



Constructing the Soul

Annabella Michaels

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Akio Forrest loved his life. He had an amazing job, great friends, supportive parents and was recently given the responsibility of heading up the Agape House project, the construction of a new facility for the Chicago-based center that helped LGBTQ teens. He knew it would be a huge undertaking, but being able to help more kids in need was something he and all his friends were willing to work hard for. Excited to begin the project, Akio was taken by surprise when he came face to face with strong, sexy and self-assured, Morgan Greene, the new contractor for the job.

Morgan Greene had always considered his life a good one. Born and raised in a small town in Tennessee by two loving parents, he owned a successful construction company. When circumstances in his personal life left him desperate for a change, he decided to leave his home and move to Chicago. The move would allow him to finally, live closer to his favorite cousins while also expanding his business. Never one to shy away from an adventure, Morgan was excited about starting the next chapter in his life. What he wasn't expecting was meeting someone like Akio Forrest.

Working together to make the Agape House project a reality, Akio and Morgan soon realized that what was happening between them was much more than just a simple attraction. When outside forces bring past hurts and doubts to the forefront, the two men are left to wonder if the foundation they'd laid was strong enough, or if everything they'd worked so hard to build would come crashing down around them?

Constructing the Soul Details

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From Reader Review Constructing the Soul for online ebook

Cadiva says

My favourite one again in this interconnected series!

I do love Annabella Michaels' style of writing, it just works for me on an enjoyment level where I know I'll get a strong, solid relationship with a lot of steam and a bit of well placed angst.

This one is the best yet in her Souls of Chicago series, and it steps outside the key core group for the first time while keeping the close connections and focusses in on Landon's best friend Akio and his relationship with Greene family member Morgan.

I wasn't sure the angst causing moment worked quite as well however, as there'd not really been a lot of development given to the character who caused it. But it's a minor point because it wasn't left to sit and stew and both men immediately talked through the issue.

The sexy times are seriously sexy, I loved the passion between Akio and Morgan and I loved how Annabella introduced a character with a Japanese mother without making a huge deal out of it. It's always nice to read books which aren't just always two Caucasian American or British men.

Another blindingly gorgeous cover from Jay Aheer caps off the loveliness of this book and the lead in to book six was awesome!

Diverse says

Constructing the Soul is book 5 in Annabella Michaels' Souls of Chicago series. Each book is technically a standalone but to truly grasp the link this author has created with all the characters you should start from the beginning.

In this installment, we have the characters Morgan Greene (Yes, another Greene) and Akio. When I say another Greene I don't mean this badly. With the exception of book four (Reconstructing the Soul), each book in this series has been making a match for a member of the Greene family. Morgan Greene is the cousin of Landon, Carter... etc... all them. He signs on to contract, build, make perfect the new Agape House. And Akio is tasked with running it. (heeheehee) I can't help giggle.

Akio is fabutastic! My new favorite character of this series. (Landon still is a close second) He is sassy, classy, and bada**y! He's also vulnerable. He wears his attitude like a shield and it's not until Morgan busts through that we see who he really and truly is. Funny enough, Morgan and Akio have a lot in common and they are each other's balm to a wicked burn from past fires.

This book is a little softer than Annabella's others but the situations and conflicts are different. There's no one trying to kill anyone here. We simply have two men fighting the tide to get to each other. The obstacles are there and they need to be conquered. I don't want to give anything away but there's a scene in this book that I stood up and applauded the author on. It was a situation that had the makings of being disastrous for Morgan's character but Annabella Michaels nailed it. She brought realism. She actually made Morgan the adult he is supposed to be and it was in that moment that I knew nothing was going to fail these two characters. I so wish I could tell you it but it's a spoiler and that's a no no.

Do read this book and this series it's so freaking fabulous.

