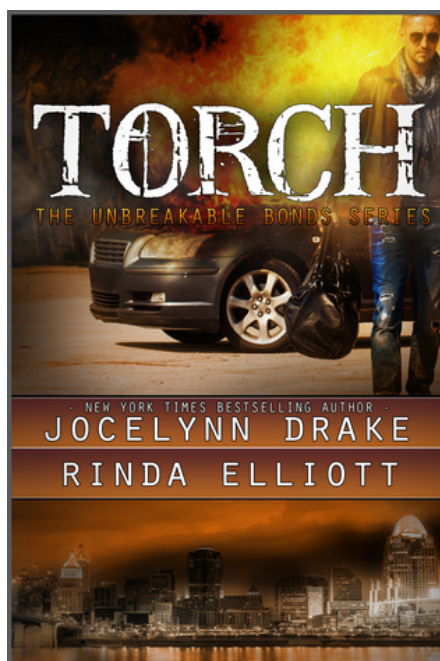




Torch

Jocelynn Drake , Rinda Elliott

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Nine months ago, Rowan Ward thought he had it all. Now he's fighting to pull his shredded life together, buried in work and battling the kind of grief that destroys a man's soul. When fires spring up around Cincinnati threatening Rowe's friends and clients, he's thrilled to find his old Army buddy, Noah Keegan in town. They were a hell of a team when they served together, so in-sync, it was rumored they could read each other's minds.

Noah thought devoting his life to the Army would be enough. Then he realized he had no family and only one friend he cared about. When his enlistment was up, he found himself standing on Rowe's doorstep, looking only for friendship but secretly hoping for more. He needs to know if their one unbelievable night together years ago wasn't a mistake.

Caught in a dangerous game of fire and bullets, neither expects the inferno of emotion that ignites between them. One Rowe isn't prepared to accept. One that could break Noah

Torch Details

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From Reader Review Torch for online ebook

Simone says

Thank goodness for second chances!

I have read the blurb for Torch before I even started to read Shiver and I knew from the beginning that Rowe would be together with Noah someday, so imagine my surprise when I found out that he was married. I already expected something to happen to his wife in the first book, so it didn't completely throw me off when tragedy struck in the second one. Hell, yes, Mel was great, but honestly... she had to be, to make the impact her loss had on Rowe and even his friends believable. Her death was – hmm, I'm at a loss for the right word here, 'required' would be a bit too harsh - , so let's say, it was what pushed the story forward.

I love the way the authors dealt with the aftereffects, how they gave Rowe time to heal, time to live with the fact that she's no longer a part of his life, but on the other hand always will be. Actually, Rowe seems to be more the bury-one's-head-in-the-sand type of guy, to rather run away than dealing with things, which gets even more obvious towards the end of the book. And it's the same he had done with his best friend and one-time-lover, Noah, years ago, before he even met his wife.

When Noah appears on his front step one night and won't go away, but insists on helping Rowe and his friends out when the shit hits the fan again and everyone seems to be in imminent danger, old emotions are bubbling up to the surface.

Emotions, Rowe thought he would never be able to feel again, much less have *the right* to feel again. Guilt seems to be the keyword of this book and it's a constant back and forth until Rowe is able to admit to himself that he has to move on and allows himself to feel love again. God, and I loved Noah for his patience and the fact that he would even back off, only to see Rowe be happy again, even if it would hit him hard...

As to the mystery why their archnemesis, Boris Jagger, suddenly wants to see Lucas, Snow, Rowe, Ian and even her loved ones dead, some puzzle pieces finally fall into place, but it is far from being solved and I can't wait to read the next book, when it will come to its climax, I suppose.

Speaking of the next book... Damn, why the hell was there only such a short appearance of my cop??? Technically, it made sense, and the scene quite made up for Hollis making himself somewhat scarce, but I love this guy so much and want his and Ian's story, like now!!!

Jan says

2.5 Stars

I have to be honest; I might have not given this a chance. Might...
When the cover for Torch came out I read the blurb and I was like: What?! Rowe?!

Where the hell is Ian's story?!

Wasn't Rowe straight?

Was that the reason Mel was killed?!

I felt like a cheated wife, the last one to find out what was coming for Rowe.

