



Chains

Kelli Maine

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Chained To The Past.

On the brink of going pro in MMA, Tyler Graves has defied his past—a past where going to jail for beating the hell out of his foster father took him away from the girl he loved and swore to protect, leaving her in the house of the man who abused them both.

Chained To Regret.

No matter how much time has passed, Danielle Debasco weighs on Ty's mind and conscience. He was supposed to save her, instead he abandoned her.

Chained To Love.

To free Danny from the abusive man who still haunts her, Ty's faced with sacrificing his future by finishing what he started four years ago—taking vengeance. But, this time will be different. This time he won't stop until the horrors of their past are sealed not just in blood, but in death.

Chains Details

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From Reader Review Chains for online ebook

Zita says

Breaking the chains of the past...

Tyler (Ty) Graves is an MMA fighter working at turning pro. He suffered child abuse at the hands of his foster father with two others. At the age of eighteen he was cast out of the system but before doing so he beat up his abuser and went to jail for it, leaving behind Danielle (Danny) Debasco who was not yet of age to leave still in his care. Tyler always meant to go back for her but he needed to get his act together and four years have passed in which he has never forgotten his promise to return for her. He suffers the weight of his abandonment of her and when in a fight her name is thrown at him he knows the time is now to rectify the mistakes of his past even if it costs him his career.

Danny has not fared as well as Tyler through the years though she did survive any way that she could including drug addiction to forget the horrors she endured and selling her body for money. When Ty finds her the guilt he feels is overwhelming, he should not have left her there. He'll do anything to clean her up and bring her back to life. They were close as children and with her he finds peace and completion, something he has not found elsewhere. They were meant to be together.

But the past continues into the present for their foster father is psychotic and obsessed with Danny, no matter where she runs he manages to track her down to continue his abuse. Ty won't let that happen again, he knows that it is time to end things once and for all. He will do what he should have done that night four years ago no matter what the personal consequences are.

This is the heartbreaking story of two broken people finding the strength together to face their shared past, that they deserve freedom from the past and the happiness that is everyone's right to strive for and have. The main characters were compelling and likable, you felt for them. There are flashbacks to their childhood, as children they made up fairytales to get them through the dark times that I found touching and something children are wont to do, to believe in knights in shining armor even if those knights are flawed. The storyline was interesting and suspenseful and kept my attention.

Issues that I had:

I did find the amount of time that Danny was in withdrawal was not very credible; it was way too short for someone suffering from true drug addiction. I did not like the comic book like graphics that were interspersed within chapters; they were distracting and offered no enhancement to the story. I wish I could remove them from my kindle version.

This story seriously needs editing, there were 44 errors noted in a shorter length book. This was a distraction that halted reading while a notation was made. Sadly we are used to errors in eBooks these days but that there were so many showed that no proofing was done prior to publication.

There should have been more of a warning in the blurb regarding the content of child abuse and that there was dog fighting. These are serious topics that not all readers can tolerate and should have been disclosed better even though in this book they were not graphically described.

Angelisa Stone says

Kelli Maine always likes to the push the envelope and try something new and a little darker than the rest. Well, she's done it again. Chains is different: it's dark, sexy, tormented, and real. You all will love it. Mark your calendars for September 22nd and one-click Danny and Tyler. If you're looking for rainbows and unicorns, then hit something else up, because this ain't it.

Megan Fall says

This was another difficult read as it dealt with abuse. I loved the characters, especially Tyler and Alex. I wish both the knights had a happy ending though! Definitely need Kleenex when reading this one!

Kirsty says

This book wasn't really what I was expecting when I picked it up, but I loved it all the same!

Danny and Ty grew up in foster care together, along with their foster brother, Alex. The three of them encountered the most horrendous abuse at the hands of 'Striker'. Through the years they were there for each other, covering for each other whenever they could. At 18 Ty leaves foster care and ends up in trouble after beating Striker. He promises to go back for Danny and save her, but 4 years later, that just didn't go as planned.

"Every footfall away from her left an empty, hollow longing in my chest."

Years later, Danny and Ty's lives are world's apart from each other, but Ty has never forgotten his promise and will still do all he can to save Danny. Danny on the other hand, is a meth addict, working the street, with not a lot going for.. Ty finally gets to make his promise and save Danny from a life she shouldn't be leading. Even though that could mean life and death.

