



Cleansing Flame

Andrew Grey

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Sequel to Rekindled Flame

Rekindled Flame: Book Two

Life has been grinding Dayne Mills down almost for as long as he can remember. First he lost the love of his life in an accident that also left him with a permanent injury, and then his mother passed away a year later. When his house burns to the ground, it's the last straw. He can't take any more, and if it wasn't for kind and handsome firefighter Lawson Martin offering him a hand up and a place to stay, he doesn't know what he'd do. Dayne would love for his relationship with Lawson to evolve into something beyond charity, but he knows going after a man so far out of his league will only lead to yet more heartache. It's best to just keep his mind on his research.

It's that research that leads Dayne to an old student journal that not only provides clues to the Native American heritage Lawson has been searching for, but chronicles a century-old love story. The tale that unfolds might be just what Dayne and Lawson need to remind them that no matter how dark life becomes, love can find a way to shine through.

Cleansing Flame Details

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Author : Andrew Grey

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From Reader Review Cleansing Flame for online ebook

Morgan Skye says

So, so sweet! Andrew Grey has written several books about fire fighters and an entire series centered on Native Americans, well – this has both! Though this is a second book in a series, I've not read the first and I wasn't a bit lost.

Primarily, this is a hurt/comfort story. Dayne was injured severely in an accident that almost lost him his legs and did lose him his lover. He's not been with anyone since the accident and he's resigned himself to a lonely existence. He feels not only scarred and unlovable, but unlucky and dangerous to people near him.

Lawson is a Native American fire fighter who meets Dayne at the library. Dayne is there doing research on a Native American school that Lawson is also interested in. When they meet again, at Dayne's apartment, it's because there's a fire and Lawson is there to rescue Dayne.

There is a slow burn from friends to lovers and at the same time our contemporary lovers fall for one another they also learn, through a diary, about a pair of Native American lovers from 1909 who fall in love.

I really loved the added touch of the side story and it really touched me – I will let you all know now that both of our couples get a HEA!

For fans of the author- you'll love this – and for someone looking for a nice, sweet, hurt/comfort romance with a bonus, historical story– this is for you!

4.5 of 5 stars

Farrah says

The epilogue made my heart soar!

Avid Reader says

Cleansing Flame (Rekindled Flame #2) by Andrew Grey

4 stars

M/M Romance

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

This is the second book in the series and I would recommend that you read the first one, as there are several characters that make an appearance.

In this story, you have someone who is somewhat broken and living with guilt. Dayne is living with survivor's guilt and despite his bright future, he doesn't really know what to do with it. He is working his way through a degree and in doing so, is able to take some specialized courses. While he was taking those

courses, he was required to write a paper, which led him to the Indian School.

Lawson is a fellow firefighter of Morgan. He is a hard worker but a huge risk taker. He also enjoys extreme sports - skydiving, base jumping, etc. When he sees a cutie in the library one day, he definitely wants to know more - however, he doesn't really know how to get a new meeting. When he runs in to the cutie from the library, it isn't an ideal situation. However, Lawson offers his home to Dayne.

What ensues is a love tale that is centuries old, entwined with Lawson and Dayne's love story. I really enjoyed how their story had a kind of mirror image to Lawson's grandfather's story. Both stories were sweet and kind, had a developed relationship and even though they weren't tearing up the sheets the way some Grey books do, it was still a great combination.

T.M. Smith says

If Dayne Mills didn't have bad luck, he wouldn't have any luck at all. So when the hunk from the library shows up to put out his house fire wearing a uniform and carrying an Ax, Dayne is hard pressed to believe the mans sincerity when he offers a helping hand. Lawson Martin is somewhat of a daredevil - a bungee jumping, skydiving, first firefighter in the door daredevil. When he sees the adorable guy at the library, all self conscious and oblivious to the fact that he's attractive and smart; Lawson is hooked.

Dayne has mastered the art of self-deprecation, eager to believe the worst about himself and constantly putting himself down. Lawson is only a smidge better. He knows he's attractive, not cocky in any way, but he has trouble believing that another man could be attracted to him. It takes time, patience and love for them to get to a place where they can open up and allow someone to get close enough to see past the pain.

Dayne really stole my heart in this story. He has every reason to feel the way he does, and feel like all he could be to anyone is a burden. And I really enjoyed how patient Lawson was with him, slowly peeling back each layer until he got down to the heart, digging in an refusing to let Dayne push him away. Who doesn't want a tall, dark, handsome, brooding firefighter to look at them, to see them the way Lawson sees Dayne.