I one clicked this because I freaking loved Shiver and really liked Shatter. I was very curious to know how the author would pull this off.

The story wasn't THAT bad, but my mind was set; I felt it was too pushy turning every single character in this series gay. It's not like the author was short of options here to carry on with this series. Because there are Ian and Hollis **and** * I know I am the one pushing it now*

Geoffrey and Sven, **if** the author wants.

With that in mind, I would need something damn good to turn this game around. But it turned out that what I feared most happened: the love story wasn't good enough to convince me. The arson plot didn't work much either. Demoralize Rowe's business when Jagger actually wanted them all dead? I also didn't really get what was in it for the siblings. Summing up, I should have given this a body swerve, as a friend use to say.

Please, don't let my opinion to put you off of reading this, as you can see, my heart wasn't in it since the start.

I am absolutely sure I am in the minority. In fact, I haven't found a single not so good review.

***J* Too Many Books Too Little Time says**

3.5 Stars!

WARNING: May contain spoilers from books 1 and 2

A lot of people were upset about Mel getting killed off, and I admit I was too. But I don't tend to take books *too* personally so I got over it. I prefer to read about two men together anyways.

I saw the removal of Mel coming from a mile away. And I was curious to see how the authors would transition Rowe in to being with a man. I was okay with how all of that played out.

However, this book had a lot of things I don't always care for in a book. A lot of back and forth and hot cold - the majority of which came from Rowe. The MCs also aren't a couple until pretty much the end of the book. Some of the back and forth I got. I understood the guilt Rowe felt.

I think the thing I love most about this series is the friendships the 4 guys share (and now their significant others). For me, this series is more about that then the romance and love interests. That being said, I **liked** Rowe and Noah. But I didn't love them.

There was some nice steam.

Relatively low angst because they aren't ever really a couple. Plus we have the added mystery/suspense going on throughout the series. So there isn't a lot of relationship angst happening.

A good addition to the series, especially if you're a fan already. And finally we are getting to Ian and Banner's book - the one I've been waiting for since the beginning. Hallelujah!

Gigi says

First off, GOOD NEWS! Torch will be released a day early, so you can get it Monday, Oct. 24, 2016.

4.5 stars

Book #3 is the Unbreakable Bonds series is another stellar achievement by Jocelynn Drake and Rinda Elliott. This is Rowe's story.

It has been 9 months since Rowe's wife Melissa's death and he is knee-deep in grief. A former Army buddy, Noah, winds up on his doorstep and the sizzle begins! There is lots of comfort, dirty talk and the kind of sex you've come to expect from this series.

A few notes:

1. This really *cannot* be read as a stand alone. All of the guys are in here and you are going to need to know their relationships and back story. Start Shiver and Shatter now if you haven't already.
2. Noah and Rowe were smoking hot, but Snow and Jude from Shatter still have the top spot in my heart. I was as giddy as schoolgirl every time they were on page.

This is another great book in this series and it looks like Ian's story is gonna be glorious! Most people thought Ian's story would be book #3, but there is a little twist with Ian's story and it helps explain why his book wasn't the third in the series.

Highly recommended.

Galley copy of Torch provided by the authors in exchange of an honest review.

This review is also posted at Gay Book Reviews

Susan says

Re-read September 2018

I liked this more the second time. I think it was because I was prepared for the push and pull this time. I tried to focus on the good parts more. So I'm bumping it up to 3.5 stars, rounded up.

I'm never a fan of the deceased lover trope. And I most definitely thought 9 months was way too short for Rowe to move on. But I did like Noah and the fact that he and Rowe already had a history together. But OMG, the push and pull in this... It drove me crazy.

It's been 9 months since Mel died and Rowe is trying his best to just get through the days. When an arsonist is targeting him and his friends, he is trying everything in his power to find out who is behind this. It looks like Boris Jagger, but the hows and whys don't make a lot of sense.

When suddenly an old army buddy shows up on Rowe's doorstep, Rowe doesn't know what to think. He hasn't seen Noah in several years, even though they did stay in touch.

Noah didn't know where else to go, since he has no one left anymore. He really wants to reconnect with Rowe, but he also knows their relationship is a bit strained ever since they shared a hot night together all those years ago.

But the two do seem to become fast friends again, even though Rowe doesn't quite know what to do with his feelings for Noah....

