

**Are you looking
for something**

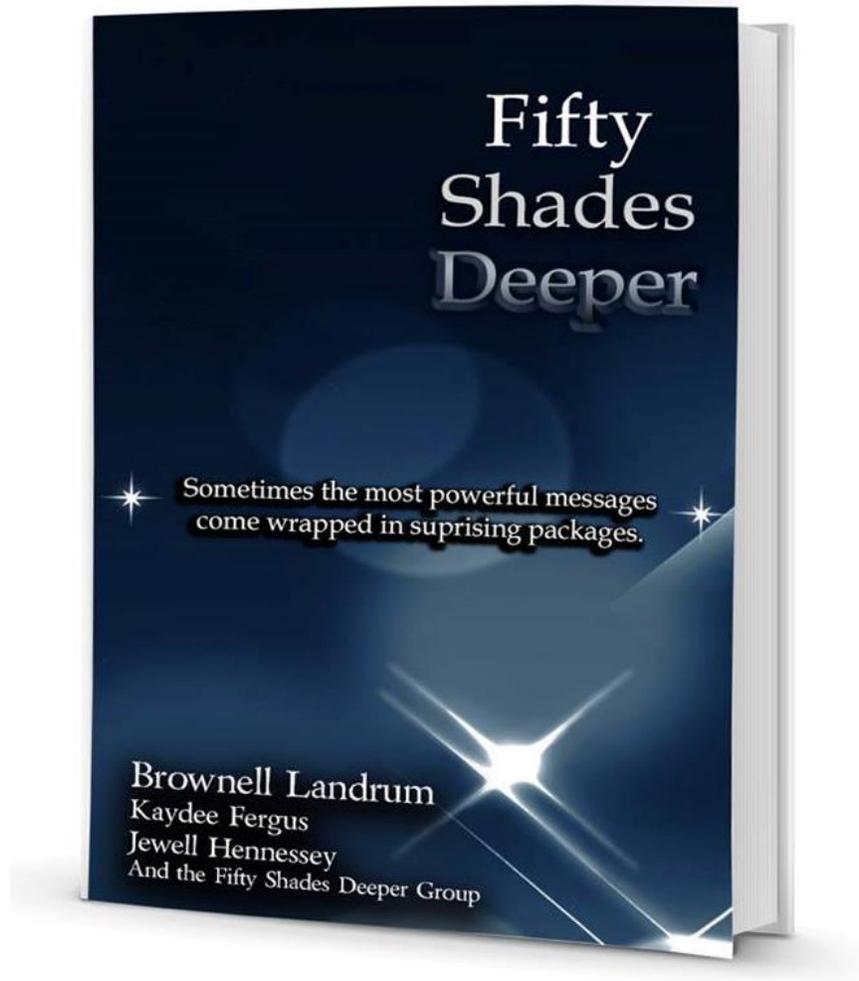
Deeper

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Sometimes the most powerful messages
come wrapped in surprising packages.

FIFTY SHADES DEEPER PRESS KIT

New book! *Fifty Shades Deeper* – a book written by fans for fans!



**Sometimes the most powerful messages
come wrapped in surprising packages.**

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About This Book

Fifty Shades Deeper is a labor of love, a collaborative effort of over 150 men and women from all over the world. This book is unique in a lot of ways:

- This book was collected from over two years of 24/7 interaction in a secret Facebook group called Fifty Shades Deeper.
- E.L. James is also a member of our group!
- With 150 contributors, we've applied for a Guinness Book of World Records as being the book with the greatest number of authors!
- This book goes deep - very deep. We delve into the worldwide phenomenon of the Fifty Shades of Grey series and examine the themes and messages in a unique, personal and interactive way.

If you're a fan of the *Fifty Shades of Grey* series, this book will enhance your love for E.L. James' books in an even deeper and more meaningful way. It might even help you explain to the doubters out there why the books aren't just entertaining and intriguing - they're *important*.

If you're not a fan of FSOG and you're scoffing, or perhaps mimicking Ana and rolling your eyes at the thought of the books being either deep or important, then we challenge you to open your mind and heart, and take another look at the series through our eyes.

Key Themes

Here are some of the key themes in *Fifty Shades Deeper*:

- The Transformative Power of Unconditional Love and Acceptance
- Bondage, Dominance, Submission, Sadism and Masochism (BDSM) - as a lifestyle, a path to healing and how it can be misunderstood and abused.
- Child Abuse
- Haphephobia (Fear of Being Touched)
- Drug Addiction
- Adoption
- Legal Age of Consent
- Forgiveness
- When to Stay - When to Go
- Pain, Pleasure and Fear
- Soul Connections and Destiny
- And many, many more!

Press Release

Fifty Shades Deeper - New book by fans for fans - Just launched

PRESS RELEASE FEB 1, 2017

Fifty Shades Deeper, a book that delves - deep - into the messages and insights of the *Fifty Shades of Grey* series - now released!

Aspen, CO, February 1, 2017 - Fifty Shades Deeper, a new book by fans of E.L. James's worldwide phenomenon, the Fifty Shades of Grey series, delves into the deeper messages and insights James's books.

For fans of the *Fifty Shades of Grey* (FSOG) series, *Fifty Shades Deeper* will enhance your love for E.L. James's books in an even deeper and more meaningful way. It might even help you explain to the doubters out there why the books aren't just entertaining and intriguing - they're *important*.

For those who are not a fan of FSOG, this book will challenge you to open your mind and heart and take another look at the series through our eyes.

Fifty Shades Deeper explores a wide variety of themes and topics, including:

- Unconditional Love
- BDSM
- Child Abuse
- Haphephobia (Fear of Being Touched)
- Drug Addiction
- Adoption
- Legal Age of Consent
- Forgiveness
- Trust
- When to Stay - When to Go
- Pain, Pleasure and Fear
- Soul Connections and Destiny
- And many, many more!

[To read an Excerpt, click here.](#)

Fifty Shades Deeper: Sometimes the most powerful messages come wrapped in surprising packages.

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The Authors

Fifty Shades Deeper is written by over 150 people all over the world, led by Brownell Landrum, Kaydee Fergus and Jewell Hennessey.

Brownell Landrum is an author, speaker, entrepreneur and innovator. Brownell's writing includes four novels in the "metaphysical romance" *DUET stories* series, two children's books in the *Wonderactive Books!* series: *Sometimes I Wonder* and *This Isn't My First Time*, one nonfiction book entitled *Five Reasons Why Bad Things Happen: How to Turn Tragedies into Triumph* as well as several screenplays for film and television, short stories and blogs. Brownell has also co-written a few songs, one of which, "While You Can," was featured in the film *Almost Home* in 2015 and is available on iTunes.

