



# Pretty Man

*Ryan Field*

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## **Pretty Man** Ryan Field

Roland Marcus, still not over the fact that his twenty year relationship has ended, accidentally bumps into a hot young guy in a used book store...a strapping male hustler whom he decides to hire for one week to accompany him to charity events while he's in New York. He offers him five thousand dollars, with no strings attached, to just stand by his side and look pretty.

Josh Holden, a young guy who is helping to support his son and saving money to buy a business with his best friend and ex-wife, is only too happy to escort Roland anywhere he wants to go that week. And he's not doing it just for the money...

Unlike most stories, where the rich and powerful husband dumps the hard working, devoted life partner for someone younger, this one takes a turn in the opposite direction when the rich husband is the one to get dumped. But with young Josh's help, Roland learns in less than a week's time that his future can still hold both earth-shattering sex and a love of real substance.

## **Pretty Man Details**

Date : Published 2009 by Ravenous Romance

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Author : Ryan Field

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# From Reader Review Pretty Man for online ebook

## Ricardo says

Received a free copy from NetGalley

At the beginning of the book, there is a really nice blurb from the author explaining how when he was growing up there were no real LGBTQ role models, all the media was based on heteronormative patterns, and the few gay examples were poor stereotypical caricatures of what real men are. Supposedly, that's the reason why he decided to write this story.

Within the first few pages of the book I was laughing and not the good kind, the kind I do WITH an author when a book has good humor, satire, and irony. I cannot understand why someone wanting to give an alternative to all those stereotypical caricatures of gay men would turn around and offer exactly the same thing.

Roland is 45 "but he looks 30 from a distance." He is secure enough in his looks and would never consider plastic surgery but has "his entire body waxed" not because he enjoys it but because the men he usually has sex with like it. Josh, the younger guy, has a body to die for of course, and he has "a huge dick" (we all know nobody with an average one can be good in bed, right?). Roland's physical description (slim, smooth, muscular) makes him in his eyes better than those he usually sleeps with since "with guys his own age or older, Roland knew he would always be the attractive, sexy one." Let's skip the minor details like the fact that all gay men go out pre-prepared and ready to bottom since you never know when you will find a huge top ready to go or the fact that what makes a good bottom is his ability to take a huge dick in one swoop without flinching.

So, by now I'm shaking my head and thinking I would need all my patience to finish this book and then I came across a couple of gems that probably illustrate better than I could ever explain why I disliked this story so much:

"When I pull my dick out, I want to look at your hole. It's different from other holes; easy to get into but tighter than most"

Roland had... "heard the same comment from another man. One guy...said Roland's ass was the closest thing to pussy he'd ever fucked" (of course, we all know all bottoms should strive to achieve that holy grail, for their ass to be like a vagina)

It was at this point that I decided to give up because I knew it would not be fair neither to the author nor myself to finish the book knowing already that I was going to hate it.

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## Addicted2M/M says

2.5

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## Laura says

*I received a copy of Pretty Man from Riverdale Avenue Books via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.*

Reasons I requested this book:

- age gap (approximately 20 years)
- single parent
- fake dating

First things first, this book should honestly be marketed as erotica rather than a romance because it's sex, sex, sex, and little to show any kind of romantic feelings are developing.

I wanted to DNF this book within 4% when the narrator, Roland, describes Josh's pectorals as looking like "halved grapefruits." But hey! Maybe that meant this would be a cheese-fest, right? NOPE! I have so many highlights and comments wondering what I'm even reading, if these are actual things people think and/or find sexy, and flabbergasted. The only reason I chugged through is because my approval for this book asked that if I DNF not to review, so I "spite read," skimming most of the sex scenes by the end and flipping through the last several pages.

Okay, so, we've got Josh, an escort who is also a father wanting to buy a bookstore with his ex, and using his sex work to supplement their income. We don't even realize he has a kid until over 50% into the book and only see his son like once. This didn't really read like a fake dating story, all that happens is lots of sex scenes in the rich dude's house and drama with Roland's ex as the Big Climax.

And those sex scenes!! Oh god they're terrible; this honestly reads like someone writing their first PWP story and a teensy bit of plot snuck in. We've got so many exaggerated descriptions and weird consent issues. Like, from the get-go Josh was touching Roland's butt in public, not to mention the way he almost immediately has Roland strip down so he can fuck him. And, oh god, there's so many "I'm a total top and you're a total bottom and the reason your relationship failed is you're both bottoms" and why they're exclusively top/bottom and saying people aren't actually versatile for the most part. Uhm, what??? And there's one part where Roland is all "bottoms have an obligation to be smooth (shaved) and toned and prepare themselves so the top can just get to it." What is this?? Is this a reality I'm not privy to? It was just so absolutely agonizing to read these scenes~! And, oh yeah, Josh invites two friends to Roland's for a foursome as a SURPRISE! and they go to a sex shop where STRANGERS join in on their sexual encounter. How is that okay or sexy?? And the BEST (aka ABSOLUTE MOST HORRIFYING WORST) was using CUPCAKE ICING as lube for anal sex. CUPCAKE ICING!!!!!!

