



Turning His Life Around

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When Kane Harris's world turns upside down, his lifelong best friend is the only one to catch him.

Years ago, Ian Kelly accepted Kane would never return his love, since he knows Kane believes he's incapable of it. Ian is willing to settle for what he can get—a best friend, sometimes casual lover, and occasional submissive. He's learned he can't live without Kane, but he can't let Kane know. Because when, not if, Kane confirms that Ian's love will never be returned, Ian won't be able to take it. But when Kane loses his job and asks Ian to step up their play to help him deal, Ian's ability to hide his feelings falters. Then Kane starts his own computer security firm and asks Ian to join him, and Ian struggles further.

It's not until they visit the exclusive BDSM club the Iron Door that things come to a head. Kane screws up big time, and he's afraid he can't fix it. He's sure he'll lose his best friend, his Dom, his everything... forever.

Turning His Life Around Details

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Author : Grace R. Duncan

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From Reader Review Turning His Life Around for online ebook

Brooklyn says

Absolutely loved this book. I really liked how this was BDSM but so much more. It was also about Kane 's and Ian's friendship and how it grew to become more over the years. My heart broke for Ian and I just wanted to smack Kane upside the head for being so stubborn and clueless. But their friendship was beautiful.

Caroline Brand says

REVIEWED FOR PRISM BOOK ALLIANCE

4.5 Stars

I loved everything about this book! From the cover to the words to the emotions to the denial to the realisation....I just loved it all.

Kane and Ian have a complicated relationship. It starts in their childhood when they become best friends and great allies. It continues on to the present day where they are still best friends and also occasional lovers which drifts into a D/s relationship when required.

When Kane loses his job the D/s side of their relationship grows tenfold. Kane is untethered and finds himself needing to submit to Ian on a more regular basis. This causes both men problems but fear and lack of communication means that neither is willing to address them or be honest.

Ian has been in love with Kane for years and he lives for the few snatched moments they have together as occasional lovers. Keeping his emotions and feelings hidden becomes increasingly difficult when Kane needs him more and more but he could never deny his best friend anything.

Kane eludes himself that love is not for him. He has built so many walls around his heart over the years that he is the very last person to see how he truly feels about Ian. He hides, he panics but he is never honest with himself. The more time he spends submitting to Ian the harder it becomes to rationalise his feelings or explains how he adores the tender moments, the random touches and why he feels overwhelming jealousy at the thought of Ian finding anyone else.

Through a series of good fortune Kane lands on his feet where work is concerned but sorting out this side of his life means putting even more stress on his personal life when he asks Ian to come and work alongside him. The more time they spend together the more difficult Ian finds it.

Love is blind...and so is Kane but when they attend a high class BDSM club the night doesn't go as planned. It is an evening of realisation and revelations but Kane has to hope he hasn't left it too late and gone too far.

Carly says

Turning His Life Around is one of the most entertaining BDSM stories I've read in a while. I have personal experience in the lifestyle and must say that one of my favorite aspects of *Turning* is how realistically the D/s

relationship develops between Ian and Kane over time. While certain personalities do tend to incline a person towards one side or the other, the truth of the matter is that Doms are not born with the knowledge of how to lead, subs are not automatic naturals. That these are skills developed over time, nurtured between partners and, more often than not, learned at home or within a small group of like-minded friends, is a truth Duncan nestles beautifully within the pages of her story.

Kane and Ian's characters are so genuine, the connection between them is almost tangible. The obvious chemistry found in their deliciously frequent scenes are '*Did somebody turn the heat up in here?*' sexy. They make their fair share of mistakes over time, but in doing so learn to communicate, trust and depend on each other. Reading *Turning His Life Around* is like opening a window into someone else's life, fully expecting it to be a completely foreign experience, only to discover that it's not that much different than your own.

My OFFICIAL REVIEW written for Carly's Book Reviews

Sammy Goode says

3.5 stars

If you are looking for a good BDSM novel with a twist then look no further than Grace R. Dunkin's *Turning His Life Around*. Two best friends since the tender age of six, Kane and Ian have been on again, off again fuck buddies as well as roommates. Both self-professed geeks, they have that rare friendship that seems able to accept the fact that they are not destined to be anything more than best buddies—or do they? When the two begin to explore their D/s roles with Ian taking the more dominant position, their relationship slowly begins to morph into something else.

As they weather life changes, with Kane losing his job only to be offered the opportunity to set up his own business and bring Ian with him, Ian finds himself needing more. He is no longer content just being fuck buddies with Kane, in fact, he has fallen in love with his best friend. However, an abusive past has left its mark on Kane. Not being sure what love really is and fairly positive it is not meant for him, Kane fails to recognize the signs Ian is giving off. Now they stand at a crossroads—can they be just friends?