Brownell has a Master's Degree in International Business and is also the inventor of DrawSuccess, a breakthrough process for employee development to accelerate performance, and DrawSuccess 4 Students, a transformational anti-bullying program for students and schools.

A recurring theme in all of Brownell's work and writing is delving deep into the "why." When she read the Fifty Shades of Grey (FSOG) series, she was compelled to explore all of the deeper "whys" in the books, from "Were Ana and Christian destined to meet?" and "Had they known each other 'before?'" to "What would have happened if Ana hadn't left (at the end of the first book)?" and "How did Christian's being born to a crack whore influence his life?" These questions - and dozens more - prompted her to create the Facebook discussion group *Fifty Shades Deeper*, from which this book is derived.

Brownell is single and lives in Aspen, Colorado.

Kaydee Fergus is a stay-at-home mom who educates her two young children in her home in the Southern United States. Kaydee has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and is a licensed Elementary and Middle School Teacher. She and her husband, who were high school sweethearts, have been happily married for over 20 years. She grew up in the center of the Bible Belt, and stands firmly behind her belief that reading *Fifty Shades of Grey* can enhance married life for curious and/or stagnated couples. Kaydee is adamant that reading *FSOG* changed her life and marriage for the better because of the message contained therein of unconditional love and feeling free to fully express love without reservations. She has written many unpublished poems over her lifetime and hopes this book will become the dawn for future writing endeavors.

Jewell Hennessey is an administrative assistant who works for a hospital in the Greater Toronto Area, in Canada. She was born and raised in Montreal, Quebec, until her family moved to Toronto. Jewell's parents instilled a passion for reading at a very young age. This passion has given way to the dream that Jewell hoped to one day

pursue writing. When she read the FSOG trilogy, she realized that the story has very meaningful messages, which she hopes to share with everyone. It is a complex love story that deserves exploration and discussion. This is Jewell's first foray into publishing, and she hopes to continue writing for years to come. She continues to live in Toronto, Canada, and has been married to her husband for the past 33 years.

The Fifty Shades Deeper Group

The Fifty Shades Deeper group is a Secret group on Facebook comprised of women and men from around the globe. We come from a wide range of ages and experience levels with a variety of religious and social backgrounds. What we have in common is our passion for discussing the deeper messages and insights of the Fifty Shades of Grey (FSOG) books and film series. The way we explore everything from the pros and cons of the BDSM lifestyle to the impact of child abuse and addiction to subtler spiritual messages, makes the Fifty Shades Deeper group stand out among the dozens of other FSOG fan pages and groups.

Author Q&A

What made you write this book?

- A whim, actually. We knew our group was special, and we knew our topics were more than interesting and engaging; they're important. When I started the group, I had no idea it would or could become a book. It was the furthest thing from my mind. But, like everything else in the group, I asked the group members and everyone thought it as a good idea.

What makes this book different?

- Everything! Seriously, it's difficult to put this book into a specific genre. It's part "written documentary" and part "book club in a book." It's as much a discussion into the worldwide phenomenon of FSOG as it's a deeply personal confessional from each contributor. We use the topics in the books to reflect on our own lives and journeys to share with one another – and now, with the readers. These stories range from some member's our experiences with the elements of BDSM (while others may be repelled or confused by the lifestyle) to our opinions on the right to choose, addiction and abuse. *Fifty Shades Deeper* is as brutally honest as it is open and loving.

Tell me about this group, *Fifty Shades Deeper*.

- The group was started by me, Brownell Landrum, in the spring of 2014 (yes, almost three years ago!) as a way to dig into the questions I'd had about the *Fifty Shades of Grey* series since I read it. I started encountering people online who were having the same questions and added them to the group. We've been very careful about who we allow to join us, which has allowed us to become what I call a "very special collection of beautiful souls."

Who are the 150 contributors?

- The women (and several men) who participated in the book come from all walks of life, with a wide variety of ages, backgrounds, and beliefs from all over the globe. As you can see throughout the book, we have – and encourage – diverse beliefs.

I understand that E.L. James herself is a member of your group. Is that true?

- Yes. It was a great honor when she decided to join us. We decided to make one of the responses in *Fifty Shades Deeper* from E.L. James public. It's a response to a question about unconditional love that we thought was especially poignant.

Who do you think will be interested in your book?

- Everyone? Seriously, with over 100,000,000 people having read the FSOG series, we think that our book has a wide audience, whether they enjoyed the series or not.

Do you really think skeptics and critics would enjoy or appreciate your book?

- We hope so. We certainly think they should check it out. Not only because we think our book will open their eyes to the real depth and complexity hidden inside the FSOG series, but also because of how we empirically explore the depth of a book *in general*.

Is it true you applied for a Guinness World Record for this book?

- Yes. (smiling). We figured, why not? We couldn't find any examples of another book in the record with so many writers/collaborators, so we sent in our application.

Why are the comments in the book anonymous?

- Not only for privacy but also for ease of flow in reading. For those contributors who want recognition, their names are listed on our website: <http://50shadesdeeper.com/contributors/deeper-contributors/> In addition, we also have a number of authors and aspiring authors who contributed to Fifty Shades Deeper, and their names and works are noted on the website as well.

Contact Information

We love talking with the press! And would be thrilled to share excerpts from our book or write articles.

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EXCERPTS

The following are some excerpts from Fifty Shades Deeper:

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The Message

Which was the message E.L. James wanted to convey to her readers? Was it: "And they lived happily ever after," "Eventually passion and love will win," or "If we dream it, it will happen?" Or was her message something Deeper?

- I like to think it's a love story with a kink about an abused boy and teenager who overcame his many, many demons thanks to love, patience, and understanding. BDSM was just thrown into the mix to show an extreme spectrum.
- How true soul-connected love can heal and transform.
- I think she wanted to touch on the pain of abandonment and his childhood abuse to set up the parameters for his inability to recognize his self-worth.
- I think she wanted to relay that with love and trust, even the darkest most wounded heart can change when a strong connection and patience is there.
- The happily ever after! How their true connection allowed them to cure the pain and abandonment they both suffered, and to deal with all the factors that surrounded them, such as their past and present (Elena, Ana's inexperience, etc.). In a few words, yeah, they are soulmates and they found each other and they battled everyone and everything to stay together.
- The power of love will cast away deep demons.
- I think that whatever our deepest wishes and obsessions are, love conquers all for the souls that are destined to meet and find each other. The story shows that lasting love is possible. It's probable even. But sometimes, you have to go through pain to find your true love. Sometimes you have to fight for what you want. Sometimes you have to change who you are. Sometimes you have to sacrifice. But when the pain is over, the joy is immeasurable.
- The power of forgiveness and being forgiven.
- I think it was no matter how broken someone is, love can help repair that.
- Even the most unlovable person can be changed by genuine unconditional love.
- That we can only know we are truly loved when we share our darkest secrets.
- Love can conquer the hardest of hearts if you believe.
- That sometimes the knight can be saved by the princess.

