



Blood & Tears

Ethan Stone

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The last thing Gabe Vargas wants to do after nearly dying is to leave his young son. But that's exactly what FBI Agent Drew Bradley is asking him to do. According to Drew, the only way to protect Gabe and find his wife's killer is to fake Gabe's death.

With an already established adversarial relationship, protecting a hothead like Gabe isn't exactly a picnic for Drew either. But Drew lets his guard down and a desire for Gabe leaves him confused. Before the crime can be solved, Drew will have to risk more than his life. He'll also have to risk his heart.

Blood & Tears Details

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Author : Ethan Stone

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From Reader Review Blood & Tears for online ebook

Avid Reader says

Blood and Tears (Flesh #3) by Ethan Stone

4 stars

I was given this book for an honest review by Inked Rainbow Reads.

Let me start out by saying that I have not read any of the previous stories in this series and I think that helped me to view this book very differently than those who have read the stories in sequence.

Gabe awakes to find out that his wife has been murdered and that he has to spend time being protected by someone that previously let him down in a huge way. Drew is less than enthusiastic about having to protect the man who's lover he failed to protect. That in and of itself - whew! What a mess.

However, when these two are together in a room, they have some chemistry. Their attraction is strong and I love how Gabe pushes Drew's buttons.

Then you have the sweet little Victor. I love his relationship with Gabe and the relationship that develops with Drew. Both are so protective and loving, nurturing and gentle with him. I was so happy that Victor was OK with his dad's relationships and that scene at school and the show and tell was just so sweet.

The mystery aspect of this story was somewhat of a gigantic puzzle. All of these characters that I didn't know about - and that might have been because I hadn't read the previous stories, but while I enjoyed the mystery, it seemed somewhat jumbled. However, despite that fact, I really enjoyed this story.

Lou~¤Powerless Over 1-Click¤ says

3.75 Stars

Enny says

I loved the first two book in this series so I was really looking forward to reading this book. Unfortunately it was a huge disappointment. The whole book was one sex scene after another, the attraction between the two main characters came out of the blue and the mystery was extremely lame even for a romance - and that's saying something.

Joyfully Jay says

A Joyfully Jay review.

4 stars

Blood & Tears is the third book in Ethan Stone's Flesh series and is the first to feature Gabe and Drew as the main characters. Like the first two books in the series, this one has been rereleased by DSP Publications. However, Blood & Tears has also been revised to alternating first person POV to match the other books.

This story picks up fairly soon after Flesh & Blood leaves off (actually there is a bit of timeline overlap). We connect with the guys after Gabe's death has been faked and he and Drew are hiding out while the murder is investigated. I like the bit of enemies to lovers vibe here as the guys work through their issues. Most of the conflict between them actually took place in the previous book, and Gabe likes to push Drew's buttons, but there isn't a ton of animosity at this point in the story. There is a nice sexual tension between these guys as Drew slowly comes to accept his feelings for Gabe and ultimately the two act on them. I think we get a good sense of Drew's past and why he is so hesitant about initially accepting his feelings for Gabe. However, he makes the transition from literally vomiting at the idea of having been with a man, to suddenly being all in with absolutely no qualms pretty much overnight. It felt way too fast to go from one extreme to the other with basically no explanation as to what changed in his mind. However, I did like these guys together and they have a nice mix of nurturing and sexy times between them.

[Read Jay's review in its entirety here.](#)

Dana says

I was worried at first that Christian and Colby wouldn't be in this book at all, but thank goodness they did play a part in the story. I really liked this story about Gabe. I had hoped when he first showed up in the series he would find his happy, but without the tragedy. Unfortunately he did go through some rough times before and after meeting Drew. He lost several people in his life before having to fake his own death. I can't hate Drew for not wanting to quit his job. He was one of the good guys and there are definitely not enough of those around. But was happy when Drew realized what was really important in his life and decided to choose love over his career. The plot line was so much more involved than I thought it would be at first, but I enjoyed it as the layers of mystery were pulled away and the truth was revealed. Can't wait for the next book.

