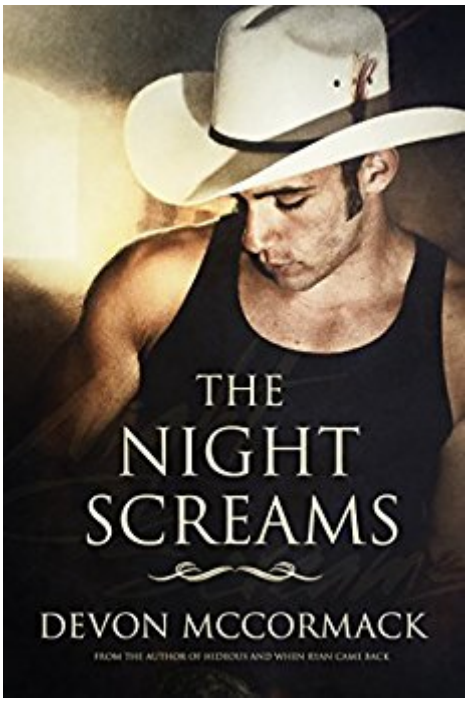
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The Night Screams



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Synopsis

After Cal escapes a deranged kidnapper who tortured him, he doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t even have the clothes on his back. Desperate and afraid, he breaks into a convenience store. But Jake, a clerk at the store, confronts what to him is little more than a petty thief. After a violent tussle, he knocks Cal out.Jake encourages his Uncle Gary, the owner of the store, to report Cal to the police, but Gary canÃ¢â ¬â„¢t bring himself to report a kid who was just looking to steal food. When Cal wakes, Gary asks him if heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s okay. But CalÃ¢â ¬â„¢s trauma has left him mute. Instead, he has to write his experiences down, relaying the horrifying events that led him to the store. The police track down the sick man who held Cal captive, and when he confronts them with a gun, heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s shot dead. However, Cal discovers that even with his captor gone, he is far from free of the nightmare he endured.Gary and his wife welcome Cal into their home, determined to help him heal. Jake doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t trust Cal, and he isnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t afraid to say so. But buried beneath JakeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s disapproval might be the person who can help Cal recover from the terrifying experience that continues to haunt him.

Book Information

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Young Adult > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Violence

Customer Reviews

Cal has been thrown out by his parents for coming out. He finds a safe haven in a youth center, but disappears from there . Cal’s next recollections involve him escaping from a mad man, winding up naked and lost in a small town.. He is taken in by a family, finding a place to live..Jake doesn’t know what to make of the young man that has been adopted into his household., but slowly his feelings begin to awaken for Cal after a rocky start.I haven’t really read many YA stories, but I enjoyed this one. Both characters are complicated and well realized. I would hope that the happy ending could be true for all gay youth.

Devon McCormack got down to the nitty-gritty of love and healing in this book- another masterpiece!

I’m so addicted! Literally can’t stop reading this amazing author. Dark, thrilling, and captivating story with a power that’s oh so hard to resist!

Book ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ The Night ScreamsAuthor ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ Devon McCormackStar rating - ÃƒÂ¢Ã ËœeÃ â |ÃƒÂ¢Ã ËœeÃ â |ÃƒÂ¢Ã ËœeÃ â |ÃƒÂ¢Ã ËœeÃ â |No. of Pages ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ 220Cover ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ Very nice!POV ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ 3rd person, one character POVWould I read it again ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ Yes.Genre ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ LGBT, Abuse, Kidnap, MM, Romance, Young Adult** I WAS GIVEN THIS BOOK FOR MY READING PLEASURE **Reviewed for Divine MagazineThis was one heck of a story. At first, it was so difficult to read because experiencing Cal’s fear, escape and memories was just so brutal, but brilliantly done that it actually felt real. I read this with my heart racing, my eyes locked to the page, time passing by me because I couldn’t stop.After about 10-15% the darkness gave way to relief, lighter moments and a chance that things might be okay again. Still, there were still plenty of times in the book where I panicked and worried about Cal’s safety, because as much as he felt something was going to go horribly wrong, I held the same fear. After all he’d been through, was it too much to ask that he got a little happiness?The fact that Cal’s torture felt so real is indication enough of Devon McCormack’s writing. Nothing of that time with his captor was explicit or detailed in the way that I, as a reader, felt uncomfortable or had to skim read past the details. Though it was painful to read, it was because we’d struggled with Cal, fought with him, escaped with him and by the time the very first page was over, I was invested in his character, rooting for a good future, for a lasting