Losing My Religion?

I have something to reveal about myself that may surprise you. I am an ordained minister. I attended a ministerial studies program at my church for three years and was ordained at the end of it. I do not have a church and have no plans to head up my own church. I have conducted a couple of weddings and given a few sermons, but that's about it. My question to you is this: Can you be a devout Christian and still enjoy *Fifty Shades of Grey* and/or the BDSM lifestyle? As I'm sure you know, many people see them as conflicting with each other. Obviously I'm not one of them, but I'm curious about what you think.

- I remember reading that *FSOG* sold more advanced tickets and books in the Bible Belt than anywhere else.
- For those of us who are spiritual, sexuality/sensuality is another dimension of that spirituality, especially god and goddess worship in tantra. For those who are religious, sexual pleasure is another gift from God.
- I'm Catholic, and the way I look at it, I pray, I go to church every Sunday, and what I do in my own house is my business. People do far worse than that and still act all holy. I don't judge. I just live my life.
- Interesting you mention Tantra. In my books I talk a lot about Tantra and sacred sexuality.
- I think I'm a good Christian, I no longer go to church because I was tired of being surrounded by hypocrites. My minister made me feel like what I was doing was wrong (reading erotica, looking at pornography). Why is it wrong if it enhances our relationship? My husband knows I look at it and he gets the benefit of it. Lol. The minister acted like if you look at it, you will be led astray. For three years I didn't look or read anything naughty. He made me feel like something was wrong with me. I think a lot of so-called religious people have sexual issues and they hide behind the Bible, thinking that will protect them from themselves. That's why we hear things about some clergy who stray and can't control their sexual urges.
- Yes, Tantra is just that: sacred, profound, and deeply satisfying.
- Tantra is sex on the physical and spiritual level. The connection of souls. It's very powerful!
- I am a Christian. I am Spiritual (in nature). My minister is Jesus Christ, and I have no guilt of sin whatsoever for enjoying a good story. I look at my past in a lot of ways, and how "evil" was used and turned into good. I believe my faith stays intact, and I am not wrong for enjoying "love stories," no matter the forum.

- I'm not religious at all, however I've attended a Catholic school in the past. I believe part of being a religious person is being an understanding and accepting person. BDSM is not illegal, and if done right no one is getting severely hurt, so why should it matter?
- I'm a Christian. I'm looking forward to seeing my friends at church tomorrow, which is why I don't put a lot of Fifty Shades stuff on my wall. My friends wouldn't understand. One has called *FSOG* abuse. Of course I don't agree. When it comes to the topic of lust they kind of have a point. But, yep, I'm both a Christian and Fifty Shades fan.
- I went to bible study a couple of weeks ago. I came home to find my personalized copy of *FSOG* had arrived. Lol.
- I was raised Catholic, but I'm not a religious person. However, I will not let my church place guilt on me for what I choose to do behind closed doors in my home, or what kind of books I read.
- I am a Christian. At the very heart of being a Christian, is Love. You have to examine everything you do and everything you allow into your life, making sure that it is through that filter of love and because of it. There are so many powerful messages in *FSOG* regarding selfless, unconditional, encompassing love. I can't look to how others might see it. It is a personal matter, between me and my Savior. As I choose not to judge others (not perfect here but trying with everything I have in me), on the same token I choose not to see how they view/judge me.
- I see spiritual messages in all kinds of places. To me, *FSOG* was loaded with "deeper" messages (hence my writing and starting this group.) Look at the learning and sharing, and maybe even healing we're experiencing here! If that's not in alignment with the Divine, I don't know what is!
- I've been questioning this myself lately. Personally, I feel I can be both a Christian and enjoy *FSOG*. However, those around me feel the two aren't cohesive. My mother said to me last night "maybe you're focusing too much on *FSOG* stuff and not of the things of the Lord." My parents are very religious, my dad is currently attending the seminary at Princeton and plans to become a chaplain. I feel like I have to hide my interests because I don't want him or any other loved ones being affected negatively by my choices. But, at what point do I get to just live my life as I please unashamed of who I am? (Rhetorical question). I really don't feel I'm doing anything wrong.

- My pastor did a sermon on *FSOG* when it came out in February. I think those who don't understand the book or haven't read it think it's a bad thing. But I myself am a Christian, and go to church regularly. However, I keep this part of me private.
- It kills me how religion had so many issues with this story, yet we don't seem to hear many sermons about the violence in other movies and books. Even *Twilight*, supposedly inspired by religious influences, had a lot of quite brutal violence. In what universe is consensual sex more of a sin than murder? Hmmm...
- Ultimately, *FSOG* is a love story. What religion can possibly oppose love?
- A good Catholic girl here, married 22 years. Only one man I have ever slept with, and BDSM is fabulous in my opinion.
- There should be nothing wrong with consenting adults engaging in whatever kind of intimacy they choose to engage in. I don't understand those who say it isn't Christian, or that it goes against God somehow. God made us to be sensual beings. Why would he do that only to make us repress those urges?
- Just wanted to say that in today's modern world where fashion, possessions, good looks, lust, and desire seem to rule, that being religious or having faith (whichever you want to call it) is not the "in" thing. With birth control and abortion an easy way to stop pregnancies, sex becomes easy, it has very few consequences other than emotional ones. It's a tool used by many to have fun, to get off, or just "do it." I am proud that I have only slept with one man, that my faith makes me whole, that I have a sound marriage and that we are good parents. I may have only slept with one man, but he has been many men to me, a Dominant, a lover, a friend, a stranger, and not to mention the many others that we have pretended/dressed up to be. BDSM is not all whips, leather, and kinky billionaires flying around in helicopters. It is a safe, consensual, sexy, and satisfying way to live and love. Kinky f*ckery in all its finest, but within my wedding vows and the promise I made to my husband and my God. A contradiction of sorts, but I wouldn't change a thing.
- I am a Christian and I am what I am, a mother, a passionate lover, a reader of many books, a fan of *Fifty Shades* and of *Playboy*. I love to watch pornography. I am all that and I'm human. I'm a sinner in a lot of ways, but that's my life, and no one should judge me. My name in Hebrew means "she who shall be judged by God." I don't judge, don't judge me. I live my life and watch my business.
- To be honest, I believe in prayer, but don't profess to be anything other than me. I believe that *Fifty Shades* is the most beautiful love story told, and it really bothers me to hear the negative comments that have been made about the book, the movie, and BDSM. I have never been in a BDSM relationship, but there are things I want to

try. If it's consensual then no religion has the right to judge. I live by the rule that no person has the right to judge; only God.

