



Torn

Carian Cole

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Torn Carian Cole

** Please note: there is NO underage sex in this book. There is NO incest or blood relation in this book. This is NOT an MC Club story. This is NOT erotica. This is a slow burn romance. This book is intended for readers 18 years and older **

When I was five years old, I told Toren Grace I was going to marry him when I grew up. When I turned eighteen, I made it clear I still felt the same. The problem? He's fifteen years older than me, and he's my father's best friend.

Toren Grace. My father's best friend. My pseudo-uncle.
He's always been my rock. The one I should never, ever want.
But I do want him, and I love him.
I always have.

Tor's one of the good guys. Loving. Devoted. A strong moral compass. One kiss between us rocked him clear off his axis. Now, we can't forget how that kiss felt, and what it changed. Nothing will ever be the same between us. I'm not a little girl anymore, and he's everything I want.

I know he's struggling, but I'm determined. With a last name of Valentine, I've got cupid in my veins. The heart wants what the heart wants, and it doesn't care about age or how we met. My father cares, though. And he's the one person neither one of us can stand to hurt.

We're all being torn apart, and I don't know how to make everyone see that the wrongs are actually right.

Torn Details

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Author : Carian Cole

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Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Torn for online ebook

Sonya ?Chatterbooks book blog? says

★★★★4 Stars★★★★

You know the saying "You can't help who you love?" That quote has never been more real for this story. Sometimes in life we have this ideal outlook on what we want for our futures and whether we like it or not, we cave to what we think is socially acceptable.

Who we fall in love with shouldn't come with any type of disgrace or pain and for Kenzi and Toran, their love story was one in the making. They just didn't know it yet.

"I think all relationships start with an invisible line, and even though we can't see it, we all know it's there because we can feel it.

Kenzi has always been wise beyond her years. Growing up with rock star parents, she's seen the world through adult eyes. Being a Seventeen year old Senior, you would think that going to parties and hanging out with friends would be her top priority but it's not. She loves spending time with her dad and his band along with his best friend Tor.

Knowing him since she was a baby, Tor has been a permanent fixture in her life. But one moment caused them to look at each other differently and that forbidden attraction has them crossing a line.

Toran is fed up with the same ol drama when it comes to his on again off again relationship. His love for rescuing animals and making his mechanic shop a successful business, has been his top priority. Having someone who doesn't feel the same way about what he's interested in, is making him re evaluate his love life. His love for his family and a best friend that he would do anything for is all that he needs right now. But there's one girl that's been in the background and now he's starting to see her in a whole new light.

One forbidden moment.

Two unlikey lovers.

Three broken hearts in the making.

I don't want to give too much away but I will say that I freakin LOVED Tor. He was such a sweetheart and I loved how his conflictions were portrayed. Having feelings for Kenzi was something that he fought so hard and let me tell you, it wasn't easy reading about it sometimes. And I absolutey loved the flashbacks. I think the author did an excellent job making us feel more connected to them by doing that and we saw how Tor felt about Kenzi during that time frame.

If you love a beautiful forbidden romance, then you NEED to read this one. It was a pure love story that makes you think.

***Arc kindly provided in exchange for an honest review.**

Olga therebelreader says

I loved this book on so many levels. First and foremost, it's really well written. The story is captivating and very intense. I admire Ms CC for deciding to touch the controversial topic of a big age difference in a relationship. The author had found the perfect combination of sexual tension, heat and angst to keep you turning the pages. The cover draws you in from the start, and once you read those first few pages, it's hard to stop.

Kenzi and Tor share a special connection. Tor is her father's best friend and has been her protector since she was born by her adolescent parents.

"My niece-by-association. My best friend's daughter. My little partner in crime for the past seventeen years." ~ Tor

Now that Tor is 32 and Kenzi is turning 18, the dynamic in their relationship is starting to change. He notices how much she has grown into a sexy woman, and he gets physically attracted to her. Proximity leads to intimacy, and intimacy leads to a relationship. He is not blood related to her, but they are very close. Kenzi shares the same feelings towards him, but both of them don't want to upset their families. Are the feelings that Tor and Kenzi have for each other perverted? Is it normal?

"It feels wrong because something about it also feels so right, so needed, so demanded, so naturally instinctive that it shakes me right down to my toes. And that can only mean something really, really good, or really, really bad." ~Kenzi

A gripping, suspenseful, passionate, emotional, and romantic journey ensues. Family, loyalty, and fate are tested in the pursuit of love.

"When I look at you, I don't see my father's friend, or my uncle, or my godfather, or an older man. All I see is the person I've always loved and has always made me happy. That's it. I just see you." ~ Kenzi

I feel sick. I feel tortured. I feel unhinged with want for her. I feel a deep ache in my heart that only she can soothe. I feel like I'm stabbing a dagger straight through my best friend' back. ~ Tor

Lots of steamy scenes and emotional encounters to satisfy the most demanding of romance readers. The chemistry and blossoming relationship between Tor and Kenzi is wonderful. If you like a page turner wondering what's going to happen next with some steamy love mixed in...this is your kind of story!!

