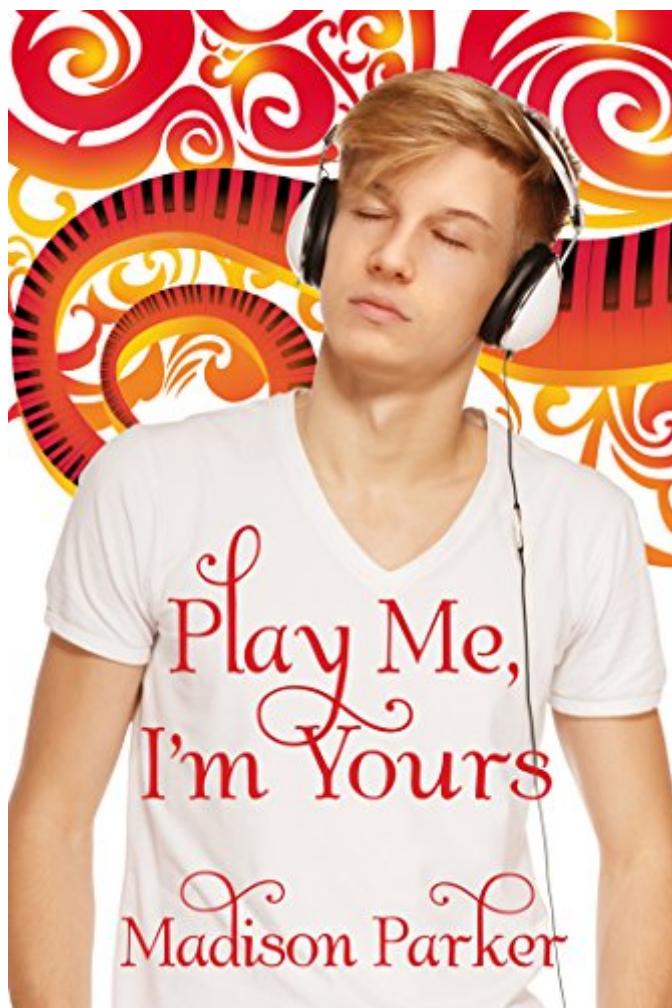


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# Play Me, I'm Yours (Play Me, I'm Yours And Kid Confusion)



## **Synopsis**

Fairy Tate. Twinklefingers. Lucy Lu. Will the taunting ever end? Lucas Tate suffers ridicule because of his appearance and sensitive nature. When he's not teased, he's ignored, and now he doesn't know which is worse. His one comfort in life is his music; he feels unloved by everyone. What he wants more than anything is to find a friend. Much to his dismay, both his mom and a schoolmate are determined to find him a boyfriend, despite the fact Lucas hasn't come out to them. His mom chooses a football player who redefines the term "heartthrob" • while Trish pushes him toward the only openly gay boy at Providence High. But Lucas is harboring a crush on another boy, one who writes such romantic poetry to his girlfriend that hearing it melts Lucas into a puddle of goo. All three prospects seem so far out of his league. Lucas is sure he doesn't stand a chance with any of them "until sharing his gift for music brings him the courage to let people into his heart. Winner in the 2013 Rainbow Awards. Tenth: Best LGBT Young Adult

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Madison Parker's "Play Me, I'm Yours" tells the story of shy and sensitive Lucas Tate, who is bullied

