

STEVEN SALVATORE

SHORT BIO

Steven Salvatore is a critically acclaimed author, gay chaos agent, writing professor, book coach. Steven's novels include the young adult titles *AND THEY LIVED...*, *CAN'T TAKE THAT AWAY*, *NO PERFECT PLACES: A Novel*, and the forthcoming *WHEN LOVE GIVES YOU LEMONS* (out May 13, 2025), as well as the adult romance, *THE BOYFRIEND SUBSCRIPTION*.

LONG[ER] BIO

Steven Salvatore is a gay chaos agent whose obsessions include *Star Wars*, Mariah Carey, his loud Italian family, boating in the Adirondacks, exploring Italy, and having and then dissecting his existential crises (not in that order). For twelve years, he was a studied, accomplished writing professor having held many positions within higher education spheres; he now works as an academic advisor at Manhattanville University, where he also teaches. He has an MFA in Creative Writing from The New School and is a book coach and founder of Queerative Writers, a full-service creative hub for LGBTQ+ aspiring writers. A lifelong New Yorker, he now lives in New Jersey with his amazing fiancé Chris.

Steven's novels include young adult titles *AND THEY LIVED...*, *CAN'T TAKE THAT AWAY*, *NO PERFECT PLACES: A Novel*, and the forthcoming *WHEN LOVE GIVES YOU LEMONS* (out May 13, 2025), as well as the adult romance, *THE BOYFRIEND SUBSCRIPTION*.

Steven is represented by Jess Regel at Helm Literary.

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"My heart didn't stand a chance—I loved it from *once upon a time*
all the way to its joyfully complex *ever after*."

—*New York Times* bestselling author Becky Albertalli

An illustration of two young men in a romantic embrace. The man on the left has short, dark hair and is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt. The man on the right has longer, wavy hair and is wearing a red long-sleeved shirt. They are shown in profile, kissing. The background is a dark blue night sky filled with white stars of varying sizes. The overall style is soft and painterly.

And They Lived...

STEVEN SALVATORE

BLOOMSBURY

AND THEY LIVED... by Steven Salvatore

From the author of *Can't Take That Away* comes a sex-positive, fairytale-inspired YA novel that celebrates first love and self-acceptance, perfect for fans of *What If It's Us*.

Chase Arthur is a budding animator and hopeless romantic obsessed with Disney films and finding his true love, but he's plagued with the belief that he's not enough for anyone: he's recovering from an eating disorder and suffers from body dysmorphia fueled by his father, and can't quite figure out his gender identity. When Chase starts his freshman year of college, he has to navigate being away from home and missing his sister, finding his squad, and contending with his ex-best friend Leila who is gunning for the same exclusive mentorship. If only he can pull together a short for the freshman animation showcase at the end of the semester.

Then Chase meets Jack Reid, a pragmatic poet who worships words and longs to experience life outside of his sheltered world. But Chase throws everything into question for Jack, who is still discovering his sexual identity, having grown up in close-knit conservative family. Jack internalized a lot of homophobia from his parents and childhood best friend, who unexpectedly visit campus, which threatens to destroy their relationship. Chase will have to learn to love—and be enough for—himself, while discovering what it means to truly live.

"Steven Salvatore writes complicated love stories with such sincerity, thoughtfulness, and emotional resonance. My heart didn't stand a chance-I loved it from once upon a time all the way to its joyfully complex ever after."