Denise H. says

***** Yet another amazing story in this series !

We see two lovely men, each deserving of true love. Each man has known betrayal and sadness. The LGBTQ charity, Agape House is expanding, and Morgan Greene, Landon's cousin,

is chosen for the project. He and his crew will convert the warehouse into a home for 100 troubled teens. Akio works for Landon and is in charge of the project

in addition to his duties as "tour planner" for Carter's Creed. These men seem to be made for one another; but an ex gets under Morgan's skin.

Our men finally have a confession session where truths are revealed and pasts exposed.

Then later there is a big surprise. Meanwhile we get to witness their sexy hotness when they get together.

I like this author's flow, so we can see our characters as a couple, too. As always we get a great look at the Greene's huge family, so we can see how everyone is doing.

This is an easy stroll through our guys emotions and their warm romance. They weather the one storm, and we are happy.

I highly recommend this one. ENJOY !

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The Neighbor says

Wow!!!

What can I say? This whole "Souls of Chicago" series has reduced me down to 1 word. Wow. And that's wow in the best possible way ever.

As always, as is with every Romance novel I've ever read, straight, gay, historical, etc. I do believe that they should all be a sub-genre of Fantasy. Making the Urban - Fantasy Genre the only one I consider labeled correctly. That, & they should come with the same warning label that should be plastered over anything put out by "Disney"; "DO NOT TRY THIS AT HOME!!!" ;) There is no multi-million/billionaire waiting to swoop you off your feet & love you eternally while lavishing you in a life of luxury for as long as you both shall live.

Now, that all the legal disclaimers have been noted... "Day-um", which is how we southerners say Wow. Talk about your good old bodice - rippers of the past, this series has them all beat hands down. Trust me, I've been reading all genres of books for longer than most of these authors have been alive, much less writing. This whole series is chalked full of ups & downs for all the characters but, like any good fantasy they all get their own hea. Yes, you can read them as stand alone novels, or you can read them out of order if you must. But to get the most enjoyable experience I suggest that they be read in order so that you will get all the inside jokes and know all the characters that carry from one book to the next.

No matter which genre they're assigned to, or what "Warning" labels are or are not attached, these books are

really "Good Reads". I recommend them ALL to anyone who likes to read. Oh, just for the review police:

1. The characters are well thought out and have enough depth to them to make them feel real.
2. The plot of course is the same always, they get together, they have a conflict/s, they work out the conflict/s, hea.
3. These books have actually been proof-read and corrected so that you can enjoy the book without having to continually stop and do the mental exercise of fixing the errors so that the narrative makes sense.
4. MS Michaels does a great job of keeping the continuity running through the series.
5. The whole series is in the Kindle Unlimited books on Amazon making them easier to read than checking them out of the library.

Shameless obligatory plugs for Amazon & it's subsidiary Good Reads accomplished. And NO, I don't get free books or anything else in return for my reviews except the occasional "like" clicked by someone who actually read my review.

Elizabeth says

This is a pretty low key low angst story about to guys who meet on the job. Like all the other books in this series the MC's are connected to the Greene family in some way. There isn't anything really wrong here but the book just felt boring and corny. I found myself wanting to skip over long monologue sections. There really was no excitement or spark for me. I'm not a big fan on insta anything and these guys fall in love way too fast for my liking. It was just ok for me.

SMJC says

This series is ok

I'm glad to see a KU title that is well edited for grammatical errors, because wow, those are becoming abundant. What I wished this author had done is not made the men such cry babies. I mean really, we're talking sobbing, tear tracks in the face, that kind of intense crying. It seems as though it's all over her books. Also, I know it's fiction, but come on, how many men out there actually shout their partner's name when they climax ?? I think that's probably one of the most ridiculous things authors add to their books that make me roll my eyes.

All things considered, it's not bad, there's no outrageous drama (in this one at least), no crazy car chases, low angst, like I said, it's just ok.

Love Bytes Reviews says

Reviewed by Kat

And the stories keep getting better and making me fall in love with them more. Now I'm fearful of reaching the end.

