



## **I Stand Before You**

*S.R. Grey*

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# I Stand Before You

S.R. Grey

## I Stand Before You S.R. Grey

A story of love, a story of hope. How can you move forward when you're anchored to the past?

When it comes to tattooed bad boys, Chase Gartner was the real deal. Partying, engaging in meaningless sex, getting into fights---Chase indulged in it all during his late teen years, thus firmly solidifying his status as a heartbreakingly gorgeous but way-too-dangerous-to-trust guy in his hometown of Harmony Creek, Ohio. Then, following one fateful night of reckless decisions, Chase's actions finally caught up to him and landed him in prison.

Now, four years have passed and Chase finds himself a free man. He returns to Harmony Creek, ready to pick up the pieces and start rebuilding his shattered life.

Things are off to a promising start when he meets Kay Stanton, a young woman with a tragic past of her own. Despite a powerful attraction, Chase and Kay are naturally hesitant to become involved. That's why friendship feels like the safest option. But when passions ignite and love blossoms, a relationship that is destined and meant to be can only be resisted for so long. When Chase and Kay finally succumb to their feelings they realize being together feels more right and true than anything they have ever experienced.

But their love is soon tested. Chase's wild past still haunts and tempts him, and Kay is keeping a secret that could tear them apart.

I Stand Before You is a journey of hope and forgiveness, coming to terms with the past and moving forward. But mostly it's a story of two damaged people who take a chance, open their hearts, and find true love.

New Adult/Contemporary Romance genres. First in a series.

*\*\*\*warning: contains explicit sexual situations, drug use, some violence, and profanity\*\*\**

## I Stand Before You Details

Date : Published September 2013

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Author : S.R. Grey

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Genre : New Adult, Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary

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# From Reader Review I Stand Before You for online ebook

Georgia ♥ Team Dex ♥ says

## 5 Forgiveness and Redemption Stars

*As I stand before you, judge me not.*

We all make mistakes. Stupid decisions, rash actions, fate, anger and despair rule our lives. There are some defining moments, when everything takes a wrong turn but not all is lost. The really strong people can't forget but they always forgive and they start but setting themselves free of the blame and the guilt, but never of the memories. The past made us what we are today and love will pave the way to happiness, if and when we allow our hearts to beat again.

**Chase Gartner**, once had it all. Family, wealth happiness. A loving father, money and a brother that looked up to him. When he lost them, young and full of himself he tried to forget in drugs and alcohol. And when he started getting drawn deeper, he ended up in jail, an artist trying to find himself all over again. A new man emerged and now he struggles to let go of his past, reconnect with his family and resist a woman that might be too good for the likes of him...

**Kay Stanton**, knows heartbreak and how it is to live in darkness. She has faced loss and unable to deal and move on, she has withdrawn into herself. Feeling unworthy of forgiveness and love but irresistibly drawn to the dirty-mouthed bad boy that make her soul sing. Together they will take a leap of faith, they will become each other's second chance, fallen angel, confidant and companion. Together, not perfect but beautiful and unique. Forever.

*This love is full circle. It will only end when last breaths are taken.*

In the end, stronger together they will face their demons and families and.... that's what we are all dying to find out!!!!

An emotional, beautiful read about two broken souls seeking redemption, feeling unworthy and undeserving of love. A book about the power of love and our inner strength that never fails. S.R. Grey weaves a complex story firmly on the "grey" side, where right and wrong, good and bad blur, and uniqueness is born. I think this is her best book, yet, even though I am a huge fan of her "Harbour Falls Mystery Series". She writes distinctive characters that stay true to themselves, sexy scenes and interesting back stories that rear their ugly head when you least expect it.

I loved this book and I really NEED the next!