I'm not going to say anymore because it will ruin it so just one click today and take a chance on this author because she will blow your mind!

ARC kindly provided in exchange for an honest review. Thank you.

Sabrina says

I had to think long and hard on this review because I really wasn't sure how I even felt about the book, so I definitely didn't know what to say about it. But after having it on my mind throughout the day this is what I've come up with...

I'm indifferent.

It wasn't a bad book, but when I think back on it I can't really say my reading experience was a good one. And I feel like I need to say that the age difference and "uncle" factor had no affect on me not enjoying the book. I know that most people who didn't like this book had that one major problem with it, but for me that taboo part of the book is actually what drew me in.

My issues came from various other things that happened throughout the story. One being the length of it and how long it took for Tor and Kenzi to get together. I'm a book-a-day kind of person so the fact that this book took me two days to finish says a lot. It's not that I was busy, it was the fact that the beginning 30 or 40% moved so slow that I kept putting the book down. I was losing interest the more I read because it felt like the same things were happening over and over again.

I did, however, like the sexual tension that Tor and Kenzi had going on for awhile. It kept me intrigued for a portion of the book when they were finally starting to admit to themselves that they had feelings for one another. I had hope that from there I would get more into the story, but sadly it didn't happen.

Now here's the thing that kind of took the enjoyment of seeing these characters together away, though. The chapter headers. On many chapters there was a small portion that had a flashback to Kenzi as a little girl and Tor taking care of her. Seems innocent enough, until you add in the fact that sometimes those flashbacks came right in between some steamy moments. It just wasn't something I wanted to see or hear about right before/after seeing them together in a sexual way.

I also didn't like how the secret surrounding Kenzi's mom was handled. I get that the author was trying to keep the facts hidden until the "big reveal" but the times when she was brought up just confused me. I honestly had to keep checking to see if I accidentally skipped ahead and missed something. It felt like the story was taunting me like an annoying child going "I know something you don't know" over and over again. Then when I guessed the secret and was pretty positive I knew what it was around 41% somehow the mentions of her became even more annoying.

One last rant, I promise...

But what is it with these non-endings lately? I've read so many books this past week where the ending was over way too fast and gave me no closure whatsoever. *Torn* was just the same and yet again I'm left thinking, what the fuck was that? One minute nothing is okay and the next you're turning the page to see everything resolved and over. I wanted more to come from the ending, and I definitely hated how Kenzi's mom was

mentioned that one last time without giving us any facts about how that came to be.

Okay my big rant is over and if you made it this far into my review I apologize for my bitching and whining. Despite my issues, I will still recommend this book for all my fellow taboo lovers because I see that a lot of other people did enjoy it. I hope it will be more enjoyable for other readers to come.

KAT ? Kitty Kats Crazy About Books ? says

*****Complimentary Copy***** Provided by the author
"Carian Cole" exchange for an honest review..Thank you!!

TITLE: Torn
SERIES: (Devils Wolves, #1)
AUTHOR: Carian Cole
GENRE: CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE
CHAPTERS: Prologue | 37 | Epilogue
RELEASE DATE: August 29th 2016

MY RATING: 5 STARS

★★SINFULLY ADDICTIVE, UTTERLY SEDUCTIVE★★

A taboo forbidden love story between a godfather and his niece. I've not read anything by this author before, but I have stalked the hell out of this book, and am keen to see what kind of journey she takes me on.

TORN: This kicks starts off in the 'Prologue' holding an old letter in her hands that's stood the test of time. Spoken in 'Dual Perspectives' This alternated between Kinzi and Tor's POV. It also went from Past Tense to Present Time.

**My love, Walk in the rain with me.
Kiss me in the misty fog.
Let me hold you all night under the hush of the wind.
I'm waiting for you.
Throwing pennies...
making wishes.
I'm wishing only for you.
Always for you.
Come back to me.
I'll fight for you.
I'll fight for us.
Wish for me, too...
and I'll make it come true.**

Words that are written on frayed parchment paper from the other half of her soul. The one man who held and loved her through every milestone in her life. The only man that truly knows her.

It's time for me to go back home to my love and to my heart.

Tor was entrusted as Kenzi's godfather, the day she was born, born to parents under the age of sixteen, three best friends. He knew from that day onwards that he was a goner where Kenzi was concerned.

*A little tiny hand wrapped tightly around my finger
huge eyes like gems staring up into mine and the first
glimpse of what I could already tell was going to be a
heart stopping smile.*

At that moment, a connection was born. That was it. She owned me.

My niece.

My goddaughter

The love of my life

Kenzi was born into the life of rockstars so was subjected to all the "sex, drugs, and rock n roll" all her life which has led her growing up alot faster than her friends.