Donna says

I almost feel guilty for writing a review since I skimmed through over half of the book. (I think I read two of the sex scenes and then skimmed the rest, so I may have actually skimmed more like 3/4ths of the story... ugh!)

Strangely enough, this was my favorite in the series, so far! IF you block out the whole sex every day and twice on the days that end in "y"... then you end up with a pretty good story! The mystery was about as convoluted as it could get (which kept me interested) and we got to see how Drew worked through his issues about sex. I do have to say that one of my favorite parts was listening to Drew use his \$10 words, both in this book and the last one! My biggest pet peeve, besides the whole "sex" every time they took a breath thing, was Gabe's ability to jump from Violet... to Casey... to Drew in less than a heartbeat...

Quick side note: Wasn't Cristian hit by a car and left with a "few" broken bones? But, when Drew arrives he is basically hale and hearty and no mention is made of his injuries, they just discussed the hit and run... grrr

It is the little details that can make or break a story, and there were quite a few in this story that were missed or not followed through on. But, overall... this was a fairly fast read (sex scenes excluded, of course) and it kept me guessing to the end about the "bad" guy, so I am going to call it a good read.

Now, truthfully, I am almost afraid to read the blurb for book 4... But, yeah, I can't help myself! Going now to see how this author is going to end this series... Wish me luck! hehehe

Ami says

Honestly, I was surprised when I saw the blurb of this book, how it was about Gabe and Drew. With how book #2 ended, I didn't really see this coming. But I like both characters (even if Gabe annoyed me at first), so I totally welcome the idea.

Let me mention a couple of scenes that I like the most. 1) That Gay Sex 101 Scrabble is enlightning *grin* 2) Love the interaction between Victor, Gabe's son, and Drew 3) The mention of "Coda"; I know that Ethan Stone is a friend of Marie Sexton, I kinda wish that some of Marie's characters from Coda make a cameo here *lol*

Other than that, I find an issue regarding the person responsible for Gabe and Violet ... (view spoiler)

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I'm also have an issue about few other things ... Drew jumping from straight to accepting he's gay feels a bit too rushed. Not when he is so adamant previously by keep telling Gabe over and over that he needs time. Feels this rush is just a reason for more sex scenes *shrugs*. Not a big fan of ultimatum too, the way Gabe tells Drew that they're over if Drew doesn't come out proudly. I guess, for me, I always prefer some sort of compromise first, rather than pushing someone to accept themselves or tell them to be comfortable in their own skin. You cannot just give ultimatum about that, it needs process.

But it's not a bad story; I just don't find it stands out, that's all.

Lily says

I was almost afraid to read this one after the disappointment of book two. Thankfully I enjoyed this installment almost as much as the first story.

Reggie says

Really enjoyed this story. Mr. Stone does a great job developing his characters, both main and secondary. He also has some great scenes that are so vivid I felt like I was in the moment with the MCs. Great Job!

Samantha Curtis says

This is the 3rd book of the flesh series. When i got this off netgally on didnt realise it was the 3rd book. I kept reading anyway. From the first chapter i was gripped.

Gabe wakes up in hospital after his wife and him was attacked in their home, his wife sadly is killed. As he survived the ordeal he was advised to fake his death and go into hiding so the killer wouldnt come after him. He agreed. Gabe had FBI agent drew bradley with him 24/7 to protect him and hopefully for gabe to remember who it was and what happened.

Gabe is a open bi man and was always making jokes with drew. Drew started to see gabe in a different light and started to get sexual feelings for gabe. Things take a heated turn for the pair that do get quite hot lol.

Draw has to risk his life for this man and he goes out of his way to find the truth.

Really loved this book and it kept me reading till late at night.

Will defo read the first 2 books and the ones after this.

Would just like to thank netgally for a copy of this book

Kerry sullivan says

This book was reviewed for musings of a bookworm

Well wow what a rip roaring story. I didn't expect the bad guy to be who it was, which is nice as I am usually good at working out who did it. The relationship between Drew and Gabe was fractious at first and that worked for me as it made the capitulation more believable. This was a skilfully written mystery suspense with a massive dollop of erotic romance thrown in to make it, not only a real page turner but a sizzling love story. I have not read the other books in this series and i can say honestly that it is not needed to understand all the plot point in this one, but this one was so good I will be reading more Ethan Stone soon.