—Becky Albertalli, New York Times bestselling author of Simon Vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda

Buy Links: https://linktr.ee/Steven_Salvatore

ISBNs:

9781547608195 (Hardcover -Bloomsbury YA)

9781547608201 (eBook -Bloomsbury YA)

Audiobook Narrated by Kirt Graves

Cover Artist: Andi Poretta

Praise for AND THEY LIVED...:

★ “Salvatore has done a superb job of dealing with a dramatic complexity of issues while creating equally complex, highly empathic characters. Readers will urgently root for a happily ever after.” – Booklist, *Starred Review*

★ “Taking on coming out, the challenges of art-making, the importance of mentors who get where one is coming from, and the joys and terrors of romance, Salvatore sweeps readers off their feet.” – Publishers Weekly, *Starred Review*

★ “From Salvatore's warm dedication onward, Kirt Graves ignites the pages with kaleidoscope talent and charm [...] VERDICT: Salvatore knows how to tell an empowering story. Graves embellishes with indispensable sparkle.” – School Library Journal, *Starred Review*

“Reading *And They Lived* was like a jolt of lightning to my soul. The characters are so bright, the emotion is so vibrant, and the love is exquisitely electric. Chase's story is a reminder to all of us that we're deserving of love from ourselves and others, and-even through the hardships-to enjoy the journey and live.” – Jason June, New York Times Bestselling author of *Out of the Blue*

“Sincerely funny and heart-achingly real. . . .Salvatore delivers the memorable queer fairy tale readers are craving!” – Julian Winters, award-winning author of *Running With Lions*

“Captures all the best and most terrifying parts of loving both yourself and others, masterfully balancing a dreamy romance with the raw honesty it takes to sustain it. This book is a true delight.” – Dahlia Adler, author of *Cool For The Summer*

“I devoured this novel. . . . Compulsively readable, unapologetically human, and refreshingly original, this is a modern gay fairy tale that will turn even the most jaded reader into a hopeless romantic.” – Nicolas DiDomizio, author of *Burn It All Down*

“[Chase's] growth, supported by queer mentors and friends, provides affirming representation of questioning and nonlinear healing . . . A dramatic and refreshing storm of emotion.” – Kirkus Reviews

“An exploration of first love, being on your own for the first time and how to practice self-acceptance, *And They Lived* is an empowering reminder that we all deserve to live happily ever after – even if the reality looks different from what we've imagined it to be.” – *The Nerd Daily*

“A sex-positive, LGBTQIA+ romp through an artist's freshman year of college, with quick, witty dialogue and sure pacing that makes it a perfect crossover title for older teens and college students in the vein of Rainbow Rowell's *Fangirl* and Margot Wood's *Fresh*.” – School Library Journal



When Love Gives You Lemons

STEVEN SALVATORE

Author of *And They Lived . . .*

BLOOMSBURY

WHEN LOVE GIVES YOU LEMONS by Steven Salvatore

In this exuberant and gorgeous YA romance from the critically acclaimed author of *And They Lived...*, a budding social media influencer sets out to win back his first love at a family wedding in an Italian lemon grove.

Ever since he was a kid, Fielder Lemon's large, opinionated Italian-American family has lived next to Ricky DeLuca and his large, opinionated Italian-American family. For almost as long, Fielder has known that he wants to marry Ricky one day. And he thought Ricky felt the same way – until Ricky breaks up with Fielder the day after his high school graduation, saying he needs to figure out who he is on his own.