Pinch me now because I'm not even that far into this and I've gotten zapped by those feels already. And that feeling never disappeared, they just kept coming and coming.

God I love their dynamic friendship, love for each other, her little game of taking items of his to add to her ever growing collection, sweatshirts, tee shirts etc etc, even to when she was younger, at such a young age she clung to him, could see through him, understand him more than anyone else.

*"I know I shouldn't be thinking of him in that way.
I was raised thinking of him as my uncle and he is my Godfather.
Those memories can't be wiped away from our history.
He's my dad's best friend. He's almost twice my age.
But with each day that passes, those facts seem less valid to me, and the feelings I'm having for him are becoming much stronger than fake titles and age differences. It's undeniable; our feelings for each other have changed."*

"Okay...tell me what you wished for?"

"I wished you would never doubt me again. I've spent almost eighteen years being there for you, Angel. Because I want to. No one ever made me or expected me to. Your'e just where I always wanted to be."

"I wish you weren't who you are... - Kenzi "

Tor has been there for Kenzi ever since the very beginning, since the day she was born, he saw her take her first steps, he taught her how to ride a bike, he was always there through every milestone in her life, his name was the first name ever to be uttered from her lips.

“This kid has always had a microscope right into my soul and it's driving me mad.

Am I scared?

Yes. I'm petrified of what she's made me feel.”

NOW: She is 18. He is 32

Attraction bubbling in the background that neither can deny or hide from it's there brewing to the surface.

Is it so wrong to love this story as much as I am, it may be forbidden, it may be taboo, but in whose eyes?? The story flips back to past and present flawlessly. Two lost souls that are only whole when they are side by side. You can't help but fall hopelessly in love with these two.

“She promised me forever.

She made me believe I could have it.

I'll never let her go...but I have to set her free.

Please come back to me, I beg silently.

Please always love me the most.”

I'm not going to lie, I had a wee bit of trepidation going into this, the whole thing with the godfather taboo feeling of falling in love with his niece, I can honestly say this for me was so beautifully written, unique, I had so many feels coursing through my body, I truly loved this, it wasn't just a romance book, it was so much more than that.

We all hope and strive for a love like this, a man like this, he was just what book boyfriends are made of. Highly recommend..

Chelsea (chelseadolling reads) says

I'm torn (hah, GET IT? TORN????) over this one bc I had a blast reading the first half of this book, but the second half dragged pretty hard for me. Also y'all know I love me a good taboo age gap but this one included a handful of underage kisses and that doesn't really sit well with me soooooo idk if I would necessarily recommend this one unless you think you can handle that. Overall this book definitely delivered on da smutz but I wouldn't call it a new favorite.

ALSO x2: Does anyone know who the male cover model is for this book? I want to know... because... reasons.....

NMmomof4 says

4 Stars

Overall Opinion: I liked this one much more than I thought I would! I wasn't the biggest fan of the only book I've read from this author, Storm, so when I realized that it was a spin-off (after I was already reading

it) -- I was a little worried. But...I loved Tor! He was amazingly sweet, and I *so* wanted him to get a HEA! This didn't feel dirty at all to me. When some readers might see that whole "He's loved me since the day I was born" line in the blurb, it might come off as gross or unappealing. Yes -- they loved each other instantly when she was born, but that love evolved as they aged. They were soul mates. 15 years is a lot to be different in age, but I never felt skeeved-out by it because of their obvious connection and how mature the h was. It even got a little mushy, and I was ok with it! It was *romantic*! My only complaint is that I wanted some time after they got everything figured with them as a couple and interacting with others (and their family). I felt like the ending was a little too abrupt for my liking, and even though I liked the epilogue -- I'm greedy, and I wanted more!

Brief Summary of the Storyline: This is Kinzi and Tor's story. They have shared a strong connection since the day she was born, and that connection changed throughout time. It went from family to friend to more. One night their worlds are shaken when they both see each other differently. They fight their attraction for a while, but eventually give in and build on that strong connection and fall deeply in love. There is some ex and family drama, as well as some hot sexy times...and they get a HEA ending.

POV: This alternated between Kinzi and Tor's POV. It also went from flashbacks to present tense (which I loved).

Overall Pace of Story: Good. I never skimmed and I thought it flowed well (see closure section).

Instalove: No. They've known each other since Kinzi was born.

H rating: 5 stars. Tor. He was sweet, he was sexy, he was loyal, and he saved abused animals...he was awesome!

h rating: 4 stars. Kinzi. I liked her. She was mature for her age, and I appreciated her desire to just have a family to love.

Sadness level: Low. No tissues needed.

Push/Pull: Yes (view spoiler)

Heat level: Moderate. They have some hot chemistry and scenes.

Descriptive sex: Yes

Safe sex: Kind of. Mention of birth control, but I don't remember any mention of the H's previous practices or std status.