Like I mentioned before, so much push and pull in this.... I could understand where Rowe was coming from, but I just wanted him to talk about his feelings, not push Noah away. Again.

But the two did fit together, and I really liked how they were with each other once Rowe got with the program.

The plot wasn't my favorite part of the story and I felt it was all a bit farfetched. But I did like the codenames. ;)

Overall there was a lot to like, and although it wasn't my favorite in the series, I still ended up enjoying it.

Wendy says

Did a re-read so everything is fresh for Devour tomorrow !!! 4/27/17 Can't wait for Ian and Hollis....damn I am so in love with that funny detective <3

Damn but I love this series. The only thing I don't love about it is waiting for the next book :(

Spring 2017 ??? That is way too long !!!!!!!

Anyways...about the book.

I, like many, was a bit worried about this being Rowe's book. We all expected Ian first (I am dying for his book) and with Mel's recent death it didn't make a lot of sence.....Except it did.

I shouldn't have worried because the story was awesome. Rowe's grief wasn't shoved away and Mel wasn't just forgotten. Noah was the perfect person for Rowe to be honest. Their relationship made sence.

I won't say it wasn't hard to read at times, because it was and my heart did break a few times for Noah. He wanted to be with Rowe so bad but he also knew that Rowe was still grieving and dealing with all his confusion.

That doesn't mean that Noah was just hanging around, waiting for Rowe to get his shit in order. They were friends first....which in this case was very important I think.

There was some back and forth on Rowe's part, and even though that normally annoys the shit out of me, I understood how Rowe must have been feeling. Them being such good friends and understanding each other, made everything a bit easier. At least that's how it felt to me.

When they came together, they torched the sheets !!!!

There was a little less steam in this one, which I understood, but what was there was seriously HOT

The sideplot was also very entertaining and will continue in the next book since things are still unresolved. In the end I think it will all come down to Ian. Wonderful wonderful Ian :)

Since we're talking about Ian right now....

I have one little complaint about this book and as my buddy-readers Susan, Karlijn, Elsbeth and Marte know, I can't let this go. Where the hell was my all time favorite character Hollis ??? He had way too little pagetime !!! Even though the time he did get was freaking hot and awesome...I missed the hell out of him. I love that man and his crumpled clothes....he always makes me laugh !!

I was so so dissapointed...I can't help myself...I have a huge crush on Hollis <3

Guess I will have to suck it up and wait for the next book....I need it now !!!!

Awesome book, loved it and I'm sure I will love the next one even more !!

4,5 stars from me !!!

Parvathy says

5+ Stars!

Torch is yet another fabulous book in the Unbreakable Bonds Series and tells the story of Rowe and Noah. Rowe is still battling to overcome his grief and is struggling to live. Noah is battle weary and after retiring from army is looking forward to staying with his best friends for a few days. What happens when two men decides to go forward and take a chance on their mind blowing connection?

Torch was a book I was anticipating eagerly as I badly wanted to know who would heal Rowe's heart. And I was not disappointed. In this book the authors have showed that side of Rowe which did not come forth in Shiver and Shatter. Rowe was portrayed as an easy going fun loving guy but in this book we see that he is having a lot of depth. The circumstances Rowe was forced into and his struggle and grief is very much heart wrenching. Noah, Rowe's best friend, is just beautiful inside out. His soul deep love for Rowe and the way he is there for him is just nothing short of heart warming. The way he shows his love for Rowe without making it obvious and the way he accepts whatever Rowe gives him and is ready to wait until he moves on has been portrayed in a way meant to tug at a reader's heart. Their relationship was not a smooth sailing one and that is what I liked about them most. It would have been easy to give Rowe his happily ever after with Noah, but the fact that they both had to grow together as a couple and face whatever they faced in order to realize that nothing is more important than each other is what made this book so real for me. What is mind blowing is the way the authors have explored their sexual chemistry. They both and their passion and intensity leaps right off the pages and makes us feel it.

This book is continuation of story of the previous two books and reading them is absolutely necessary in order for the story to make sense. The suspense element is this story and the way the story arc is going is something which was not expected. Hats-off to both the authors for keeping the suspense fresh and for not letting it sizzle out but rather increase its intensity. Compared to previous books there is little more blood and violence in this book and the twists and turns did keep me on the edge of the seat.