*Revised to post full review at 07/09/2013*  
*Continue reading for my pre-read rant... :)*

***When it comes to tattooed bad boys, Chase Gartner is the real deal.***

*Sweet.. Mother... Holy... CAN'T WAIT!!*

*\*ARC courtesy of the author, the wonderful S.R. Grey, who I have the honor to call friend ♥, in exchange for an honest review\**

**THANK YOU SUSIE!!**

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**Farah \*Professor Dean's Beauty\* says**

You know sometimes you read a blurb on a book and on everyone's reviews, they seem to say good things but when you read it you wonder if you are actually reading the same book???

Yeah this was one of those for me. It doesn't mean the book is bad- if I can elaborate, I'd say I'm having one of those "it's not you, it's me moments :D"

This is about a boy called Chase who was on the wrong path for a while and used drugs and got busted eventually leading to prison for 4 years.

Now his back a 'changed' man who is worthy of redemption...  
Everyone thinks his sooo bad but its not like he murdered someone???

He meets Kay- a girl equally as 'broken' who lost her sister in an accident and still carries around the burden of her death 4years later...

Kay and Chase become friends fast and before we know it they calling each other. They can heal each other.

The cheesy names started getting to me.

--->My Girl (but she's not)

----->my guy (but his not)

-----> sweet girl

-----> my baby girl

It was so corny I couldn't get into it at all.

I made it to 54% before I got completely bored of it...  
So for now its a DNF

Maybe ill get back to it some day...?

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**Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥ says**

**OMG!!It's my first book from S.R. Grey and I love her writting!!! It's an amazing book!!I totally connected with the characters!!!This is a book full of passion,intense, happy and sad immotions!**

**"When you're thirteen you think you can have it all. Life hasn't roughed you up so very much ...yet"**

When Chase was young, he had a wonderful life. He used to live with his family and he was ready to follow his father's steps... But some times life is playing games, and we cannot follow our dreams...

**"Things are never bad when love is abundant.I thought it would stay that way forever, I did a home filled with love a happy family, just a good and easy life."**

Something truly tragic happened, that caused Chase's father death.From this moment Chase couldn't remain the same person. Now he lives with his grandmother in a very small place at Ohio.

And his only desire is to leave far away...Things are going worse when he started doing drugs... One day the police arrest him and he is going to jail. Now he is alone and he has none on his side....

**4 years later he is out from jail...**

Now he is working for the church doing maintenance and fixing things, and he continues his passion...to design. But there are many temptations for him around...

**KAY**

Kay lost her sister and blamed herself for her lost. She is now working for the church. She knows everything for Chase's past and she is very cautious with him. .

But day by day, she is changing her view and the connection between them become stronger..

Two broken people who when connected, are made whole, made right...

**"You're good for me Chase. You help me in ways I can't explain. You make me want to live, to embrace life even when I was barely surviving before I met you."**

**They have to face problems...Can they manage to be together in the end???**

**I will tell this again!!!An amazing book!!!**

**The thing I love most in this book is that we start see two people who is damaged..**

**they managed to find each other and to learn how to live again!!**

**EVERYONE MUST READ THIS BOOK!!**

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**~Tina~ says**

I'm a big fan of S.R Grey's *Harbour Falls* mystery books, so I couldn't wait to read her newest release, **I Stand Before You**.

I admit, I don't read very many Adult/NA contemporary, but this was a beautiful, powerful and passionate emotional journey about mistakes, forgiveness and finding a love worth living for.

We start our story with Chase Gartner. He had a good life. His dad ran his own successful company, he has a great mom and the best little brother. He also had a promising future with the pictures he'd sketch and wanted to grow up to be an architect one day. But everything came tumbling down when his father lost his business, losing everything they own and so much more. Life as he knew it will never be the same. His mother spends most days at the casino, gambling her life away and Chase turned to drugs, sex and violence for escape. That is, till it went a little to far and he got caught with enough drugs to land him in prison. Four years later, Chase is a free man and despite being tempted to turn back to his wicked ways, he's determined to live a different life. A clean life. A better life with better choices. His grandma left him the farm in Harmony Creek and working at the church and school as a maintenance man, Chase is well on his way to a second chance.