OW/OM drama: Yes (view spoiler)

Sex scene with OW or OM: No

Cheating: No

Separation: Yes (view spoiler)

Possible Triggers: Yes (view spoiler)

Closure: This had good closure with a cute jump ahead epilogue and a HEA ending. I did feel like the

ending was abrupt, and I would've liked to have some time to see them as an outed couple with other people though...I felt a little jipped there :/

How I got it: It was part of my kindle unlimited subscription.

Safety: I'd say this is this should be Safe for most readers.
(view spoiler)

Maria♦*Steamy Reads Blog*♦ says

*"I don't want him to be any sort of uncle to me or be my dad's best friend. I want him to be **MINE.**"*

➡***DEEP BREATH*** Since this is a taboo romance I want to I start this review by answering all of the questions I had myself prior to reading it.

Age gap? **YES, 15 years. ✓**

Blood relatives? **NO. ✗**

Underage sex? **NO. ✗**

YEARLY, KEEP READING ^.^

➡I have to applaud Carian Cole for creating a unique, unconventional and delicate situation and shaping it into such a **beautiful friends to lovers romance**. Once you strip all the technicalities away you are left with two characters whose **friendship developed into love**.

➡**Kenzi**, the heroine, is born into a family of **famous teen musicians**. They have to be away from her quite often and so they have their best friend Toren help babysit and essentially raise her. They are all 15 at the time, by the way. **Does this look like a normal situation? No. So why expect a normal result?**

➡So you can probably see where this is going, right? **Kenzi grows up** and, once she turns 18, the relationship between her and Toren starts changing.

➡**The torment was handled very well** here. These two understand perfectly well how they will be

crucified in their immediate social circles and yet the pull between them is so strong that the **collision is inevitable**. How will Kenzi's father react to his best friend being with his little girl?

♥I loved both of the characters to bits. **Kenzi is a sweet and brave girl** who follows her heart to get what she wants. **Toren is a gentle soul who is all man** with some savageness to him. I loved how he saw Kenzi and how fiercely he loved her.

"I'm staring down at cleavage for days surrounded by thin, teasing black lace that I want to chew through to get to her. "

♥In the scheme of things, **these two grew up together**. The transformation from caretaker to friend to lover was very well done. **He is her first love and she is his, too**.

➡On a side note, I would like to add that the hero in this book spends his free time **rescuing stray animals**. Carian Cole's books feature pets and **she donates to PET RESCUE from her proceeds**. So not only would you be getting an awesome story to enjoy but also a satisfaction of helping an animal in need. :)

➡Highly recommended to those who love **taboo/forbidden** love stories, **friends to lovers** tropes and **super romantic** yet **highly erotic** reads with tons of **anticipation** and **sexual tension**. I might have been itching, no joke.

This was a buddy read with my friend AmyLouAldaMay. There was no bitching and moaning needed in this one but there's always next time. :) <3

Tink Magoo is bad at reviews says

Reread August 2017. I still love their story. Some issues with the writing and thus the 4 and not 5 star rating.

This is one of those stlries that can't be rushed, you need to savor every moment, to slowly take in Kenzi and Tor's journey, the turn from friends to lovers. While it took me til about 25% to really get into the story, when I did it almost felt sensual, slow, delicate, raw and real. Not once did it seem seedy or wrong.

"My mom has said a hundred times, sometimes God puts the right people in the right place for a reason. I'm not a religious person, but right now, I'm thinking she's right."

Tor was a bit too downtrodden and depressing for me at the start, it annoyed me that Ember seemed to be such a big regret. It took a while to get past that for me. While nothing ever happened between them, he did seem bitter that his best friend got her and he didn't. But I got over that, because when he was with Kenzi, he was so different. I loved him, the love he had for her, the all-consuming passion when he accepted what they had become.

"I think I'm falling in love with her, and I'm powerless to stop it. I can feel it, like a train with no

brakes, coming faster and faster, straight for me. Soon, it's going to crash, and it's not going to be pretty."

Kenzi knew what she wanted and never wavered. She wasn't weak or immature. Even the separation, while I didn't like it, it fit into their story.

"I know I shouldn't be thinking of him in that way. I was raised thinking of him as my uncle and he is my Godfather. Those memories can't be wiped away from our history. He's my dad's best friend. He's almost twice my age. But with each day that passes, those facts seem less valid to me, and the feelings I'm having for him are becoming much stronger than fake titles and age differences. It's undeniable; our feelings for each other have changed."

Like others have said, I wanted to read about them together again, and I wanted more epilogue. I'll also add that I didn't like (view spoiler)

Chantal ♥? says

I think it's safe to say this book had me torn!

As I am certain that this was the intension of the author for me to feel this way.

PLEASE PROCEED WITH CAUTION SPOILERS

Unpopular opinion here!

I can honestly say this is the first time I took so many notes while reading a book.

A book that I should be enjoying!

It was almost like I was trying to demystify the story and why I found it so problematic.

Firstly, I must say that the writing itself is flawless and very concise.