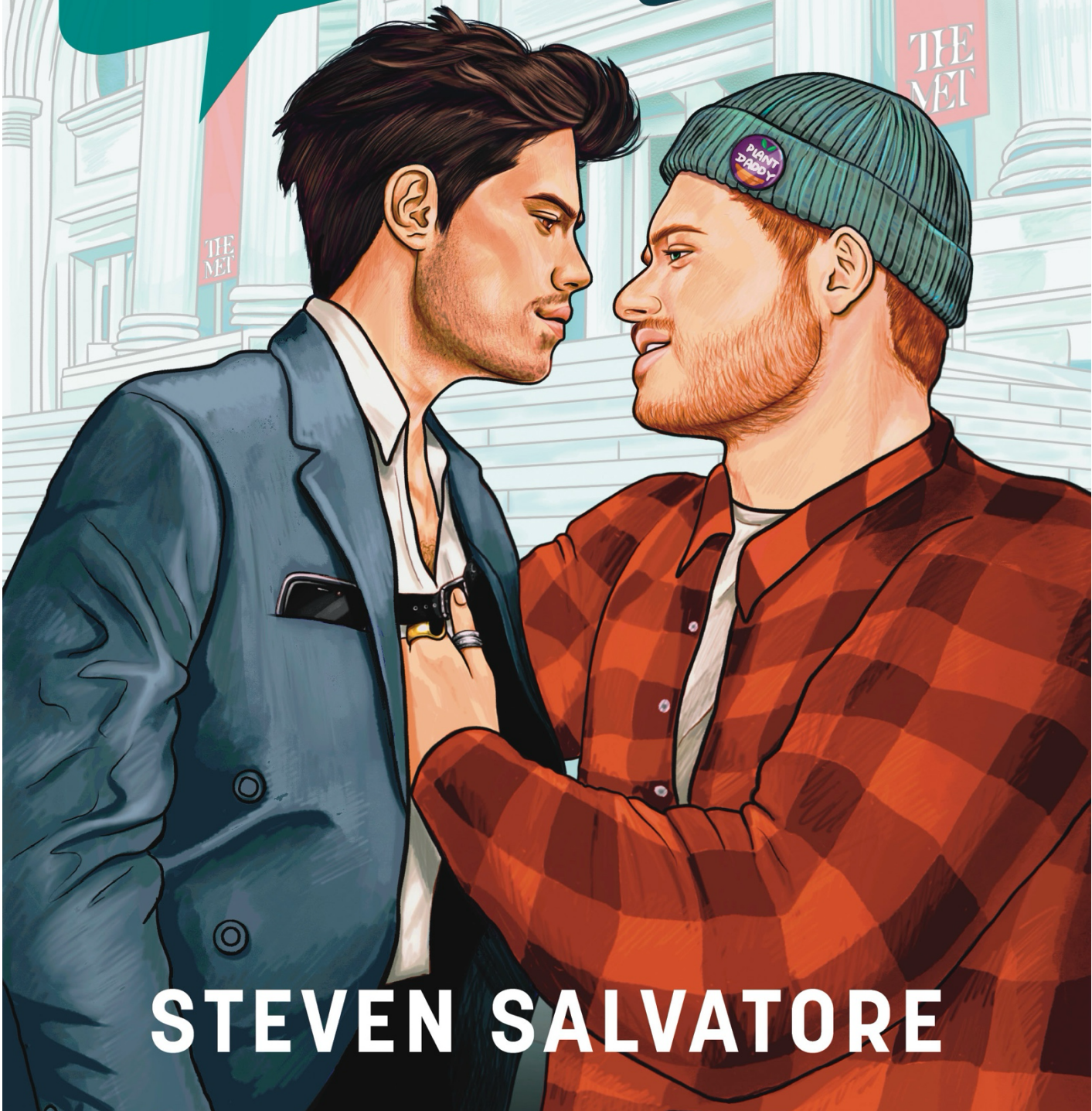
One year later, Fielder is asked to be one of the best men in his cousin's destination wedding on the Amalfi Coast in Italy, but there's a twist: his cousin is marrying Ricky's sister. Fielder hasn't talked to or seen Ricky once during the last entire, terrible year, but he hasn't given up on his first love quite yet – and isn't a wedding in an Italian lemon grove the perfect setting to rekindle their relationship? Except Ricky might have already moved on.

Now, Fielder has less than a week to do the impossible and win back Ricky's heart while also trying not to ruin his cousin's wedding. But if there's one thing Fielder knows, it's that *when life gives you lemons, take a bite!*

THE

BOYFRIEND SUBSCRIPTION

A HARLEQUIN NOVEL



STEVEN SALVATORE

THE BOYFRIEND SUBSCRIPTION by Steven Salvatore

Equal parts sizzling, sweet and irresistibly fresh, Steven Salvatore's *The Boyfriend Subscription* is the LGBTQIA+ *Pretty Woman* rom-com fans have been waiting for.