- I believe God gifted our amazing bodies and minds to us so we would enjoy life and desire to procreate and bond with other humans. These are the most human attributes we possess.
- I was watching YouTube videos a few weeks ago, and landed on one by a Pastor talking about Fifty Shades. He kept going on about what he'd heard about the book and the film saying he hadn't read it nor seen it. And he kept saying he's not judging, but said, "It's abuse, it's this, it's that, it's a sin." My comment back was, "If you're only going on hearsay, then how do you know it's all those things? If you'd read it you'd know the only abuse came from a FEMALE character YEARS before the two leads in the book and film even met, so you might want to stop judging. Something you say you're not doing, and actually see/read it before you post videos that have no weight."
- He should look up the word prejudice, judging something before you understand it. Shame on him!
- I'm usually not one to talk to a priest/Pastor/Minister/Brother or Sister like that, but seriously? How can a PASTOR sit there and say, "I'm not judging" and then totally judge by saying what it is or isn't when he hasn't read the book or seen the film? "Judge not, lest ye be judged!"
- "He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone" comes to my mind.
- I do believe in love - no matter who you are, the color of your skin is, or who your God, or what religion or faith you follow. I've always believed that there is some greater Divine force drawing people together. I know this is not my first life, but no one believes me except for those who know me well. There's absolutely NOTHING wrong with liking the books. Everything that happens in them is consensual between adults. Besides the story is really about so much more than sex. It's about first time love, unconditional love, healing, and acceptance. Nothing wrong with any of those themes. At its heart, it's a very beautiful story.
- As a Muslim woman many people may be surprised by my being a huge and committed fan of *FSOG*. Yes, my Imam may see it being the wrong lifestyle, but my husband doesn't have a problem. For me *FSOG* doesn't conflict with my religion. Yes, it changed my life in ways of doing things differently sexually with my husband, being more intimate with him, and doing certain things in a certain way. This helped us to be more passionate with each other, which was lost from us. No, I have never done BDSM in my life. I'm not sure if I ever will, but *FSOG* is not only

about kinky stuff. It's a love story about two people whose lives blossomed when they found each other.

- Personally, I don't think being a *FSOG* conflicts with my religion. (I'm a Muslim, by the way). Sure, people judged me for liking the books, that I shouldn't be talking about it, but I just ignored it. Besides, it's not like I will do that (not until I get married that is and if he were to be into that stuff), but there are other people who are Muslims and like *FSOG*. There is nothing wrong with that. When I first read *FSOG* and was discussing it with a friend at my university, another friend was like, "How can you like it?" Because I wear hijab, I can't like it?
- I'm an Orthodox Christian. There was a time in my life, before these books came into it, when I was not interested in being with my husband for various reasons. Not the least of which was because we had two young children, who I homeschool. Daily I was tired and easy to anger. I was overwhelmed with my day-to-day life, and prayed to God many times to change my heart and my attitude toward my husband and my children. My sister had been trying to get me to read *FSOG* for about a year. I wasn't a reader. Hubby and I went to see the first movie on Valentine's day and after that I begged my sister to lend me the books. So after reading the books my life changed dramatically. It's hard to describe how they changed me, but they did. I had asked God over and over to make me a better wife and mother. These books were a Godsend. I know He sent them to me.

Haphephobia and Selective Mutism

I know Grace and Carrick meant well, but I wonder if they were wrong about respecting little Christian's fears about touching. What might have happened if they had just laid with him in a hug, forcing him to confront his fears? Letting him know that touch is nothing to be afraid of? By not touching him as a little boy, did they perpetuate his phobia, thereby leaving him vulnerable to Elena? I'm not a psychiatrist, but I suspect there must be better ways to handle this fear in a small child. What do you think?

- I'm very opinionated about this. It's not just the touching. There was also his not talking until the age of six. To just hug Christian, to have him face his fear, would be just as detrimental as to demand that he speaks. It doesn't work in children and only makes it worse. I say this because I lived the "no talking" with my son - it's called Selective Mutism. So many people told me to just demand that he speak. NO!! That fear, that anxiety, just makes it worse. What works? Therapy, love, understanding, and time. Desensitizing the behavior. My heart bled for Christian. It took this story to a whole other level. I saw his struggles, what Ana did for him and what he allowed Ana to do for him was monumental. It just took someone to see beyond those walls he put up and help him heal.
- I wondered about that, too. I've had an anxiety disorder for as long as I can remember. All of my life people, some with the best of intentions, have tried to force me to face my anxieties. But in doing that, they made it worse. Just in the last few months, I had someone do that to me. It's horrible. I dread going anywhere near that person now. Unfortunately, I don't have a choice.
- Well, whatever they were doing for little Christian didn't work. Perhaps they should have realized that, and tried something else?
- Time. It takes time. Those fears were so deep. Every child is different and every fear is different. As an adult he was ready, and it took Ana to change him.
- I agree about continuing therapy and taking time. I think pushing Christian as a child would have been inappropriate and too much for him to handle. He was a prisoner of his stronghold, his safety net that he needed. I've never been a proponent of throwing the kid in the pool to watch him or her learn how to swim. Frankly, I got frustrated with Ana. She didn't know about the depth of Christian's problem with touch. If only Christian could have been more forthcoming earlier on, it would have prevented a lot of heartache.
- This is such a complex issue. I totally get why they didn't push little Christian into so many things. Let's face it, he didn't have a great start in life, and all he knew about touch was that it always hurt. Having said that, I would've hoped that the

Greys would have found a child psychiatrist who deals with these really complex issues and finds ways to teach little Christian that not all touch is bad. Even then, it could take many years to right this horrible wrong.