The obligatory wish list is all there.. hot firefighter, lonely guy down on his luck, hot & sweat man sex... but there is so much more. Love, passion, depth of feeling and sold story with flawed characters. I was pulled in from the start and almost sad to come to the end. I hope there will be more in this Fireman world Grey has created.

BWT (Belen) says

I really enjoyed the narration for this romance as well as its nice hurt/comfort elements.

Told from both Dayne Mills and Lawson Martin's points of view this story is really sweet and focuses on starting over and not letting new opportunities, especially for love, pass you by.

There's also a really lovely side story that comes from Dayne's research and ties in nicely with the main story.

Dayne has suffered quite a bit of loss in his life as he falls in love with Lawson he also has to contend with his fear of losing him because Lawson has a dangerous job and also enjoys potentially dangerous hobbies (skydiving, cliff jumping, etc.) in his free time.

Lawson isn't so much a thrill seeker as looking for the things that make him feel alive, but he's also willing to do whatever it takes to keep Dayne and take care of him.

Michael Pauley really does a fantastic job with this narration, bringing the characters to life and giving emotional nuance to the story itself.

Cleansing Flame is a sweet, low angst romance, with some nice comfort elements and great narration.

Audio copy of Cleansing Flame (Rekindled Flame #2) provided by Dreamspinner Press in exchange of an honest review.

This review has been cross-posted at Gay Book Reviews.

Karen says

if I liked reading this one...

The audio book totally made me love this one.

I liked this book a lot back in March when I read it so I think it goes without saying that when a chance to listen to the audio book presented itself I was all over that and if anything I'm liking it a whole lot more, so there's no read change where my original review of 'Cleansing Flame' is concerned. So I'm just going to add a link to my original review because there's really no point to fixing what isn't broken...

Original Review: [Cleansing Flame](#)

Michael Pauley is the narrator for this book and while he definitely ticked off all the points on my 'basic audio checklist' I'm at a bit of a loss as to the exact reasons why but his narration for 'Cleansing Flame' not only ticked that list but hit a few bells and whistles along the way as well because while the e-book easily got 4 stars from me the audio book easily bumped things up to 5 stars. Even though I've already read the book for me the audio experience was like discovering this story for the first time all over again.

'Cleansing Flame' is a sweet low angst story of second chances, starting over, finding love but most of all it was about perspectives. Whether the glass is half empty or half full. 'Cleansing Flame' is a lovely reminder that it the glass is only half empty it's because the other half is full.

An audio book of 'Cleansing Flame' was graciously provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Serena Yates says

‘Cleansing Flame’ is an emotionally moving story about two men with more insecurities than should be

legal. Dayne has had a string of bad luck and tends to see potential issues with everything; he believes he will never be happy. Lawson is a tough, almost reckless firefighter who thinks showing vulnerability will drive anyone close to him away. Dayne's house burning down and Lawson offering him a place to stay throws their fates together – but the battle to overcome the various obstacles between them is a tough one. As a result, this is a character-driven, tension-filled story that had me involved from page one.

Please find my full review on [Rainbow Book Reviews](#).

Nerea says

The plot is very similar to the 1 :/ !
I think I was more invested in the diary story than in them.

Becky Condit says

Cleansing Flame is a most intriguing book. The past and present weave together with unrecognized coincidences.

Dayne feels like a dark cloud follows him around, with bad luck dogging every step of his life. When his beloved partner Jeff was killed in a horrific accident, Dayne was badly injured and is faced with constant pain. Then his mother, on whom he depended for loving support, died. One day as Dayne returned home he found his house burning to the ground. This is a turning point for Dayne, although he certainly doesn't recognize it as such.

Lawson is a firefighter. As he is one of the firefighters attending to a house burning to the ground, he meets the homeowner, Dayne, who is in a state of collapse and despair. Almost before he can think about it, Lawson invites Dayne to come home with him for short-term shelter as Dayne tries to figure out what he is going to do. Seemingly as an aside, Lawson is descended from Native Americans and is interested in finding information about his uncle.