Kay Stanton will never forgive herself and neither will her family. Blamed and abandoned, Kay is a lost and broken after the lost of her six year old sister, Sarah. Her family will never forgive her and Kay must live with the secret of that horrible night for the rest of her life. When Kay and Chase meet it's the start of an easy and natural friendship but inevitably grows into something much stronger. But can their love heal the past? Or will the same mistakes creep into their future.



If I had to pick one word for Kay and Chase, it would be undeniable. Here we have two desperate souls that have been living with guilt, torment and haunted by all the mistakes they've made, but together, they have a chance to be the person they can be proud of and are stronger because of it. I've always been a fan of the way Grey can write. Her mystery books are clever and unpredictable, but I think she took it one step further with this book. The emotional moments with Kay and Chase, together and apart were incredibly moving and irresistible. They have such a sad story filled with struggle and remorse. Grey captures that overwhelming desire to want something so desperately and then finally believing you deserve it come the end.

Chase got a bum deal growing up. He lost everything and when you don't know how to cope, some turn to the only escape that's available. Sadly, fighting, sex and drugs are the last thing that a young teen should be getting into. Lesson learned but not ever forgotten, I admire Chase for owing up to his mistakes, not changing who he is, but changing what he does with his life. He's crude, but sexy. Intense but playful, strong but vulnerable. He's human, complex and wonderfully flawed.

Kay is a fragile little thing. What happened to her sister broke my heart and I hate what her parents did to her. But through it all, Kay remains good and it shows when she gave Chase an honest chance. The friendship between the two was warm and sweet and made my heart happy, but I think the romance between the two was even better. Tender, sexy, seductive and amazingly steamy.

Another character that I liked was Will, and while we only got bits of him in Chase's memory, I fell in love with that little boy and just as afraid for him as Chase is and look forward to hearing his story in the next book; Never Doubt Me

All in all, I really loved this one. Kay and Chase are two broken messes but slowly and together they pick up the pieces of the past and learn to move on. It's not perfect and it's not easy, but one should never underestimate the power of love, acceptance and forgiveness. Everyone loses their way at one point of their lives, but it's what you do with the rest of it that really matters. S.R Grey captures heart and soul characters that will pull on your heart strings and make you believe in second chances. Beautifully and touching. Wonderfully done!

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## **Jamie says**

### ***5 Spectacular Stars!***

It's Live On Amazon

<http://www.amazon.com/Stand-Before-You...>

and

Barnes&Noble

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/i-sta...>

Yep, I loved this one...by the time I was finished with the prologue I was hooked. We've got a tattooed, sexy, damaged bad boy and the sweet beautiful girl that tries to save him but with issues of her own. Yes, it's a formula we are all familiar with.. but S.R. Grey still managed to make this formula her own. I was completely wrapped up in this story until the very last page...

*First, we've got sexy bad boy Chase Gardner..20 years old and living with his grandmother due to a mother that can't handle him any longer and doesn't really want to. He's a hard partier and a true man ho. Screwing around, snorting, popping, drinking, living it up making one bad decision after another until he makes one mistake to many. At one time in his life he had goals and dreams to follow in is fathers footsteps but all that has changed. Now he's landed himself in prison for 4 long years.*

***It takes one hundred and forty-three steps to walk down a long, noisy corridor to reach cell block seventy-two. And when they turn the key, you hear one life— the only one you've ever known up until now— ending.***

***Chase...***

*Then we have sweet, kind, and beautiful Kay Stanton...living in the same small town Chase was living before he was sent away to prison. She's on her own. Her family turned their backs on her after one very tragic event that tore their family apart. She harbors deep unrelenting guilt for one accident that can't be undone...*

***I hate how time has a way of blurring the memories, easing the guilt. I deserve to suffer. My grief anchors me to my guilt. Or maybe it's the other way around. Probably both, a never-ending circle.***

***Kay...***

It's summer time and Kay's off for the summer but needs some money so she can get out of her hell hole of an apartment so she takes a summer job at the local Church helping out in the office. Chase is out of prison and is now the owner of his Grams house and land since she passed away. He's got money now but is working around the Church doing restoration. This is the setting they meet and the chemistry is there from the moment they see each other. Kay is very aware of who he is and is apprehensive of him..but he manages to convince her he's a changed man. So they strike up a friendship. A friendship that grows strong and they become very important to each other.