- Maybe it would have been wrong, but if I was Carrick, I would have just picked him up and held him in a big hug until he stopped struggling. I would have spoken softly to him the whole time, and tried to comfort him as much as possible, telling him how much I loved him and that I would never hurt him. While I was holding him, I would have explained to him that all touch is not bad. I would do it for hours if necessary. Maybe I would have made it worse, I don't know, but I do know that's what I would have done. And I would have kept doing it until he no longer feared my touch. Until I finally got it through his thick head that I was not the pimp that hurt him. Maybe it's a good thing I don't have kids of my own.
- I expect, given Grace's job/experience, they had the best child psychiatrists they could find. It could even explain why they moved to Seattle. I can feel for the heartbreak of Grace and Carrick. I can also feel their joy at baby Mia causing the breakthrough. So poignant.
- By holding him against his will, to him it may have hurt. Even if it was a loving touch, it would feel hurtful to him. And I'm sure he would've screamed the whole time. I would want to hug it out too, but I think they probably did what they were told to do by the therapists. Maybe it was the right thing, maybe not. But like Maya Angelou said, "When you know better, you do better."
- Sometimes we have to hurt the ones we love in order to help them. Sure, it would have been uncomfortable for him, but in the long run I think it may have been the best thing to do for him.
- That may not always be the best way to show touch that is okay. No matter how much love there is. But of course we wouldn't have the story we love if Christian didn't work through his fears. Together, he and Ana learned together how to break through his fears so he could feel love.
- I wouldn't have done that right away. I would have given him time to get to know me and to know that I was safe, but after a few months, maybe a year at the most; I wouldn't have put up with it anymore, and taken drastic action for his own good.
- We also have to remember that the little boy never associated touch with anything positive. There was always something painful connected to it. If his birth mother had been kinder to him and actually held him, he might have been okay sooner, but he never knew loving touch. Then at the age of four, he got ripped away from the only life he knew, so he was doubly scared. It really didn't help that Elena perpetuated that perception with her beatings (he even called her on that - "you

never once held me, and told me you loved me"). Ana was the very first person who connected with him on that level, and that's when he started to change and heal.

- Sounds great in theory, looking from the outside. But living with a child like that, the solution is not as easy as you think. My son also had a touch issue (did not like to be touched, hugged etc. from non-family members). I'll never know what triggered his behavior. He was not autistic, but had a true anxiety disorder.
- Christian was burned with cigarettes and was kicked by the pimp with his boot. He was yelled at and starved. I would have to say that the degree of his fear is extreme.
- Re: "Forcing"... How would you feel if you had a fear of heights, let's say, and someone grabbed you and dangled you over a mile-high cliff? How would that conquer your fear? It's the same concept. A fear can be so ingrained that forcing the fear would have the reverse affect. I try to educate wherever I can. This is a great discussion and we all would want the best for little Christian. That's why we feel so passionate about this story!
- Dangling me over a cliff would be dangerous, and not in the same league as hugging someone, but I get your point. I'm not saying what I would have done is the right thing to do, but I still think that whatever Grace and Carrick did for little Christian did not work, and that they should have reevaluated that lack of success and tried something else, rather than just let him continue in his fear.
- Christian mentioned that none of the therapists he had seen during his lifetime were helpful, until he met John Flynn. We don't know what modalities the others tried with Christian that didn't work. As you said, I'm sure the Greys used the best resources available at the time. Nothing seemed to have worked. I'd opt for not traumatizing Christian any more than he had previously experienced.
- He was traumatized enough. I think, though, that Elena was the one who made things much worse for him by continuing and justifying the no-touching. Ana was really the only person who was able to get through to him. She and Dr. Flynn. The combination of the two helped him move on and heal.
- By the time he was 15 years old and falling into the grasp of Elena, it was too late. I'm talking about a little 4, 5 or 6-year-old Christian. They should have done something to help him confront and face his fears long before he was 15 years old. Instead they placated him. They catered to his fears, thereby making them even more powerful in his mind. There must have been some small part of that little boy who craved to be held by Grace the same way he saw her hold little Elliot, and even later baby Mia. They should have done whatever they could to bring that out in him.

- He definitely craved to be touched. He even says to Ana that he'd never been tickled, but he'd watched Carrick with Elliot and Mia playing and he longed to join in, even though the thought of it was too much. I also believe that the key here was time and patience.
- I think with a little boy like that, you can't just rely on time and patience. He doesn't know what's good for him. He doesn't know how to overcome his fears alone. I think at some point Grace and Carrick needed to force the issue with him. But that is something they apparently failed to ever do.
- Remember that Christian did tolerate Mia touching him; I don't recall exactly where, but maybe his chest and arms.
- He didn't see Mia as threat. She was smaller and awakened protectiveness in him. She was the only one who could touch him.
- Ding ding ding. You said a key word "threat." Christian did not see Mia as a threat. His fear did not stem from his interaction with children - only adults!

Fate or Free Will?

Let's talk about Fate and Destiny. Do you believe people are "born to be together?" Do you think Ana and Christian were destined to meet? Have you ever felt that kind of "soul connection" or destiny with someone else, romantic or otherwise? How do you perceive "destiny" or "fate?" How does "free will" come into play? How about Divine Intervention?

- I believe there is someone for everyone. That one day, either at the beginning life or while you're living your life, you'll meet the one that is just for you. Everyone that is in your life is in it for a reason. Love for instance, there's no going wrong with it. It's a powerful, intense fire; burning and all consuming. It can bring you to your knees. But when you find that someone that was designed for you, it'll be perfect.
- You'll have your chance, and it's up to you to take it. I believe in an interconnection that's only for one other person and that other person is just for you.
- I'm not so sure that even when people are destined to be together, that it's always easy and effortless and perfect. Even Ana and Christian, who were destined to be together, they went through some very rocky times. And I believe that it's possible to make some decisions that can affect your destiny. It's the old paradox between free will and fate.
- He must be hiding because I've never seen him. Makes me think I'll never meet him. I have been waiting a very long time. Not sure I can wait much longer.
- I'm one that doesn't believe in love at first sight. Maybe because I've never experienced it. I don't use the words fate or destiny either. I do have family that says, "Oh it's fate." If things are meant to be, then it'll happen.
- I believe we are here for a reason/purpose, which (to me) confirms my belief in fate/destiny. I also believe in free will; that our decisions affect our path. It's like we have a road map before we're born, but it's up to us to decide which paths to take and how quickly. Some paths might lead to the same destination. Some might not.
- I believe that soulmates are "someone you were destined to meet." I don't think there is just a one-and-only "mate." We all have many people in our lives who we're destined to meet. Some for love, some for lessons, some to fulfill a common purpose.
- I've given the whole concept of fate/destiny and free will a *lot* of thought. The "why" things happen. It's a key message all of my books.