What happens when a simple deal gets...complicated?

After losing his marriage and his beloved retail plant business, Teddy Hughes is ready to drown his sorrows – or would be, if he could afford another beer in his favorite dive bar. He has no choice but to uproot his dreams and leave New York for good. And then a gorgeous stranger walks in with cheekbones that could cut glass and a confidence that leaves Teddy panting.

Like the leather harness he wears under his designer suit, Cole Vivien is a mass of contradictions. He's a successful entrepreneur whose app, VERSTL, allows consumers and sex workers to form real – if temporary – connections. But now Cole is in the unfamiliar position of needing something from someone else. A fake boyfriend can help Cole project a more traditional image for a potential investor. And Teddy – shy, smart and so much hotter than he knows – is perfect for the part. Maybe too perfect.

Cole just has two conditions: no kissing and no falling in love. In exchange for one week together, Teddy will get enough money to get back on his feet, and no messy feelings will be in the mix.

But some rules are made to be broken...

Buy Links: <https://tr.ee/OFy4BTda51>

ISBN: 9781335041593 (paperback - Afterglow Books/Harlequin)

Audiobook Narrated by Kirt Graves and Ellis Evans

Cover Artist: Michele Kwon

PRAISE *for...*

"The Boyfriend Subscription is an unabashed celebration of queer culture, sex positivity, and the healing power of love. I'll never forget Teddy's and Cole's journey to their well-earned happily ever after. Steven Salvatore crafts romance that leaves readers aching, cheering, and breathless."

—Courtney Kae, author of *IN THE EVENT OF LOVE* and *IN THE CASE OF HEARTBREAK*

"Filled with humor and emotional depth, *The Boyfriend Subscription* is buzzing with current day topics that make these complex characters feel so alive and unforgettable. Salvatore's clever, modern twist on a classic rom-com delivers a highly entertaining story you'll want to experience."

—Sidney Karger, author of *BEST MEN* and *THE BUMP*

"Steven Salvatore makes a splash in the adult romance genre, ready to delight a whole new audience. With a refreshing, authentic voice, *The Boyfriend Subscription* does not disappoint and this *Pretty Woman* retelling cranks the heat to eleven. Seriously, bring your fan and a glass of cool water. Do yourself a favor and sign up for *The (sexy, romantic) Boyfriend Subscription*."

— M.A. Wardell, author of *TEACHER OF THE YEAR* and *MISTLETOE AND MISHIGAS*

"This is the gay *Pretty Woman* retelling that we did not know we needed! [...] I thoroughly enjoyed seeing the Plant Daddy and Cole, two lonely souls, get their happy ever after in one another!"

—Nicole McLaughlin, author of *START ME UP* and the *WHISKEY AND WEDDINGS* series

"Salvatore delivers all the feels with this charming queer revamp of *Pretty Woman*. Readers will be anxiously rooting for these guys to stop lying to themselves and others, and couple up for real. For fans of fake-dating romances, this will be a treat."

—Publishers Weekly Review

"With a nod towards *Pretty Woman*, YA author Salvatore brings both the heat and the sweet in his first adult romance, a fun fake-dating love story that delivers plenty of sensually descriptive, red-hot love scenes as well as moments of great emotional tenderness."

—Booklist Review

"VERDICT This will draw readers in with its *Pretty Woman* vibes and queer love story."