The book also explores the bond between the men and it is really wonderful to see their bond growing deeper and stronger every day. I also loved the glimpses into the lives of Lucas, Andrei, Snow and Jude post their books and I cannot get enough of them, especially Jude and Snow. What makes this series so amazing is this soul deep bond between the men which makes us wish to have something similar to that in our lives. In the end some things did leave me feeling heart broken, but I'm sure something amazing is going to happen.

Torch is a beautifully and masterfully crafted story which will take you on a journey guaranteed to give you an unforgettable ride and leave you breathless. I can't wait to read Ian's story and what is coming next for all of them..!!

An ARC provided by the authors in exchange of an honest review

This review is cross posted in Gay Book Reviews

Riley Hart says

Rowe and Noah, how do I love thee? Let me count the ways ;) To say I was excited about Rowe's book is an understatement but seriously you guys...SERIOUSLY, I didn't expect to love it this much. It's hands down

my favorite book of the series. Rowe is a little tortured and broken and trying to figure out how to move on. But he's still that loyal, kickass man there for his friends. I think the authors did a fantastic job of balancing Rowe's loss and pain, with him eventually moving on and falling in love again.

And Noah. Dear, sweet, sexy, Noah. I sort of wanted to keep you. Or borrow you. Please, Rowe, can I? Noah is funny, sexy, and loves big. He's my favorite kind of character.

Shile says

Loved it

Rowe

Noah

He'd gotten used to all of Noah's noises. The man sang in the shower and he cursed when he was in the kitchen. He talked to the dogs when they followed him from room to room. When he walked down the hall to the guest bedroom, he always hit that one spot in the floor that creaked, as if he felt the need to warn Rowe that he was moving through the house.

OMG! I didn't know it was going to be this good. I was judging this book before reading it. I have to say, I love Snow he is my favourite in this series and I love Snow and Jude as a couple, Lucas and Andrei, but so far this is my favourite book. Well I am shocked. This did not have the OTT feeling the previous books had, except for the scene at the warehouse. It felt so real and I understood Rowe's grief. We all grieve differently, but at some point, it is healthy to move on and I am happy Noah was there for Rowe.

I love Rowe, he is the life of the party the comedian and I am so happy I got to read his POV. What he felt for Mel will always be there. He also has feelings for Noah and those feelings were buried deep. It was understandable when Noah came back those feeling came back with him.

Noah I adore, I felt he was strong, he has loved Rowe for many years and he was given a second chance to be with the love of his life. I am so proud that he went for it. It was not an easy journey, but he tried his best and won, and I became a proud mama.

I thought Rowe's hesitation to be with Noah would have bugged me a lot, but to my surprise it did not.

He couldn't lose Noah. Mel's death had destroyed his life, but Noah had given him balance and laughter again. He lifted him out of the abyss and made him feel alive. He had to find a way to meet Noah...at least part of the way. After years of loyalty, patience, and unwavering love, Noah deserved at least that.

The scene where Noah decides to lay it all out broke my heart and at the same time made me love him more. Noah is a sweet guy, loyal and so much in love with Rowe.

"You don't have to leave."

A harsh laugh broke from Noah. "Of course I do. You're a fucking drug. I can't say no to you. Every night I tell myself that I'm going to lock the door or kick you the fuck out of the bed, but then you're there and I'm lying to myself that it won't tear me up the next morning when I realize that it didn't mean shit to you."

"We'll always be friends, I promise you that," Noah said, his voice low and rough. "It might take us a little bit to get back to exactly where we were, but we'll get past this and we'll be fine."

"Stay."

"Rowe—"

These two had chemistry from the moment they met after all they are best friends.

JD and RE write some of the most scorching sex scenes, like the previous books this one delivered, panty wetting sex scenes.

The mystery was gripping and engaging, kept me glued and interested till the end.

Snow and Rowe's scene had my stomach flip flopping and laughing my ass off.

"This thing is sinfully soft. I need to get one for in front of my fireplace."

"It's great for fucking."

This time, Rowe groaned. "You couldn't tell me that's what you use it for before I stretched out on it?"

