



## Tender with a Twist

*Annabeth Albert*

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## **Tender with a Twist** Annabeth Albert

One kinky wood carver. One younger chef looking to try new things. A series of lessons that bring both men more than they bargained for...

Curtis Hunt has made a name for himself as a chainsaw wood carver, winning national competitions and operating a small business in Rainbow Cove, Oregon. As winter whittles away his tourist traffic, his goal is just to survive the season and try to not get lost in grief for his dead lover. It's been two years, but he's sure he'll never be over the love of a lifetime. However, his body has a certain restlessness that he doesn't quite know how to calm.

Logan Rosner knows a thing or two about restlessness. It's what drove him to Rainbow Cove to be a chef at a bar and grill run by his friends. And it's what drives him to a single sizzling encounter with the local legendary lumberjack. Both men get far more than they expected and learn that first impressions aren't always accurate...

But when Logan proposes a series of sexy lessons, Curtis must decide how much he's willing to risk. He knows he can't afford to get attached to Logan's good cooking, his easy smiles, or his caretaking, but he keeps going back for more, even as deeper emotions become involved. Soon, Curtis must decide whether to risk his heart again or risk losing Logan for good.

Tender with a Twist is a 75,000 word stand-alone gay romance with a May/December theme, featuring a second chance at love, opposites attract, loads of sexy times with mild BDSM elements, and one emotionally-charged, guaranteed happy ending with no cliffhangers.

## **Tender with a Twist Details**

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# From Reader Review *Tender with a Twist* for online ebook

**Ami says**

**4.25 stars**

Logan Rosner has been holding back a part of him that he knows is true, that he is a Dom despite his baby-face look and posture. But his only experience of coming to a leather scene in Portland ends up with disaster so he knows better to give it another try, especially in small town like Rainbow Cove. But he dreams to have Alpha men as his sub -- men like Curtis Hunt, the reclusive chainsaw wood carver of Rainbow Cove.

Curtis Hunt lost the love of his life a couple of years before. Since then, he slightly withdrew from the world, except for his best friend and mother-in-law. He no longer stays in the house he lived before with his partner, he no longer ride his bike; Curtis wants everything to stay exactly the same. Except that Logan is making his heart beats a little faster, and when he sees what Logan is capable to do, he knows that Logan can be someone to satisfy his needs for pain and submission. Even if Logan doesn't look like his type.

***Tender with a Twist*** (such clever title, by the way) is definitely one of my most favorites from Annabeth Albert. I loved the theme(s) that this book has: from not judging a person by their look, reaching for your dream, finding the courage to show the world outside the person you know you are inside, as well as holding to new love after losing one...

I loved the progress of Logan and Curtis' relationship. What starts as "lessons in D/s practice" -- Logan's clever idea, to make Curtis agrees to the sexual arrangement between them -- turns into something more as they learn about each other's dreams and fears. And as a reader who usually prefer less to no sex, I devoured each and every sex scenes in this book. They don't feel gratuitous to me. They feel like progress.

Everything else also feel justified -- including the fears that Curtis has regarding this newfound love he feels about Logan, especially when faced with other people's judgments.

With ***Tender with a Twist*** , Annabeth Albert has proven once again why she is one of my must-read authors.

*The ARC is provided by the author for an exchange of fair and honest review. No high rating is required for any ARC received.*

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**\*J\* Too Many Books Too Little Time says**

**3.5 Stars!**

Not bad, but I think I liked book 1 better. I didn't find Curtis super likable for most of the book. Which lets face it, is a common occurrence for me in an Annabeth Albert book. But he wasn't sooo bad.

I would call this one BDSM light, but the kink was pain...which isn't my cuppa at all.

So while I liked this one, I didn't love it.

I'm hoping for more from Adam's book!

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## **Lost in a Book says**

4 Stars

"One kinky wood carver."

That's all it took to decide I had to read it. I didn't stop and read the rest of the blurb, I went all MINE and never looked back. I probably should have since I had mixed feelings about the first book in the series but I had my sights set on a big, muscly, bearded, tattooed, growly, lumberjacksque, kinky as hell bottom. Hell to the yes.

Curtis was introduced in book one as being the broody friend of the police chief. He didn't have a lot of happy in his life and with the loss of his husband two years prior, he was just making it day to day. Curtis was a sub without a Dom. A pain slut looking for the relief that being dominated and pain brings. With luck finally shining down on him, he stumbles upon a Dom that may be just what the doctor ordered.