I do have a few issues with this book, which unfortunately took away from my reading experience, but on the whole it was a great book.

First off, the book needs some serious editing. I don't know hoe many exactly (although reading another review they counted 44) there seemed to be an error on every other page. For a book that is so short, that is more than too many. It's off putting and ultimately distracts you from the story. Another major issue I had was some of the story content. Danny is a meth addict, of four years, and when she meets Ty he makes her go cold turkey. Seriously, I was expecting major withdrawal issues but there was just nothing. She may have been sick a few times, slept a little longer than average but that was it and all of a sudden she was just.. okay. It wasn't very genuine at all.

Aside from that, this was a good story with potential to be an incredible story. I think it just needs a little work.

Reviewing for The Hopeless Romantics Book Blog as part of the 'Chains' blog tour.

Beth says

5 Dark Disney Stars

Have you ever noticed that most fairy tales have a dark center? Hardly ever any moms. Wicked relatives who only want to hurt you. Deceit, trickery, and evil intentions everywhere. Hell, Ariel had to completely deny her family and don't even get me started on Dumbo. Talk about bullying and hazing. Some seriously dark Disney going on. I think Ms Maine spent a lot of time with the Golden Books and in front of the VHS player.

Once upon a time there were three children living in hell. Alex, Tyler and Danny (a girl) were raised together in foster care. They were abused, neglected, and had to learn to stick together to survive. Up until they turned 18. Then they one by one left. Left the others in that hell.

Every footfall away from her left an empty hollow longing.

Tyler has always been good with his fists. Now he is making a living with them. But he never forgot the promises he made to Danny. The promises he has yet to keep.

...but I was never good at sticking around when the shit got hard

When they reconnect, the pain is still right there. Not even under the surface. Their pain is floating on top. Like an oil slick that coats every thing it touches.

Trust was disappointment's bitch. I never trusted--especially not myself.

So I haven't told much about the plot. Let's just say it will suck you in, and twist you up. It is dark and scary and so full of "what the hell are you thinking" moment. You want to trust that it will be ok, but Ms Maine has made us her bitch.

Rebecca Teague says

Didn't like it and could not connect to the characters at all... One of the things that stuck out at me was Danny's withdrawal from 4 years of meth addiction - or should I say what withdrawal??? So she spewed a few times and was sleepy.... Yeah right.... I just didn't feel anything for the characters at all... Sorry, to each their own...

P.s. The pictures throughout the story really annoyed me too...

Jen says

I decided to give this book a chance, and I am really on the fence on what I think about it. The story itself I

found was actually quite a good one. We were given a story about three foster siblings who suffered for years at the hands of their foster father. Tyler and Alex took the beatings and tried their best to take the attention off of young Danny (Danielle); but eventually Alex left Tyler and Danny, and soon after that Tyler beat his foster father to almost death. This landed him in jail, and Danny unprotected. Terrible abuse continued to happen while Tyler did his time in prison and then four years came and went.

At present, Tyler is an MMA fighter who is very close to becoming pro; but everything changes when his past comes knocking on his door. When he is reunited with Danny again, it is to find she is not so innocent and child like anymore. Will he throw his potential career away for someone he doesn't really know anymore? Will Danny be able to overcome her own demons that are following her?

This story is not pretty, and there are things that happen in it that are hard to swallow. I can honestly say, that this won't be for everyone. There are some details that are very hard to overlook. I found that some things were unrealistically portrayed. Another distraction was the pictures that were sporadically thrown in between the pages. They didn't enhance the story in anyway and were more annoying than anything else. There was also a major incident that happens towards the end of the story, that definitely shocked the heck out of me...I am still reeling from that, and actually still quite speechless about it!!Sorry to be vague, but I really don't want to give any spoilers!!

All in all, this is a read that I am sure quite a lot of readers would have issues with. It is down to the person reading it whether or not they can overlook certain details or not. Myself, for the most part; I looked at it as a story for entertainment..therefore I tried not to be too picky about the lack of realistic information; and tried to just sit back and enjoy the story for what it was worth. Would I read another one of Kelli Maine's stories? Absolutely. I think that she does tell an interesting tale, one that does keep me entertained. I like to get lost in the pages of a book, and I was still able to do that with hers!

Lana ❄️Dirty Girl Romance❄️ says

DNF at 58%

No rating, no full review.

