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Retribution (The Protectors, Book 3)



Synopsis

"You're a hero every fucking day, Tate," I said softly. "Don't ever forget that."

--HawkeEx Special Forces soldier Michael "Hawke" Hawkins has spent every day of the last ten years waiting for the moment he would get to watch the life fade from the eyes of the men who brutally murdered his wife, but when he finally gets the break he's been waiting for, the trail leads him to someone he wasn't expecting. After nearly two years of running, 24-year-old Tate Travers has become an expert at hiding...until the day a dangerous stranger shows up looking for vengeance and threatens to destroy the fragile life Tate has managed to build for himself and his five-year-old son. Except the life Tate has been struggling to hold on to started unraveling long before Hawke showed up looking for the same men Tate has been running from...his own father and older brother. Retribution - it's all Hawke has wanted since the day he held his wife's hand as she took her last breath. And he won't give that up for anything or anyone...not even the tormented young man trying to give his little boy a better life. Because Tate is the only one who can lead Hawke to the men he's been searching for. And if it means forcing the young man to confront the past that nearly destroyed him, then so be it. Only the last thing Hawke expects to feel is something besides the hatred that has driven him. And he definitely never expected to feel it for a man. But when it comes down to choosing between the unwanted feelings Tate stirs in him and the revenge he's finally close enough to taste, will Hawke be able to give up the one thing that has kept him going for a second chance at a future he gave up on ever having? **Full length novel (80k words)*** This is Book 3 in the series, but can be read as a stand-alone story - no cliffhangers. ***Book 1 - Absolution (M/M/M) Book 2 - Salvation (M/M) Book 3 - Retribution (M/M) Book 4 - Forsaken (M/M) Note: This book contains M/M sexual content and is intended for mature audiences

Book Information

File Size: 4247 KB

Print Length: 374 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: June 16, 2016

Sold by: Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01H7M3YVA

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #14,654 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #33 in Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Erotica > Gay #52 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Erotica > LGBT #169 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Gay Fiction

Customer Reviews

Book Three in Sloane Kennedy's "Protectors Series" has been my favorite of the series. What would you do if you met the son of the man who killed your spouse? Well, Michael "Hawke" Hawkins is about to find out when a tip on the murderers of his wife lead him to Tate Travers, the son and brother of the two men who murdered his wife. If that isn't twisted enough it's not only Tate he meets but a little boy named Matthew who clings to Tate for security and calls Tate Dad. Now what is Hawke suppose to do he can't leave a child an orphan -- it's not the boys fault and besides his late wife would turn over in her grave if he hurt the boy. That's not even considering the feelings that Tate has stirred in his gut and lower, what the hell is going on - Hawke is straight! Tate's life all comes crashing down when a big, grouchy, mean looking man shows up on his doorstep mentioning names he prayed he would never hear again. Thankfully after some quick talking Tate manages to convince the Stranger, Hawke, that he isn't looking to seek retribution for his wife by Tate..no he wants his brother and Father. Why is he not surprised. Tate isn't ready to even consider facing his past, he can't let his family know where he is, not if he wants to protect Matty. However, when running from Hawke doesn't shake the big guy off and Matty suddenly in need of more than Tate can provide - Tate doesn't know what's he will do. He doesn't expect Hawke to make him an offer he can't refuse. So Tate puts the love and well-being of Matty above his own life and safety and agrees to help Hawke find his brother and Dad.

I am lucky enough to be a beta reader for SK, and it's always an amazing and exciting experience to read her stuff, as she simply gets better and better with each book. In the short time she's been published (just over a year), she's already become a go-to name for me for a brilliant tale/emotions galore/hot, sexy, inventive, descriptive, healing, connecting, romantic sex/sexy leads who manage to weave their way into my heart and mind, and a guaranteed love story that ends in a HEA. This

book is no different, and it perhaps tugs even more at the old heartstrings as it features little Matty. Beautiful, sweet, loved and lovely little Matty - you'll have to read it to know more. So, the tale follows the blurb pretty faithfully, but as always, SK saves the best for her actual book. I can't tell you how many times my heart clenched whilst reading this - in happiness, in pain, in sadness and in hope and relief at some of the events in this. I loved how sweet, unspoilt and mature Tate was, despite what life had dealt him. I loved how brutal and closed-off Hawke started out, and that with Tate, he healed, let go of his anger and started to live again. To love again. To become Michael. Tate's Michael, the guy who until then had only been Revay's Michael...the real guy with a heart, under the tough exterior. I loved how Matty was a real little boy, not some caricature of a kid with ridiculous precociousness that is all too often seen in tales featuring kids, and how his love for his dad, and his innocence and embracing of Hawke contributed to Michael's reveal. This book felt real and believable and had me rooting for the leads, for a future for them and happiness for them as a family.

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