This was an excellent study of a developing D/s relationship and a glimpse into what happens when friends cross the line into something more. While I understood the need for the fairly continuous sex, I felt that the story actually suffered overall. In fact, at times, it felt like the plot existed only to serve as the next jumping off point for heated and intense sexual encounters between the two main characters. I really enjoyed the moments when the author allowed us to take a break from the intimate moments and get a peek at what her characters were like. Ian was so invested in Kane and vice versa—their friendship was so convincing and their growing need to be more than just friends was well done. Each time that Kane missed those obvious cues that Ian was falling harder for him, you wanted to just shake the man and scream, wake up!

All in all, *Turning His Life Around* was a good novel that could have benefited from a bit more time spent on furthering the plot and a little less time in the bedroom.

? BookAddict ✍️ La Crimson Femme says

Friends to lovers is a popular theme for a reason. Romance lovers want their cake and eat it too. Kane is a brilliant guy who is just checking the list of things he's supposed to do as an adult. He isn't living his life. His childhood makes it difficult for him to strive for his dreams. Some of it stems from crushed dreams. Some of it stems from lack of self-confidence. What Kane doesn't lack is a best friend who is also a terrific lover, Ian.

Be forewarned, this is not a sweet, smooth friends to lover story. This is a story with depth of character and angsty situations which pull at the heart strings. Ian desperately wants to be more than just friends with benefits. He also wants more than just being the backup dominant for Kane. When Ian finally gives up hope, Kane starts to get a clue.

This story breaks my heart because of the realistic misunderstandings. The lack of communication because one is so familiar with the other person is an easy trap for friends with benefits. The scene at the high end BDSM club where Ian and Kane's scene goes south even before it starts is painful to witness on several levels. Ms. Duncan does a great job of showing how each person perceives the situation. It also goes to show how a lack of clear boundaries regardless of a D/s relationship will cause disconnects. Personally, I felt bad for Kane. Whilst I understood his misstep, I still think Ian should have known better. Seriously, if you love someone, you don't just go fuck another man's ass for everyone to see. A D/s relationship can be very intimate. The fact that in this story, that Ian did not understand why Kane was so upset pissed me off to no end. I wanted to whack Ian over the head several times. In the end, I do not think it is ever shown how both Ian and Kane made mistakes. The fault and blame lays with Kane and that leaves me feeling uneasy and unhappy. And it is why I ended up not giving this a four star rating.

The story is very well written. It pulls emotions out of a reader. The characters are fabulous. The sexual exploration as well as the personal growth are all captivating. I really enjoyed this book and due to a personal trigger, this book rated a little lower by half a star. This m/m erotic romance is highly recommended to kinky readers who enjoy friends to lovers theme with a strong dose of cathartic release.

Joyfully Jay says

A Joyfully Jay review.

3.5 stars

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All in all, *Turning His Life Around* was a good novel that could have benefited from a bit more time spent on furthering the plot and a little less time in the bedroom.

Read Sammy's review in its entirety [here](#).

Lisa says

I was given a copy of this book free by the author in exchange for an unbiased review.

I am so torn about this book. Until the first club scene I loved it. It was a well written story of 2 roomies and best friends who were in love with each other but didn't want to admit it to each other.

Then we have the first club scene. I was so engrossed in the book that I actually gasped and burst into tears.

I don't have any hard limits really when reading except cheating and this hit it.

Ian was a complete bastard. Kane and he might not been official but they certainly had feelings for each other. Ian loved him and so I don't know what possessed him.

Kane was very restrained and if it would have been me, I would have punched his lights out.

I hated Ian after that and nothing he could do would redeem him in my eyes. Kane let him off way to easily.

Its such a shame because until that moment, this book had been a 5 star read for me.

Love Bytes Reviews says

4 Heart Review by Amber

Oooh...I liked this one. I liked it A LOT!!! This was so far from the usual BDSM stories I've read. My only issue and I'll say it up front because it really is the only one but it's throughout MOST of the book so it's significant. It's the being "in love" thing. No spoilers because this is in the blurb but, their relationship was beautiful absolutely beautiful!! Beautiful for 2 adults in a committed relationship, not best friends/roommates. I was baffled how clueless these two seemingly intelligent men were. The communicated so beautifully throughout their scenes but not out, frustrating, but I DID enjoy the hell out of it!!

Kane Harris did not have the greatest childhood but he did have a best friend who tried to make up for all the bad in his world. Trying to make up for all the bad, Ian, Kane's best friend, and his family step in and take Kane in when things got horrific.