- I think everything happens for a reason. At times, I'll question if it is for good or bad. I'll ask, "Is it meant for me?" Many times I've wanted to achieve a goal in life, but while on that road something else happens and my life was turned around.
- I think of free will and destiny like we are in the middle of a snowstorm and have more than one road to choose.
- I believe in love at first sight, destiny, fate, and soulmates. I believe we get more than one soulmate if we lose the one we are meant to be with. I think that only certain people get soulmates.
- I think we all have soulmates. And they're not always in the form of a romantic partner.
- Is love destined for everyone? Would it also apply to marriage? I know people who claimed to be in love but never ending up married. In my beliefs, you fall in love, get married, and live happily ever after. Do you think, if you lost your first love, there can be anyone destined for you again?
- I've been in love a few times, but I've had my heart broken many times. I just don't see a soulmate for me. Maybe the ones who don't ever get married are the back-ups. They aren't necessarily destined for one until something happens. Who knows?
- I've never been married, though I've been asked more than once. I don't think it was supposed to happen for me. I've had too many other lessons and things to accomplish first. Though I do think it's still a possibility for me in the future. Either way, I have to learn how to appreciate what I have.
- Maybe I was too young to recognize it; or too stupid and wild to keep it. Marriage is not always a dream come true, but for some of them out there it is. Mine is pure karma. Maybe someday I'll find another "one" soulmate and connect on a whole new level. Who knows? I can't lose hope.
- I haven't found my soul mate and feel it's highly unlikely now at my age. It's kind of depressing me. I've been single now for 18 years with no dating at all. Imagine if I finally meet some 70-year-old and then asked him to tie me to the headboard!
- We are all destined for the paths we cross. Some souls have a deeper connection. Souls that are meant to unite will know it when they meet. Christian could have screwed up, but their intense connection was beyond what they could control. Two true souls uniting.
- I think they were aware they could have messed it up, but the deep love anchored in their souls was much stronger than that. They would eventually get together.

- My husband wasn't supposed to be born. His mother had her tubes tied before he was born. We grew up in the same community and never met until college. He swears that as soon as he saw me he knew he was going to marry me. Had I known him when we were younger, we'd never have been interested in each other. Timing is everything.
- I had a brief affair in the early 80's. I was shocked at the strong attraction we had for each other. This person took me to a new life that I'd never dreamt. Also I have to say that with my younger daughter, the connection we have is almost like we are the same on so many levels. We have this psychic connection.
- I believe in the confluence of fate and free will. I believe that we have a destiny, lessons, and relationships we plan for this lifetime in advance. However, I also believe we have free will which can cause problems or can help us along our path. Look at Ana and Christian. If he had not come back to her, then they could have not moved forward together.
- Sometimes, I think it might be a coincidence, but in my heart, the hopeless romantic in me, believes in fate all the way. Christian and Ana? To me that's fate. Kate got sick, she asked Ana to go for her. It was fate; they were meant to happen. Just think: when they woke up that morning they had no idea their lives were about to change forever. Both were not looking forward to that interview. And then... that fateful look and touch of hands when he helped her up!
- I definitely believe in fate.
- I had dreamt of my husband before I met him. My second year of university I won a grant to Naples, Italy, and he lived there.
- Before I knew my husband, he was at a party at my brother's house next door to my parents. I dreamed of his face when I was in high school, and I painted a portrait of him in college. All before I met him. We were definitely destined to meet.
- I'm not sure about fate, but I did meet someone in my past who I still know. I know we were meant to be together, even though we aren't at the present moment.
- I do believe that they were meant to meet. Was it fate? Possibly. If Kate didn't meet Ana, become faithful friends, Ana wouldn't have met Christian. If you take their destiny a bit deeper into their possible past life connection, were they lovers then? I feel souls are never parted from their mates in the afterlife. I think they are eternally bonded; it just took a while for Christian to find his lost soulmate in Ana.

- Soulmates are the ones we are born for and to. Twin flames when one soul splits into two. All of these souls are connected. We have lessons together. At the base level or string level there are connections that keep us tethered to certain souls. With Christian and Ana, it's obvious by the way they were both bothered by each other. Bothered to the point where Christian could not get her out of his head, and Ana couldn't get him out of her heart. Theirs was an immediate chemistry that's unbreakable. Of course, there is the choice of free will. They could have been bothered to the point of aggravation and stayed away. Souls aren't made that way. In science when something causes an action by aggravating, it creates a series of reactions. Stardust reacts differently, and yet the exact same way hydrogen becomes helium. Once the course is in action, Christian and Ana had nothing else to do but collide. Souls are tethered to a force stronger than supernovas.
- I have walked this earth many many many times. I believe we each have our own and collective destinies and fates. They are tied together. Some lifetimes I work on me; others I am here to help you work on you. I have many connections here in this lifetime that I know, to the core of my being, I am tethered to. This will never change.
- I think we are born in love. We're here to love. This is the unifying factor. So of course we look for something; for someone to connect with. So, yes, I believe that people are meant to be together. I believe that it comes when we aren't looking, but we have to realize what feels right before we can understand what was wrong before.
- I believe that my husband and I were meant to be together. I think Ana and Christian were meant to be also.
- I think it was Divine Intervention. A Higher Power brought them together.

My Choice

When Ana finds out she's pregnant, she tells Christian, "I do choose this defenseless baby over you. That's what any loving parent does. That's what your mother should have done for you." Do you think it was right for Ana to give him an ultimatum like this? When is it okay to give an ultimatum, and when can it backfire?

- While I understand where she was coming from, this scene really bothered me. I think it's really dangerous for her to threaten to leave him again. And I also think it's dangerous for her to place the unborn child's welfare over Christian's.
- I think in this instance she was right. Christian was acting like a child.
- I think ultimatums are good if you are prepared to do what you're saying. If not, it can definitely backfire. I do think Ana was prepared to raise Teddy on her own. She is very strong in this moment, and Christian is being a total *sshole.
- I understand why she did it, but I think it was a mistake; even borderline cruel, given Christian's insecurity with abandonment.
- I think she was coming from a place of fear; she did not want to have a baby yet.
- They were both scared. She was lashing out from anger. They were so new to all this relationship stuff. She didn't really know what she wanted, but she was also afraid he would leave her over the baby. They were both insecure at this point.
- I don't know if it was right for her to do this, but she didn't really know what to do. After he ran to Elena, she was confused and worried and wanted him to choose her and the baby over Elena.
- I've learned that, especially with kids, (and Christian was acting as one), if you give an ultimatum you better be prepared to follow through with it or you lose all credibility and control.
- As long as you are confident to act on the ultimatum.
- Do you think she would have? Should have?
- I think she would have. Reluctantly. If even to prove to Christian that it's what his mother should have done. He would have respected her for doing so. In the end, I think she was acting on impulse and needed to give him time to acclimate to having a child. That apartment was big enough for them both to live there while they worked things out.

