



72 Hours

Clare London

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Tanner Mackay and Niall Sutherland were once far more than just fellow intelligence agents. But then a mission went horribly wrong and everything fell apart, sending Tanner into hiding and splitting the team and their affair wide apart.

Now an unknown traitor is threatening the team, and their ex-boss is determined to reunite them before it's too late. She finds Tanner in a run-down trailer park, bringing with her a most unwelcome refugee in need of temporary sanctuary: Niall, the man he thought he'd never have to face again. The man he's sure feels exactly the same in return.

Trapped in a situation that's both claustrophobic and highly dangerous, Tanner and Niall will have to revisit their past and reconsider their perceptions, their loyalties-and their desires-in order to survive, let alone forge a future together.

72 Hours Details

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Author : Clare London

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Chris says

Very good m/m romantic suspense about an agent for a shadowy government organization (think *24* here) who's been suspended and is hiding out, sulking, when the last man/agent he wants to see (his former lover) is deposited with him for safekeeping. You know how you read some books and get annoyed because the conflict could've been solved with some conversation? In *72 Hours*, you might be tempted to think that at first, but you slowly come to understand that the critical conversations aren't always easy. Kinda like in real life. :)

I would actually give this 4.5 stars, were it possible.

Stacey Jo says

This was a well written suspense/mystery novel. Tanner and Niall are part of a secret agency who has a traitor amongst them. The characters are very emotionally charged and it is this high level of tension that carries you through the book, from start to finish. The sexual tension between Tanner and Niall can be cut with a knife. The author takes a very clever approach in story telling by giving you bits and pieces of the back story in flash backs that are so well done as to be seamless within the story. I find that often times, flash backs can be choppy, but not here.

Tanner has left the agency on his somewhat self impose exile after a very public falling out with his lover, Niall. Now, months later, he is forced to off shelter and protection to the one person he thought he never wanted to see again. Their forced solitude means a necessary truce and well, when two people really love each other, things will find a way to come to a head. Trouble finds its way back to them and with the help of their colleagues and some colorful residents of Tanners trailer park, some explosions, hostage takings and an assortment of other drama, not to mention some really good makeup sex ;0) this story made for one really enjoyable read.

Emanuela ~plastic duck~ says

I liked this book, because the theme of re-united lovers is one of my favorites and there was a lot of introspection and I usually like it. I think the book is very well written and the setting is very interesting. The emotional and sexual tension between the two main characters is constant and I always like when there is a lot of chemistry in the main couple, something animal, like it depends more on pheromones than a personal affinity. There was the right amount of misunderstanding and miscommunication that made the story personal TO me, meaning that I would have liked to have two words with both Tanner and Niall at various moments in the book.

I really liked the trailer park and its people, they are very loyal and focused and in a sense much more organized than the secret service group.

Unfortunately I didn't like the narrator. He seemed flat and subdued. Probably he isn't at his best, there's guilt and a sense of defeat in him, like nothing interests him anymore. Tanner is one of those characters that feel that the fate of the world depends on their own single actions. Maybe he lacks some self-esteem, I really

can't tell. Then I think the secret group where he works wasn't as smart and secret and professional as it should have been. These two things made me roll my eyes a few times and that's the reason of my rating. I will probably re-read it in the future, just to see if it's my mood that's influencing my rating, because it's a very fine story and I have no problem in recommending it to action and suspense lovers.

Wren says

Another great one by Clare, where characters are forced into a situation where they have to face life and love difficulties head-on, while trying to discover who is after them. I enjoyed the internal struggle Tanner goes through - the story is told in his 1st-person POV - as he realizes where he's gone wrong and comes to terms with his self-pity. Also interesting is his perception of Niall. Now that they are in forced company, Niall has the opportunity to express himself in ways he couldn't before. The close confines of the trailer Tanner lives in and the limited time frame keep things moving so you never feel the character is bogged down in navel-gazing. The action involving the other members of their team is mostly seen/heard through phone and radio calls, while danger comes directly to Tanner's door.