Logan; chef at Rainbow Tavern and aspiring Dom. At a leather night hosted by the tavern, Logan gets in an altercation with a big beefy drunk Dom. With his aikido training, Logan makes it clear that he isn't weak nor a sub. He is a Dom. \*Yessir\* Curtis just happens to be within hearing distance and has an extra skip in his step... all the way to kinky-sub-space-land at Logan's house that night.

**"This was the place I craved. No more thinking, just existing from electric touch to electric touch, the pain both grounding me and setting me free to soar."**

What was supposed to be a one time thing led to Curtis agreeing to provide lessons for the very inexperienced baby Dom, Logan.

Now, here is where I have mixed feelings on the book. If I would have just kept reading the blurb, I would have known Logan was an inexperienced Dom. Alas, I'm a slacker and got distracted. It was very Kink/Dom 101 for the first half. This is to be expected considering the blurb but was also a reason why it dragged for me. I'm used to diving right into my kink books already in the submissive position ready to say "Yes, Sir" because the Doms are experienced. This is more my preference than the books fault. I enjoyed it more as the scenes became less teachy.

For much of the first half, Logan and Curtis' interactions and scenes were hot but sterile. They had many scenes without any emotion and zero kissing.

**"You're so all fired to get me trussed up. How about you tie me to the bed and fuck me until I can't think?"**

Like I said, hot. But, it was strictly about fulfilling a physical need. The shift in their relationship happened slowly and each scene became more intimate than the last. It became about more than getting off and somehow a friendship and then feelings snuck through the walls Curtis had built. I had a hard time connecting with them for a bit but was fully on board with their transformation by the end. They were perfect for each other. It was enjoyable to see that their bedroom dynamics didn't hinder the other parts of their lives but enhanced them. I liked that they weren't locked into their roles as D/s in the bedroom and would sometimes switch and allow themselves to be vulnerable. These tender moments had me rooting for them whether it was a flogging with fucking or forehead kisses and blow job. I *believed* them.

**“Things were changing between us, encounter by encounter, moment by moment, and while it scared me, I also reveled in it.”**

One of the things that had me scratching my head and wanting to take a hammer to my kindle was the way everyone treated Logan. It was WAY OTT on the lack of confidence they had in Logan and his ability to adult. His friends and family were all guilty of this Logan-is-a-shrinking-violet-and-can't-take-a-piss-without-a-helping-hand mentality. The comments and behaviors lacked justification. His parents made me ragey AF and apparently never cut the umbilical cord. Another plot point was Curtis' hang up with the age difference. The age difference was STILL brought up in the "7 months later" chapter. \*smdh\*

Anyway, it was a well earned HEA with a sugary sweet ending where everything was wrapped up neatly in a pretty bow. If you're new to kink and are interested in D/s, pain, etc., this would be a good starter for you. I enjoyed *Tender with a Twist* more than the first book in the series and I'm glad I didn't skip it. Thank goodness for kinky wood carvers. Recommended.

<https://boymeetsboyreviews.blogspot.com>

*Copy provided for honest review.*

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## **Emily Seelye says**

This is my new favorite Annabeth book.

It's got everything I like: age gap, kink, smaller guy as top/Dom, friends to lovers.

This is the second book in the Rainbow Cove series, we met both Logan and Curtis in the previous book. Logan is one of Mason's business partners and chef at the restaurant and Curtis is Nash's grieving friend.

They were aware aware of each other, and Logan definitely had a crush on the older bigger man, but nothing happened until Leather night at the bar. That's when Curtis saw Logan in a new light when he had to defend himself against a drunken Dom who thought he needed a Daddy. He needed a new Dom because his friend who he had an arrangement with since his partner's death ended it unexpectedly.

Their relationship starts basically as a similar arrangement, where Logan who's new to the scene gets

practice and Curtis gets the release he needs. Although Curtis fights it, they do become friends and lovers.

When Logan gets hit by a car, Curtis realizes his true feelings, but not before being a dick. In the end, they realize they are meant to be. Curtis even invests in the restaurant when they need the help and Logans parents try to manipulate him by putting conditions on helping.

Obviously, it ends with a strong HEA

Highly recommended

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### **Cadiva says**

Simply brilliant writing, that's what Tender with a Twist is. Unlike book one, this not only touches on loss and heartbreak but it also has some of the best emotionally driven BDSM kink I've ever read.