- Isn't it a bit ironic that she might have done that to show him "what his mother should have done" but by doing it, she was doing exactly what his mother had done – abandon him?
- Oh you gave me chills with that thought! Good God, that's deep.
- Full circle.
- Yes, she would have. To me, it was a slap in the face. A wake-up call for him.
- I feel it was to make him realize that it was not about only him anymore; that there was a real baby to think about now and to stop acting childish.
- As far as her abandoning him, I can see your point; but on the other hand it could also fall on him. He would be the one abandoning his child.
- I wonder... if she'd had the opportunity to show him the ultrasound, would that have halted his anger and fear?
- I don't think at this point Christian thought of it as his child. To him it was an inconvenience and a betrayal (Ana not keeping up with her shots). He hadn't seen the "blip." He had no connection (yet) to it becoming a person.
- He thought of it as a "thing that will mess up their lives," not as a real person.
- This whole part makes my blood boil to the point that I have to say that Ana was 1000% correct in making this ultimatum! He was being a total horse's arse and she had so much to deal with (especially with Ray in the hospital)! The last thing she needed was Christian's stupid temper and ridiculous accusations. She was totally justified in making the ultimatum, and it would only backfire if Christian would say, "Fine, go ahead and raise the kid on your own."
- She was 100% right. He didn't want the baby. She felt unloved and alone after how he acted. They were married. Give an ultimatum only if you mean to go through with it. And she did.
- I completely agree with Ana giving Christian the ultimatum. I think Ana knew Christian was upset and hoped that he just needed time to cool down and talk to her. However, after reading the text from Elena, she had every right to be pissed. I was so happy she stood her ground. I'm sure if Ana had gone to see Jose, Christian would have been just as (if not even more) pissed.

- I think with the way he reacted when she told him she was pregnant, I would've had the same come-back, even if it was out of anger. Both of them could have handled the whole situation better in a lot of ways.
- Good for you, Ana. Christian needed to grow up.
- Ana has the right to be mad at Christian! I would be too if it happened to me!
- I don't like that Ana threatened to leave him. That was a bit mean. But I like that she said she'd choose the child over him. And that she said she was sorry his mother didn't do that for him. I think pointing out that it's what any loving parent would do was the wake-up call he needed. To remember what it was like being neglected by a parent, not just for him to deal with the hurt, so that he can be the type of father I'm sure Ana knows he can be. The type Blip deserves.
- Most mothers would (and should) put their child's welfare above everyone else. If he was unable to accept this child, then she should leave him. Thankfully, he finally came around.
- Ana isn't saying that Christian isn't important. She doesn't want to make the choice. But if she had to, any parent, especially a mother, would and should choose the child born or unborn. I mean tell me Grace wouldn't have chosen her kids over her husband. Also we all say Carla should have chosen Ana over her husbands, but the minute Ana does, it's wrong. The only reason many would feel it's wrong is because he's Christian Grey. Who would want to leave him, right? If he couldn't accept a new life coming into theirs and he was angry about it all the time, why should she stay? It's not good to live in an environment like that. Yes, Christian has been through a lot and the last thing he needs is someone leaving him, especially the love of his life. But he's not the only person that matters. The world doesn't revolve around him. You say it's dangerous for him, but imagine that child growing up feeling unwanted by Christian because he didn't care for him or love him. Then, imagine Ana and Christian arguing all the time because of it. It would be hell for them and the child. Thankfully it didn't turn out like this and he did eventually come around. Ana and little Blip deserve someone who would accept them both, and until he did accept the situation, Christian wasn't that guy. As I said, thankfully he did come around because he made a great dad even though he thought he wouldn't.
- I still think threatening to leave a spouse over an unborn child is a dangerous thing to do. I believe that the couple's relationship should be a priority and that threatening to leave, especially someone as insecure as Christian, is cruel. She could have made her point in a more mature and considerate way, and her being angry at his behavior is no excuse to lower herself to his level. It worked because it's fiction.

- I still disagree. She had to shock him into thinking differently. Who knows if it would have really worked? The thing that finally brought him around was her kidnapping by Jack. What might have happened to their relationship if that had never occurred? Would he have still come around to accepting the child? I think he would have, if for no other reason than he couldn't live without Ana. But if he never did come around, then she should have left his *ss in a heartbeat. Neither she nor the child deserve to live with a man who resents and does not accept his own child. But because it is fiction, there was a happy ending. Unfortunately, in real life things don't always end so happily.
- Every book and article I've ever read, and all the advice I've ever gotten, says to never *ever* use threatening to leave as a manipulation tool.
- Normally I would agree with you. Threatening to leave is certainly not something to be done lightly. But there are certain circumstances where I believe it is warranted. If the spouse is abusive, or cheating on you, or addicted to something and refusing to get help, and certainly not accepting your child is another one. But I sure don't think it should be done just because you're pissed at your spouse and are trying to manipulate them into doing something they don't want to do. And if you ever do make that threat, you should be fully prepared to actually do it.
- I think Ana was very serious here. If he was unable to accept the child, I do think she would have left him. It was not an idle threat from her. I think Christian knew that, too.
- I don't think she was trying to manipulate him. I think she was serious. If he didn't come around, she would've left him to raise their child alone.
- Just because she would choose the baby doesn't mean Ana doesn't think her relationship with Christian isn't a priority. I think if we thought only about keeping our spouses as a priority, none of us would be here. I'm kind of like Christian where I went through a lot very similar to him. Although it would be hard on me if I acted like Christian, I would eventually understand why my spouse would say what Ana did.
- I have a personal situation similar to this. My sister was dating a guy and she got pregnant. He and his family wanted her to abort the baby. I told her that if she decided to not keep the baby she should have it and I'd adopt it before she killed it. Needless to say, the guy wasn't around the baby's first year and half in their lives. They have since married and are raising their daughter together as a family. It took some time for him to come around, but they are a happy family now. My niece is my little unicorn. She put color and light in our world. Obviously, he and his family were *sshholes until he finally came around. To kill a defenseless baby who didn't ask to come into this world is even more cruel than breaking someone's heart.

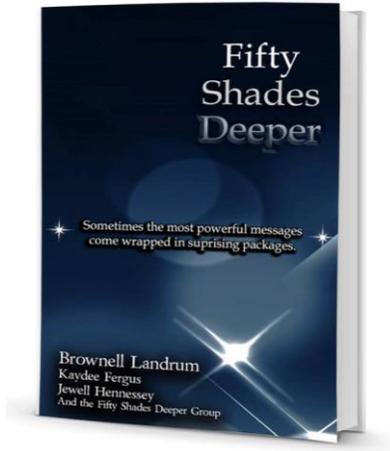
So to me, for Ana to put the baby before Christian was absolutely the right thing to do.