This is one of those books that you will either love or never connect to. I, unfortunately, fell into the latter. I couldn't connect to the characters, the story, or their plight. I'm usually a big fan of anything super angsty and gritty with a strong undercurrent of dark, and this book had all that. The premise was great, just fell completely short in the delivery.

The fact that there were pictures (like comic book like pictures, complete with bubble text and everything) randomly placed throughout the story COMPLETELY cheapened the effect for me. Hard as I tried to look past it, I never did. When I got to a sex scene that had it? I. Was. Done.

I have to say that had the story itself actually captured me, I believe I would have looked past the pictures. But it didn't.

Biggest reason? The heroine. I love me a tortured character, and this book had that in SPADES...just not in a

way that was believable to me. The heroine is a meth addict and has been one for almost 4 years. When Tyler finds her again, he's determined to protect her this time around so he makes her quit cold turkey. Other than her puking, that's about all the withdrawal symptoms we get (at least in the part that I read up to). Oh and then a few days after she quits meth cold turkey, they have sex...unprotected...and he calls it beautiful. Did I mention that the heroine was SO hooked on meth she actually whored herself out for her next hit? And yet they jump into bed together (while she's still "in withdrawal" like none of those factors add into things?

Nope. Sorry. I don't buy it. So at this point I had to cut my losses.

Now I do tend to be extremely picky with my dark reads, so I'm sure I'll be in the very minority with my opinion. So don't let my thoughts deter you from reading this. It didn't quite work for me, but perhaps it just may work for you.

Amy J Romance Author & Reader Events says

Looking for a quick read?

Chains is not just another MMA book, its an emotional reclaiming of the past. Tyler has worked the last four years getting himself in a better place , a place where he can plan for the future. He is almost out of the lifestyle that absorbed him and thrusted him into a horrid predetermined future. A surprise from his past, Danielle, shows up just as he is ready to move forward making him take ten steps back.

For the reader watching Tyler come face to face with Danielle and Alex is bitter sweet. You want so bad for them to have the happily ever after Danielle still yearns for but the years have not been kind to any of them. Each carrying ghosts and burdens from their past, alone it is chewing each one up but together they can find peace. Its the only family they have known and they become strong when together but again the past catches up with them yielding tragic results.

Chains is a quick action filled emotional book. The story is fast paced and though short it is not short on story-only short on fluff. For those readers that don't like fluff and want to get to the story this is a perfect read for you. The author has also created a very colorful background for the story and characters.

This author tries something we haven't seen before with graphics. This part wasn't for me and I just didn't get the point of it however kudos to the author for trying something new.

The action packed Chains has me looking forward to Kellie's next book Tilt/Slide! Welcome back Kelli Maine!!

Rachel says

I freaking loved this book. I wish I could give it more stars.

As a reader you will know that amazing feeling you get when a book grabs you by the throat and drags you through every emotion, makes you feel everything and pretty much holds you hostage you till you are done. This is one of those books.

I never expected to love a dark, gritty, heart breaking story so much, but that's exactly what has happened. I finished this book and immediately messaged a friend with "he did this to, Nooo and I nearly had a heart attack when....." I'm not a spoiler wench so that's why it's edited. But holy crap, what a ride.

What these poor characters have gone through is unimaginable. To be subjected to such cruelty and heinous acts as children is horrendous. I think what made it more heartbreaking is that you know that this happens every day to defenceless children from people they trust.

This book is told from the hero's point of view and personally I don't think it could have been written better any other way. It needed the raw honesty that only Tyler could give. His grief over leaving Danny with that monster is palpable and you feel his need to find her and save her from that hell.

I could go on more about the storyline or how much I loved the characters, but to be honest, this is a book you really need to read to experience it properly. I could never convey the agony, trauma, pain, suffering and eventual joy these characters go through well enough to convince you to buy the book.

This was my first book by this author but it won't be my last. Strap yourself in for a hell of an emotional rollercoaster of violence, sex, the true meaning of family, unspeakable abuse of power and authority and a unshakeable trust between three survivors who made it out of hell and came out the other side to eventually find peace and happiness after all they went through.

Like I said earlier, this is a dark, raw and gritty story, but it's also one, that once you have finished it will stay with you for a while. For me that's a sign of a damn good book.