Each chapter started with a small piece of their past. At first I found this very sweet and nostalgic, but then I quickly found it very distracting.

It served only to remind me how Taboo their relationship is.

For me it was like:

First time he checks her out and talk about sex/ slap back to his name being her first word

First kiss awesome/ then slap back remember when I got your pet bunny

First time they have sex/ slap again remember when I was into your mom

I could really go on and on but I think you understand what I am saying here.

Now the thing loved about this book are actually the things I thought I would hate.

1- the hero Tor was always present when Kenzi the heroine needed him even when her bunny died (man did I cry) even on the prom date from hell.

2- they had a weird bond that was bordering on father/daughter but without the physical that lasted a long time until she was an adult.

3- the fact that he was her first lover as he was tender and loving and made it special for her.

4- they eventually find a way to make it work without it being awkward with her family and his.

5- cute epilogue! I am a total sucker for those. I can forgive a lot if the epilogue is good!

Now the things I disliked were much more numerous:

1- The fact that her parents essentially gave their daughter Kenzi to Tor for him to raise her. It was crazy! How finally at the end the father gets mad and goes after the hero, when it was basically the hero who did the heavy parenting. He would be on tour with his band and who was caring for her but the hero.

2- How the hero leaves his two ex hanging. One of which is a complete slut Sydni, that he just allows back into his life whenever she feels like it. Sydni being his 12 year off and on F*ck friend and Lisa a newly separated love interest.

He tells Sydni

"Then we'll talk about maybe starting over when you get back home. I want you to have a full STD panel done". Sounds like he is getting ready to hook up with her again and as this is after they start expressing their feelings for each other....BIG NO HERE!

3- HE JUST LET HER GO! Holy sh*t after he takes a beating for her. He just lets her leave. Like whatever we can pick this up some other time. REALLY? Hello love of your life here FIGHT FOR HER! He just rolls over and let's things happen. NOT ALPHA for me.

4- They both allow too much time to go by without any real contact. Sorry but that does not scream endless love to me here at all.

5- They have a father/daughter bond for so many years but he just magically wakes up and one day he wants her for his own. Sexually! Correct me if am wrong here but she's been developing "assets" for a while and just when she is going to be 18 does he have this epiphany. I call that weird.

6- The fact that he has had feeling of a romantic nature and wanted to date her mother.

OMG,creepy gross! I should have started out with that one cause I was just ick for me. I know he did not act on them but he still had these feelings for her.

7- Also, without a chance encounter on the street would they even be together? Maybe but she was in town a whole month and she makes no contact with him? They just have this way of letting time go away without doing anything about their epic love.

8- Where is the passionate, I can't live without each other moments? I miss those kinds of books that have the hero and/or heroine crying their eyes out and losing tons of weight because they can't eat, they can't even function without the other. These two just went about their daily life...Oh well I will get her back someday, I am sure he will be waiting for me.

TRUE LOVE HERE! DON'T WAIT MAKE IT HAPPEN!

9- The actual story was too long and full of things not necessary to the plot like the whole save the animals things! I get it, he saves animals, he is a great guy. But do I need to see him go into endless places placing his life in danger to rescue abused dogs. Also, Pointless conversations he has with other women and other people. Just chapter of things that are not necessary to the understanding of the story.

10- Closure I hate when things are not all neat and tied up at the end. We are left to wonder about her mother. I know there will be another book, but honestly this was an important if not vital part of the story to be left unresolved!

For me it was just a 2 star read but I pushed it up a star because it was so well written.

This book was missing the passionate conviction that would have me saying "YES now that's a great romance."

An OK read but I will not reread this book as it's not really for me personally.

Safety: no cheating. He has two other woman who he keeps hanging and she was dating another guy but after they are together they are faithful. He pushes her away and she goes away. Safe sex she is on the pill and he has been celibate for a long time. No condoms used.

Now for those of you who have Loved this book and thought it was epic, that's great. But these are my thoughts and I am entitled to them after I reading every single word in this book!

As this was a very difficult read for me and I read it anyways, don't abuse my space here with negative comments and hate. I gave it a chance even though I knew it was not for me after the comments made by another reviewer.

Thanks and as always happy reading! :D

Val Shameless ?? Steamy Reads ?? says

DNF @ 27%

Okay...

Okay.

I just can't finish this thing.

And I'm about to get snarky here.

I apologize beforehand.

Okay, not really.

But anyblatantlie, I knew the writing was on the wall for me and this book when I read this:

"My brother Tanner usually opens up the shop and I close, because he's a morning person and I'm usually up late at night, saving lost pets and stalking bad guys...."

...You think I'm kidding? I'm not."

Oh...oh boy.

Well, thanks for the clarification.

That bomb of ridiculous was followed by this little tidbit:

"After I finish the paperwork bullshit, I switch gears and focus on my role as the head of Devils' Wolves MC and pet rescue...Devils' Wolves was my brainchild about five years ago, fueled by my deep respect for two things that my parents instilled in us: the love of pets and motorcycles.

