



## Safe Haven

*Sheri Lyn*

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Nothing in Phoenix's life ever went right. He never knew where his next meal would come from or if he would be safe going home at night. Desperate to escape, he trusts the wrong person. A different kind of evil wrapped in hope led him into the claws of a prison he might not survive.

Gryphon took a chance on a new life and ended up a captive. To his shock, he wasn't alone. Twenty boys experimented on physically and mentally, few would ever see the light of day again.

A family forged in the fires of hell. Escape came, but at the price of losing more of themselves than they realized. They must depend on each other and new friends. No-one is expecting to find love, but love may find them anyway.

Their mission is clear: Find the people who did this to them and destroy them.

But some missions aren't always so cut and dry...

## **Safe Haven Details**

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Author : Sheri Lyn

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Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Sociology, Abuse, Mystery, Contemporary, Dark, Fantasy, Paranormal, Adult, Did Not Finish

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## From Reader Review Safe Haven for online ebook

### **The Owlery (Elizabeth) says**

A group of boy escape a horrific stay where they are tortured and tested against their will once they escape they commit their lives to finding out who was behind the abuse and how can they rescue other needy children from the same fate! There is romance and a few sexy times and an intriguing plot!

While the concept is unique the execution wasn't all it could have been. The dialogue was choppy and had a lot of filler which is why I gave Safe Haven a 3 and not a 4-star review! This is probably one of the best M/M romances I have ever read though and I was totally sold on the main relationship in the book!! I cannot wait to see more of their romance in the rest of the series!

All the boys have gone through a horrific ordeal after experiencing a terrible childhood and it makes the happy moments, breakthroughs and love that much more special! I am seriously hoping all these guys get a happy ending by the end of the series!

I would have loved some more information on The Institute (where the boys were experimented on) like their motive and what they were trying to accomplish! Hopefully, we will get more background in book two! The mystery of The Institution had me eating up this book and I finished it in less than a day!

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### **Trio says**

yeah... okay, the story was actually really good - creative plot about a bunch of young men basically kidnapped and tortured and experimented upon who get their revenge. The writing though was so sub par it distracted from the whole experience. I wanted so badly to love this book but I just couldn't get past the dire need for an editor. So awkward. What a shame.

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### **Kelly H. (Maybedog) says**

1.5 stars

I feel robbed. I was trying to find a book that would fit a Bingo category and a Hottest Sex Scene Monopoly roll and did a search in the book. The sex scene I read was really hot so I read the book.

It was the only sex scene. It was the only good part of the book.

Telling telling telling

Even if he ran, social services would go to his home, talk to his teachers, and eventually find and remove him. As mandated reporters, every one of his teachers and school staff would be required by law to report the abuse and neglect or risk going to jail. Someone would report it and I think most would because if someone does then they'd all be brought to the carpet.

The dialog is completely unrealistic. The characters basically monologue at each other. They also don't talk like people talk but like the narration of a book. It's incredibly stiff.

Why would the stranger bother working on Griffin for months rather than just taking him if he eventually drugged him anyway?

What was the point of the institute?

Just say yes to paragraph breaks.

So black and white and extreme. Everyone is either totally evil or totally wonderful.

Foster parents can't get away with doing all that even just for money. Even horrible social workers have to stop by now and then and would be aware of a dead boy not to mention the kids not going to school. Evil foster parents are a bit more subtle and much less common than found in books. Some of us are kind of okay.

Gryph doesn't talk like someone who didn't finish high school. "Then we are in agreement. " " {He} felt intimidated we were bettering ourselves."

42% before first hint of something more than platonic feelings and yet we later find out that everyone knew they were in love but them?

60% of the way through and now we find out (view spoiler)?

They already know what's up with Odin and Kylen and it's obvious anyway.

That sex was pretty hot. The chemistry isn't there elsewhere but the sex is hot.

They go on and on and on and on and on about them all being brothers, including with the guy they just met who is kind of a fated mate to one of them. It's creepy that they're calling them all brothers and sons when they're all in love with at least one of the others.

They're talked about and act like they're really young, maybe college age at the most, but the youngest is 30 and Nix is several years older, 35.