—Library Journal Review

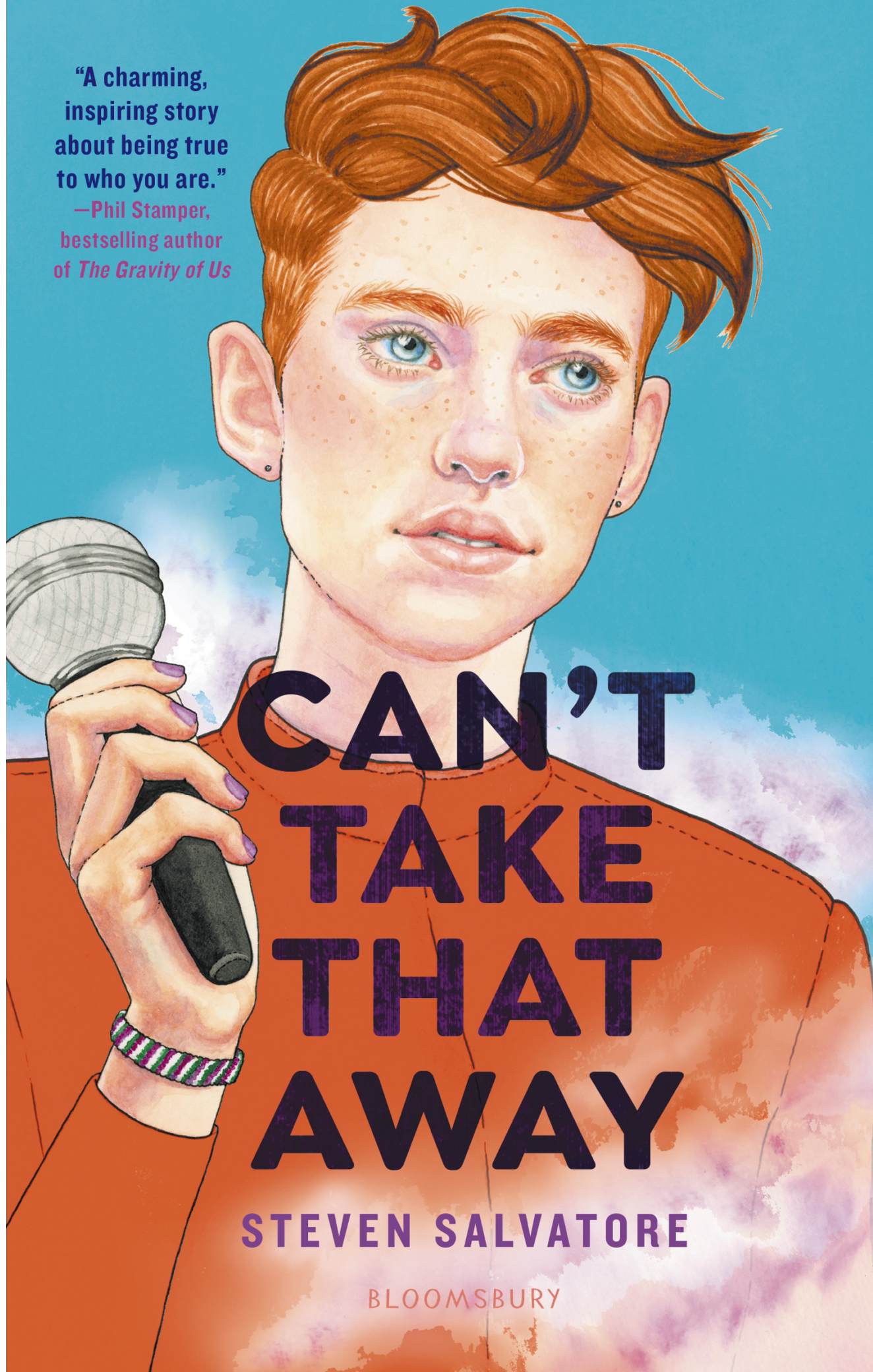
READERS AGREE

THE BOYFRIEND SUBSCRIPTION is "a must-read queer romance with lots of queer representation, sex-work and body positivity." It has "hilarious banter" and "an amazing cast of characters" you'll be "rooting hard for"! It's "ranked 6+ out of 5 on the chili" but also "sweet," "cute," "charming," and "addictive!"



**"A charming,
inspiring story
about being true
to who you are."**

**—Phil Stamper,
bestselling author
of *The Gravity of Us***



CAN'T TAKE THAT AWAY

STEVEN SALVATORE

BLOOMSBURY

CAN'T TAKE THAT AWAY by Steven Salvatore

An empowering and emotional debut about a genderqueer teen who finds the courage to stand up and speak out for equality when they are discriminated against by their high school administration.