Now, don't let the Church back drop fool you because these two certainly don't let the location stop them from getting to each other. It's a small town and a small Church and the setting totally worked for this story.

Friendship eventually turns to something much hotter. The attraction has been there from the beginning but Chase wants to keep Kay at a physical distance thinking he's still tainted for her

***“I'm no good for you,” he says, pained, as if uttering the words hurts him. “You could do so much better than me, baby.”***

But he can only keep his hands to himself for so long before....

***He stops resisting...***

***His wide shoulders shift and his muscles bunch as he cups my ass and lifts me up to his mouth. When his tongue touches me, my head falls back. So much for watching, I can barely think now. Chase licks and sucks and does things with his tongue that send me over the edge in no time. I scream out his name, but***

*he gives me no reprieve. He continues his dizzying assault with his mouth until another climax builds and builds.*

But Chase has demons and they are constantly tempting him to go back to the man he was. He doesn't know if he can help himself much less help Kay confront her own demons. Kay has complete faith in him but it just may not be enough....

Holy hell were these two HOT!! The build up was sweet and intense. The character development of both Chase and Kay was so good and I felt completely connected to both of them... especially Chase. Chase is the perfect tortured hero that needs saving. Although Kay has her own guilt and sadness festering inside she still believes in Chase and will do anything for him. But will he let her?

Beautiful story! I've always loved the friends to lovers story but this one was a little different in that they didn't have a long history together. But their connection was immediate. Loved it!

OK, now for the ending. This is NOT a cliffhanger ending but their story is not over by a long shot. Chase still has his old demons trying to suck him back into his past..then throw in some family problems and we've got more story to come. I personally cannot wait. I loved Chase and Kay and look forward to what Ms. Grey has in store for them. Give this book a shot and I think you will to :)

*ARC provided by S.R. Grey for an honest review*

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**Alexis \*Reality Bites\* says**

SPOILER FREE REVIEW -mature content reader discretion is advised.

3.5 STARS

Genre: New Adult Romance

**FULL REVIEW POSTED 9-9-13**

*'I am breathless, but not from running. What I like, what turns me on, is that I've just been pursued. Pursued and caught, by this gorgeous, sexy guy who I may tease and call my boy, but there's never been any doubt in my mind that he is most definitely all man.'*

-Kay

Chase Gartner had his life turned upside down after losing his father. You see..everything was already changing for his family and then BAM things go from bad to severely worst. Just when Chase feels like he reached rock bottom. The next change comes and he lands back in his childhood hometown of Harmony Creek, Ohio residing with his grandmother.

### **Just plain old reckless**

Chase lives his life fast with no boundaries. For him it's all about sex, parties, and fights which are fueled by his drugs and alcohol use. That is when the earth opens up and swallows him **whole**...His reckless life style teaches him a lesson called consequence when Chase finds himself in prison...

Do you believe in second chances?

***'Perfect, I'll be in black and white, just like Father Maridale. The sinner and the saint, matched.'*** -Chase

Four years past and Chase is now free. The local minister is the only one willing to give him a second chance. Father Maridale gives Chase a job at the church doing maintenance work during the week.

His bad boy reputation precedes him; most of the people in Harmony Creek steer clear of Chase. This includes Kay Stanton.

Absolutely nothing has been easy for Kay these past few years. She is practically estranged from her parents due to a horrible mistake made one night. The pain left over from this tragic night still haunts Kay.

When these two broken souls meet they connect with one another and friendship slowly turns in to **something more.**

**Something precious.**

**LOVE.**

***'Chase and I are in this for the long haul. I've stood before him and he's stood before me. And this is what it's all come down to: Chase Gartner is my future, my forever. And I, I am his.'*** -Kay

### My Thoughts

S.R. Grey does a good job at introducing readers to these two badly scarred characters. I felt that the story line carries a very realistic tone to it as these two face real problems. For Chase it was his addiction.

