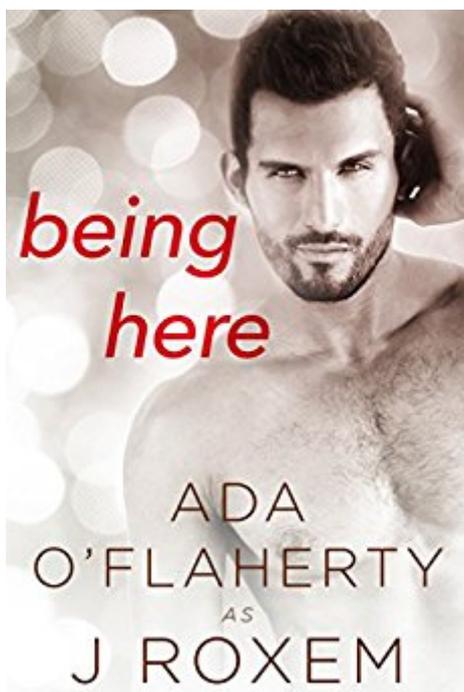


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# BEING HERE : An M/M Novel



## Synopsis

World-travelled chef Alfonso Vanucci must face the life he ran away from ten years ago. Called back to the family restaurant "Vanucci's" sabotage and betrayal welcome the handsome and charming Alfonso home. Companionship wasn't part of the plan, and love was an impossibility. But, Alfonso's heart is smarter than his head when it comes to what he needs in life, and what he needs is Michael. Now, his greatest challenge is that of new love | one that demands he come out to his family. At only eighteen years old with a mom barely older than him, Michael Chellum knows a runner when he sees one. He's lived with one all his life "and Alfonso Vanucci is a runner. Giving Alfonso his heart is a heartbreak waiting to happen. But, Michael's mother is missing, and Michael's on his own. He must learn to let others in and trust them with his vulnerabilities | or risk becoming an island of one, alone in the world without anyone to catch him if he falls. Alfonso never meant to fall in love with Michael, and Michael never meant to let himself rely on Alfonso. But, together, through reinvention, hard work, and love, Alfonso and Michael fight to save Vanucci's and each other. To fail would mean losing everything |. This is a 67,000 word, M/M novel with a happily ever after. It includes genuine romance and explicit sex between two men.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Alfonso has traveled the world and experienced a lot of life. Problem is, he traveled as a means to escape a lover who broke his heart and not out of his desire to live life on his own terms. (That tells you a bit about him.) When his parents decide they want an extended 'round the world' trip, Alfonso returns home to run their restaurant. Unfortunately, due to no fault of his own, Alfonso is soon left high and dry with no kitchen or wait staff. How can anyone run a restaurant like that? I honestly felt like this could have been where Alfonso folded and just gave up. His situation looked DISMAL. However! He meets a younger man named Michael who encourages Alfonso to think outside the box and never give up. Together they turn good ideas into action and make Vanucci's (the restaurant) a happening, thriving place again. (This also tells you more about Alfonso's personality.) Michael has problems of his own that he is dealing with but he is an incredibly self-sufficient, mature guy. I really liked Michael. He's tough and very alpha. He made me wish that Alfonso had been stronger for him. Eventually, Alfonso finds his backbone, but it's really just in the nick of time. Books should educate people as well as entertain. Even a romance can educate someone but not if the language is incorrect. This book has a few cases of that. I can overlook it in the name of a sweet love story, but I'd really love it if the author (or editors) would get it right. Example: public hair (okay, that's a typo, obviously); ran an impressively tight shift (should be a tight SHIP); a faint siren sounded (FAINT, as in barely perceptible, not faint which is a pretended boxing blow. I've read another book by this author (What Happened Then) and I remember it as a gripping, surprising, sexy story. When I saw this one by the same authors, I had to read it and I'm glad I did. I'll be watching for more from this author.

I enjoyed Alfonso and Michael's story so much, the chemistry between these characters ignites during their first encounter and doesn't let up regardless of how much they struggle against it. And they certainly do struggle with the overwhelming attraction they have for each other, with the battle against their personal demons as frustrating for me as the very real threats to their physical well-being. I was a little thrown off by Alfonso's reluctance to admit to his relationship with Michael, his family seemed loving and supportive enough that I wasn't quite sure what kind of dire consequences he was afraid of. The connection between Michael and Alfonso is intense, and they are such great complements to each other as they gradually allow themselves to expose their vulnerabilities. As much as I adored our main characters, I think I also embraced my disdain for Chuck just as enthusiastically, he's such an overt sludge that I couldn't wait to see if he got what was coming to him. This book kept me engaged throughout with its quick pace and

entertaining banter, I'm looking forward to more from this author. Please note that I received a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

I really enjoyed this book. Michael was so mature and amazing it's hard to believe he was only 18, I absolutely loved him. With everything going on in his life he could have just given up but he faced the world anew each day and strived for what he wanted. I loved how even though it seemed his life was falling apart he was there for Alfonso, supporting and helping him. I liked Alfonso also I just wished he had a little more backbone. He let what his high school love did to him dictate his life and nearly lost an amazing man because of it. Sara was hilarious, her matchmaking was over the top. And Chuck I really hated him and I don't use that word often but he was a horrible excuse for a human being. All in all this book had action, drama, suspense and lots of hot sex and I loved it. I received this book in exchange for an honest review.

This is the first book I've read by Ada O'Flaherty or J. Roxem and it kept me entertained. The story was a good one but it did seem to drag a bit at points. There was just a bit too much back and forth from Alfonso and how he wanted to keep hiding in the closet. I think Alfonso was old enough that he shouldn't have been so opposed to admitting who he was to his family. Even though he is nearly ten years younger than Alfonso, Michael seemed to be the more mature of the two men. I thought the writing was pretty good and I'm not at all sorry that I read it. I hope that I didn't read the final copy, though, as there were editing errors that shouldn't have been there (not just minor typos). The story was engaging enough that I wanted to find out how it all ended. The secondary characters in the book contributed well to the story even if one of them was one was hateful. I would definitely read more books from this author. I received a free copy of this book from the author in exchange for my honest review.

I received this book free for an honest review. This book is by a new to me author but I will be looking for more by this person as I thoroughly enjoyed this story. Alfonso is warm, caring, talented and totally a loveable character. Well until he can't own up to truly being who he is to his family. Michael is a strong young man who has had to grow up early and you easily forget he is only supposed to be eighteen. He has been open about who he is and who he loves so struggles with the relationship. The team work shown between them in getting the restaurant back on its feet is brilliant the ideas and input from Michael are again beyond his years. The side story of sabotage was good but I wanted to slap Alfonso at the end. The extra mystery of Michael's mum was also well written

but I didn't like how the police ignored Michael's concern for so long. I loved the airport scene it was just the correct amount of grand gesture needed in that situation. A really well written novel with a good style of writing.

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