Carey Parker dreams of being a diva, and bringing the house down with song. They can hit every note of all the top pop and Broadway hits. But despite their talent, emotional scars from an incident with a homophobic classmate and their grandmother's spiraling dementia make it harder and harder for Carey to find their voice.

Then Carey meets Cris, a singer/guitarist who makes Carey feel seen for the first time in their life. With the rush of a promising new romantic relationship, Carey finds the confidence to audition for the role of Elphaba, the Wicked Witch of the West, in the school musical, setting off a chain reaction of prejudice by Carey's tormentor and others in the school. It's up to Carey, Cris, and their friends to defend their rights--and they refuse to be silenced.

Told in alternating chapters with identifying pronouns, debut author Steven Salvatore's *Can't Take That Away* conducts a powerful, uplifting anthem, a swoony romance, and an affirmation of self-identity that will ignite the activist in all of us.

Buy Links: https://linktr.ee/Steven_Salvatore

ISBNs:

9781547605309 (Hardcover -Bloomsbury YA)

9781547605316 (eBook -Bloomsbury YA)

Cover Artist: [Hilde Atalanta](#)

Praise for CAN'T TAKE THAT AWAY:

★ “This charming, joyful story-about self-love, fighting for what's right, and the love to be found in chosen family-will make you want to put on a pair of red heels and blast Mariah Carey.” – *Booklist, Starred Review*

“A defiant love letter to queer youth; honest, brutal, and more important than ever.” – *Kirkus Reviews*

“This page turner is a perfect pick for music lovers, budding activists, and kids questioning their own gender identities.” – *BCCB*

“A fresh voice + a genderqueer teen + one Wicked musical + fighting against the establishment + first love = A page-turning YA debut. Recommended for all YA collections.” – *School Library Journal*

“Filled with big emotions. . . as empowering as it is entertaining, Salvatore's debut novel hits all the right notes.” – *BookPage*

“Carey's journey is refreshingly optimistic. . . . Salvatore tackles hard topics such as anti-LGBTQ bullying, suicidal ideation, and grief, but also emphasizes the joy found in community and living one's truth.” – *Publishers Weekly*

Can't Take That Away is a charming, inspiring story about being true to who you are, regardless of what others see. A perfect balance of queer joy and resistance, this power ballad of a story will leave you changed . . . for good.” – *Phil Stamper, bestselling author of THE GRAVITY OF US*

“*Can't Take That Away* is an honest, joyful, sparkling story of love, friendship, and the unique pride that comes with being yourself in the face of adversity. Carey deserves a standing ovation!” – *Jessica Verdi, author of FOLLOW YOUR ARROW and AND SHE WAS*

NO PERFECT PLACES

Where can you go
when you've
lost everything?

A NOVEL

STEVEN SALVATORE

BLOOMSBURY

NO PERFECT PLACES: A Novel by Steven Salvatore

From lauded author Steven Salvatore comes a moving YA novel about twins whose incarcerated father dies and leaves behind a life-changing secret, perfect for fans of *I'll Give You the Sun* and *Euphoria*.

When their father went to prison last year for embezzlement, twins Alex and Olly Brucke lost everything: their house, their college funds, most of their friends, and even their mother, who's so focused on making ends meet that she's never around anymore. The only thing they can count on lately is each other.

But after their father dies unexpectedly in prison, the twins start to fracture. Alex is spiraling, skipping classes to spend all of her time drunk or high. And Olly is struggling with a secret his dad ordered him to keep: they have a secret half-brother named Tyler.

When Tyler shows up in their lakeside town for the summer, hoping to get to know his siblings, Olly hides the truth from Alex. But as Alex and Tyler start to form a friendship, the lies become harder to juggle. If they can't confront their father's past and fix their relationship, Olly and Alex each risk losing *two* siblings forever.