Dayne is doing research for a paper at the local college, and is fascinated by the journals kept over 100 years ago by Native American children while they attended a boarding school intended to make the children forget their Native American heritage and meld into the white man/European civilization of America. The longing Ted, the author of one of the journals, feels for his home and heritage is poignant and you can feel his pain as he makes a pair of moccasins he's not allowed to wear, but which sooth him immeasurably. The story of Ted's love for another Native American boy parallels the feelings that Lawson and Dayne are slowly beginning to feel for one another. In the Native American culture of the time the love of two men for each other is accepted, but absolutely not in the white man's culture, so the boys have to hide their affection. The revelation at the end of the story is not really a surprise to the reader but it is delightful to Dayne and Lawson. This book is a little bit different from the usual romances from Andrew Grey, but he writes a variety of subgenres in the field of mm romance, so this is another wonderful variation that keeps his books fresh and always exciting.

Lelyana says

This another modern fairy tales. I'm glad I can read this book earlier.

I always have a weakness for a geek story. And Dayne is definitely a geek. And one more plus point is, he met Lawson (his savior) at the library :)

Fair warning : this is an insta love, this is at some point a little out of reality (meeting a stranger and accepted his offer to live with him is a bit creepy, but the reason behind that, make sense).

Okay, I'm a hopeless romantic. I loved this kind of 'relationship', based on 'blind trust' between the two guys.

The attraction started early, as I mentioned earlier, at the library, before Dayne lost everything.

This is sweet and adorable and dreamy, no real angst between the two guys, except how much Dayne trying to tell Lawson that he must leave and Lawson keep telling him 'not to', and Dayne obeyed. Aww...how sweet...

The only twist is when something happened to Lawson, and it ended well, don't worry.

Andrew Grey is sweet like that.

Overall, this entertaining and adorable if you're looking for a light read. I recommend this one.

ARC provided by Dreamspinner Press for LBB in exchange of a fair and unbiased review.

Chris Jeffreys says

Dayne is a student in college and needs to come up with a topic for a final paper in one of his classes. He decides that he will research an old Indian School that existed near where he lives. In the process of his research, he meets Lawton, a fireman in his town. Lawson is searching for information about his great great uncle who attended the Indian School at the beginning of the 1900s. They exchange pleasantries and nothing more.

Fast forward . . . Dayne's house burns down and Lawton is one of the firefighters that responds to the scene. Obviously, Dayne is distraught over the loss of everything, and Lawton offers him a place to stay until things can be sorted out. It ends up that Lawton has feeling for Dayne, who feels unworthy of the attention because of some physical problems that he had as the result of a car accident. This trepidation is somewhat relieved when Dayne finds out that Lawton also has some pretty nasty scars on his body from injuries that he sustained as a firefighter.

Under all of this routine romance novel fluff, there is a sweet secondary story. Dayne has found the diary of an Indian student who attended in Indian School at the beginning of the 1900s. He reads bits and pieces of the diary during this book, and there is a sweet story there . . . I kind of wish the author would have dedicated a separate book to the story that is revealed in the diary because it is really quite lovely. I won't ruin the outcome of the subplot because it is better than the main story.

There is a lot of angst between the two main characters but they live together, and, after many trials and tribulations, they end up as a couple. A fairly standard Andrew Grey happily ever after ending.

But . . . And this is a big but. During the story, it is determined that Dayne's burned house is a total loss and needs to be condemned. And then the author gratuitously throws in that the Town will not allow Dayne to rebuild because of changes in the zoning laws. That is just bad research, and it is endemic to Grey's writing. I have found it before in his novels that he will simply make up legal conclusions to suit his needs, and that drives me CRAZY! I hate bad research, maybe that's why the author writes only one formulaic genre over and over again. Just so the reader knows, government cannot preclude building at least some type of residence on a property that is zoned residential!! They can't tell you that you have no right to rebuild on a

parcel where a house previously existed. Terrible research, but it is par for the course with an Andrew Grey novel. I have seen this before when he rights -- he never researches the small details to get them correct.

My recommendation on this book. . . Read the story for the subplot since that is the only bit of this story that has not been heard over and over and over again from the author. Overall, two stars from me.

Barb ~rede-2-read~ says

Note: This **audiobook** was provided to me through Hearts on Fire Reviews in exchange for an impartial review.

