I decided to give it a try. First of all, Dagen isn't a MMA fighter as I thought he would be. He is a 'strong man' competitor, is sort of involved lifting and pulling kinda thing. I don't understand the rest of the jargon mentioned.

Ollie is the new tattoo artist hired by Dagen's brother and ended up being Dagen's roommate. Ollie's background story is a sympathetic one and I'm glad he found a sorta new family within the Rourke's family. Ollie and Dagen's relationship is sweet and loving. Dagen is protective without coming off like an aggressive brute. I really enjoy the camaraderie between the brothers. Can't wait read about the rest of them.

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## **Barbara? says**

I first saw this book in another author's fb group. It looked like something I'd be interested in and I'm always willing to give new authors a try. Some of my friends read it and said "It's definitely a Barb book".

See....I love me some gentle giants. Guys who are big and could wreck havoc just with their hands. They are sweet and gentle and aware of their size and how they come across to others. But they are more than willing to do anything to protect what's theirs. Dagen was just the type of hero I love. He was sweet and cautious with Ollie, giving him time to adjust and going slow with him.

***"What did he want from Ollie? His breath caught in his chest when a single word flashed unbidden through his mind. Everything."***

There's an instance connection between the two but it takes time because Ollie is scared. Running from an abusive situation, he's not ready to try a relationship, really no kind of relationship. But he can't resist Dagen. Because Dagen is slowly becoming something more.

***"You keep doing that," Ollie said with a little shake of his head. "What?" "Saying my name... like it's something else. Something... I don't know, like it means more than it does."***

And even though I didn't understand half of the weight lifting stuff and maybe it bored me just a wee bit, this is still a great start to a new series and I'm looking forward to all the brothers' stories. Plus, I want more of Dagen and Ollie. They are HFN but they need a good HEA.

***"Dagen?" Ollie's voice was quiet and rough.[...]"Why do you take care of me?" [...] "Because I care about you. And everyone needs someone to take care of them sometimes." [...] "I'm glad my someone is you."***

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## **iam says**

This was great!

*Carry and Drag* is the story of Dagen, a weightlifter who just recovered from an injury and is now training for his next competition, keen to win to contribute to the family business and prove himself to his brothers, and Ollie, a tattoo artist who wants to start over new and is waiting for the other shoe to drop as the opportunity he's been given just seems too good to be true.

I liked all aspects of the book:

The romance was lovely, with Dagen being kind-hearted and caring and exactly right for Ollie, who has many sore spots he doesn't like to get poked.

I also liked the surrounding setting. I do not know much about weightlifting or sports/training in general, but it was nice to read about. The tattooing I know a little more about, but it wasn't as present in the book as I had wished for.

The characters were also great: Dagen was a sweetheart, made even more so by his name that somehow reminds me of that one ice cream brand (Häagen-Dazs anyone? Just me? Ok). The side characters (mainly Dagen's brothers) were great too, and I am looking forward to their books, and I hope that Kayla is considered to be part of the family as well \*eye emoji\*

*I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **Tracy~Bayou Book Junkie says**

4.5 Stars

Dagen isn't thrilled when he learns he's getting a new roommate, until he lays eyes on Ollie. Not only is the guy gorgeous, but Dagen finds himself drawn to him emotionally, as well.

Ollie is running from the abusive relationship he's found himself in for the last couple of years. He's told himself he won't let himself trust again, but there is just something about Dagen that makes him want to let his guard down.

Ollie's story is heartbreakingly real and I just wanted to cuddle him. I absolutely adored both him and Dagen. Dagen and Ollie were both lovable characters who fit together perfectly. I loved that Dagen took his time and gave Ollie the space he needed. He never rushed him and I adored watching Ollie let his guard down and begin to trust Dagen and let him in.

Although the story is maybe a bit instalovish, with the time frame the story takes place over, the progression of Dagen and Ollie's relationship felt natural and was never rushed. They had amazing chemistry and the sexual tension was almost visible in the air, it was so thick.

I not only loved Ollie and Dagen, but I absolutely adored Dagen's family and I'm excited and looking forward to following the series and seeing each of these brothers get their happy ending.

The story was well-written and flowed well. The author's writing drew me in, the style was comfortable and easy to read. This was a very enjoyable read and I'll definitely be on the lookout for the next installment. Highly recommendable!

\*copy provided by author/publisher for my reading pleasure, a review was not a requirement\*

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