"You've been on my couch and I've fucked there, too." Snow smirked and pointed. "You've leaned on that wall. Wonder why there isn't any art on it? There are no sacred spots in this house."

Snow and Jude!

Snow and Jude got a Kitten named Sergeant and I-i-I can't even, I am all mushy inside

"I'd have to move and Sergeant is all comfortable."

Rowe dropped his head, groaning again. "I don't know if I like this new domesticated Snow."

"Hey, I've seen you brush your dog's teeth, so you have no room to talk." His face suddenly twisted in dismay. "Do people brush cat teeth?" He looked down at Sergeant. "Do they make brushes that small?"

That scene with Ian and Hollis. PRICELESS!!

The code names:

"Snow White in place with the Apple," Rowe said in a low voice.

"Doc in place. Road is clear

"Sneezy in place. Momma bird is waiting in the nest,"

"Bashful in place with his babysitter,"

"Dopey in place with eyes on Bashful and the road,"

“Happy in place,”

Lucas’s growl could finally be heard. “You’re an asshole. Is this you getting even?”

“I’m sorry. Who was that? You’re breaking up.”

“Grumpy in place, motherfucker,” Lucas replied and Rowe cackled.

Tanu Gill says

I went into this book after reading as many reviews as I could, and I agree with those who said that the constant back and forth from Rowe towards Noah threw them off. It was painful to see the amount of pain Rowe was inflicting on Noah. Yes, we know he himself was hurting, too, but that is no excuse to treat someone that way.

But I don’t agree with those who felt Andrei turned out to be a weak person. Yes, we all know how much Lucas loves Andrei, and he himself knows it too, but the consequences of the revelation they had at the end were going to be everyone blaming themselves for their part in the event that started all the mess. Here’s hoping that Lucas gets back safe and sound and finally assures Andrei about his place and importance in his life.

Rowe and Noah could have had a smoother romance, but this book focused on these things: Rowe’s struggle to let go of Mel and hence indecision regarding Noah, the role of the arsonists, and Noah’s courage to keep trying for a happy life with Rowe.

Mirjana **DTR - Down to Read says**

*****3.75 Stars*****

I'm in quite the pickle on my thoughts here. Some things I liked, others I didn't. Some things worked, and others were disappointing. But overall, I did really enjoy the book.

We finally have Rowe's book. We've been given hints about his bi-curiosity for two books and after the loss of his wife, it was clear the authors were going to give him his story.

Did it work? Kinda. I believed in his feelings for Noah and their history, and I believed his struggle to move on from grieving for his wife and the fear he had of losing someone like that again.

I wish the authors would have trusted their story because one of the things that truly bothered me in this book were the forced moments and conversations that were blinding in the way the authors were trying to CONVINCE the reader that it was okay for Rowe to be with Noah.

I didn't need all that. I got to know Mel over the course of the previous books, so having Rowe simply say that she knew he had a curiosity about being attracted to men and they talked about it was enough for me. It was clear that the two of them had a loving, fun and supportive relationship. There was no reason for me to doubt that Mel would want him to move on and find love again, regardless of what gender he ended up with.

But what I did not need was (view spoiler). I got it, I got it. Mel was okay with him being attracted to men....no need to keep reminding me.

And Noah....Noah was just so great. I'm such a sucker for a strong man pining for what he thinks is unrequited love. It was clear that Noah treasured the one night he shared with Rowe all those years ago, and it was clear that he would allow his heart to be shredded to bits if he could just get another chance at the man.

I understood Rowe's hesitation, confusion, fear, guilt and longing. He had a lot on his plate that he was dealing with. In addition to dealing with Noah showing up, him and his friends are being targeted by an old enemy. All the emotions swirling inside him would drive a sane man crazy.

But there was no way these two could stay away from each other...and as usual, the authors brought the heat. Noah and Rowe burned up my kindle. Two sexy and strong men that were incapable of fighting the attraction and fire that was constantly blazing. And while Rowe's push and pull did frustrate me at times and Noah had a couple of doormat moments, I understood how much was at stake. Neither man wanted to ruin their friendship, but walking away wasn't an option either.

As I've come to expect in this series, the suspense element was a bit over the top, but it kept me interested in unraveling what was going on. But that big, climactic scene? What the hell was that? Absolutely NO NEED to go that far. That had shock value written all over it.