Like I said, there's really not much in the way of a plot; it's just sex scene after sex scene. The way we end up getting drama and tension, is in the shape of Kenneth, Roland's ex boyfriend. Kenneth is always touching Roland, calls everyone "Doll," and treats Josh like a second-class citizen. The worst part is Roland discloses Josh's sex worker status to Kenneth and when Kenneth is reassuring him that he won't tell anyone, Roland legit says "I really don't care who knows." Uhm, you do NOT have the right to disclose that to anyone else and it can be dangerous for someone to know he's a sex worker. And it does end up being dangerous!! Kenneth attempts to rape Josh being all "wanna make a little extra this weekend?" And Roland can't comprehend why Josh would be upset/hurt that he told Kenneth he's an escort.

This book was just TERRIBLE. It has tropes I enjoy so I was looking forward to reading this (I've never watched *Pretty Woman*, which this is supposed to be based(?) off) but I came away from this book upset and uncomfortable. I don't think there is a single person I'd recommend this to.

Content notes:

- ? what's with the waist measurement??
  - ? talking about sex work, tho semi vague
  - ? cheating in past - ex cheated on MC w/ new boyfriend
  - ? smacking butt in public - not discussed prior
  - ? showing genitals without consent
  - ? on page sex
  - ? dangerous driving - speeding, driving yellow lights, pedestrians jumping out of the way
  - ? classism
  - ? bribing salesperson for good service
  - ? paying person for their time as escort to charity events
  - ? semi public sex (dressing room)
  - ? getting caught during sex
  - ? fatmisia
  - ? fat fetishization(???)
  - ? commenting on another person's weight
  - ? light bondage play
  - ? food used during sex
  - ? interrupting someone when they try to speak, power play feel to situation
  - ? mentions of losing friends to HIV/AIDS
  - ? MC is last living founder of HIV/AIDS foundation
  - ? road head
  - ? telling someone they like something because of physical response ("you like this, look how hard you are already.")
  - ? invading personal space
  - ? f\*g h\*g ???
  - ? inviting others into sex as "surprise," not previously discussed/negotiated
  - ? sex shop
  - ? people having sex in open(?) area of sex shop
  - ? salesperson reaching to remove MC's clothes w/o warning
  - ? exhibition and voyerurism
  - ? putting collar on person w/o discussion/negotiation/consent
  - ? stranger touching a couple during sex to "help"
  - ? foot fetish
  - ? fatmisia
  - ? threats of violence
  - ? sexual assault, non-consensual sexual touching
  - ? trying to excuse non-con touching
  - ? sex work shaming(?) - saying "in your line of work I'm sure you've heard much worse than that from guys far worse"
  - ? telling someone they're acting like a child for not wanting non-con touching or being told it should be okay/accepted because he's a sex worker and is packing a bag to leave
  - ? bimisia - acting like a man with a man flirting with a woman is the worst thing he could be doing
  - ? sexual objectification
  - ? trying to proposition sex and when denied, getting forceful - attempted rape
  - ? physical violence
  - ? commenting derisively on small genitalia
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## **Trio says**

Do *not* pick up this goofy little erotica novella unless you want to snicker and snort the whole way through. Hopefully I'm not completely misunderstanding this author's sense of humor (and he is new to me), but this one's cheeky as hell.

Intended as a spoof of *Pretty Woman* once I reminded myself not to take it too seriously I actually enjoyed most of it. Lost count of all the little things that had me rolling my eyes *as if*, but in the end that was okay and it all works.

While I definitely could have done without the description of Josh's underarms smelling like "raw onions and stale, yeasty beer" (yes, that's a direct quote and yes, it's supposed to be a good thing), the sex scenes were pretty hot and worked for this couple.

Ryan Field does a good job with the characters. Roland, a 45 year old multi-millionaire who's been living without it for way too long, and Josh a horny as hell \$200/hour male escort with amazing stamina and a heart of gold, work well together.

The supremely campy dirty talk kept me laughing, and I can honestly say I'll read another book by Ryan Field when I need a smile... assuming (again) I'm not wrongly interpreting this one!

*a copy of Pretty Man was provided by NetGalley for the purpose of my honest review*

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## **Shannon says**

As far as I could tell this was fairly close to the movie *Pretty Woman* only with tons more sex and colorful descriptions. And the two stars is because I actually managed to finish it! :)

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## **Cathy (cathepsut) says**

A gay retelling of *Pretty Woman*. I picked it up, because I am a fan of the marriage-of-convenience trope. Fake relationship, close enough. It turned out to be mostly porn with little plot.