The characters at the trailer park were fascinating, despite being rather limited. I would like to see more interaction between the heroes and the denizens of the park :)

Trix says

[The author spent 1/3 of the book repeating how Tanner felt about Niall, about the Team

Lori says

I really enjoyed this story, must seek out more Clare London titles immediately!

DayDreamer says

I'm not sure how to rate this.

It's a nice story overall, with a few BUTs.

First of all, the flashbacks weren't clear. My biggest problem were the exclamation marks. Every-f-ing-where!! Like this! Or this! Uggh.

MsMiz (Tina) says

I think I need to start this review by saying I love Clare London and have enjoyed her other works. This one just did not work for me, not at all. First, these are supposed to be grown men. Second, they are also Agents in some secret Team that works behind all rules and laws. Third, I *think* they are supposed to be smart. But

Tanner and Niall end up being the dumbest agents and the whiniest men I have ever read. They continue to bumble through this particular mission, which happens to be a threat to their secret team. I had the perpetrator pegged from the get go and I am not even able to shoot a gun straight. On top of the bad agent work from the ENTIRE team, we have the whacked out, fucked up, immature relationship between Tanner and Niall.

Their relationship takes dysfunction and childhood antics to a new level. There are so many instances where I was envisioning lighting each of them on fire and watching them go up in flames. They complained about how bad things got and they were not even together anymore. Lots of flashbacks, lots of guilt, lots of remembering of the good and mostly the bad times, and lots of cheap shots at each other. At about 50%, that is when the two of them decide to grab their balls, be men and not 16 year old drama queens and call a truce. They finally start communicating!!! Whooo hoo I was happy at 50%. Then the plot of 'who is hurting the team' comes to the forefront and they start bumbling over the mystery and I was unhappy again.

Kate has reminded me that there were some sunny spots. The secondary characters such as Junk, Dylan the dog, Phil, Sheri, etc really made good on the story and should be applauded for holding the story together!

Man I hate writing that I did not like a Clare London book. I love her, but this book just did not work for me, as if the review did not spell it out!

Mara Ismine says

Brilliant! If I hadn't had to go to work I would've sat up all night to finish this - not that I got to sleep easily with the characters and plot buzzing around in my brain.

In a way this was an insta-love story, but the characters were too stubborn to admit their real feelings to themselves let alone each other. Much of the story is told in flashback as they are forced to face up to the past while dealing with a current crisis. It all comes to an satisfactory action packed ending.

Tanner and Niall are great characters, even if their continued stubbornness did make me want to bang their heads together from time to time. The were already virtually locked in a trailer so locking them in a room together wouldn't have helped much.

At times Dylan the dog was the most sensible and mature character on the page which I enjoyed immensely. I could picture the dog rolling his eyes and thinking 'stupid humans'. The only thing I can think of that would have improved this for me is more page time for Dylan.

Mickie Ashling says

72 Hours is an emotion packed story about two men who have serious communication malfunctions. Talk about men not wanting to ask for directions. It's no wonder the GPS was invented by a guy. Really? Sometimes you just want to knock their heads together and scream, TALK! Jeez...I loved this book by the way. Clare London's characters are so terribly real you can almost smell, taste, and feel the high tension throughout the entire novel. The deep and abiding love between Niall and Tanner jumps off the page and if they would only pay attention to their unspoken signals the sexy bits would have come a lot sooner. And the sex was very, very good...as was the drama, and the mystery. A 4.5 read and highly recommended.

Feliz says

From a slow beginning (which was due to the need of introducing a lot of cast) this story took up speed after a few pages and became a page-turner. Written from Tanner MacKay's first person POV, the author shows the development of Tanner's and Niall's relationship in a series of flashbacks, thus breaking and easing the tenuous 72 hours it takes the heroes to get reacquainted after their bad break-up. It was speechlessness on both sides which caused them to split, although they talk a lot, particularly Tanner, and it's gripping and heartwarming to watch those two struggle for common ground to start anew from. They are the totally believable, genuine persons this author is so skilled at inventing. Even the way Tanner sometimes addresses the reader directly fits the flow of the narrative and Tanner's voice perfectly.

The chemistry, passion and emotions between these two was really gripping, leading to page-scorching sex (and a lot of this). The mystery was well-done, too, although a little far-fetched. But it actually opened my eyes to certain aspects of sexually abused children I had never thought about before, so kudos to the author on that regard.

