



Miles to Go

Connie Bailey

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When British drug lord Gareth "Hairy" Carey stakes out territory in their jurisdiction, openly gay police officer Rick Miles is determined to use the opportunity to prove his worth to prejudiced colleagues. With no backup but his partner Graciela Cruz, Rick goes undercover without official sanction and wins a spot in Carey's gang using his good looks and sheer bravado. Now Rick is in the tank with the sharks, but this isn't his first cruise. He's prepared to deal with the vicious drug traffickers. What he isn't prepared for is Billy Rose, Carey's astonishingly handsome spoiled brat paramour. Billy is sexy and smart, and he delights in seducing dangerous men - men like the one Rick is pretending to be. Thrown together when Carey orders the new soldier to squire Billy around town, Rick finds himself fighting a strong attraction to the sharp-tongued toy boy. Juggling the dangerous distraction and maintaining a credible cover, Rick is thrown off-balance by a sequence of disastrous events, and as he scrambles to keep his footing, the havoc accelerates before he can call in backup. Marooned in a realm of sly deception, immediate reprisal, and sudden violence, he's forced to act against the dictates of his conscience to stay alive when a single misstep could mean death.

Miles to Go Details

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Lynnebaby says

I really liked the undercover cop aspect of this read. I wasn't quite sure who the love interest was for a while, but when it became clear, I wanted a little more emotional build up. I don't know if I really liked the ending, but I think as a whole the novel was nicely written and entertaining.

Alyse says

It was almost absolutely amazing, but...there was just something missing that I can't put my finger on.

ElaineY says

This is more of a suspense than a romance but the latter does get going towards the last quarter of the book. I liked both Rick and the tortured young Billy Rose. It's not a light read and it was difficult to see Billy Rose trapped in that life as a druglord's toy boy.

I enjoyed this one and was satisfied with the strong HEA which both men deserved. I'd read another Connie Bailey any time if the other books are like this one.

Gale says

MxM, Read in 2011

Elisa Rolle says

Rick is a good cop but he made a big mistake: he came out of the closet. In the book is not explained why and when he made the decision, we only had some hints on a previous marriage which was not so perfect. Anyway now Rick is the "gay" cop and he is roaming the street with another misfit cop, a spanish woman; and so Rick decides to volunteer to go undercover when an English drug lords decides to "acquire" the Los Angeles district. Rick is the perfect man since Gareth, the vicious criminal, has a penchant for gay handsome man. Rick's idea is to enter Gareth's bed to find out ALL his secrets and then drags him to justice. Problem is that Gareth didn't come alone from England: along with him there are three bodyguard, one best friend and... Billy Red. Billy is a pretty little thing whom mission is to grace Gareth home and pool and to satisfy every whims of the man; but Billy seems not to be a victim, he has a strange power on Gareth and he seems to have a plan on his own. Rick can't help to fall for the imp.

Meanwhile Rick's partner, Graciela, finds out that also an English cop is undercover among Gareth's crew... All right, first of all, don't think to have understand all the story from my resume: while reading I have three

thesis, one very original (according to me), one obvious and one that would remind me too much another book I read recently... no one of my thesis was the right one.

Rick is a good man, but maybe he is not a so good cop (if good is the classical cop from the movie, the one who kills all the bad men alone); he made some big mistakes, but all in all he is a cop by the book: till the end he behaves as a team worker, he has not the core to be a lonesome hero. I don't want to say that he is not hero, only that he is an average "hero"; truth be told, all the climax event on the story are of average danger and the violence is always as in undertone. The only one who really seems to feel pain and joy and anger is Billy; all right, he is also a good player, he knows how to use that deer eyes he has to manipulate the men around him, but all in all he is the one who has the worst experience out of the story: Billy is Gareth's boy toy and for all the story he is used and mistreated. It's strange there are more than one sex scene in the story, but unfortunately they aren't "happy" sex scene; only in the end we read something happy. So it's only natural that I feel for Billy more than all the other, he is probably the truer character in the story; he manages to be strong and detached in the worst moment while at the same time maintain his impish image and the joy of life of a still young boy.

All in all the story is good, even if sometime I felt as the author let it go the tension: I never really felt as if my heroes were in real trouble, sometime I almost felt as if all was a big role game; as I said, the real bad moment were most targeted toward one person and in a one to one situation. But since I'm not for too much violence, I really didn't miss them, and on the contrary, I was glad to haven't to worry for all the novel.