Could have done with the use of a good editor or beta reader to iron out all the inconsistencies and continuity errors.

The porn was ok, I guess. Not terribly erotic. Halfway through this was pretty much PWP. Some BDSM. Forget informed consent though (aka the group sex scene, the sex shop, etc.).

I was looking for a romance novel, when I picked this up. Which this is most definitely not. There was no emotional connection between Roland and Josh or any real intimacy.

Josh sounded like an imbecile. Do people really talk like that? Generally there was plenty of bad dialogue. Corny, repetitive. I did a lot of eye rolling.

And the book was full of stereotypes, which is funny considering that the author writes in the opening words about lacking positive role models growing up and wanting to change that.

If you are looking for m/m erotica without much of a plot and some kink, this might be for you. For me it was a DNF at 65%. I was ready to quit sooner, but I wanted to give it a chance.

I received this free e-copy from the publisher/author via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review, thank you! P.S.: You would probably have a better target audience, if you categorized this as erotica.

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## **Daisiemae says**

This was my first book by this author. I didn't love it, but I did like it. The story definitely has the whole "Pretty Woman" storyline to it. My problem with the book was I thought the characters didn't quite connect like I wanted them to. Their relationship to me was like getting one foot from the finish line, and not being able to cross it.

There are ALOT of sex scenes in this book. There is voyeurism, toys, light BDSM and there is a menage scene. (I kinda skipped over that part since I am not a fan of menages) The characters had sexual chemistry together, but they didn't connect on an emotional level to me. They seemed to like one another, and there is a HFN ending that was kinda sweet.

Roland Marcus has been hiding out for the past year. His lover of 20 years cheated and then dumped him for a younger man. Although, their relationship had been rocky at the time, this still hurt and humiliated Roland enough to lick his wounds alone and shut himself from the world for a while. When Roland runs into his ex-partner on the street, he ducks into a local bookshop and runs into a sexy, younger handsome man. He is everything Roland is not. From the way he dresses and carries himself to the confidence he has with his sexuality. Roland offers to pay the man money to go outside and meet his ex as his boyfriend. The sexy man agrees.

Josh Holden is never one to turn down easy money. Half-owner of the bookstore and part time male escort, he is more than happy to accompany Holden to meet the ex. After they meet and convince the ex that they are dating, Holden offers Josh Five Thousand Dollars to be his escort, as his boyfriend, and attend some local parties and functions Holden has been strong-armed into attending. Josh of course needs the money, so he agrees and they spend the week together.

The similarities to Pretty Woman are: Holden takes Josh on a shopping spree and buys him TONS of clothes, Josh never kisses his clients-but kisses Holden in the end, Holden outs Josh as an escort to his ex ,of all people, and this embarrasses Josh so much he wants to leave, but Holden apologises and convinces him to stay...and so on.

I plan on reading this author again. I did like his style of writing, and he writes some hot sex scenes, but I am hoping for some more emotion and love between the characters.

I loved Pretty Woman. I thought Pretty Man could have been better, but it was okay.

2.5 stars out of 3...but I'll bump it up to 3.

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## Becky says

Kinda porny, and the writing is not the best. But I like Roland and Josh. The resolution to Josh and Hilary's problem is a little pat, and I don't buy their reactions. But I do believe as the book ends that Roland and Josh are moving off into their Happy For Now, if not their Happily Ever After. Some problems, but generally an entertaining read.

As of 3/30/11, the ebook is available for Kindle for 99¢.

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## Fabi says

DNF @25% I can't keep going. These are two dimensional stereotypes engaging in simple, boring porn. It's an insult to Pretty Woman which was an emotionally intense portrayal of Cinderella type second chances.

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## Riayl says

So...rather disappointed. We have the m/m version of Pretty Woman which I didn't really like but mostly because Richard Gere completely does NOT do it for me and rather creeps me out making it difficult to watch and enjoy a movie he is in. Sorry. \*shrug\* Anywhos, I was interested.

Then I started reading. Flat, like squished possum on the highway flat. Cardboard characters, no emotions. Sex that was totally not sexy. Then our "Pretty Man" brings in two of his buddies to have group sex with our Gere-replacement, but never asks if that is okay. I'll be honest, I had a total freak out moment over that. Almost dropped the book then and there because I was frankly sick to my stomach and completely wiggled out. But those are my issues and I managed to push past it, hoping, I guess, that somehow these characters would start to show *some* emotion. Nuh-uh. Add in editing issues and a completely unlikable cast of side characters - oh, wait, the lady he had the business meeting with, I liked her - otherwise they were all nasty little...nasties. \*sheepish look\* Couldn't come up with an appropriate word.

