

The background features a network diagram with white nodes and lines on a purple-to-pink gradient. The nodes are connected by thin white lines, forming a complex web. Some nodes are larger than others, and the overall structure is somewhat irregular. The background color transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. There are also some small, faint white dots scattered throughout the background.

# Aftermath

Written by Cara Dee

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Published by kctv7

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# Aftermath

By Cara Dee

## Aftermath Meaning

Austin Huntley and Cameron Nash are like night and day. One is a family man, works in a nice office, drives an expensive car, and is content to be content. The other one is an antisocial car mechanic with a short fuse.

## Aftermath Definition

Some things don't change. Others definitely do.

## Aftermath Synonym

After surviving a five-months long kidnapping together, they struggle to return to normalcy, all while realizing that they're more drawn to each other than they ever could've imagined.

## Aftermath Records

"I know I'm not normal, but I'm not fucking stupid."

## Aftermath Trailer

"Define normal," Austin countered quietly, meeting Cam in the doorway. "And for not being normal, you're the only person in the world who makes sense right now. What does that say about me?"

## Aftermath 2014

Warning: This story contains violence and scenes of an explicit, erotic nature between two men and is intended for adults, 18+.

2 stars.\*\*Review completed September 5, 2013

I feel a little bit lonely...

The premise of Aftermath did sound compelling. Add in the fact that ten of my friends and one of my followers rated it either with four or five stars and I thought "Count me in!" It started off promising and I've had a good feeling, but it began to fizzle out soon enough. Well, it's kinda obvious that I can't trust my gut feeling all the time. In fact, I was dead wrong with Aftermath. After I posted my first update at 10 % 2 stars.\*\*Review completed September 5, 2013

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One of my main issues was that I got bored rather quickly. Finishing this book was a tedious chore and not a pleasure.

It's difficult to put the finger on it but I think the writing was too detached, mechanic and sterile for my liking. I want emotions not just a SHALLOW chronology of events! I mean this topic is incredibly emotional, and yet nothing really touched me about it. Don't get me wrong, I would never wish such a fate upon anyone but I did not really care about the characters. In fact, I never connected with them on the emotional level. I came to a point where I wanted it to be over ASAP. There was no character development and hardly any relationship development. No, scratch that. There was none at all. In consequence, I didn't buy the ILYs either. I got it that these two had lots of issues to deal with. BUT. Again, there is a point where I've had enough and I just wanted to see some kind of progress. Gimme something, dammit! Instead of really dealing with their issues they went round in circles; it was too



Aftermath

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## Aftermath Review

4 Stars

Austin and Cam were kidnapped by a psycho for five months. They were through hell and back. After they came back they wanted to be normal but how can they!? It's not easy for them with what they experienced.

"In captivity, they had patched each other up as best they could. They'd been each other's nurse, doctor, shoulder to cry, and punching bag."

Austin and Cam had leaned on each other for five months, now that they came back they feel at peace with each other! But it's not really easy for 4 Stars

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"In captivity, they had patched each other up as best they could. They'd been each other's nurse, doctor, shoulder to cry, and punching bag."

Austin and Cam had leaned on each other for five months, now that they came back they feel at peace with each other! But it's not really easy for them to move on with their lives!

The story contains flashbacks and reading them made me uncomfortable but liked that these two were so in tune with each other from the first! Loved that how they wanted to help each other, how they tried to heal each other, how they trusted each other, and how they did things without regret! Told in dual POV, 3rd person. It's dark, well-written, well-paced with a great story-line, and likable characters. It's the first installment in the "Aftermath" series and it can be read as a standalone. Overall, it was an enjoyable read for me and hope you like it as well! Onto the next book! ...more

This book has mostly 5 star reviews from ALL of my friends so please feel free to ignore me.

I couldn't finish this book.

None of it worked for me. I didn't like the detached writing style, the constant flashbacks (I sometimes had trouble knowing if it was present or past going on for a few moments), and the rapid POV switches. I didn't like the way the wife was portrayed, like the fact that she wasn't supportive made it okay to (view spoiler)[cheat on her. (hide spoiler)] . The whole book just di This book has mostly 5 star reviews from ALL of my friends so please feel free to ignore me.

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I'm sorry everyone, maybe I'll return to finish this one day but today is not that day.

...more

## Aftermath Band

\*\*\*4.25 Stars\*\*\*

Aftermath is a book that has been sitting on my kindle forever. The blurb sucked me in and the premise was intriguing, but I kept passing it by thinking that I'd need to be in the right mindset to read a dark romance.

