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Don't Trust The Cut



Synopsis

Tucker Gray is a Baltimore, MD waiter, hailing from the Deep South, whose mental health issues and past relationships have made trusting others and himself a hard task. After he hits what he thought was rock bottom Tucker decides to stay close to the ones who stood by him and keep his head down. Jesse Bauer is unsure what his future holds after an injury forces him out of the marines earlier than expected. With all of the decisions he has to make in his civilian life, with all of its freedoms and possibilities, he feels staying closeted and keeping the people in his life happy will keep down the chaos. Until the night he met Tucker Gray at a party he thought that'd be possible, but both of them are instantly and strongly in lust. As their relationship grows, Jesse has to prove himself, and Tucker has to learn to trust more than the cut (This is a revised and re-released 2nd edition. 67,000 words.)

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Customer Reviews

It all started with a kiss. Tucker and Jesse meet at a welcome home party that their mutual friends have thrown for them. Jesse is home from the marines after an injury ended his military career. Tucker is returning from a vaca in Canada, or so that's the story. A chance encounter in the restroom leads to a quick but passionate kiss that neither man can forget. Jesse has always been

partial to guys, but he's also in a long term relationship with a woman. This coupled with a very troubled past make Tucker gun shy to even consider giving Jesse a shot. Jesse is definitely the alpha male persona. But the tall, brooding ex marine can't stop thinking about the wounded soul he kissed at the party. When he and Tucker finally meet again, Jesse is not going to let his chance to get to know Tucker slip away a second time. The more time they spend together Tucker slowly starts to let his guard down, but Jesse still has a girlfriend and the closer he gets to Tucker, the more confused he is about his relationship with Miranda. Can a guy that spent 10 years wrapped in 'Don't ask, Don't tell' and lived his life in the closet for fear of losing everything and everyone he loves build a life with a shy, wounded and slightly mental gay man that takes his breath away? Boehme wrote these characters with a raw realism that is almost poetic. The characters are three dimensional and have depth, they aren't full of fluff and fantasy. Being from the south I absolutely loved Tucker's southern flare, his good ole boy drawl, and the shyness that ever encompassed him but managed to exit the room whenever Jesse was around. Tucker and Jesse struggle to maintain a relationship, both for different reasons, but Jesse is completely honest about his issues from the start. Tucker, not so much.

This is a real roller-coaster of a book. The characters are very honestly presented and believable. The subject matter is disturbing, and is realistically told with a great writing style. The main character is Tucker. He is a damaged and broken human being who is recovering from an unknown life altering event and taking his first fledgling steps in his return to the world. Tucker is fragile and reclusive, but has support from his only friend. The situations and causes of his previous life are not revealed until late in the story, and this makes for a compelling read. We want to know, but it is best that this revelation is withheld. Into his life comes a battle scarred ex-marine, Jesse, who has his own demons. However, Jesse appears to at least have his problems somewhat under control, until he meets Tucker. The electricity that passes between them at their initial encounter at a party upsets his planned future, and sets in motion what this book is all about. Initially, I suspected what Tucker's problem could be, from the title. Where this story takes the reader is into the carefully constructed protective barriers that both men have set very painstakingly in place. I have no doubt as to the author's connection to this story, as there are few people who could have written such a piece of work like this without it. This is a labor of exorcism, of demons both personal and intimate, that is told with surprising care and love. The prose here is unmistakably honest and real and is deserving of praise. This is a mixed bag of discovery, ugliness, and finding the strength in one's self to learn to live one day at a time. I was pleasantly surprised to find none of the other reviewer's

problems with typos or editing.

Though this one is a little bit darker than his other books, it still has that assured and elegant structure, writing and pacing that I've come to admire so much. Mr. Boehme is turning out to be a really fine writer. "Don't Trust The Cut" is the tale of Jesse and Tucker (Tuck). Jesse is a young man of 30 who has just retired from the Marines - way before his time, but he was discharged for the wounds he took in combat. Tucker is a somewhat strange, but gentle, soul who is polite and personable to most of the world, but alive and fully present only to Alison, his best friend and roommate. The book starts with the two men meeting each other at a party to celebrate their return to Baltimore - Jesse from the Marines and the hospital, Tucker from his mysterious sojourn in "Canada:". I don't want to give away any spoilers, so I won't go into too much detail, but Jesse has a girlfriend, a woman he's dated for six years who, in reality, is his "beard" to immunize him from Don't Ask Don't Tell. Tucker, although extraordinarily nice and caring, seems to be holding himself together with paper clips and baling wire. The plot follows Jesse as he comes out, and Tucker as he tries to deal - and their start-and-stop attempts at finding love with each other. There is plenty of M/M Romance angst to go around. The coming out, though realistic, is often painful. Tucker's scars, both physical and emotional are just as difficult to cope with. There is, of course, a HEA, so you know they do manage to get there. But not without navigating some rather severe bumps along the journey, with a lot to be said for the serious way in which Mr. Boehme handles the mental-health issues - which he does well.

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