Tina says

As a huge Ethan Stone fan, I find it hard to be objective. That being said, Blood and Tears is the best book in the series so far. It may be because we have know Gabe for so long and kind of feel like we have watched him grow up. The mystery in this book seemed more "fleshed out" (no pun intended) than the previous two. I am usually good at figuring things out early in the plot. This time, I really had no idea what the end would be. I personally love a M/M story where one of the characters really wrestles with his sexuality. Ethan came through on this with Drew in a big way. The dialogue is witty and the relationship is warm between Gabe and Drew. It is especially gratifying to follow up with Cristian and Colby. This was an all-around fabulous effort, yet again, by Ethan Stone.

Inked Reads says

FourStars

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I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Inked Rainbow Reads.

AvidReader

Candice says

Okay, I have to be honest. This was not my favorite of the series, but I still liked it.

There was too much that was a little hard to grasp, BUT, I took it as fiction, yet it still bothered me. So, for that I had to lower my rating.

What bothered me? Victor's speech. He's 3 and talking full paragraphs and understanding concepts that he shouldn't at that age. I have 2 kids (a 6 year old and a soon to be 5 year old) and at 3 neither one of them would have had the ability to talk that well and understand that much. That's also with my oldest being well above average in reading and comprehension. It really bothered me that Victor couldn't say "Golden Grahams" or "police", but could talk about Buddy Camargo being SOOOO jealous and having a bodyguard-- and could tell time. It just didn't make sense and since Victor was a big part of the story it kind of took away from it, in my opinion.

Then there the fact of Drew coming to realize he's gay too soon. Normally, that doesn't bother me, the heart wants what it wants, but Drew (view spoiler). Umm...I don't see a 180 coming from that so soon. But, then again, I've never been in that situation so I have no idea.

What I did like was Gabe coming to realize what true love really is. He was SOOO confused in the other books, I am really glad he could get his feelings under control.

Can't forget about SCRABBLE!!!! Too funny ;) A little education there for "college boy".

Ooooo...loved the Coda mention ;) Thought we were going to get a couple of cameos, but no :(

The Epi melted my heart. Seriously. (view spoiler)

Is the end of the series? I kind of want to see (view spoiler) get his own book!

Love Bytes Reviews says

5 Heart Review by Tidal

This is the third book in the Flesh series and it is a thrill ride. Gabe Vargas is working with the FBI and they faked his death. He has lost his wife and his son is being kept safe for him. I love the characters in this book and it is a treat to see how the characters have grown and evolved. Gabe started out as a street kid, he is a loving dad now.

Gabe is under the protection of Agent Drew Bradley and neither wants to be in the same room with each other. As difficult as it is, it does not take long for them to realize that they will have to put their differences aside. With Gabe off the grid it buys them some time to find who killed his wife and who tried to kill him. Again as in the other books in this series we are treated to a good number of characters that we really get to know well. The reoccurring characters are a treat because we get to see how they have grown from the beginning of the series.

Just as in real life is true in this book that many of the things we see in people and in what we hear are not always what they seem. It is gritty and the action never stops. The characters are believable and credible. I like to see the dynamics in the relationship between Gabe and Agent Drew unfold. Agent Drew has to come to terms with some unexpected desire; Gabe has to come to terms with trust issues and being vulnerable.

I love the twists and turns in the story. I make mental lists as to who the killer could be. Often I am wrong and I do not mind that at all. I like the challenge if it. Ethan Stone delivers one with this book. There are more possible suspects than most books offer and that was what I found most exciting because I did not feel rushed or cheated in getting to know them.

The thing that I liked most was the realism, and vulnerability in the characters. The sex scenes were steamy and did not leave anything out but they fit in at the right moment too. They did not seem to be just dropped in at the last minute for shock value. The book is full of revelations, reunions and justice. My heart was in my throat throughout the whole book right until the last page. This book is definitely worth your time and money.

This book was provided free in exchange for a fair and honest review for Love Bytes. Go there to check out other reviews, author interviews, and all those awesome giveaways. Click below.