This book is definitely not a dark romance....AT ALL. Is it difficult to read at times? Yes. But this book sits firmly on the foundation of friendship, companionship, hope, healing and love.

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The book takes place one month after Cam and Austin's release from their kidnapping. There are flashbacks generously interspersed throughout the story to highlight a pivotal moment, an emotion, a trigger or to generally show how deeply their bond was formed during their captivity. And each flashback slowly builds to the moment of their escape.

The psychological and physical torture that took place in that dark and foul basement isn't overly detailed, but it does vividly depict how crazed and maniacal their kidnapper was.

The book's main focus is on Austin and Cam...their healing and adjustment to their post-kidnapping lives, their continued friendship, their sense of peace when they're together...and their hope that things will get better. It also focuses on Austin's journey accepting that he has deeper feelings for Cam...a man.

While Austin's transition was a little too easy and accepting, I could understand why it didn't need to be this big emotional conflict. After what he'd gone through, it was easy for him to accept that having Cam in his life, in his heart, just felt natural...and right.

I wish Austin's wife, Jade, wasn't depicted as this horrible and evil woman. She was just plain selfish and vile. And while I understand that she may have wanted out of that marriage for a long time, using Austin's recovery against him was just despicable. There was already one villain in this story, there really

## Aftermath

didn't need to be another.

Austin and Cam were two well developed characters that were easy to connect to. Their relationship was caring, intimate, passionate and soul touching. They truly fit together in every sense.

Their journey wasn't an easy one, but it was beautiful seeing that neither man was on that path alone. And that epilogue....well it just left me with the biggest smile on my face. ...more

When I first started reading this book I really expected it to be really dark because of the blurb. But honestly I think it's one of the sweetest story I read. Usually don't like too sweet books but this one was perfect. It wasn't over the top, there wasn't any drama or any angst in the process of their relationship. It was actually pretty normal how everything went.

You have present time and parts when they have flashbacks and remember how it was when they were abducted, held captive and abused. When I first started reading this book I really expected it to be really dark because of the blurb. But honestly I think it's one of the sweetest story I read. Usually don't like too sweet books but this one was perfect. It wasn't over the top, there wasn't any drama or any angst in the process of their relationship. It was actually pretty normal how everything went.

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Austin and Cam were in the same cell for months. In those months they became close but as support and comfort and as needing somebody to keep them hoping they will survive. They had only each other to rely on.

After escaping they stayed close and continued to help each other even after everything, because they knew that nobody could understand them as they do each other.

Austin, straight, realised that he started having feelings for Cam and what I loved about this book is that he just went in it. Without any fear, curious to see how will Cam, bisexual, accept it.

OMG I loved them all the time. Everything was so easy to read. The story flew so normally. When they were together.... just beautiful, sweet and normal.

When they were having sex.... bloody hell.... LOVED IT â™¥

It was described so normal without any poetic bullshit. Just normal sex scenes that were hot as hell.

Maybe the reason I love this book so much is the normal process of going in relationship without any drama, if you extract the flashbacks parts.

I really loved both characters, I couldn't pick which one I love more and when they were together it was impossible for me not to love it.

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Aftermath

Cam with his medical issues and Austin with his personal problems.... together they were perfect. Even though messed up, they were perfect. It felt so normal for them to be together â™¥

I would have rated this story 4 stars but after thinking how much I came to love both Austin and Cam I just can't. That last 5th star is actually for them and how perfect they are for me.

...more

## Aftermath Def

Reread January 2018

I'm seeing a trend here with me rereading this about the same time every year lol. I absolutely LOVE these two guys. I love Cam and all his gruffness and quirks and anxiety. I love Austin in all his anger and his need for control. But I love them together and how they are there for each other and love each other no questions asked....anger, control anxiety, quirks and all.

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Repeating myself, every time I read this I hate Jade, Austin's wife, even more. I want to feel sorry for her but I just can't. Not even a month out and she's telling him to "get over it". I don't understand it.

Reread January 2017

I absolutely love this book. It's rough for sure. The torture these guys went through was horrible. And maybe their relationship began because of circumstances but they truly fell for each other as a soul mates. I just loved seeing them develop further...into more.

On a side note: I STILL hate Austin's wife. In the reread she was even more obnoxious and spiteful to me than originally.