**What I loved?** Somehow the unlikely pair end up being just what the other needs. Almost fitting together like two pieces of a puzzle. I am very anxious to see how all this drama with Will(Chase's younger brother) and his girlfriend Cassie plays out.

**Why 3.5 stars you ask?** Here is why, I felt that the story dragged in certain parts. And I also thought that there was a build up to something big happening there with Chase..Yet in the end I felt it fell a little short. But that's just me; this does not take away from the beautiful love story being told with Chase and Kay.

#### My Ratings

Characters- Sweet and lovable

Writing Style- Good

Plot/Storyline- Two broken souls connecting and finding love

Steam Factor- Low/On a Slow Simmer

Overall- I liked it! Check it out!

**Now go forth and read. Then come tell us about it on Goodreads!**

For more reviews got to <http://realitybites-letsgetlost.blogs...>

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### **Jessica's Book Review says**

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I Stand Before You by S.R. Grey is a very emotional, yet sexy book about two people with troubled past find one another fall in love. It is book one in the series, though it doesn't leave you off on a cliff hanger, it does leave the story hanging and leaving you wanting the second book, like NOW!

The book is told in dual points of view between Chase and Kay alternating between chapters. We are first introduced to Chase and his story. He came from an upper class family who lost their money when Chase was a teenager. His father committed suicide leaving his mother, younger brother, and him alone and completely broke living in their van in Las Vegas. Chase's mother is not exactly going to win the mother of the year award and Chase turns to drugs and sex. He eventually ends up in prison for drug possession and the intent to sell. After four years, Chase is now living in his grandmother's farm house in Ohio and trying to start over clean.

Next we are introduced to Kay. She is a school teacher who lost her younger sister in a terrible accident. Her mother blames her and has not talked to her in four years taking away the rest of her family. Kay also blames herself and lives a life she thinks she deserves alone in a rundown apartment because she is so disgusted with herself. The two blame themselves for their past and do not let people in.

Chase and Kay both are working for a church, Kay as a teacher and Chase as the grounds keeper. When they meet it is instant chemistry. Chase does not want to cross the line with Kay thinking he isn't good enough while Kay has fallen hard for Chase. They become friends, talk, go out to eat and movies together but do not cross the line over from friendship. In fact, not until after the 50% point they share their romantic feelings for one another. I honestly was getting a little bored with the storyline until that point and was glad they finally shared their feelings. Let me tell you... there is the hottest, sexiest, non-sex scene EVER in the history of books. It is still very NC-17 ladies, do not worry but this particular scene was hot! The scenes of Chase & Kay actually having sex are just as steamy but this non-sex scene forced me to put down my kindle and walk away before it over heated. Wowzers!

The author really let us know these characters very well with their description and story; I completely understood where they came from and went through as well as their connection to each other. Even though they come from different past and problems they share one thing... they blame themselves for their pain, they also made each other whole again and help each other heal. Their romance is really beautiful and realistic; it was by far one of the best romances I have read this year. I love how real it all felt.

The story was a bit predictable, especially Kay's secret... to me it wasn't much of a secret especially since her mom knew. I was hoping it was something bigger. I also wish there was some type of confrontation between her and her ex boyfriend since he was back in town at the end.

S.R. Grey has a gift for writing. I love the romance between Chase and Kay, I just wasn't crazy in love over the actual story like I was with the romance. I really hope it continues with Chase and not just his brother Will and his story line that we were introduced to at the end of Stand Before You; I hope Chase is still the leading man. He still has so much of his story to tell and he did not find the closure he needed....yet.

I give Stand Before you 3.5 Stars.