1.5 stars - I didn't *quite* hate it, but it was pretty darn close.

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## Usagi Tsukino says

Not even 1 star.

Didn't even bother to finish this, after two chapters I couldn't read it anymore.

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## Lillie says

I would like to see a continuation story with these characters. The physical attraction between them was



pretty hot at times, but I didn't feel any emotional connection until the end.

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## **Online Eccentric Librarian says**

*More reviews (and no fluff) on the blog <http://surrealtalvi.wordpress.com/>*

I made it to about 10% in and realized that what we were promised and what we got were two very different things. Most of what made *Pretty Woman* so successful was its unabashed charm; that is completely missing in here in what feels like a Marty Stu's dream of the perfect gay porno. But even the crudity would be manageable if the writing wasn't so incredibly unsophisticated. I'd love to see the author's "gay version of *Pretty Woman*" too as he promised in the introduction - but we didn't get it here at all.

Roland needs a date to make his ex jealous. He sees a hot young hunk named Josh and immediately propositions him. Sex, sex, and more sex ensues with plenty of eyeing of bulges and grabbing of butts between.

I knew I was going to have a hard time with this book as soon as I saw this sentence on the first page: "From a distance, he could still pass for 30; but up close in broad daylight, you could tell he was closer to his true age." There are a LOT of sentences like that which should make sense but just don't. The writing is stilted, lacking segues, and focused purely on getting from one sex scene to the next.

Story wise, there was no emotional attachment whatsoever. I didn't believe in either character or their situations as a result. Nor was I ever enticed to actually care about any character in this book. Just about every cliché of the genre was here (gay porn) and so oversimplified to the point of being about as egregious a Marty Stu as you can get. I received this as an advance review copy from the publisher but I honestly would have been very disappointed had I actually spent money for this title. Reviewed as an advance reader copy provided by the publisher.

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## **FloJ says**

this didn't do anything for me at all. The title *Pretty Man* is a play on the *Pretty Woman* film. ie prostitution. Albeit male. It had promise but I don't think the author could decide what sort of book to make it nor which market he was aiming it at, then at the end lost his way and finished it off in a rush. I don't usually say this because I think there is a bit too much stringing us along by selling what is really one book in 2 or even more installments, but in this case it might have been better to separate the elements of the story and write several different ones.

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## **Charly says**

Didn't believe in the characters' supposed emotional attachment

Warning: This review might contain what some people consider SPOILERS.

Rating: 4/10

PROS:

- Some of the descriptions of characters and situations are funny. Here's one I liked: "Sometime in his early 30s, he reinvented himself as a quasi, free-spirited Tallulah Bankhead type."
- There's a lot of sex, which I expected since one of the characters is an escort, but most of the sex scenes are unusual. I didn't find them very stimulating, necessarily, but I also didn't find them boring.
- Roland has tons of money, so a lot of the places they go--and a lot of the things they do--are exotic and high-brow and exciting.

CONS:

- I didn't see anything outstanding in the characters' emotional attachment to each other. I saw a lot of sex, so I believed that the guys were hot for each other, but I didn't at all believe by the end of the story that they were in love. And Roland and Josh know each other for 3 days at most before deciding that they want to get tested so that they can bareback. I simply could not suspend my disbelief enough to believe that anyone would do that without first being at least halfway in love with the other person.
- The writing is plagued by constant POV shifts and near-constant "telling" instead of "showing." Example: the men are talking (superficially) about the fact that Josh wants to own a bookstore one day, and then there's this: "Roland liked that Josh was an avid reader, but was preoccupied with the young man's [body part]." Why did Roland like that Josh was an avid reader? What does that tell him about Josh? Is this something they might have in common? These sorts of holes contributed greatly to my not being able to see an emotional attachment between the characters.
- There are little inconsistencies all through the book that display very sloppy editing. Here's an example from the first page: "When Roland looked in the mirror late at night, he noticed the right side of his face seemed to be aging faster than the left. There were a few faint laugh lines at the corner of his left eye, while the corner of his right remained smooth and tight."
- I'm all for sex scenes that are passionate and romantic and emotional, etc., and I understand that a lot of people get off on group sex. What I don't understand is an escort inviting two of his friends over to take turns "tagging" his current client without even asking whether that's something the client is interested in.

Overall comments: As the title suggests, this is pretty much a point-by-point gay version of *Pretty Woman* (too similar in my opinion: Roland, for example, is afraid of heights, just like Richard Gere's character). There's a lot of sex, so if you're into that, you might like it. But I didn't find it emotionally engaging enough to keep my interest for long.

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