- This part does show the level of immaturity that both Christian and Ana have. They got married quickly and are both still young. Yes, Christian is older, but men don't mature as quickly as women, so to me they are both on the same level with immaturity. Like most couples, they have to learn to talk to each other instead of running away.
- I've been a mother to children that aren't mine, as well as to my own as well. I have a wonderful husband and love him very much, but if he was a jerk like that I would leave him in a flat second. I came into the relationship with two children that weren't mine, my ex fiancée's daughter and my niece. My husband embraced them and helped me raise them. My children always have come first, and he fell in love with me for that. I definitely know my biological children would be first. Children are always first to me.
- Ana had every right to choose the baby and put it first. That's why God created women to have babies. They are much stronger and can be fierce when it comes to their young. As well as loving and protective. It doesn't take away any love from the father. It's a different love for the child. She explained it very well to him, even being furious. She loved him to the moon and back, and always will.
- I just think Ana should have given Christian more time to adjust before threatening him. He had to feel like he had some choice in the matter, that it wasn't just forced on him.
- I think she was just pissed and needed to scare him a little.
- I think scaring someone, especially someone like Christian, and especially with his history is kind of cruel. It would make him even more insecure.
- She was feeling insecure, too. But needed to be strong for herself and the baby.
- It's a tricky situation. I can relate to this. I'm total crap at relationships.
- I think Ana is channeling her mama-bear instinct; being protective to her unborn child. On top of feeling frustrated about knowing that Christian met Mrs. Robinson that night, and seeing the message from her, I think I'd react the same.
- I just can't ever imagine being with a man who would react that way. I could never put a man like that first. My baby would always be first.

- That is Ana! Speaking her mind and now defending her little Blip. Christian had that coming. I know he was shocked, but she couldn't have said it any better. Good for you Ana.

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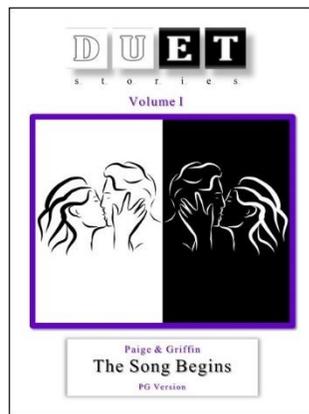
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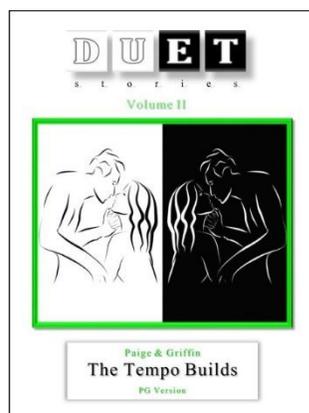
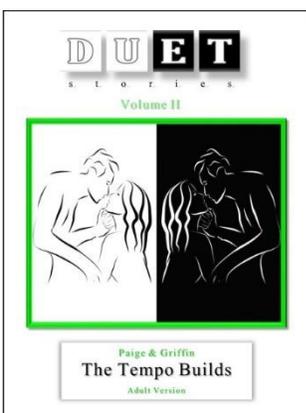
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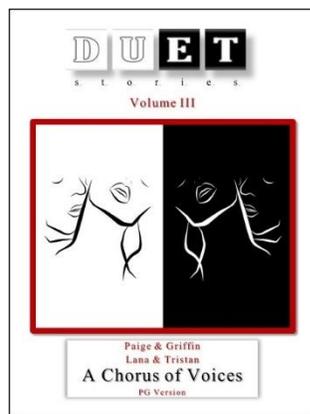
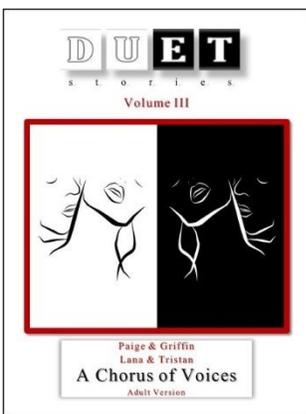
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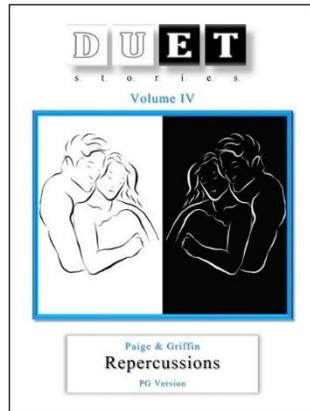
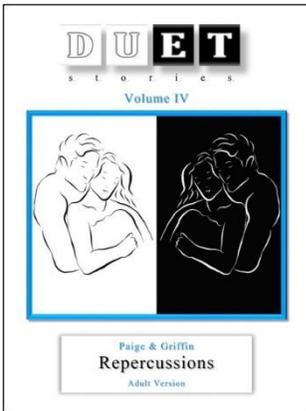
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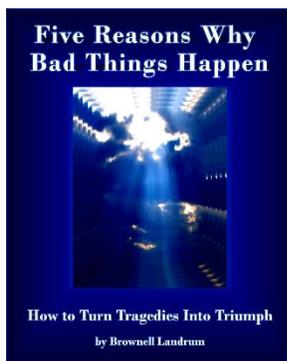
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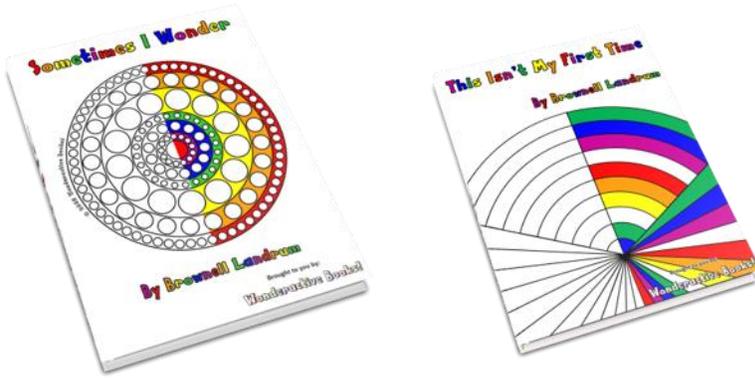
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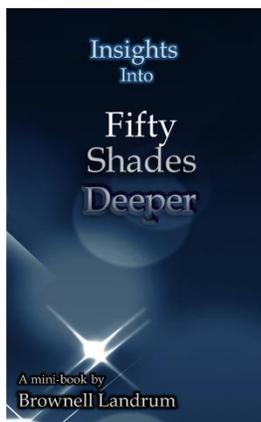
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