*ARC provided by the author in return for an honest review.*

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## **Lucia says**

### **4.5 STARS**

**"As I stand before you, judge me not."**

My Chase and Kay:

*Chase is a young man living wild life and hanging with a bad crowd. Drugs, alcohol, women, fights - Chase is your ultimate bad boy. One thing leads to another, until he ends up in prison. Now, 4 years later, Chase is out and free. Will he be able to piece his life together or will his sins catch up with him for good?*

*Kay lives with a huge guilt, blaming herself for her little sister's death. She is sad and lonely, waiting for a*

*man who will knock her off her feet. Can super hot Chase be this person or will prejudice keep her away from him?*

Do not expect crazy action and twists, but definitely be prepared for intense and beautifully written romance story. In *I Stand Before You*, S.R. Grey shows that **not all fragile looking is innocent and not all sinners are evil**. Author teaches us not to judge until we know the whole story.

I loved writing style in this book! It grabbed me, sucked me in and did not release me until I finished it. Characters bared their souls, uncovered their deepest thoughts, let me live in their heads. Simply said, **S.R. Grey's writing style affects me big time!**

What made this book a winner for me? Chase Gartner! He is not ideal, far from it, but I loved him nonetheless. He is complicated man full of contradictions. He had so much anger in himself, so much lost hope. If you like broken characters, you are going to love Chase! I do!

No matter if you like NA genre or not, I highly recommend this book for those who love to read about complex characters and beautiful intense romance! Plus no cliffhanger!

*\*ARC provided by author as an exchange for honest review\**

MORE REVIEWS ON MY BLOG **Reading Is My Breathing**

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**Jenn says**

**ARC provided by author for an honest review.** A BIG thanks to you Susie!

**4.5 Don't Judge Me Stars**

**PAIN.**

**GRIEF.**

**BAD CHOICES.**

**CONSEQUENCES.**

**REDEMPTION.**

**SECOND CHANCES.**

**2 SOULS.**

*Will they be enough to save each other?*

**LOVE.**

**Will they be able to bury their demons and lay them to rest?**

**TRUST.**

**JUDGE. ME. NOT.**

Wow. This story was so different from anything I've read by S.R. Grey so far. It was raw and attention grabbing. The title of this book truly speaks for itself through out this book.

Chase's life changes so drastically from a good, loving, happy home in a good upstanding neighborhood to a nightmare. He starts acting out and ends up on a bad path in life that lands him in prison. His mother also seems to go down hill with her life. His life choices alienate him from his little brother too. Now Chase works as the fix it guy for the local church. His grandma, who attended this church faithfully, was probably the reason the Father asked him to help out around the church and local school.

Kay is battling a secret that tore a sister from her life and how her mother views her. She is now a teacher and the summer fill in receptionist for the local church.

Kay and the whole town know about Chase and his poor choices in life and where it landed him. They whisper about him and stare at him and wonder when he will mess up again. The town also looks at Kay and all that they see is sympathy for her and the event that happened to her and her family. Chase wonders if the town can give him a second chance and Kay wonders what they would think if they really knew the truth about that horrible night that has her feeling so guilty.

Chase and Kay finally meet up face-to-face and it takes off from there. Or more likely, Kay comes crashing in to Chase's life. He really hopes that she can give him a second chance as he's been thinking about her for awhile now and wanting to know her. He thinks he can be that up standing guy he wants to be if he can have her. She's worth it to him. Of course life isn't easy for him and he does have his faults and she does have her secrets. Chase also has a secret that could possibly break them apart if she ever found out. Kay thinks the same thing about her own secret.

Can these two find it in their hearts to let go of their past demons? Can they let it go and move on? Can they make each other happy? Are they worth a second chance? Or will their past come back to haunt them and will it push them away from each other? Can they stand before each other and not judge the other? Will love prevail over all their mistakes? More importantly, can they forgive themselves, love themselves and find that happiness they seek after?

**Content:** *language, sexual situations, alcohol and drug use.*

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†† ?aisy ♥ †† says

**"This is who I am becoming : Chase Gartner, burgeoning drug addict"**

You name it, he has does it.... Chase Gartner is really a very very bad boy.... women, drugs, drinking and fighting!