You know it's a bad book for me when I just want it to be over and hope that the danger in the climactic scene doesn't end up with a main character hurt thereby giving me a hospital scene. I live for bedside vigils. But I just didn't care enough. Even with books that are not great and I give 2 stars, I'm drawn to the next in the series to see what happens. Sorry, here I just don't care.

1.5 stars rounded up because that one sex scene was good

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Dec 20, 2015 Whispers From rated it really liked it

A group of men were kept, tortured and experimented on as children and now they are trying to stop it from happening again.

Nix was abused as a child. Right before he graduated high school his principal called him to the office and asked if he wanted to get out and see the world, what he didn't expect was the experiments but in the hell they were in, the ones left became brothers.

Gryph was bounced from foster home to foster home until he was brought to the same place. The experiments were horren

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Dec 23, 2015 \*\*Elle\*\*Bee\*\*Double U\*\* rated it it was amazing

Shelves: m-m

OH MY GOODNESS! This book is honestly probably one of the best M/M I've read in like FOREVER!! Once you pick this one up you won't put it down.

Phoenix aka Nix and Gryphon have survived living in hell. After escaping the "institution" the group of 8 men are looking for revenge. When clues lead these two back to Nix's home town, the past catches up to Nix and secrets are revealed about his childhood. But Gryphon won't let Nix face his ghosts without him taking his back, even if it means keeping h

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Dec 26, 2015 Florence rated it it was amazing

It is extremely hard to believe that this is a debut and not the work of somone who has written and published hundreds of books. . This story is so well written I could not put it down the attention to detail is incredible. .. The hell that the boys who are now men barely survived broke my heart ... I found myself sobbing when one of them gave details about themselves, their nightmares & experiences and cheering when they had a breakthrough or even a genuine smile or heartfelt moment... I ab ...more

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Jan 05, 2016 Heather rated it it was amazing

Holy cow! I could not put this book down. I was hooked from the beginning. Suspense with a touch of something else that just draws you in. We get a glimpse of the horrors Gryph and Nix experienced I the past, now they and their brothers are after those who captured and tortured them. The mystery of who is the Recruiter and how to bring him and his organization down is just amazing. This is a great start to the series and I can not wait for more.

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Feb 11, 2016 Milica marked it as uhm

**Uhm...what's up with the matching cover and the blurb? Looking at the cover,I'd expect sweet story about sexy librarian and some model perhaps,but the blurb promises all kinds of abuse o.O . Talk about don't judge the book by its cover...or in my case,don't buy a book because of its cover. And I really,really liked it - it would make my shelf look so much prettier.**

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Jan 28, 2016 J added it

Shelves: prior-dnf

DNF. M/M

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Jan 05, 2016 Chrissy Kagel rated it it was amazing

I absolutely loved this book! For a first time author she did a great job.

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Mar 16, 2017 Shannan rated it it was amazing

I loved the way book one pulled you into the mysteries of the Institution and what happened to the eight men that are brothers in all but blood, while also focusing on Phoenix's past and his discovery that his "brother" Gryphon is his soul mate.

The flashbacks to Nix's past, the tortuous experiments all eight men have gone through before escaping the Institute....it all tore my heart to shreds. Yet reconnecting with his former high school teacher Josh Hagrin who basically adopts the whole crew as

...more

flag Like · see review

Mar 14, 2018 Fawn Michaels rated it it was amazing · review of another edition

**Interesting story. Kept me reading!**

First time reading this author. And won't be the last. This story kept Mr entertained from start to finish and definitely makes me want to read the next book. Its crazy what all these guys have gone through at such a young age. It breaks my heart, and to hear or I should say read how they cope and battle it, is just crazy. But, at least they all have a bond and they are close that they help each other cope through the nightmares they all lived.

flag Like · see review

Oct 27, 2017 Fernanda Bomtempo-Marzo rated it it was ok

2.5 Stars

flag Like · see review

Jul 03, 2018 Julie Taylor rated it really liked it · review of another edition

**Very good**

Interesting story line it's well written and the characters are great. Can't wait to find out what's going on though

flag Like · see review

Apr 07, 2016 MillsyLovesBooks rated it really liked it

What an amazing start to this series!!