at school for his love of piano (and Cyndi Lauper) and his feminine nature. While dealing with the pressures of being a gay teenager, he also deals with an agitated younger brother, a seemingly passively disappointed dad, and a mom who encourages him to work hard at fitting in. Parker does a great job of voicing Lucas's worries about his place in high school, the longing desire to find another gay guy to fall in love with, and the insecurities that come with being a teenager. An extremely relatable and fleshed-out character, Lucas stands as a strong protagonist that the reader can't help but root for. His "inner circle" consists of Trish, a theatrical girl who quickly becomes Lucas's biggest supporter, and Donovan, an overtly sexual out gay boy who introduces Lucas to a world of "firsts," Alex, a jock who befriends Lucas when he needs it, and Zach, the sweet boy who writes poetry so beautiful that it goes straight to Lucas's heart. This cast of "supporting characters" also makes the story interesting, and every now and then, Parker dabbles into their perspectives so we get a little more insight into their characters. I would have loved to have a friend like Alex when I was in high school--he and Trish are a great support system for Lucas, and that's something that he definitely needs. Mason and Donovan have their jerky moments, but their not unbelievable in their characterizations. Mason, in particular, gives Lucas a hard time for the majority of the novel, but the reader can feel what he's going through and know where he's coming from. The story does have its sexual scenes, and Parker does not hold back, but they are key to understanding Lucas's character. It's an added bonus that these scenes are pretty hot, and you feel like you're right there with Lucas, experiencing the pleasure, the nerves and the awkwardness. Once again, the thoughts of a teenager are highlighted perfectly. Through Lucas's disappointments and insecurities comes a story of a teenager looking for love, and going along on the journey with him is what makes this novel a must-read for fans of this genre. It gives a good message to stay true to who you are because although there will be tons of people who might reject you, there will always be people who love you. And watching Lucas find those people, and in himself, makes this a wonderful read.

I went into this book not knowing how I would like it. The premise was appealing but I wasn't sure if the writing style would be my cup of tea; despite it sounding okay as I skimmed the sample, I was afraid it would turn out sounding juvenile. Thankfully that was not the case! In fact, I was pleased to find the author's style to be entertaining and highly engaging. I read half the book in one night, only reluctantly putting it down because I had to wake early the next day. I found all of the main characters to be believable and likeable: Lucas' biggest fan and cheerleader, Trish; the witty, outspoken, sassy Donovan; the sweet, supportive Alex; the quiet, mysterious Zach; little brother Mason, struggling to deal with his brother's flamboyance and coming out but discreetly protective;

and of course, the main star Lucas. I found it so easy to sympathize with him, to cringe and sigh at his awkward moments, to feel butterflies soaring at his sweet and tender moments, and to feel jubilant at his triumphant moments. I found most of the situations to be believable and moved the story along nicely, although the parents' behavior sometimes felt a little ordinary. Although I'm a good guesser at what will happen, I like how it wasn't explicitly clear who, if anyone, Lucas would end up with. There are a few sex scenes to fulfill your steaminess craving (don't worry--the boys are of age!), but they do not outweigh nor do they detract from the wonderful plot. Bottom line, I definitely recommend this book. It's a sweet, light read that grips you from page one and keeps you reading to the end. I am eagerly awaiting more from this author, and I would love to see a book about Donovan, though I'm not sure how likely that is. If you're looking for your next book to read and/or want an m/m romance set amongst school boys, this is a perfect choice!

Lucas is sensitive, with great piano playing skills, and he just wants to be loved but doesn't believe he's worth it. This story is engaging and moves at a good pace that both explores the relationships of the characters and builds a world that is interesting to be in for a while. What works is the caring we feel for Lucas and his family. I want him to win and find love. I think what didn't work so well was his sensitivity level staying at a ten all the time, and he can barely make it through a scene without crying. Although this becomes a joke to the characters at times, describing red, swollen, burning, blinking eyes of tears gets repetitive. Although, some people just don't change that much in a few months. There were many stereotypes here, from Donovan's character, to the hag character Trish--where was she for the last three years of HS?--but there were great surprises there as well. Lucas' brother Mason grows an incredible amount as well, and their scenes together are almost worth the read. The intimacy scenes were well done. Maybe the best scene was at lunch when the swim team shows their true colors when someone tries to bully one of their own. And of course, the father's character may have changed the most here. Sometimes a story has things that can be seen as flaws but is so fun it becomes a compulsive read that you can't put it down. This is one of them.

I just re-read this book. I first read it in 2013 but did not review it at that time. I don't think I realized, then, how important reviews can be for an author. I had just stuck my toe into the YA m/m waters and didn't have that much to compare this book too at the time. Now that I've read over 450 books in the m/m genre, I realize what a rare treasure this one is. Not all authors can capture the sensitive time of high school, coming of age, finding a boyfriend, coming into one's own and coming out to family and classmates as well as Ms. Parker has in this terrific little read. This one has stuck with

me and re-reading it was a treat. I also re-read the author's only other publication on yesterday. If you love this one, you'll also love "Sock It To Me, Santa!

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