Each time Logan puts Curtis through a scene the feelings underpinning their attraction to each other bleed out. I was interested in Curtis in book one, it's not often a chainsaw carver pops up as a character, but Logan was sort of just there in the background at the tavern.

Well not in this one, here Logan is very much front and centre and his quiet strength and determination to be the person he truly knows he is carries the narrative forward at all times.

The humour is gentle, Curtis' fears are palpable, he knows he's not the typical 'hero', the one people flock to. Life's beaten him down so much over the years and he's not sure he can cope with any more.

But Logan, wonderfully optimistic and driven Logan, knows he can bring light and much needed release both sexually and emotionally, to Curtis.

Their scenes together are topping Annabeth's efforts in her latest Out of Uniform story for being the most kinky. They're delicious and sensual and painful and emotional and erotic and loving and so hot they risk spontaneous combustion.

The drama is caused not only by Curtis' own fears, but also by the interference of family who should know better. Logan is 27 but his parents still look on him as if he's a scared and shy teen. Their helicopter parenting leaves him frustrated and doubting his own determination to be his real self.

And I could have slapped Troy's mother, even though I also absolutely understood and sympathized with her feelings, for her guilt tripping as she sees Curtis making tentative steps towards a new life with Logan in it permanently.

I could wax lyrical about this one for hours more, I never wanted it to end. Utterly gorgeous cover too, the lumbersexual look isn't usually my thing but Curtis just floated my boat.

*#ARC received from the author in return for an honest and unbiased review.*

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## Chris says

There's always something cool about a vulnerable tatted up lumberjack... and Curtis really fit the bill here. Grumpy, antisocial and deeply saddened by the loss of his love, Curtis basically shut himself away from life. People began to avoid him and left him to his art. Enter Logan ! The determined newbie Dom found something appealing about Curtis, despite the age difference, and after cracking through a small part of his veneer, negotiated some kinky sessions with Curtis to develop his Dom side. The story progresses slowly from a developing friendship to a relationship. I liked the fact that both guys stood their ground against the viewpoints and feedback from others who should know better ! This was an enjoyable read ?

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## Christelle says

I know, I know, I'm hopeless. Once again, I failed in getting involved into this author's universe. I dig into it with lots of hope : I enjoyed Trust with a Chaser a lot, there already are many enthusiastic reviews around there, ...but no : it didn't work for me.

Three friends opened a tavern in a little Oregon town and, after the story of Mason with his sexy sheriff, this time, it's about Logan, the sunny and too-ready-to-please chef and secretly a Dom in training, and Curtis, the grumpy and lonely wood carver, a recent widower craving for kinky sex with pain.

I couldn't perceive any connection between the MCs and failed to understand their dynamics. Needless to say that I then felt the sex scenes too staged. I thought it would get better by the end, but alas, even if I appreciated Logan standing up for himself, Curtis's change-of-heart and grovelling and Logan's forgiveness were too sudden.

Sorry, GR friends : like the cheese, I'm going to the little corner for this one.

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## River says

4.5 stars

A strong second book in a series.

If you are not a fan of BDSM don't let it scare you away because this book has so much more than that.

Logan is 27 and moved to Rainbow cove to start a business with his friends. Cooking is his passion. His other passion and the one he hasn't been able to explore is BDSM. Logan is a dominant.

I liked Logan, he was a great guy, he made a lot of changes throughout the story and it was satisfying to read because the changes weren't a person trying to change for someone else but it was more like he was trying to find himself. For different circumstances in his life he never really got to be on the outside the Logan that he felt like on the inside.

I like the fact that he wasn't just looking for someone to get kinky with but someone to care for.

Curtis is a complicated 42 year old man. 2 years ago he lost his partner, the person he shared his life with since he was a teenager. He is a woodcarver, and honestly the way he handles a chainsaw is a thing of beauty.

Curtis knows what he likes and wants, he enjoys pain and wants kink but he doesn't want anything more than that. He already had his one true love so he is in no way expecting to find someone else so tenderness doesn't work well with him.

What he doesn't expect is someone like Logan.

He tries, boy does he try, to keep him at arms length, he calls him kid as a way to remind himself how different they are and to take certain distance.

I liked the connection between these two, everything for them started as sex. They were attracted to each other sure but it wasn't love at first sight, specially for Curtis that had a lot of healing to do.

The sex is good and kinky, there are a few pages of explaining because the experience was new for Logan but for me it didn't felt like BDSM 101.