We get Ian's POV in this book, which means we're one step closer to finally getting his and Hollis's story!! That gets a big HELL YES from me....especially after the tingling tease we got here.

The authors have revealed that Lucas will be the third POV in the next book, which I'm really excited for....especially after the way things were left with him at the end of this book.

In a nutshell, the book didn't live up to its potential, but I still really liked it.

***As I've mentioned before when it comes to this series, there are some editing issues. There were a handful of instances where there were extra words in a sentence or a word missing or words in the wrong order. I tend to only point out errors if they distract me or if they cause a stumble in my reading flow...unfortunately, both of those things happened here.*

I NEEEEED this book!!!

Dia says

5 stars

This review has been posted on Dirty Books Obsession

This book was much expected! I loved the first 2 books in this series and I had a feeling Torch it's going to be Rowe's story.

Mel's death broke my heart and I couldn't shake the feeling Rowe will have a hard time to fall for someone again.

I would lie if I'd say it was as wonderful as I expected it to be, but I liked it very much, it kept me glued to the pages AND I love these author's writing style.

I missed these hot men a lot! Lucas and Andrei are still my favorite couple so far. It was great visiting them all again AND be in Rowe's mind. Even if he was married for so long and loved his wife with all his heart, he found himself checking other men. But he never felt like act on it. Things were different with Noah.

Noah came back in Rowe's life after many years of keeping the distance. They were close friends but one night, long time ago, changed their friendship forever. Now, Noah wants to be close to Rowe again and prove they still have something going on.

The chemistry is undeniable and they are still very attracted to one another. But is it enough? Can Rowe let himself feel something more for someone else? A man? All their lives are now in danger and when they find out who is after them, the fear and guilt may change their lives once again.

I can't wait for Hollis and Ian's story. I'm sure it's going to be very HOT and maybe they will all find their well deserved peace and HEA!

Meags says

4 Stars

I hid away from this book for a really long time because I knew from the events in book two (Shatter) that Rowe's story was going to be a full-blown angst-fest, dealing heavily with a very delicate and difficult trope that I mostly don't like reading about and feel is rarely done right. Thankfully, this story has proved to be an exception to my rule.

I believe Drake and Elliott did an amazing job portraying the complexities of Rowe's emotional and mental state throughout this story; no emotions were overlooked or brushed aside. Rowe's grief (view spoiler) was still present on every page, and although I felt weighed down by his sadness at times, I certainly won't be complaining about that because at least what he was going through felt honest and realistic.

I predicted that I'd struggle (somewhat) with the timing of the new relationship that Rowe develops with his old army buddy Noah, and I was right. I adored Noah from the moment he appeared on page, and I honestly wanted nothing more than for Rowe to find happiness again in the arms of his old friend. But... but for me, it all felt like it was happening way too soon. I know you can't put time restraints on feelings such as love and there is no perfect time to fall for someone new after a major loss, and yet, the fact that all the tragedy had only happened nine months before this book began, really impacted how I experienced this story.

Regardless of my personal feelings surrounding the timing of Rowe and Noah's relationship, I still really liked these two together. Friends-to-lovers is always a welcomed theme in my books and I definitely felt like

it was the best approach the authors could have taken here to ensure that readers like me would be on board with Rowe moving on so soon.

Aside from all the complex relationship elements of this story, the larger suspense plot – which has been steadily building since the start of the series – is reaching new heights of high-stakes intensity and will surely culminate in a gripping conclusion in the fourth and final story (Devour).

When all is said and done, the storytelling here is quite impressive. I truly care for all the characters in this series; they're one of the best book families I've read about in years. The writing is great, the pace of the story is fast and smooth, the romances are not only sexy but inspiring, and the suspense is hold-on-to-the-edge-of-your-seat worthy. It's definitely a fun series to immerse yourself in and one I have no doubt I'll even revisit in the future.

Judith says

[I absolutely adored Rowe in book two but didn'

Lyn says

3.5

I'm stuck. I loved Rowe and Noah. I loved that they had a past, and how comfortable they were together. I felt their chemistry. And, of course, I loved the secondary characters. I wasn't crazy about how Rowe's grieving was pretty much the entire book.

Even though this is my least favorite book of the series, it's still a favorite read.