Okay...so you are a tatted up, badass MC Clubber...who saves puppies...when he's not being an MC badass...AND your best friends are BOTH part of two completely separate and yet equally famous rock bands?

Okay, that all just sounds ridiculous to me, quite frankly.

But I was willing to go with it.

But then...not only does he save puppies...he and his manly biker friends also get all vigilante on us and break up dog fighting rings at night.

They aren't cops.

They have absolutely NO authority to do this.

And they are dealing with supposed legit gang bangers who are running dog rings.

But don't worry...

"All of us are trained fighters and know how to disarm someone."

Oh geez.

But the moment it all fell apart for me?

Badass and his band of merry dog saving MC Clubbers is going to another den of nefarious happenings to break up a fighting ring and save the dogs.

snort

During the...altercation, baddy sics his pit bull on our saviors using German commands.

BUT. Because he is SO alpha and awesome AND apparently knows German commands, Badass gives his own commands, overriding baddy's commands and the dog stops his attack and looks to Badass as his new master.

Ummmmm...no.

Before I go any further, let me just say that I come from a law enforcement family.

Half my family are cops, including my husband, who spent nine years as a K-9 Handler.

I have LIVED with a police dog for over 10 years.

And NO trained dog - or ANY dog for that matter - is going to listen to a command from a stranger that directly contradicts a command just given to it by its master.

I'm sorry, I'm just not buying it.

And then, if that wasn't bad enough, Badass follows that whole ridiculous scenario with this gem:

"I've learned that making another man's dog listen to your commands is right up there with sleeping with his woman."

I, of course, read this entire scene to the Husband.

He rolled his eyes through all of it, chuckled through the part where they said they are "trained fighters," and when I got to that little gem about commands and women?

This was his response:

For like a full minute.

Followed by, "What the fuck are you reading? You read weird shit, but this one sounds especially stupid."

ElIIII ohhhhh elIIII.

Ah, thank you for unknowingly providing me with that little soundbite, Husband.

But I digress.

I just couldn't buy into this one.

I don't buy them being vigilantes for puppy justice and I'm not down with them supposedly doing all this with NO authority and or the support of any authority. It was just ridiculous to me.

My friend Al-Pal and I had a conversation about this once.

Sometimes you just can't read books about things you know too much about because you become too critical. For example, she's a nurse and has trouble with books that take place in the medical field. Because all she sees are the errors in medical terminology and the fuck-ups in common practices.

I think this is true for all of us. Anything that you know a lot about or have a lot of experience with? You are going to be a lot more critical of a book about it. It's just human nature.

And I'm not saying that the events in this book *couldn't* happen, I'm just saying that with my experience with law enforcement and dog training, I am having a harder time buying into it all.

That said, a lot of my friends really liked this book and I really wanted to like it too. I love the premise of Badass loving Prodigal Band Baby her whole life and the two of them ending up together.

And maybe I'll skim through it at some point. Just not today...

Find me at:

Mari?ina says

Storm won me right away, Vandal had me on my knees, Lukas gave me hopes and feelings and Talon took my heart and breath away. So as you can easily tell I have high hopes every time I open a book written by Carian Cole because 1)she is one of my favorite authors in this whole wide world and 2) I always end up in love with her stories no matter what.

So how about Torn, you ask? I'll let you know immediately. Tor and Kenzi are winners like the ones before them. Since the very first book I read by Carian Cole, I knew her writing was just right for me, what I didn't know back then was that she possesses a unique talent in storytelling, empathy.

It's not easy to write a story like Torn, so powerful, hinting on taboo, filled with suppressed feelings, pain, loneliness, love and hope. It's also not easy as a reader to read and enjoyed said story mostly because at some points you will feel weird about the history between the two main characters.

Tor is a hero that will stick with you for a long time due to his beautiful and sorrowful soul. He is big(everywhere *wink-wink*), tattooed, an ex-musician turned mechanic who discarded his dream without a second thought in order to take care of his family, and let's not forget an animal savior with a heart of gold.

Kenzi is beyond her years, that's true but still, an eighteen-year-old girl who has dreams and is entirely too much in love with Tor, her favorite person in the world who is always by her side and won't let her down no matter what. She is creative, sweet and has a huge heart full of love to offer and she won't take no for an answer, feisty and romantic like her parents.

All in all this beautiful romance is so interesting and unique. I've never read such a story before and I'm impressed with the way everything was handled. I was mesmerized by their pure love and every little drama-filled moment and all the characters, not just the main couple. It was an absolutely incredible storyline adorned with so many passionate scenes and some crazy feelings. I fell in love right away!!!!