Another plus of this book was the secondary cast, particularly Junk, the trailer-park godfather, and his daughter Sheri. Persons in their own rights, skillfully written and real.

One minor niggle: the annoying exclamation marks(!) Lose them, please, author and editor. They don't have no place in a book except in the dialogue.

Overall, a great, suspenseful read full of passion and deep emotions, seasoned with a bit of angst and a very, very satisfying end. Seriously recommended.

Lee says

It is such a pleasure to read Clare London's books. I've only read two, *True Colors* and this book *72 Hours*, but I've enjoyed them both. If pushed to choose which one I thought was the best, I would have to pick *True Colors*. And it would only win by the slightest of margins. *72 Hours* is a well crafted story and it pulled me in from the beginning and didn't let go until the last page. Ms. London is a master at weaving multilayered stories that gives the reader a feeling of being in he story. I give this book 5 stars.

Justacat says

By far my favorite of this author's many books - she's a talented writer, and I generally read everything she publishes, but I don't always *like* her stories. This one, though - not only is the writing impeccable, an absolute joy to read (though like another reviewer, I too could probably do with fewer exclamation points), but the story is engrossing, with just the right level of suspense to keep me interested and anticipating throughout without getting overly anxious, and the primary relationship is complex, interesting, and passionate, with obvious chemistry and complex and realistic conflicts that are resolved in an unusually (for the genre) realistic and thorough - and very satisfying - way. This author could serve as an example to so many others as to how to convey emotions and vulnerabilities without writing them out in exposition. And the sex scenes, which are well written and hot (or maybe hot because they're well written!) actually feel

organic to the story, unlike in so many books I read in this genre: you could never mistake the guys in these scenes for two other guys, or swap one scene for another without noticing.

The first-person narrator's voice is fantastic - allowed me to really sink into his head and immerse myself completely. I find that many of my most favorite books are written in first person, because when done well, as in this case, it results in my becoming the most emotionally invested in a character and in the most emotionally intense and rewarding reading experience.

Adding to the pleasure, the secondary characters are well drawn and add great depth without ever taking over the focus of the story.

All in all, a delight to read, kept me totally engaged throughout.

Cryselle says

The shadowy agency that Tanner Mackay and Niall Sutherland work for is under attack, leaving all the agents separated and out of touch, and Niall in need of a safe house. They're both in disgrace after their affair slooped over onto a mission, and Tanner's disappeared to a disreputable trailer park to wait out his suspension. Now, he's the best safe house available, even though closeting Niall in a small space with Tanner is a recipe for sparks flying -- there's a ton of unresolved issues between them, and the attacks are escalating.

The main action takes place over the 72 hours of the title, though the important backstory comes in flashbacks, a chunk here, a chunk there, and exposing their incendiary relationship and break-up. The two are violently ill at ease with one another, and they spend a lot of their time working out the problems between them, both personal and professional (considerable overlap :s), since they have large chunks of time where they are waiting for someone to bring the fight to them.

As a relationship under duress, this story works very well -- the men have a LOT of issues, and do manage to work through enough that you can see a future for them, and it's hot. A sequence where they manage to have sex while waiting for the bad guy, in spite of violating most good sense and even giving that violation a nod, still works well. Not good craft, sure, but the same impulse that made people have sex in bomb shelters during air raids. Tanner and Niall know that, laugh at it, and go at each other anyway, and I cheered them on.

As a thriller, this story doesn't work quite so well -- as a spy/security/troubleshooter agency, the outfit seems singularly unable to find its backside with both hands, starting with personnel and going on to operations. A more competent agency would have been facing some very different threats -- this one, and it's various complications, would have never arisen.

This story has three parts, back story, current romance, and the external threat, and two of the three work well enough to overshadow the third if you are willing to let it, which unusually for me, I am. I can see putting on my suspenders of disbelief (they're red elastic) and reading this one again.

Disclaimer: I won this book through a Desert Island Keepers giveaway.

Janna says

Loved it. Wonderful, emotional love story which had good suspense too.