I really enjoyed both characters and their journey, the last chapter is just so hopeful, you know these guys are going to be fine and happy.

We catch up with the couple of the previous book and we see some new characters. Personally I can't wait for the next book and I'm dying to know more about certain new doctor.

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### **Elsa Bravante says**

Me ha gustado mucho, aunque por las circunstancias no he podido disfrutarlo todo lo que habría querido y he tardado más de lo normal en leerlo.

Kink, amor y amistad. Muy entretenido y muy buena pareja protagonista, aunque me ha parecido un tanto brusco el cambio de tercio que sufre al final Curtis.

Muy buena continuación de la serie.

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### **Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says**

\*4.5 stars\*

I'm a total Annabeth Albert fangirl, and I can't resist a single one of her stories, but if you present me to me KINKY LUMBERJACKS, you *know* I'm in!

I seem to be really drawn to dead first love stories, as morbid as that sounds. Some of my favorite books have this theme, though if it isn't done right, it really hinders the connection between the MCs of the story. Tender with a Twist struck just the right balance between honoring and showing respect for the first love while allowing room for another love to grow. That's a difficult thing to do, and I think Annabeth Albert managed it very well.

Pain isn't at all my kink, but I've liked pain kink books in the past. Ropes and impact play I feel "meh" about, but I liked it all here. I didn't quite find it as sexy as some others, but I liked the dynamics of the scenes,



especially because I have a thing for muscle bottoms and smaller tops (YUM!!). And an age gap... just YESSSSSS!

My one big complaint with the story was the absolutely insufferable parental figures. I wanted nothing to do with any of them, and I sort of hated their intrusion in the story at all.

This book was totally satisfying, with a romance that grew from similar interests, attraction, and extreme reluctance into something really believable and strong. I trusted Annabeth Albert to take me there and she did!

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~☆~Døni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

~4.5~

I liked the first book in the *Rainbow Cove* series, but I LOVED this one. *Tender with a Twist* is one kinky, emotional ride. **Logan and Curtis are everything together!**

While Curtis and Logan connect sexually first, they can't deny their relationship runs deeper than a surface attraction.

Logan has wanted to explore his dominant side for years, but his ex made vanilla look like an exotic flavor. Now that he's moved away from his helicopter parents, Logan wants to be his authentic self, which includes cutting his hair, growing a goatee, ditching the preppy outfits, getting a tat or two, and learning how to be the best Dom possible.

Since the death of his long-term partner, Curtis hasn't been living but existing. He has his wood carving, a couple friends, but he's just going through the motions. Known for his eccentric ways, Curtis is stagnant. He thinks of Logan as a "kid" to keep him at arm's length. He doesn't want to admit the power Logan has over him.

Even if you're not a fan of hardcore BDSM, you should give this story a go. **The sex has D/s overtones, and Curtis is a massive pain slut, but there is a lot of tenderness too: sweet, quiet moments where it's just about kissing, cuddling, and feeling.** Logan's favorite part of dominating is taking care of his sub.

But don't read this book just for the kink! There's so much more here: grief, loss, guilt, and more importantly: *New growth. New chances.*

Also, WOOD CHOPPING:

The men believe in each other. Logan supports Curtis at a wood-carving festival, and Curtis wants Logan's restaurant to succeed. Other people, particularly Logan's ridiculously controlling parents who treat Logan as if he were 13, not 27, interfere, but ultimately love is stronger than fear.

*I wanted to believe that he was mine, really mine. My heart. My soul. My man.*

This is not a fluffy story, but it's not super angsty either. The relationship evolves naturally, and both men are mature enough to eventually acknowledge their feelings and leap into "life's spring" together. **The HEA is ever so hopeful, full of sunbeams and warmth.**

P.S. We meet both Logan and Curtis in the first book, but I think *Tender with a Twist* can be read as a standalone.

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## Hollis says

*Forget uniform porn -- that did nothing for me. Apparently my traitorous body had developed a thing for bearded and broody.*

Look, no one is surprised by this rating. Not me. Not you. Probably not Albert. She can do absolutely no wrong in my book and it's always just varying levels of great and awesome. It's felt like ages since I last got to dive into her world, her words, but a quick GR check confirms it's been, like, literally two months. Apparently two months is just too long.