THOUGHTS ABOUT THE BOOK

- Big drama right away. With the whole family.
- I don't like Sydni.
- Kenzi hoards Tor's things!! Super adorable.
- She is so down to earth.
- Wow, the thing with her mom is creepy.
- Ty sounds very interesting.
- I love how much he cares about animals. It's so beautiful.
- Tor is very unsure of himself and that's so cute. He is such a caring and giving person. And excruciatingly romantic.
- The Jug story!! AWWW!!!
- Her first word was Tor!!
- I loved how he dreamt of meeting her in an alternative reality.
- Lukas knows everything.
- The tattoo!!!AWWWWW!!!
- The epilogue was epic. I can't wait for Asher's story.

Jeannine Allison says

This is gonna be a long one (like maybe the longest I've ever written)... so, get comfy ;)

This book was unfreakingbelievably **AMAZING** ... and that's putting it mildly.

It had everything I could want in a book: engaging characters, one of which is an AWESOME book boyfriend ;), terrific writing, and a well developed plot line. I highlighted so many parts of this book because of all the perfect moments there were. I know this book seems controversial, and if everything is taken out of context, it might seem "creepy." But it's not. It's far freaking from it. I honestly couldn't imagine Tor and Kenzi falling in love with anyone else, they were *perfect* together <3 And I'm not saying this in the sense that they had chemistry or somehow they just "worked" together. No, this author genuinely crafted a wonderful novel and made it clear that they really were soulmates.

-Kenzi-

Being the daughter of two rockstars made her experience growing up different than most. One of the results is that she is much more mature than most of the people her age. You can tell the difference in how she thinks and even how she interacts with her best friend, Chloe. Growing up is about a lot more than age. Growing up is about the experiences you have, and Kenzi's had a lot. She isn't in that weird place that most teenagers are in where they are struggling to find themselves. Kenzi knows what she wants.

"Is it too fifties to want to get married and have kids?"

I **love** when women can confidently state that this is something they want. Because no, there's nothing wrong with wanting to stay home and take care of your family. Not at all, it's a job too and with Kenzi's tender nature and already having experienced a "wild phase" by vicariously living through her parents, it makes a lot of sense.

She doesn't see Tor as someone to love right away, but once she does realize it, she doesn't hold back. Kenzi chases him and never wavers in her feelings. And what proved her maturity even more was her discussions with Tor. She laid out her feelings, and they talked about the problems and what they wanted. It never felt juvenile or like he was pressuring her. In fact, he's pretty torn up about it.

But, at the end of the day, she knows it's Tor she wants and she sees him for what he's always been.

"When I look at you, I don't see my father's friend, or my uncle, or my godfather, or an older man. All I see is the person I've always loved and has always made me happy."

-Tor-

Good God, he was perfect. I feel bad for the next few books I'll read because the bar is pretty damn high right now. He was absolutely incredible and I have *many* quotes to prove it (and this is the narrowed down list). I mean how can you *not* swoon at these lines...

"I'm just waiting for the one that makes me feel like forever wouldn't be long enough."

"I just want that magical feeling I wrote about years ago when I used to write the lyrics for the band's rock ballads. I want crazy fucking love. I want someone that'll never let me go. I want to wake up to my best friend every day."

"The moment I kissed Kenzi, she became the One. Maybe she always was."

"Young love... first love is so innocent. So pure and trusting. So all encompassing. I shouldn't be on the receiving end of that love from her at my age, but in all honesty, she's my first love, too."

"I think I'm falling in love with her, and I'm powerless to stop it. I can feel it, like a train with no brakes, coming faster and faster, straight for me. Soon, it's going to crash, and it's not going to be pretty."

And then there's this... I freaking **LOVE** this... he's discussing his celibacy for the past six+ months, and his sister tells him it's "impressive" that he's abstained. His response:

"No, it's love. I only want her. That's it."

Like YES! Why is this a hard concept?! It's not like your dick will fall off if you don't use it every four seconds... I'm tired of reading books where the guy physically can't keep it in his pants.

He was so dedicated to Kenzi. And in regards to the other women in his life, I never really got the feeling he loved them. Tor is simply tired of being overlooked. He had to give up his dreams in order to take care of his family when his father died, watching his friends go on and get famous without him. Then he gets his crush, which is Kenzi's mom, "stolen" from him by Asher, his best friend. I could see some people being bothered

by this. But honestly, I didn't feel that he wanted Ember as much as he just didn't want to be second best. I mean, they were 15 years old. And I'm not saying 15 year olds don't know what love is, but I think more often than not, the "love" teenagers feel is often a crush/infatuation. And I think from that point on, Tor just wanted someone he could trust and love, and know that he was this person's *number one*. When he talks about these things later on, he says,

"I'm not going to be anyone's second choice."

And when Asher takes Ember's attention that first day at 15 years old, Tor thinks,

"I can feel myself slipping into the background."

He's not necessarily just thinking about Ember, he's thinking about *himself* being overlooked, not being enough.

I felt the same way with Sydni and Lisa (his relationships before Kenzi). Personally, I don't believe Tor loved either of them. Again, he just wanted a connection. Even though Sydni's relationship with him spanned (intermittently) 12 years, I think it was a comfort thing.