Ian Kelly has loved Kane Harris in one way or another for most of his life. As adults they have an apartment together and live as roommates, strictly roommates. But they do have casual sex with each other and they're exploring the world of BDSM together.

Kane being a natural sub and Ian a natural Dom, they are the most comfortable with each other so that is who they explore this new lifestyle with.

Since I already mentioned my issue now I can blab about what I really liked. There was a lot of sex in this story and most of the time when that happens in stories; it gets monotonous, boring even. Yeah, not with these two. Holy hell, they were hot together. I loved the "make love" passionate scenes and the hardcore BDSM sex scene, they were a perfect mix. This then goes into my next plus, this author!! This is my very first book from her and hot damn I'm excited for the future. Great writing, unbelievable character building, and amazing writing...BDSM lovers will die for this story and everyone else will really friggin enjoy it!!

This book was provided free in exchange for a fair and honest review for Love Bytes. Go there to check out other reviews, author interviews, and all those awesome giveaways. Click below.

H.B. Pattskyn says

This is one that just simply hit on all cylinders for me. A touch of angst, old scars, fear, love....genuine, real, beautiful love.

Oh yeah, and blissfully hot--and blessedly *realistic* -- BDSM

Yes, there were times I wanted to smack Kane (and not in a way he would enjoy) for being an idiot--but you know characters are real when they get under your skin and piss you off a little (or at least that's what does it for me).

Definitely one of the better BDSM romance books I've read and *definitely* the best one I've read in a while!

Serena Yates says

Take two somewhat socially awkward “geeks”, make them best friends and sometime f*ck buddies, add a touch of D/s to their preferences, and you end up with one fascinating story. Part character study and part intriguing personal drama, ‘Turning His Life Around’ had me spellbound from the very start. Kane and Ia are wonderful, complex characters who do nothing the easy way.

Kane pulled me right into the story. He is intelligent, knows his stuff, but doesn't like people very much. The fact he had an awful boss and got treated very badly may have something to do with my sympathies, but the way he stood up to the idiot boss made all the difference. Kane is anything but weak. The complicated relationship with his best friend / roommate / fuck buddy / occasional Dom, Ian, was the next thing that got to me, and as Kane's awful past starts unfolding, his behavior, hesitancy, and belief he cannot love anyone began to make sense. Kane has a long, hard road to travel and I was with him every step of the way.

Ian is a great guy and a good friend. He used to be a bit blind to certain aspects of Kane's personality, but is waking up fast as the novel progresses. He is deeply in love with Kane, but can't say it outside their D/s scenes for fear of being rejected. And he is sure Kane will reject him, because he knows Kane inside out. Can you spell I-S-S-U-E-S?

This could have easily been a “standard” friends-to-lover story. Nothing could be further from the truth, since there isn't much “standard anything” in this story at all. The motivations and reasoning for who Kane and Ian are, and why they behave the way they do are pretty unique. The subplot of the two of them starting a business together on top of everything else that is going on made things even more interesting. A total delight!

If you like complex characters with real issues, if you want to find out how two “geeks” handle life when they figure out a “normal” job just isn't going to work for them, and if you're looking for a read with depth, revelations, and lots of character growth, then you will probably enjoy this novel as much as I did. And yes, to top it all off, the sex is pretty hot too!

NOTE: This book was provided by Dreamspinner Press for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

Dana says

Reviewed for Rainbow Gold Reviews. A copy was provided in exchange for an honest review. 9.5/10 pots of gold.

My experience with BDSM books is still on the relatively low end, but I do enjoy a good story of submission and domination, where the partners are equal outside of their scenes or the bedroom. Turning His Life Around was a perfect example of that. One of my favorite tropes is friends to lovers. I love that moment when a pair of friends realizes that their feelings run deeper. In this story it comes quicker to Ian. Ian and Kane started out as young friends, to roommates who like to game together as well as study martial arts. Eventually they became friends with sub/dom benefits.

Things seem to change for them when Kane loses his job and Ian becomes more comforting for lack of a better word. While Ian attempts to not fall too deeply, Kane's issues go back to his childhood. It was not easy for him growing up with an alcoholic parent with lovers who began to look at him with consideration. Not having a strong background of love made it hard for him to see what he might be feeling beyond friendship.