Poor Dayne Mills. Severely injured in an auto accident that killed his lover and left him permanently scarred and limping, he moved home to be with his mother, who passed away within a year. Now he comes home to find his house burned to a total loss, and he's ready to toss in the towel. But firefighter Lawson Martin, whom Dayne recently met in the college library, is on the scene and insists on helping Dayne by offering him a place to stay. It helps that he's friends with some of Dayne's other friends who happen to be firefighters (and seen in previous stories by this author), so he feels okay in accepting the offer on a temporary basis.

The two become friends and bond over a journal written by a young Native American who was sent to an Indian School in the early twentieth century. Lawson has been searching for some evidence of his uncle's time at the school, and Dayne is using this journal as one of the tools of his research for his studies on Native American culture. I enjoyed listening to the journal in this audiobook as much as I enjoyed the contemporary component of the romance. The journal story chronicled one young man's discovery of another who eventually became the most important person in his life until he was removed by his family because he was needed back home. It was deeply emotional and very touching and was poignant in its ability to shed light on more than one sensitive subject of the times.

I like the fact that Andrew Grey often includes research of interesting or newsworthy topics as a subplot to his stories. He certainly did that here and over time we not only got to know the two young Native American men, but also got to witness the slow-burning romance that developed between Lawson and Dayne.

Those who enjoy Andrew Grey should definitely enjoy this one, and Michal Pauley did a very good job with the voices of the MCs and with the storytelling, i.e., journal-reading component of the book. Definitely an MM romance worth reading, or in this case, listening to in audiobook.

Karen says

When your world is going up in flames who better to fall in love with than a fireman...

'Cleansing Flame' is the second book in Andrew Grey's series 'Rekindled Flame' and while I did enjoy the first book a tiny, tiny bit more it wasn't enough to really make a difference on my rating. 'Rekindled Flame' which is the title of the first book as well as the series was a really solid 4 star read for me while this one was a little bit of a weaker 4 stars but still quite enjoyable.

Dayne's life over the past couple of years hasn't been good it started with a car accident that left him seriously damaged and with a new best friend named 'Pain' and grieving the loss of Jeff the man he loved and thought he was spending forever with. Barely a year later he's burying his mother and now at the start of the book he's back in school trying to get himself turned around and essentially remaking his life only to arrive home and find his home going up in flames. Dayne's pretty much at his limit of how much crap he can handle having dumped on him and really 'can you blame him?' I know I couldn't.

I really like Dayne...sure he has the occasional pity party but he keeps going, he doesn't just give up and wallow in it and I think a lot of people would. He's smart and determined. Truthfully he's not really asking for much he just wants to get on with his life and get out from under the damned black cloud that seems to want to follow him everywhere and it's when he's at his lowest trying to fight back the tears and despair that are threatening to drown him that the world gives him a glimmer of light in the form of an incredibly kind hearted and attractive firefighter named Lawson...someone he'd met earlier that day at the local historical society.

Lawson's attractive, friendly and as kindhearted as they come and he doesn't hesitate to offer Dayne a place to stay when he realizes that this sweet attractive man whom he'd had the chance encounter with has no one to call on in his time of need. It takes a bit of fast talking from Lawson with strong dose of help from their mutual friend Mason to persuade Dayne to at least accept Lawson's offer of a place to stay for a few days.

Now don't be thinking that these two men head off to Lawson's house and fall into bed and live happily ever after...nope sorry just like real life it doesn't happen that fast for them. There are obstacles both within their control and not and then even when they do begin to work things out it's still not a smooth road but it's not an over the top WTF angst filled one either. However, have no fear while it took a while for the sparks to ignite between these two once they did things were definitely hot.

We get to see a bit of Richard and Mason, they're the MC's from book 1 and while they by no means overshadowed the story in this book, they were definitely a nice addition to the story. Having MCs and secondary characters from previous books show up in subsequent books is something that I love happening when I'm reading a series.

There's also a secondary part to this story that relates to Dayne and Lawson's first encounter at the local historical society that I really enjoyed I found this part of the story to be incredibly sweet touch adding an opportunity for Lawson and Dayne to get to know each other better and help their relationship grow.

Like the first book in this series, 'Cleansing Flame' is a sweet, low angst, romance that makes for a relaxing and enjoyable read and I'm looking forward to seeing whose story is next in this series and how hot those flames will burn.

An ARC of 'Cleansing Flame' was graciously provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Heather Martin says

Copy provided to Bayou Book Junkie by Dreamspinner Press for my reading pleasure in hopes of an unbiased opinion, a review was not a requirement.