*"I have no idea what my future holds nowadays, but I know it's been tainted by my past"*

Chase is back after serving few years in prison. Once back, he stays away from his past and moves on. And that's when he meets Kay, a girl is disowned by her family and surviving her nightmares on her own by teaching at a church school.



When they run into at church, what happens? They became closer. Both of them have their own pasts and they both are struggling. As they grow closer, their feelings develop for each other.

**"How can you say that, sweet girl? Being with me will never be easy. I meant it when I said I'm broken. You make me feel more whole than I ever have in the past, but there will always be something missing. I'll always be trouble, Kay"**

**"Then be my trouble"**

These two are steamy! You have your emotions going up and down when you read their pasts and when you read their future, you will be smiling -- sizzling hot!

*"It is real. It feels amazing, Chase. You feel amazing"*

I so need Book 2 now..... I didn't like that left hanging like that!!!!!!

So, sit back and enjoy Chase and Kay!

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**JoJo - JJJ (Jo Anna) Janesko says**

Love it!! A huge thank you goes out to my friend Susie for the Arc. Best wishes for huge success on an awesome book.

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**Sarah says**

Ooh.....

**tattooed bad boys, meaningless sex, a heartbreakingly gorgeous but way-too-dangerous-to-trust guy, graphic sexual situations, drug use, some violence, and profanity.....**

Well then I think I just found my perfect book.....roll on release day because my lady bits are already tingling I'm so excited.....

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## Patrycja says

### *I stand before you. Judge me not.*

I Stand Before You was exactly what I thought it would be. Full of angst, mistakes, terrible pasts and love. Fantastic concept with great twist plus perfect writing made me devoured it! What's not to adore in sensual story of second chances, dealing with demons of past and finding your place in world? This exceptional novel will bring you to new world of passion and love that has no borders and is realistic enough to make you feel you are a part of this story.

Chase's life is not even close to perfect or normal, after death of his father, when Chase was only seventeen, he's become only a shell of who he was before. Sent by her mother to live with his grandma in Harmony Creek, Chase feels he's not needed. Now when he's twenty, he spends his time with bad crowd, slowly destroying himself with drugs, alcohol and mindless sex. Toe after toe he's crossing the border between good and bad as well as becoming addicted to drugs.

One night when he's out with his friend, they decide to make another irreversible step. They will deal ecstasy. But before Chase can do his first transaction, he is caught by the police and has to spend four years in prison. Every day there was a struggle and fight for his own sanity. He saw things no one was supposed to see.

When his sentence ends, Chase goes back to Harmony Creek to go back to normal life without drugs, alcohol and sex. But living in small town when everyone is judgemental and doesn't want to give him a chance to show he's changed, Chase has hard time with socializing. The only people who showed him they believe him and wanted to give him second chance is Father Maridale and first grade teacher Kay Stanton.

Kay is full of grief and guilt. Almost four years ago her little sister died because of her. Cast away by her mother, she's lonely and doesn't have anyone to lean on. She finished college and started working as a teacher in small school with hope her life could be less empty. But when summer comes and she doesn't have companionship of children she's slowly dying inside.

Thanks to Father Maridale she gets second job as a secretary in church where she meets Chase. The man who can heal her. They start creating amazing friendship with hope of being less lonely. But when they start spending more and more time together and confess their secrets to each other, their relationship changes.

I Stand before you is a novel about two people that made terrible mistakes in the past. Now they have to live with consequences and paralyzing guilt. I loved how easily and effortlessly S.R Grey captured Chase and Kay's personalities and made them realistic, but yet likeable.

The best thing in this book are characters, because Chase and Kay made this novel beautiful and touching. No matter how bad their decisions were and how many mistakes they made you can help loving both of them.

Their complex personalities and stunning writing made Grey one of my favorite storytellers. She has not only wrote about Kay and Chase action but also went deeper and showed how their minds work.

Every decision and new step was explained in a way that made you realize what kind of people they really are. Chase is not your typical bad boy character from New Adult novels. He's definitely unique and beautiful. He doesn't decide to be better person for a girl he's in love with. He made this decision before he met Kay, because he needed it for himself. And no matter how many slips he made along the way he still gets up every time and tries harder.