The book starts with a 17-year-old boy called AJ, having the upbringing from hell. The emotions you get from this book from the very beginning are so strong (some scenes may be triggers). You can't help but feel for AJ, but he is such a strong character even through years of abuse he's managed to keep up with school, working two jobs to keep the roof over his & his mothers head (not that she deserves it) struggling through life till he can leave school &

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Jan 12, 2016 Bambi Fogleman rated it it was amazing

Oh this book is OMG awesome!!! I can not wait for the next book in this series. For a new author this book is one of the best M/M book I have read. Even if you don't care for the m/m aspect the plot and thought put into this was so wonderful. I will be telling everyone a must read. Sheri Lyn work is a great experience to get lost in the world she created in this tale.

“AJ’s Spot” “There is nothing like a book to give us wings. To let us be more than what we are. To give us the dreams we dare no

...more

flag Like · see review

Mar 03, 2016 Merissa (Archaeolibrarian) rated it it was amazing · review of another edition

Shelves: adult, m-m, military, paranormal, romance, mystery

I. LOVED. THIS.

I guess I should give a bit more than that though. The book starts with a 17-year-old boy called AJ. He is putting himself through school, with no support from his so called mother apart from when she lets up on the abuse. He has the support of some of his teachers, but is so solitary that he just doesn't see the amount of people around him who want to help. He gets an offer to join a secret branch of the military and takes it, due to circumstances beyond his control. Skip forward

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Jan 03, 2016 Annie rated it liked it

Shelves: maybe-read-more-from-series-author

**Interesting romantic suspense**

\*I received a free copy of this book in exchange for posting my honest review\*

This was an interesting romantic suspense once it got into it, but it had a pretty slow start for me. Around halfway through things started picking up speed wise, and by 60% or so I was very intrigued in the mystery

element and had a hard time putting the Kindle down. There are quite a few twists that surprised me, and I did like the characters. Unfortunately, it took too long to really get into the story.

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Apr 15, 2016 Andrea Goodell rated it it was amazing

My rule is, if a book makes me cry than its an automatic five! If an author can put that much emotion into even one scene to suck me in and get that emotion out of me then they deserve it and this was no different. I won't do the spoiler and mention the exact one, but safe to say that this whole book is an emotional roller coaster. Not just for the reader but for the 'boy' involved. Whom the story is based.

\*\* I call them boys, even though at this point they are men of mid to late twenties. You will notice that AJ and Nix are in their late 20's/early 30's.

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Jan 17, 2016 Chelly Peeler rated it it was amazing

"One thing this life had taught him was not to give up. No matter what happened, you would and could survive it, you just couldn't give up."

AJ didn't have the best home. As a matter of fact, it was downright hell. He barely got by in school, worked two jobs to pay rent, never got to sleep. His mom was on drugs and abusive, along with her steady flow of friends coming and going all the time. His principal offered him an opportunity to join a "special organization" in the military and after one ho

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Jan 12, 2016 Lynde Shaw rated it really liked it

This is a fantastic book by a debut author! I don't shy away from M/M romance, but they're not typically my go to. However, this book was recommended to me and I am so glad it was. While not heavy on the romance, you can still feel the close relationship and love these two men have for each other. You get to see where Nix came from as a child and to see how much he's grown as a person. Character development was well done. You can feel the brotherly connection all the men in their tight knit family.

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Dec 29, 2015 Faith rated it it was amazing

I'm not an avid m/m reader but this is definitely my favorite m/m book I've ever read. Yes there is a love between characters but more important is the bond forged in surviving hell and coming out stronger together. The suspense and action kept me enthralled from page one until the very end. Sheri Lyn manages to write characters who are beautifully tragic and you can't help being drawn into their life mission to avenge themselves and their fallen brothers.

Safe Haven is definitely not your

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Nov 16, 2016 Monica rated it it was amazing

Shelves: favorite-mm

I loved it! I love the banter between each character, they were hilarious even with all the stuff in their pasts, I want to know them all! It is a little darker than I'm used to, with the violent backgrounds, but it's life in a book and I know and understand--that being said, it was a necessary for character development and I really enjoyed Nix and Gryph...I had to agree with Josh, I'm so proud of each of these men for overcoming and surviving and while it's a story it has a real emotional center

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« previous *1 2 3 4 5 6* next »

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### **Joy Whiteside says**

This was an extremely well written book that I enjoyed from the moment that I picked it up. It moved along at a fantastic pace, has characters that will grab you and that you cannot help but fall in love with and a story that will keep you interested and entertained from beginning to end. This has got to be read, there is no doubt about it.

