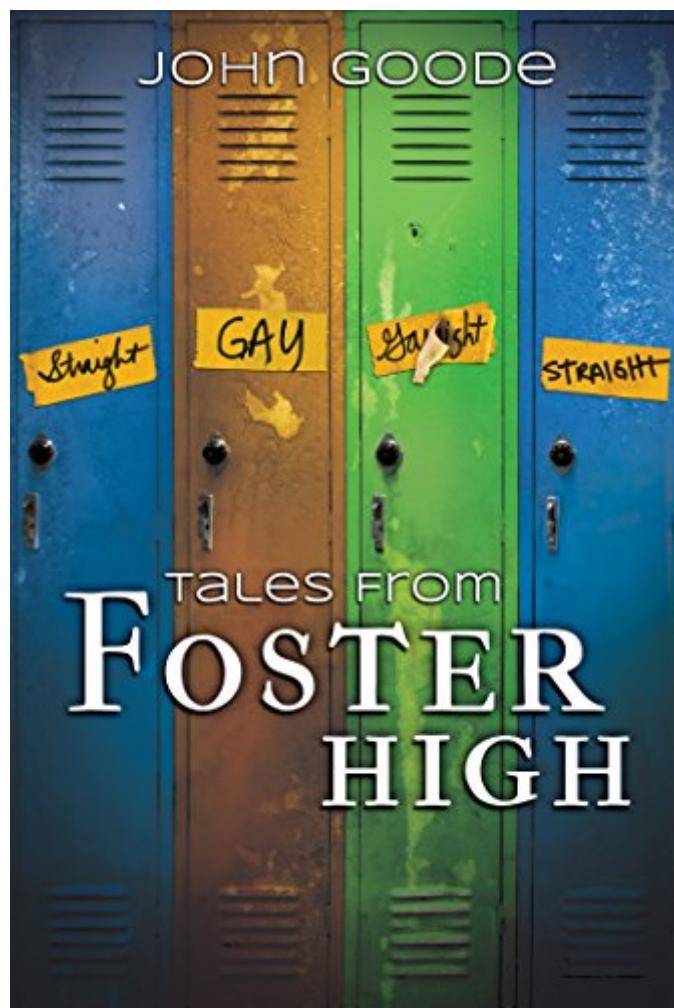


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# Tales From Foster High (Tales From Foster High (Harmony Ink) Book 1)



## **Synopsis**

Tales from Foster High: Book OneKyle Stilleno is the invisible student, toiling through high school in the middle of Nowhere, Texas. Brad Greymark is the baseball star of Foster High. When they bond over their mutual damage during a night of history tutoring, Kyle thinks maybe his life has changed for good. But the promise of fairy-tale love is a lie when you're gay and falling for the most popular boy in school. A coming of age story in the same vein of John Hughes, Tales from Foster High shows an unflinching vision of the ups and downs of teenage love and what it is like to grow up gay.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This brought some unexpected feels from me. A couple of little story arcs to tug at my heartstrings. Other than that, "Tales from Foster High" was an excellent tale of angst, coming out, and discovering the stuff that you are made of. Told in dual perspectives this bind-up edition of three novellas feels seamless as one big story. Kyle is a brilliant portrayal of the invisible kid, just trying to make it through high school and get out of his home town. I also like how, even though he was

portrayed as a nerd, he wasn't stereotyped as covered with pimples, wearing glasses, skinny, and unattractive. It was great to see him through Brad's eyes and know that beauty is subjective to the beholder. Brad, although embodying the "all American jock" trope, quickly started deconstructing those expectations with his actions in the first chapter. I admired his teetering between courage and fear. Both of these characters go through a lot and come out the other side different people. The parents were a little annoying. It felt a bit stereotyped, and even though they went through their own storylines as well, I felt their behaviour at the end nothing short of miraculous. And unrealistic. Though it added a great deal of impact and added to the romantic climax. There are some sex scenes which while a little titillating, served the tone of the novel from the male perspective. Their encounters were meaningful and not over written. The bullying gets a little violent and had me questioning where the teachers and parents were through all of this. I know events like this are still a reality in some schools, and thankfully starting to decrease in numbers as acceptance grows, but the neglect of the school was downright criminal and thought they got off far too easily. Plus the rest of the students seemed to be a mass of people that just went with the flow instead of a realistic hot-pot of personalities and beliefs. In the real world someone would have made noise in some respect, either by getting parents, teachers or authorities involved. So, a fun story, a little unrealistic, but highlighted a lovely romance and some hot-button struggles gay youth face in school - highlighting an education system that can become corrupt. Eye opening and heart-warming. Something about coming out stories draws me in, and with "Tales From Foster High" having a social conscious and dealing with important issues sheds light on aspects of growing up gay I may have otherwise never known about. But at the core of it, this novel has a beautiful growing relationship between two unsuspecting teens. This experience has me keen to purchase the rest of the books written in this collection " even though they are mostly only available in e-book format.

So I'm sitting here stressing about this review. You see? Review in is not my thing. I'm pretty sucky at it and I'm Ok with that. But when I read a book(s) like this one, is the moment I wish I knew what the heck I was doing. Not to feel like I'm the s\*\*\*, but to give the characters, the story, and the author the acknowledgements/OMG's it deserves. In hopes that it gets the chance to affect others the way it did with me. Tales of Foster High is a M/M YA romance series. But at the same time it is so much more. Even though thus is a work of fiction it touches on a topic that unfortunately for a lot of gay students it's their truth...it's their life. Now, I know and I'm fully aware that these things exist and happen everyday. But reading about them, putting a "face" to the situation makes you feel/see it

differently. Which is why even though I have always been open with my kids and they know what it is to be gay and bullied, I can not wait to share this book(s) with them. And hopefully one day they get to make a difference in someone's life...or maybe it will make a difference in theirs. This real life, adorable and yet fun read is highly recommended to everyone!

This was a good story. I remember everything and could relate to a lot of what the main characters went through. However it was very confusing at times. The book isn't written like a normal book. Instead of having multiple chapters there are really only 3. At first we meet Kyle, (Which I can personally relate to) and see his ideal thought is to be invisible. But when the local bullies began to make his life even more of a living hell. He decides to fight back. (Been there done that.) Then we got to Brad and find out about his liking Kyle and finding himself stepping into unknown territory. Wishing he could only crawl back into his box where everything is back to normal. Then we go to the part of the book that finds them coming of age and standing up for what they believe in. That is where the book got really good. Other wise if you don't pay attention you will get lost.

John has brought school life into this story so well that as someone well beyond those days, it really brought me back to the classroom and navigating all the learning curves in class and especially outside the classroom. His insight into the politics of school on all levels and the small town community is perfectly portrayed. The audio by Michael Stellman is excellent. Michael brings to life each personality that is so well written. This is a book to keep for future re-listening/reading.

Real. Raw. Sexy. Brave. Courageous. Calvin Klein. Brad and Kyle are a great duo and realistically can see these events occurring.

This is a well written story that may take many back to the good, bad or terrible high school days. Many deeply hurting moments that will be recognized by way too many GLBT people. Strong characters that are well developed with love that is super strong. It is criminal that so many young people can't have the good, normal loving environment that most people enjoy. Thank goodness it does end very well.

A good beginning for a series that notably improves with each volume. The usual High School romance between a jock and a nerd, with obstacles overcome -- a pleasant read, and introduction to its better sequels. I'd give it 4 out of 5 stars; the next one rates 6 out of 5 stars, and the third one 7

out of 5. This one's good enough, but you need to read it to get the full enjoyment out of the other two.

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