Cleansing Flame is Book 2 in Andrew Grey's Rekindled Flame series. This book could be read on it's own,

even though there are some appearances from the couple in the previous book, but why not get the full enjoyment of the series and start with Book 1. :)

Firefighter Lawson finds himself comforting Dayne, whose house just burned to the ground. Lawson had noticed Dayne earlier in the day when they were both at the Historical Society. Dayne had noticed the hot guy at the Historical Society but never gave consideration that someone who looked like Lawson could ever be interested in him. The complete loss of his house is just another hit in Dayne's life. He lost his boyfriend in a car wreck that caused him damage to his own legs; then a year later his mother died; and now he lost his mother's house and almost everything he had left of her and everything he had. He can't stop his tears when he realizes everything's gone and to his embarrassment he finds himself in Lawson's arms. Dayne isn't sure what he's going to do, but Lawson invites him to stay a couple of days at his house. Dayne is unsure, but Morgan and Richard vouch for him, so he agrees to stay the night but Lawson works to keep him there longer. Dayne struggles to get his life back in order, deal with issues with his legs, and to accept Lawson's interest.

Lawson is an adrenaline junkie, but once he has someone he's interested in, he doesn't have that same need. Like with Morgan in the first book, Lawson seems to be too good to be true. He's willing to open his home to someone in need and provide assistance where he can. He's interested in Dayne and encourages him in all aspects of his life. He's thoughtful, caring, and a firefighter! I liked Dayne, but his constant negative self thoughts continued through 80% of the book, and it was a little difficult to reread the same negative thoughts throughout all of it. But, he did get better and slowly developed more positive thoughts. He'd had a rough life and instead of enjoying when things were going well, he was instead waiting for the other shoe to drop.

This story was really a great story of two men meeting, getting to know each other, and a relationship developing from that before love entered the picture. This story had a special storyline that added another layer to this book, and that was Dayne's research into Native American information, and what happened once white men decided to educate natives on the proper way to live and brought them to a school to teach them. I loved this plot line and thought the author did a great job!

The narrator of this story is Michael Pauley and he does a great job! I've listened to several books narrated by Pauley and I'm becoming a huge fan! He brings the characters and story to life and does a great job of bringing the emotions of the story out. The narrator has an easy to listen to voice, he keeps a great pace with no weird pausing, and for the most part, gives the characters unique voices. The narrator is a fantastic storyteller and just allows the listener to be immersed in the story!

Audio Rating:

Overall: 4.5 Stars

Performance: 5 Stars

Story: 4 Stars

Book Rating:

Rating: 4 stars!

Diverse says

I'm sensing a theme with this series from Andrew Grey. In *Rekindled Flame* (Book 1) Morgan was a firefighter and Richard was a former marine bound to a wheelchair. They found an epic love, a second

chance romance. In *Cleansing Flame* we have Lawson and Dayne. Lawson is a firefighter (that's actually not the theme I'm referring to) Dayne is a student whose house burns down but he has leg issues. After an accident has left his legs in bad shape most of the time he can't walk without a cane. Now I don't know if it's intentional but I noticed the theme. I think it's great actually. I don't think I've read nearly enough books where we shine the spotlight on the fact we all aren't models with no issues. In this series, we see that life isn't perfect. Bad luck is a thing, and we don't all look like David Beckham.

Dayne is a student at Dickenson and one of his projects has him looking into an Indian school that ran in Carlisle for a short time in the 1900's. When Dayne comes across a journal, well several, of a student that once attended the school this story gets very intriguing. I liked that Dayne shared this with Lawson and all the connections the past and the present bring to this story.

The only problem I had with this story was how disbelieving Dayne was when Lawson told him he wanted him. I get that his legs and past experienced have tainted Dayne's outlook on romance. But Lawson was relentless in his pursuit of Dayne's heart. Just when I thought Dayne was believing him he'd shift back into to the whole, "Let me find my own place." And "How can you want me." I wish that was dialed back a bit but that is my only issue.

This is a love story that tells a tale within it. We follow Dayne and Lawson but we also follow Ted and Matthew through the journals. I enjoyed this story.

I want to make mention to a secondary character in this book... Bobby. Now, I have no idea if Andrew Grey will be writing his story but I am hopeful. He was only in this book for a blip but it was a glittery fabulous blip and I hope to see more of him.