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### **Charity Chimni says**

Safe Haven was a great debut novel for Sheri Lyn. It is a great opening to a series full of passion and mystery. She has spun a great tale with a lot of potential. I loved the characters and the connection they have. I love the mystery that we have to solve about the lives the "boys" have lead. Looking forward to enjoying the story unfold with the series!

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### **Lara says**

#### **Fantastic Read**

Sinister and full of suspense. A well written foray into conspiracy and the torture and murder of innocents. Add hot guys dealing with their survival of their time in the "Institute", true love and a little psychic abilities. Makes for a truly fantastic read.

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### **Theresa says**

#### **You can run, but can you hide?**

Not everyone gets a great start in life... this story is about a team of eight with an awful start. There is good news though, they are helping others have better lives and are after those who hurt them. Between the sexual tension and nightmares they are making progress, the lack of sleep can make times difficult though. If you like honest, angry, scared characters with lots of muscles this book is for you! And now a bit about the story...

AJ works two jobs and goes to high school to support his mom. She is a lazy ungrateful piece of trash, but AJ continues... he has hopes of graduating soon and escaping to a good life. Until his mom's boyfriend jumps him again. This time AJ has the upper hand with a piece of concrete in his hand and knocks the man unconscious. Fearing what will happen next, AJ takes advantage of an offer from his principal, to escape early. From one Hell to the next... will he ever survive?

Favorite passages:

- "We are not our past, we are what we make of our tomorrows!"
- Luck was on their side. When they reached the bottom, both men were busy looking busy.
- This wasn't how it was supposed to go down but as they had discovered, life rarely did.

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### **Suzi (Obsessive Reading Disorder) says**

#### **3.5 Stars**

I loved the synopsis for this one. Made me buy the book. Ultimately, that's why I have the extra 1/2 star. The story idea is unique and had me wanting to hurry and read more. This group of young men has been tortured and tampered with for most of their adult lives to this point. I like the mystery over what was going on and why an organization would be studying them. It's also unusual that all the survivors are gay.

My issue was with the pacing. It dragged so much in some places and there is a LOT of choppy dialogue. I didn't get the relationship between Nix and Gryph as anything more than best friends. Then all of a sudden they were lovers proclaiming their love to one another. The romance was steamy but I didn't feel connected to their feelings for one another. That said, there are some very poignant moments and no bones about it, these misfits have had horrible lives up to this point. You can't help but feel for them.

The story intrigues me. I want to see where the author goes with it. Book 2 is worth looking at before giving up on the whole series.

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### **Christelle says**

Also I'm not into paranormal, the blurb and the story concept looked interesting and it's a KU, so I gave it a try. An entertaining surprise, and I like to be surprised.

A group of teenagers, sharing similar horrific childhood, were captured, experimented and tortured by a mysterious organization. Once they were able to escape, they decided to dedicate their lives in helping other children as well as seeking revenge.

In this first book, you get a glimpse of the hell these young men went through and while seeking for answers, you get to see how the bond between Nix and Gryph, 2 of these survivors, develops from friends to lovers.

What I liked : sexual tension, a steamy romance, poignant and heartfelt moments, emotion, mystery and suspense, strong and likable MCs and secondary characters, a sense of brotherhood.

However, there were also editing errors, some unrealistic and eye-rolling moments due to the immediacy of feelings. And a lot of questions left unanswered...something to be expected in a series : I just hope that it will not drag on too long in the next books and that it won't take ages to get the next installments.

Overall, I enjoyed this book and want to see where the story will go. Jumping right away, but with caution, to book 2.

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### **Jen Spencer says**

What an amazing start to a series! I can't wait to read more.

Fall in love with these "throw away kids" and feel their emotions with them. See how they take a crappy past and use it to become better adults.

This book brings to life a whole set of characters to fall for and root for. I want to adopt them all too and watch them find their happiness.

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