No Perfect Places is a thought-provoking novel about grief, family secrets, and figuring out how to belong against the odds.

Buy Links: Available at https://linktr.ee/Steven_Salvatore

ISBNs:

9781547611072 (Hardcover -Bloomsbury YA)

9781547608201 (eBook -Bloomsbury YA)

Audiobook Narrated by Kirt Graves and Rachel Jacobs

Cover Artist: David Curtis

Praise for *NO PERFECT PLACES: A Novel*

"Steven Salvatore's *NO PERFECT PLACES* asks complex questions about family, grief, and identity. Intimate, vibrant, and emotional, this story is proof that we are more than the decisions of our parents, and more than the places we're from. A thoughtful exploration of spinning pain into something positive, confronting the darkness that exists within us, and making peace with the past as we forge our own future." – Daniel Aleman, author of *Indivisible* and *Bigger Than the Sun*

"With *NO PERFECT PLACES*, Steven Salvatore has gifted us a unique and deeply personal book that beautifully explores the different forms grief can take, the subtle ways secrets can pull us apart, and the unexpected joys that await us when we embrace imperfection." – Abdi Nazemian, author of Stonewall Honor book *Like a Love Story* and Lambda Literary Award winner *Only This Beautiful Moment*

"This intense, dramatic novel that explores complicated relationships, coping with adversity, and the fallout of keeping secrets will appeal to readers who enjoy character-driven stories. An emotional story of familial ties." – Kirkus Review

"Via immersive prose [...] Alex and Olly's distinct alternating perspectives add depth and intimacy, cultivating a kaleidoscopic narrative that shines brightest when focused on the twins' complex – and clearly loving – relationship." – Publishers Weekly Review

"Salvatore's contemporary YA deals sensitively with heavy themes of grief, Booklist addiction, and mental health. This book Leading book discovery will appeal to lovers of realistic contemporary fiction and will connect with any reader who has lost someone." – Booklist Review

"Twins Olly and Alex both know their family was never perfect, but it certainly fell apart when their father was incarcerated-- and they were smashed to smithereens when he died in prison. One year later, they come face-to-face with their half-brother Tyler... but only Olly knows the truth about their relation, leaving Alex in the dark in more ways than one. *No Perfect Places* explores the many messy stages and sometimes even dark cycles of grief that come with both the incarceration and death of a parent, even with support from friends and family. None of these characters are anywhere close to perfect, and that's precisely what makes this novel so emotionally wrenching. Salvatore has done a phenomenal job exhibiting complicated relationships and multidimensional characters that propel this much-needed narrative." –Andrew King, Secret Garden Bookstore

"*NO PERFECT PLACES* takes us on a wrenching emotional journey through grief, rage, betrayal, and the possibilities of healing, forgiveness, and redemption. A richly layered meditation on navigating the complexities of family, love, and resilience, this is Salvatore's most personal and profound novel yet." –Alyssa Raymond, Copper Dog Books

“After *And They Lived . . .* I knew I was going to read anything Salvatore wrote, and *No Perfect Places* did not steer me wrong. I love a flawed character and Steven went and gave me a whole book full of them. Filled with raw emotion, a whole lot of denial and even more avoidance techniques, my heart broke for this family just trying to grieve and process everything that came their way. One of my favorite aspects of YA is reading about younger characters figuring out who they are and how they fit into the lives they live and this story did such a heartbreakingly excellent job of showcasing that. While I may not be able to relate to a lot of what the Brucke twins went through, feeling so alone and like no one could ever possibly understand the amount of grief you're feeling? That was something I understood immediately. To me, *No Perfect Places* is a story of accepting that we are not our parents. That even if they do horrible things, ruin us to what feels like we're beyond repair, we can heal from it and don't have to be them. We can be take the time to be messy and find out who we want to be. It's a story of family, self, and grief. I loved it.” -Miracle Chein, Ballast Book Company