*I hadn't **always** been a cranky bastard. Pessimism seemed to be my default now, the tattered blanket I wrapped myself in when the world met my low expectations.*

TENDER WITH A TWIST is the second installment in the *Rainbow Cove* series set around a town called, you guessed it, Rainbow Cove. The series is focused around three men who have come into the somewhat tourist-poor town to open up a queer-friendly tavern. Book one featured Mason, part owner, and the local town and-previously-closeted sheriff. In book two we have the tavern's chef Logan, a man who looks straight-laced on the outside and yet longs to scratch an itch that neither his friends or family would expect from him. And it's Nash's friend Curtis who satisfies all of Logan's kinks; broad, bearded, brilliant with a chainsaw, but also broody. Curtis is gruff and solitary, preferring to perfect his carvings than play nice with the new kids in town, and two years into grieving the loss of his longtime partner.

*He was everything I hadn't let myself acknowledge missing, let alone needing, but I did. Tightly locked, hidden places inside my soul soaked in his attention, barren soil that had stopped even waiting for rain.*

This might be my very favourite kind of second chance romance. Not trying again, trying to make something work when it didn't before, but opening yourself up to love after loss. It has the potential, nay, a guarantee, to be angsty and tough to get through -- and sometimes it can be too much, get too drawn out, and spoil the read.. at least for me -- and while Albert is no stranger to writing this particular set of circumstances (albeit with different.. well.. circumstances) this particular plot felt just.. perfect. Curtis' struggles to move on weren't struggles until he met Logan. He was resigned to being alone, had no desire for more. He felt no guilt from the occasional hookup. It was when he felt overwhelmed by the disapproval of others, when it appeared he might be doing more than just being friendly with someone new, that he really buckled under the pressure to stay true to someone who was never coming back.

*Why did everyone seem to expect me to pack away my sex drive in mothballs, give up the chance of companionship? Was that really the best path forward?*

Logan, as a character and a POV, was a delight. Younger than Curtis by fifteen years, and just shy of thirty himself, he felt even younger than his age. And was treated that way, too, by friends and family. Often

referred to as 'kid', told he was fragile, treated carefully, he endured that overprotecting handling and yet rose above it. He was strong, determined, and of sound mind for both knowing what he wanted and discovering how to go after what was his true self after years of coddling. I loved his inherent goodness, his desire to care for others, his positivity, all of which never came across as perky or overdone. It was such a good balance; which made for an even better one when matched up against Curtis.

*Logan made me want to get back to the business of living.*

I think this was Albert's sexiest book in a while (maybe ever..?) and I loved how the relationship evolved through the progression of their intimacy. I know we often see that with hook-up cases that become more but this felt.. different. I think the extra element to their romance, that twist to the tender, really solidified their connection and.. arg, all the feels. I just loved it. This book is so so aptly named.

*"Pretty sure I'm fresh out of wild oats to sow or pints to prove. You're it for me."*

We've had two age-gap relationships in this series, and I feel like possibly another to come? who knows?, and I will never get tired of that trope. Closet-case, second chance, however she wants to spin it, heck, she can even chuck that aspect out the window and forget the age element. Whatever it is, whatever she offers, I'll read it. I'll never stop coming back for more.

4.5 "this. this is where our story really begins" stars

\*\* I received an ARC from the author (thank you!) in exchange for an honest review. \*\*

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## Ele says

**\*4.5 stars\***

*"He was everything I hadn't let myself acknowledge missing, let alone needing, but I did. Tightly locked, hidden places inside my soul soaked in his attention, barren soil that had stopped even waiting for rain."*

*Tender with a Twist*, the second book in the Rainbow Cove series ended up being one of my favorite Annabeth Albert books. Very different than its predecessor, *Trust with a Chaser*, and very different than what I expected.

### **What I loved:**

**-The characters.** I really liked both MCs, who were a big *"fuck you"* to all BDSM stereotypes.

**Curtis:** Brawny, tattooed, grumpy chainsaw wood carver. Kinky bottom and total pain slut. Widower.

**Logan:** Baby face chef. Dom wannabe. Seriously underestimated.

-**The kink.** THE KINK, people. It was done to perfection. Curtis **needs**, and Logan is up to the challenge. There is a lot of sex, most of it pretty kinky, but it's integral to the story.

-**The chemistry.** There is crazy chemistry between the characters. Curtis might be grumpy, or just plain asshole, and Logan is inexperienced, but from the first time **they just click**. As a reader, I really felt that connection.

-**The setting.** I'm a sucker for small town settings, and Albert has created something beautiful in Rainbow Cove. Nice to see all the secondary characters we met at *Trust with a Chaser*, as well.