But with Kenzi, he *knows* he's her number one. She's been showing him since she was a little kid, and it's not weird or unsettling. It's all just really beautiful.

*Also, I'm *really* glad he had relationships during that time. I totally understand the concept of not wanting the hero or heroine to sleep around after meeting the "one," but if the "one" happens to be six years old... yeah... that'd be weird for me. I think if he hadn't had relationships it would have been really strange. And like I said, he didn't love them, so I really didn't mind.

He was all about Kenzi. We get a lot of great flashbacks of Kenzi when she was younger, and we get to see how non-creepy Tor was. It was one hundred percent normal. And while he takes some convincing (because he is a *really* good guy and doesn't want to betray his friend like that), once their relationship does change, he doesn't shy away. He's *with* her. Full stop.

"Is it possible that falling in love doesn't always start when we think it might, and sometimes, it starts way before we're ready, and grows slowly over time, allowing two people to truly fall in love with every aspect of each other?"

I loved this theme. I think it's awesome what this author did. It is not a conventional love story, but I felt it so deeply. She took such care with the characters and it seemed like every single word was carefully thought through. It was absolutely breathtaking.

Now about the ending. While I do agree with others, I didn't love how long the separation was (or some of the particulars around the reconciliation) and I wished their HEA was longer, I was able to overlook it. I think it was more realistic to give them that time apart because Asher would not have come around much quicker. And I'm satisfied knowing that Tor and Kenzi will be back in Asher's book and we'll get to see more of their HEA <3 <3

Oh, and can we talk about Asher?! I freaking loved him and his devotion to Ember!

"He thinks he can love her back to life, Tor. That's what he believes."

I can't wait for his story!! :)

Hulya Kara Yuksel says

Author's Note: ** Please note: there is NO underage sex in this book. There is NO incest or blood relation in this book. This is NOT an MC Club story. This is NOT erotica. This is a slow burn romance. This book is intended for readers 18 years and older **

"I want you to be my first. I want you to be my last. I want you to be all the in-betweens. I want you. Just you. Only you"

WOW!!! *handsdown* This is one of the sweetiest but also the sexiest book I ever read. I really, really loved Tor&Kenzi's story. :) I know from outside it looks disturbing this kind of stories but author really did a great job to show me that beautiful connection between Tor&Kenzi. Toren is 15 years older than Kenzi and they're know each other from the day she was born but they have an amazing chemistry and that age difference really didn't bother me at all. Because I felt their love too. And I'm glad that they didn't make out with every 10 minutes like a bunnies so that's another reason for me to love this story. :)

What can I say more? I loved every minute of this story. Kenzi knows what she wants, who she loves and so was Toren too. And in that case the heart always gets what it wants... <3

Ps. If you're okay with this age difference, I highly recommend this book. Trust me, that big &tattooed guy will make you surprise with his kindness and he will make you swoon... :)

◆ Anna's ??????g\$ ◆ says

3.5 STARS

Why is it acceptable to get involved with a total stranger, who could do any number of things to hurt you or betray you, but not get involved with someone who has cared about you since the day you were born?

Is it all a matter of social perspective?

Once again I picked up a book based on its controversial theme more than anything else.

I was a little afraid the events would creep me out in some way but luckily that didn't happen. The subject

matter is skillfully handled so that I didn't have a problem with the age difference nor with the fact that the hero was a family friend.

Despite being a taboo book, this book is more beautiful and warm than shocking, dark or gritty. It isn't overloaded with too much drama and I really liked that for a change. But what I liked the most was that falling in love happened slowly and convincingly.

Overall, this was a good read and I really enjoyed it. Some parts were intense and gripping and those were the parts I loved the most, especially the first third and the last third of the book. The characterization and the writing are well-done. The characters are mature, likable and easily relatable.

On the downside, the middle of the book was too slow and a bit boring. The ending was a bit unsatisfying; it felt too rushed disrupting the flow of the story. Also, some of the secondary events in this book felt strange to me and were redundant or not detailed enough.

QUICK REVIEW:

Enjoyment: 3.5/5

Writing style: 4/5

Storyline: 4/5

Hero: 4/5

Heroine: 4/5

Secondary characters: 4/5

Hotness/chemistry: 4/5

Romance: 5/5

Angst: 3/5

Darkness level: 2/5

Humor: 3/5

Depth of the book: 5/5

POV: dual

Triggers: (view spoiler)

Sarah Toussaint says

I truly wanted to enjoy this one and yeah, there were some good parts, hence my three-stars rating. But when it came down to it, it was all anticlimactic and the sexual chemistry was lacking.

This is my first book by this author, I think and I'm kind of doubting her other books.

This story dragged too much and I felt like I was waiting for something big that never actually came.

Get it...?

"Came?"

Anti-climactic...?

No? Okay... lol