Original review February 2016

Wow! I didn't know what to expect when I started this book. I wasn't sure how this was all going to work out but Cara Dee made it work.

This book has some really tough subjects: physical abuse and torture, PTSD, Asperger Syndrome, survivor guilt, coming out and more. At times, it was really rough. I can't imagine experiencing what these men experienced. Yet, they came out on the other side and developed a strong and beautiful relationship.

The story is told present day with flashbacks to a horrific time when 10 men were kidnapped and tortured. These flashbacks were brutal but the author made it work. I honestly don't think it could have

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been written as a prologue then moved the story to the present. It just worked the way it was written. It's definitely not your typical romance/GFY story but I loved it.

I have to say, and I think a few have mentioned it in reviews, Austin's wife, Jade was a complete uncaring bitch. She just used his problems as an excuse to divorce him. I absolutely hated the way she treated Austin and wanted him to "just get over it and go back to the way things were." She was a social worker for crying out loud! I would hope she had more compassion for the people she worked with than she did her husband. ...more

"That was fucking brutal."

"No." Austin disagreed. "We know what brutal is, and this wasn't it."

First off, I want to start off by saying that this was not nearly as dark as I thought it would be. Between the cover and some other reviews I'd read, I was extremely hesitant to read this one but this is NOT A DARK ROMANCE! There are some scenes that include a bit of torture but it's not a huge mindfuck of a book...no one falls in love with their torturer, there are no sadistic sexual games. This is "That was fucking brutal."

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Austin is married and has a preteen daughter. His wife is just about the bitch of the year, and this was the biggest part about this book that I didn't like. I really don't like when a significant other is made out to be the worst sort of person...unbelievably terrible, in this case, in order to excuse cheating. Because make no mistake, Austin is married during the entire course of this book. And to me, the wife's bad-itude was too dramatic, too heartless to be believed.

Onward. The rest of the story was pretty intense. Interspersed with present tense conversations and actions are flashbacks from both Cam and Austin of their days in captivity. Each flashback gives you just a little bit more insight into they why's of their kidnapping...although for me, it really all came down to the utter lunacy of their captor.

What struck me was how completely nonsexual and non-romantic their initial time together really was. But that time together made them rely on each other for not only physical support but also for the

## Aftermath

constant companionship and emotional support that they lost when they were taken away from their loved ones.

"As far as Austin knew, lust came first, but that wasn't true here. Somewhere in the past six months, he'd started to fall for Cam, and now there was no going back. He'd been blindsided by terms like friendship and brotherhood, maybe even brothers-in-arms, but this went deeper."

So some of this story is about their horrific captivity. So much more of it is the aftermath...how they are dealing (or not dealing) with the fact that they were stripped of control for so long. I imagine it's even harder for a man...a big, strong, manly man...to have all of his choices taken away. To be powerless, especially to someone so weak.

Cam is bisexual, and fairly open about the fact. He's got Asberger's syndrome, which is a highly functioning form of Autism, characterized by some antisocial qualities, abrasive behavior, and hyper-focusing at times.

"Don't be an idiot. I don't like idiots."

My husband was thought to have this when he was a kid (though no official diagnosis), so I could relate to him very well. He's a great guy but extremely blunt. At times his rough demeanor was hilarious, at other times it was kind of sad.

"S-sorry," Austin croaked minutes later. Cam rolled his eyes, as he didn't see the big deal. There was no reason to apologize. "Shut the fuck up and cry or whatever."

He's a lonely guy but not lonely in the normal sense. He has the opportunity to be around people. Problem is, he just doesn't really LIKE people. Except Austin. He likes Austin.

Austin is a fairly normal guy. It was a bit unbelievable how quickly he accepted his attraction for Cam, but he grew up with parents that were very liberal, very non-judgmental. Honestly, it didn't seem to bother him and I wonder how big a part his circumstances went to giving him that attitude. I imagine you don't care much about what others think when you've gone through something like that.

"It was too soon to say exactly what it was with Cam that Austin wanted, and he wanted to beak it down to just a one word answer: Cam. He wanted Cam - needed Cam - period, but he had no clue what that meant. Comfort, closeness...intimacy?"

I'm so glad that I read this story. It's an unforgettable one, very original, and doesn't follow the current trend of messed up romances; rather, it puts two people in unusual, messed up circumstances and builds their romance during the healing process. That, to me, is much more believable and easier to root for.

Buddy read with Em and Steph :D Thank you ladies! I loved it! ...more