-**The grief.** This is a part that can get tricky for me, but here it was done very well. Curtis is grieving very deeply still, but it's not overwhelming.

-**Beautiful ending.**

#### **What I didn't love:**

-I got pretty frustrated with Logan's parents towards the end, it kind of affected my enjoyment of the story. Someone needed to give this guy a little more credit. Their interference and lack of trust, drove me nuts.

-I don't consider Curtis to suffer from the martyr complex because his reasons for being reluctant to be with Logan were valid. But after a while there was a little too much "*I don't deserve you*" and "*you're better off without me*" for my liking.

These niggles, though, were minor, and overall I really liked the story, even more than the first book. I'm definitely sticking with Rainbow Cove and its people.

Recommended!

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## **.Lili. says**

Tender with a Twist by Annabeth Albert just wasn't my jam. I'm not into BDSM and especially pain kink. I figured I would try it because:

1. I adore this author. She's one of my go tos, an automatic buy.
2. The other tropes are ones I love: age gap and hurt/comfort/healing.

So, despite my trepidation for the two reasons above I decided to try it.

This book did have a lot going for it, and I never felt like setting it aside; I just never fully connected to the story or its characters. This book is about a man still grieving for his partner that passed away, and a young

man ready to be his authentic self.

Some highlights:

-Logan and Curtis. Although, I didn't mesh with them as a couple I did like them as individuals. They held qualities that I'd want to find in my friends.

-The small town setting. I'm a sucker for books that take place in small towns- probably because they remind me of where my family lives in Colombia.

-Tenderness. Despite the D/s overtone, there was a lot of sweetness. I melted every time Logan took care of Curtis after a scene.

-The end was a strong HFN.

\*\*Side note: Can this book be read out of order? I think for maximum enjoyment Trust with a Chaser should be read first. You're introduced to Logan and Curtis and get a feel for them in the first installment.

In the end, I was bummed. I wish that I would've been able to lose myself in this Annabeth Albert love story the way I normally do but I couldn't. It comes down preferences and pain is just not my thing. 3 Stars.

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## CrabbyPatty says

We meet Curtis, dour tattooed chainsaw carver (who occasionally carves shirtless ... in the winter), in the first Rainbow Cove book Trust with a Chaser, as well as Logan, one of the trifecta of young owners of bar/restaurant owners trying to revitalize the town of Rainbow Cove as an LGBTQ destination. This is their story, and it is straight up glorious, sexy, heart wrenching, kinky, sexy ... and did I mention sexy?

Curtis is immersed in grief for his long-time lover Troy, who passed two years prior. He's moved from their cabin into a renovated retro gas station, which is also his place of business. Curtis' way of surviving is to deny himself the pleasures of good food, good friends, and especially love. The product of a hardscrabble childhood, Curtis' mantra is:

**“Can’t go getting dependent. Soft. I don’t want to start needing something only to have it ripped away.”**

Logan is the only child of fairly well-to-do overprotective parents (emphasis on *over*) and while he looks like a baby-faced kid, he's 27 and ready to embrace his inner Dom. Logan, the creator of food that nourishes the body and soul, wants to take care of Curtis:

"... my heart broke every time I thought of his childhood self, scared to have a favorite cereal. I wanted to shower him with the tastiest food, make sure he always had an abundance of whatever it was he wanted most, the secret desires he hadn't shared yet."

And when these two men connect, under the guise of Dom lessons for Logan and kink to settle the restless soul of pain slut Curtis, the chemistry is intense and incredibly sexually charged. What Curtis and Logan share isn't straight-up BDSM but rather a necessary part of each personality, something that draws them together in perfect synchronicity. And Annabeth Albert hits it out of the park in unfolding their relationship

as it slowly moves from friends with benefits to much, much more.

Annabeth Albert also does a stellar job of showing us Curtis' grief and how it controls his life, how it keeps him sheltered in a cocoon of loneliness and hurt, and how he holds close the belief that he's had his once-in-a-lifetime loves and you don't get that twice. Until Logan makes him realize

Except maybe some people do. It had been so long since I'd felt anything resembling hope that I didn't recognize the trembling in my gut at first. What if people did get a second chance and I was about to miss mine?

I could have done without Logan's irritating helicopter parents, but the heart of this story was so beautifully done that this was a small niggle in the larger picture. I loved this story and give it 5 stars. Can't wait for the next book in the Rainbow Cove series!

*I received an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review.*

Review also posted at Gay Book Reviews - check it out!

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