Akio Forrest is Landon Greene's closest business association and his best friend. They worked together

before Landon decided to start up his own company and he took Akio with him. They just clicked so well together. So when Lachlan decided to front a huge portion of the cost to build a new, bigger and more efficient Agape House, something that was near and dear to his husband Rylie's heart, along with all the Greene family, Landon knew that he could trust his business manager with heading the project. It was also very dear to Akio's heart because he volunteered there a lot so his heading this huge project was very personal for him. When, in a blind choice, Landon's favorite cousin Morgan Greene was chosen to build the project it was well received by all the investors. Morgan had recently relocated and moved his construction business to Chicago from Tennessee. From the first time they met both Akio and Morgan knew there was chemistry between them. Then, on a double blind date, they found that each of them had been matched with the other and fireworks exploded! But can both men, who have a past hurt from men, forge a trust and learn to work with each other both on and off the job?

We had met Akio several times in the past books. He was the one person that Landon trusted to keep his business going while he was on tour with his brother's band Carter's Creed. One of the things that I loved about Landon here was that he spoke to the men and assured them that they had his okay to date if their feelings for each other moved forward. This was particularly relevant because both he and Micah had worried about how their dating would affect Gio and Caleb.

This particular book really touched on how the way that others have treated you in the past, how you took that hurt to heart and how it was a significant obstacle to get around for the future. Trust with these two was a huge thing. But, for Akio at least, feeling like he was enough instead of just being the "okay guy for now" instead of ever feeling like he could ever be the forever kind of man. I think that Morgan touched my heart the hardest when he took Akio to the shelter. That moment was pivotal and heart touching for me.

After seeing the huge Greene family in all these books I was worried that we would lose touch with them. It was great to see them so included in these books. One of the great things this author does is that she not only allows you to see the marriage proposals but includes you in their actual wedding. It is one of the biggest requests I have in books, can't we have a novella of their wedding? Or at least an epilogue including their big day? Annabella Michaels not only includes us at her men's weddings but makes you feel like you are actually one of the guests attending the ceremony. I love that!

These wonderful books keep getting better and better. I really love that we get to interact with all the men I have fallen for while we get to see a new love bloom and grow. I really, really am going to have a hard time when this series comes to an end because I have become invested in these characters lives. I want to see them grow together as husband and husband and meet the children will bless their lives.

This book was provided for 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.

***~*~Fawkes, Padfoot, and Prongs~*~* says**

I own every book in this series, but haven't read any of them YET :-)! I know the books are linked and I also know they can still all be read as standalones, so I decided to jump in and read this one FIRST (since it's the shortest one of the bunch). Thus far it started off fantastically and while I can see the link to this book's predecessors, I definitely don't feel like I'm out of the loop, which is pretty great. I am even more intrigued by the other stories and don't feel clueless in the slightest :-)! Anyway, here we continue ...

Well this is a lovely surprise :-)! Want!!

Sanaa ? Sanaa's Book Blog ? says

3.75 stars.

This was super cute. My full review will come soon.

Pixie says

DNF at 36%. Dull & so much telling :(

Debbora says

I've enjoyed reading this series and I will continue, although book 5 was just so so for me. I found it had too much filler not enough substance. The fluff was just too fluffy for me. I did however perk right up at the thought of book 6 being mmm. I'm all about that. Over all this book was a 3.5 stars for me, but I do highly recommend this series.

Candice says

[Isaac, Matt, and Hudson (hide spoiler)]

Chris says

I've enjoyed this series as a low angst, easy read by I started to find the storylines just way too predictable. Of course it's romance, it's sweet and it's love - all very cute. If you like a smooth soft and comfortable ride then this is a good series for a softie ♥?

Claudia says

I love this series. I read the first four books in a rush and then waited for the next one and kind of forgot about it. but now, I really want to read the next books.

I have to say I expected a bit more angst but it was ok. the relationship development was quite easy - which was also nice for a change.

Akio is a great guy, who I fell in love instantly. Morgan is also a good guy but it took me a bit longer to connect with him.

nevertheless, I really enjoyed this read

Wendy Moore says

Another great addition to the series. Loved these two and catching up with the rest of the gang. Looking forward to book 6.