Things really seem to kick into high gear for them, when they open a web security business together and gain a BDSM club for a client. Up til then they were self taught, but being in the presence of others solidifies their dom/sub relationship. The sex between them is hot but their tenderness with each other even before the realization of feelings was sweet. I loved everything about them. There are great side characters in this story as well. A group of friends and co-workers they hang out with frequently including another dom/sub pair, and new friends/clients of their security business also in the BDSM culture as well. After reading about them, I have to admit I'd like to see stories about them as well. Though the road to admitting their feelings for each other is not easy for Kevin and Ian, it definitely was an awesome book with a great ending.

Kim says

Um...wow..I was given a copy of this book for an honest review. What a pleasure it was to read this book. Not only does it contain m/m and BDSM which are my favorites, it had me in tears a few times and even angry/frustrated at Kane's clueless-ness(yeah, I know that's not a word). The characters were great, the story was believable, the ending was just how I like them HEA!

I am a speed reader and in certain books I will often skip paragraphs if it is too long winded in info I don't feel I need to read, but I read every word of this book, never skimming.

I gave this book 4 stars. I loved the length of it, loved the genre, loved the story line, loved all the characters. The only reasons why I did not give it 5 stars is because the whole offer to start his own company was kind of out there and never really made sense to me. I kept expecting it to be a scam of some sort . Also, on occasion, I had to reread a paragraph to understand who was talking, or who was doing what to who. I found myself confused in a few places.

I would love to read more of m/m-BDSM from this author.

Tina says

Loved this friend to fuckbuddies - fuckbuddies to lovers BDSM story. The scenes at the club... holy hell... they were freaking hot!

Would love to read more about Kane and Ian and their friends at the Iron Door.

Recommended if you love your guys hot and kinky. :)

Gigi says

Kane Harris and Ian Kelly have been friends since they were 6 years old. They continue that friendship into adulthood. They live together, sleep together and participate in a hot and heavy, extra kinky D/s relationship. But they aren't a couple. They are not in a relationship and are free to date and have sex with anyone they please. (The having-sex-with-other-partners arrangement was a little off to me given the fact that these two have been tested and go bareback with each other. The fact that they aren't seeing anyone during the course of this book is probably the explanation.)

Kane had a rough start in life. His mom was promiscuous, lackadaisical about keeping a job and didn't take her son's safety into account when bringing strange men home. When she was in a relationship, she chose poorly too. Kane's "stepfathers" were physically and emotionally abusive to both Kane and his mother and some made sexual advances toward Kane. He was a miserable child and took solace in Ian and his family. He eventually moves in with them after one of his mom's colossal flake-outs. (Technically Kane and Ian are brothers. They grew up together, starting as young boys, in the same house. But I didn't dwell on that since it was mentioned rarely and we only got a few flashbacks. I let myself forget about it so I could enjoy this book.)

This book is all about Kane and Ian's growing romantic relationship with the backdrop of Kane branching out on his own professionally and starting his own business. Since this was a major stress in Kane's life, lots and lots of delicious BDSM scenes took place. Ian used their D/s relationship in an effort to calm Kane down, and it works.

Ian has been in love with Kane since as long as he can remember and would like nothing more than to be exclusive and a couple. Kane, after suffering through a traumatic childhood with no father and a mother that didn't love him, feels he is not capable of love and has used that as an excuse for why these two can't get more serious.

So, the brunt of the book is these two guys dancing around each other's emotions. Kane's inner dialogue is full of conflicting emotions about Ian and a big decision he needs to make before Ian moves on.

I did enjoy this book, after I was able to get the whole they-are-brothers aspect out of my mind. (That just a little to incesty for my taste.) The back story of the new business wasn't very compelling, but the BDSM, kinky sex was off the cuff hot! Lots and lots of emotions were exposed during their scenes and that just makes it extra enjoyable.

I can **recommend** this book to all lovers of a hot and heavy, kinky BDSM but caution any other readers to the more low-key, bland sub plot of Kane's IT business.

This review has been crossed posted to Jessewave

~ Lei ~ Reading Is An Adventure ~ says

★★★★? ~ 4 Stars

Long-time best friends, sometime fuckbuddies and sometimes Master/sub and roommates are at a crossroads.

Ian has fallen for Kane as both lover and Dominant and this story is moved along with the dreaded lack of/miscommunication so we can see what's happening a mile away yet the guys don't and continue to stumble.

Kane has never had the experience of a loving relationship even as a child so has no frame of reference and when he finally gets the wake-up call (the club scene) he doesn't know how to process it.

Sexy scenes and while the club scene (view spoiler)

The writer does an excellent job of portraying each character's POV, but dudes - just talk, darn it!

I had read a book previously from this author and it was full of orgasm denial (which is frankly exhausting to me) and I was happy to see that it was employed here in much smaller doses.

Overall, an entertaining book and I'd like to read more from this author.