escape and for happiness for him.Jake, similarly, was so much more than he first seemed and I knew that, just as Cal did, when we first met him. The growth of both the characters was beautiful to experience, because we got to be there for all the big moments, never missing anything important and yet, never loaded with too much to see or do with them. Gary was just as loveable and a really great support for Cal and Jake, neither of whom had grown up with sparkly shiny lives. Luce, on the other hand, was a dip and flow character; she showed us the difference between acceptance and tolerance, the risk of a small religious town to two young gay teens and how they'd be treated.Though this story also touched on homophobia, it did so in a very ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ sadly ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ realistic way that can still be felt down in the South and all over the world. Intolerance should never be ignored because, like in this story, a bout of name calling can easily turn into something much more dangerous.~Overall, I have to give this one a 10 out of 10 for everything. For the way it handled Cal's past abuse, the torture, the kidnappings, the homophobia, the religious small town attitudes and, most of all, the way that it offered us moments of pure sunshine to drown out the dark.Brilliant.

*Reviewed by Debra for Sinfully Gay Romance Book Reviews*Cal is 17 when the story starts, but had been kicked out of his home at 15 when his religious, abusive parents found out he was gay. He is homeless until he finds a shelter for gay youth where he can work on his GED and have what was supposed to be a safe place. All that changes when he is abducted from the shelter and spends an unknown amount of time being locked away and tortured. The abuse occurs off page and is only referred to in minor detail, but enough to get the gist of the horrors he went through. His escape is heart pounding and he winds up being caught stealing some snacks from a convenience store by the people who will become his family and saviors, owner Gary, his wife Luce and 18 year old Jake, the clerk who punched him out. The story then follows Cal as he makes a home with them as he goes about moving forward.I have mixed feelings about this story. The opening scene of CalÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s escape grabbed me and the first chapters pulled me into this story. Based on that and the blurb, I was expecting a story mainly about CalÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s struggles to get over the awful abuse and trauma heÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s been through in his short life. Shortly afterwards though, the story shifted gears. Cal finds his voice and the narrative became less about CalÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s recovery and more about Cal and JakeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s love story with the recovery aspect fading to the background.When I read YA romance I want to feel the unbearable emotion and angst. I felt it with CalÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s initial anger and jealousy over JakeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s friends Mallory and Keith, I felt it with CalÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s yearning to

belong and his disbelief that Jake could really love him. As a couple, Cal and Jake are very sweet. This is CalÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s first relationship and things with JakeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s last boyfriend ended badly. Falling in love in a small town isnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t easy and the hate and bigotry is there. Jake is very protective of Cal, as he is with the rest of his family. The love story moved with the fast pace and recklessness of first love that I expect from a YA romance, including the all-consuming love and declarations of forever. I understood both of their need to hang onto the other as so many in their past have betrayed them. One big pet peeve though, I want to see the first ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“I love youÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•. I donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t want to be told it happened, I want to experience it.While I enjoyed the love story, I felt that there was just too much secondary action going on around it. It broke up the flow for me and just when I started to get invested, things wrapped up and moved onto something else. There are health scares, jealous exes, homophobic townspeople, unexpected tragedy and, occasionally, CalÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s recovery issues.For me, there was almost too light a touch when it came to CalÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s recovery. He goes to therapy once, then blows it off. For someone whoÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s been through such an ordeal, who was cast out by his family, I never really felt the after-effects hit him all that hard. Again, there was telling when I wanted to be shown. I wanted to see CalÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s struggles and fears, the night screams of the title. He has anxiety about it, the occasional flashbacks and hears that voice in his head, but it seemed to get pushed aside for much of the story.As a love story and a story of finding family and acceptance I did like it. Luce and Gary are wonderful characters, so big hearted, but not perfect, especially Luce. I appreciated that JakeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s friends give Cal a chance, for the most part. I also enjoyed the bit of a surprise twist towards the end. But overall, I wanted the story to be more focused and I wanted to be more emotionally invested in CalÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s recovery.

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