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1935192396/?...>

Charly says

Interesting idea not carried out as well as it could have been

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

Rating: 5/10

PROS:

- I can easily see how the two leads would be attracted to each other, not just physically. Rick is the stoic protector and Billy is a beautiful, haunted victim, so they fit together naturally.
- Billy's tell-all scene describing the horrors of his past is worse than any I've read before. That scene did a lot toward making me forgive him for every indiscretion he wanted to commit to get back at any or all of his tormentors.
- There's not a lot of sex, for which I mentally applauded the author, because the characters are too busy staying alive to pull off too many sexual rendezvous. When they finally do go all the way, there's an unusual element to the encounter that I found very sweet.

CONS:

- The sex scenes between Billy and Gareth (two of which are described in a fair amount of detail) are unpleasant because they're essentially rape. Billy isn't EXACTLY forced against his will--he lets Gareth take him, but it's painful and Billy allows it only because the alternative is even worse.
- Rick and Billy don't use condoms, nor do they even discuss using them. I'll say that again just in case you missed it the first time: the two main characters, one of whom is a supposedly streetwise cop and the other of

whom is a rent boy/plaything for the villain and several of his goons (as well as a former hustler who has slept with easily 100 different men) DON'T EVEN CONSIDER USING CONDOMS. I mean, seriously--and I don't use this expression lightly--W...T...F?

- Characters are referred to often by descriptors--"the undercover cop," "the younger man," etc.--when their names would be more succinct and less confusing.

- The depth of Rick and Billy's feelings for each other is a little hard to believe. They haven't known each other for more than about 2 weeks or had more than a handful of conversations when Billy tells Rick, "My life is over anyway if you're not going to be in it." Then later, Rick's transition from stalwart, moralistic police officer to the-devil-take-it man-in-love-with-a-criminal is abrupt. As in, two pages. If that.

Overall comments: There's an interesting premise here, but the story is full of holes. It's not horrible; I'm not sorry I wasted those few hours of my life or anything. But there are other m/m action stories out there that are much better: for example, The Assignment by Evangeline Anderson or any of the PsyCop stories by Jordan Castillo Price.

Angela says

At first I didn't think that I would enjoy this story because of the violence of the sex scenes. I was surprised to realize that it added to Billy's personality. A few things were kinda left open to questions for me, though. Why was Rick being shady about Penny's kid's birthday; saying something about it was all her doing? Was he suppose to be the daddy? And "the secret" Rick was hiding from the police force? Was it that he was gay? And all those horrible nick-names for Billy. Ugh, I would have shot Carey for some of those!

Syfy says

Gotta qualify this one... k? The story got me. Gay Drug Lords, crazy violence, old grudges, suspense. Yay! MC Rick's holier-than-thou attitude really killed it for me. I'm sure it was supposed to make thing's interesting, bring in a bit of "moral compass", whatever. -2 stars all because of Rick.
;P

Feliz says

Openly gay police officer Rick Miles goes undercover with Drug Lord Gareth Carey, pretending to look for work as a bodyguard. Since Carey, being gay himself, only hires gay men to work for him, Rick stands at least a chance. His luck goes considerably up when Carey's catamite, Billy Red, speaks for him. Rick expected danger, and caution, and hiding. What he didn't expect was falling for lascivious, sexy, former whore Billy.

I've got mixed feelings about this story. It's not bad; actually it's rather 3,5 Stars than 3. The romance is sweet, so sweet in times it hurt my teeth but at least it's spiced up by the suspense elements, including bloodshed and bombings and gory details. So not ONLY sweet. Well done was also the description of the

humiliation and rape Billy experienced at the hands of Carey. But I couldn't bring myself to care for him, or either of the protags, let alone for the story.

I had a major problem with the credibility right from the start: two mere officers starting an undercover action without official sanction, without at least a detective or supervisor of some kind, is right away impossible.

Gracie, Rick's partner, is a latina, but does she have to litter down her sentences with Spanish expressions (and badly fitting ones at that)? It wasn't adding character, but plainly annoying, although she was otherwise a likeable character. Rick was quite likeable, too, albeit a bit colorless and predictable.

What bothered me most was Billy. He's a poster boy chick with a dick. Had the author changed the "he" for "she" and the description of male parts for their female counterparts, the entire story could have passed as het romance without any other major changes.

The story in itself is done technically nice, although off the mill.

I don't regret to have bought it, but I won't bother to read it again.

Might be of interest for someone who loves their lightly entertaining, slightly tacky, unrealistic, sweet romance.

CB says

I've been putting off reading this for a while and decided to just go ahead - not sure why it didn't appeal as much to start reading as it did to buy... However, it was a very entertaining read. Definitely going on my "to be read again" shelf. Not the typical innocent boy/knight in shining armor story but they are still the heroes!
