

Foreword Review ROMANCE

The Last Place You Look

Aurora Rev

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Two small-town lesbians embark on an old-fashioned courtship in Aurora Rey's heartwarming romance, *The Last Place You Look*.

After her marriage implodes, Julia moves back to her hometown and goes to work in her parents' winery, convinced that she has made a complete mess of her life. But then she reconnects with Taylor, a local carpenter who has had a crush on Julia since high school, and rediscovers her love for photography. Just as the pieces of Julia's life begin to slot into place, a life-changing career opportunity threatens to upend her world once again.

Julia and Taylor are opposites in almost every respect: where Julia is feminine and unsure of herself, Taylor is independent and butch. Taylor has her life fixed almost exactly how she wants it, while Julia feels like she has accomplished nothing. These contrasts play off of each other as the two go from acquaintances to friends to cherished lovers.

Julia's early dating misadventures are funny and highlight how well Julia and Taylor fit together. Their relationship develops naturally through flirtatious encounters and honest discussions. Steamy, kinky sex scenes, including a romantic encounter under the stars, reinforce their bond.

Challenges arise in the form of Julia's insecurity and Taylor's reluctance to take chances. Julia and Taylor confront their fears with the help of their nosy but caring families in order to grow emotionally, professionally, and romantically and achieve the future they both dream of. A tense encounter with Julia's ex puts their relationship to the ultimate test, the resolution of which is a well-earned happily-ever-after ending to this sex-positive, body-positive love story.

With its warm atmosphere and sweet characters, *The Last Place You Look* is a fluffy LGBTQ+ romance about finding a second chance at love where you least expect it.

EILEEN GONZALEZ (May / June 2020)

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