Kay is another complex character. My heart ached for her. Her loss and guilt were so entwined together it was hard for her to let go and understand everything that happened. Her love for her baby sister was heartwarming yet still my heart swell with pain every time she was mentioned.

Together Chase and Kay were fantastic. If I make the list of the best book couples in 2013 they will be there in top five. I adored how they could be teasing each other and having fun together, sharing passionate nights and confessing their's deeper secrets. This was a great portrait how relationship should work.

I Stand Before You is touching, emotional and compelling, well written story about living your life the best you can, letting go of the pass as well as a heartbreaking novel about loss, love, and slowly giving yourself a chance in moving on. I loved it and I can't wait for more in this series. For those of you that are curious there is not relationship cliffhanger, it ends in perfect moment that's a great opening for another book.

*\* ARC provided by author in exchange for honest review \**

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**Jess-i-ca ~Sometimes a Gif Witch~ says**

### **3 Disappointingly average stars**

This might be a case of its not you its me but I didn't care for this one....Writing in general was okay but the content of this story didn't do anything for me...

So the book starts off with tattooed bad boy, **Chase (aka My Boy)** who is a druggie. He has had a bad life and looks to drugs to fill that void. He gets caught up in the drug world and goes to prison for four years (\*\*SIDENOTE\*\* I started reading this and was like OH NO! Not another years repeat! It does say four

*years quite a bit but didn't get on my nerves in this book)* Ok back to the story..... Chase gets out of prison and returns to Harmony Creek to move on with his life and stay clean and take over the farm his grandmother left him.

Then you have **Kay (aka My Sweet Girl)**. Kay's parents hate her due to the death of her 6 year old sister which they blame on Kay. She is all alone in the world and blames herself for her sister's death. Her parents have had absolutely nothing to do with her since her sister's death

They meet up and have insta-lust. They see each other on a daily basis since they are both working at the church...They start calling each other my boy and my sweet girl over and over and over....They just automatically start staking ownership....

Missy is Kay's only friend and has a history with Chase and Chase doesn't want Kay to know they fooled around b/c it didn't mean anything. (view spoiler) Kay doesn't want Chase to know what actually happened the night her sister died. But of COURSE! You know this is going to happen and they will each find out and then what happens, DRAMA!!

**Ok so now I'll just skip to the things that got on my nerves while reading**

1. With regard to Chase and drugs... (view spoiler)
2. With regard to Kay and her mom.... (view spoiler) NO NO NO....
3. With regard to Missy (view spoiler)
4. With regard to Sarah's death (view spoiler)

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**.Lili. says**

**IT'S LIVE!!!!**

**<http://www.amazon.com/Stand-Before-Yo...>**

**and...**

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/i-sta...>

When I first saw this book I was excited that this book had everything I like:

Tattooed bad boy-

Heroine with a tragic past-

Warning that it contains graphic sexual situations, drug use, some violence, and profanity-

But what I got was so much more. This is the story of Chase and Kay. Two people who were broken by events from their past. Chase who lost his way following the tragic death of his father.

He drowned himself in a world of drugs.

That would ultimately cost him his freedom.

Kay was broken following a devastating accident.

She has been left alone by those she loves most.

When the two stumble upon each other on a rainy day. They both begin to see that maybe they can be whole, that maybe they can begin anew.

*"This is what we are, two broken people who when connected are made whole, made right. I feel this everywhere, my body, my heart, my soul."*

Why did I love this book so much? Well, there are many books in this genre that have similar blurbs but many of them fail. Many fall under the cookie cutter insta love/insta lust shelf. Of course Chase and Kay are instantly attracted to one another, but S.R. Grey really took care to develop their friendship and we were with them on their journey to get to know each other and fall in love. This story will make you feel every emotion. I felt that the dialogue and character growth were exceptionally written. My final thoughts-

*ARC Provided by the author for an honest review.*

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