



The Flesh Cartel #17: Boxed In

Rachel Haimowitz, Heidi Belleau

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In the exciting final season of the Flesh Cartel . . .

With the help of the FBI, Mat Carmichael has let himself be re-taken by the Flesh Cartel. Objective? Rescue his brother, exact revenge, and destroy the entire organization from the inside.

FBI Special Agent Nate Johnson will be playing backup, of course, but to get Dougie out alive, Mat will need to make sure his brother is out of Allen's clutches before calling in the troops. Now that Mat's back in bondage, though, there's no way he can do it alone. He'll have to ask for help from the only man within the Cartel who cares about Dougie's welfare: Nikolai. And even knowing it will destroy him, Nikolai delivers.

Bringing down the Cartel should have been the hardest part, but it doesn't take long to realize that the real challenge has only just begun. Dougie doesn't know how to be free anymore, and Mat is forced to admit that he may no longer be strong enough to help himself, let alone his brother. But with loved ones in their corner and their love for each other banked but not extinguished, Mat and Dougie learn that you can come home again, no matter how desperate the circumstances you've left behind.

The Flesh Cartel #17: Boxed In Details

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From Reader Review The Flesh Cartel #17: Boxed In for online ebook

Chappy says

Now that Mat and Dougie are free, the healing can begin. Unfortunately, it's not that easy. They are living in a safe house for recovering slaves, but Doug is not fitting in. Mat is still having issues with Nate and they seem to be at an impasse. It's finally decided to let Mat and Doug go live on their own and try to relearn how to be free.

Elena says

5 finally "looking good" stars!

It should be all great now, right??? **Mat** and **Dougie (no, Doug now!)** are finally free!!! They're free of Nikolai and Allen's clutches, they're free from that hellish *paradise island* and they're free to do what they want... Well, no!

Mat is sad and worried and devastated because Doug is shutting him out. Doug doesn't know how to be free again. He's desperately looking for another *master* figure in his life.... And that makes Mat scared like shit. And no wonder. Mat has his own issues. Maybe he's not as *damaged* and *brainwashed* as Doug but HE needs HIS healing time too... :(And HE needs all the support HE can get...
My heart was aching for him this entire instalment :(

The brothers are sent to a Group Home for the rescued Cartel's victims but "unlearning" all that slave training will take much more than a temporary stay in another closed "facility"... :(

And also, there's one more issue that makes Mat sad and angry at the same time: **Nate** avoids him, doesn't want to speak to him... What happened??? Is Nate disgusted by what he saw Mat was on that f***king island???

Again, highly recommended!

Martin says

Mat and Dougie finally made it out of their hell, but the scars on their souls take time to heal. Especially Dougie is having a hard time adapting to a life without Nikolai - a life where the comfort of his master was replaced by new rules and orders of therapists in white coats who pretend to help him, but actually just force him - he thinks - to become what he left behind (and despised) a long time ago.

Mat is overwhelmed with his own mental issues and now needs to take care of Dougie as well. But how do you help a younger brother who thinks that a blowjob is a quick way to make new friends? How to protect

the boy in real life, when Dougie seems to crave exactly the things that Mat came to hate during their captivity? Where is the Dougie he once knew before all this went down?

You may call this series intense. But it's so much more. It's life changing, both for Mat and Dougie as well as for us readers. A true gem.

5 stars!

A Girl Has No Name says

5 stars!

Puh ...! I can't describe how relieved I am!

Finally! Finally! Finally!

This is what we have all been waiting for. It's over and it's not a false glimmer of hope this time. It's done!

This installment is focussing on a **misunderstanding between Nate and Mat** and OMG ... I was suffering with them. I couldn't wait for them to finally talk to each other and understand the feeling standing behind their respective behaviour. The **last scene** is very emotional and it makes me believe in all of them. **The path of recovery will be hard, but it's possible!**

No matter what ...

Two more books to go ... I can't decide if I finally want to know the end or if I want to **keep Mat, Doug and Nate a little while longer!**

Lucy says

This was surprisingly sweet. Dougie while still getting on my nerves is slowly coming around. There was also a nice development in the Nate & Mat relationship. Only two more books left.... :(

Sandi ♥'s way too many M/M books says

Holy crap im a mess right now. wow

Elaine says

4 Moving, Teaching, Heartbreaking Stars

Dougie is now free and at last back with **Mat**

But this is just the start of the huge journey these two need to complete.

Dougie is full of confusion, bitterness and blankness.

Mat is loving, patient but after the incident at Allens he so needs to talk to Nate again.

Nate is embarrassed and really doesn't know how to make it right with Mat.

This episode is really about forgiveness and love.

Nates gesture at the end was so moving.

But can they all recover from this and start again?

Menna says

Well,as usual after reading an EP of FC i'm left longing for more and saddened because it's only so little left...we are getting close to the end with each ep and it's only two EPsleft! :((

I really love mat more and more with each bookhe is just a perfect brother..so loving,caring and selfless!! no body can accept and embrace such a huge burden with no care for him self!

As for Doug, *irritating sigh* as usual like it's his duty he pissed me off but i tried to be reasonable and forced myself to see him as the brainwashed abused victim he is to be able to tolerate his behavior!

All i want now plus a satisfying vicious revenge against allen is for this series to not end this soon and for the author to surprise all of his loyal readers by announcing a new season! *finger crossed*

Therese says

Finally both Mat and Doug are away from the world of slavery! Oh, how I have waited for this moment... It quickly became clear (as expected I suppose) that Doug's recovery will take longer than Mat's. Doug in this episode is struggling to come to terms with what has happened. He does not know how he feels about Nikolai, about Mat, or about being free again.

They are both taken to group therapy home where many other ex-slaves are as well, to start their recovery. But where Mat embraces it all, Doug has difficulties. He reacts like a teenager, which I think sounds quite reasonable, since he need to re-establish his boundaries and find himself (again). He starts this off with saying „No“:

“‘No,’ he said again, not because he thought he needed to, but because it just plain felt good. The word had power. A kind of power long denied him. Speaking it now was like stretching bound wings for the first time in

years.“

He also grabs hold of one last thing he can decide about himself, his name. He is no longer Douglas or Dougie, only Doug.

Doug is also choosing not to attend all his therapy sessions, and the group environment does not really suit him since other patients are “*reinforcing and enabling unhealthy behaviors and attitudes*“. Oh Doug...

I am not sure how long time they actually spend in the group home, before it is decided that Mat should take over as his „carer“, away from the home. Maybe two weeks?

The only problem I had in this episode, is that they let Doug move away with Mat after such a short time. Considering the amount of time he spent begin brainwashed, I would have guessed there is some sort of deprogramming for people like him. But maybe it has to be voluntary, I am not sure. They could at least have tried another form of therapy, now it seems that all he will get are session over Skype! Professional help must be crucial in cases like this, or? Hmm, let's see how this works out. Usually, these authors convince me on every single detail, but here I was left with some doubts.

Doug at least seemed satisfied to be leaving the home, and it was so great to read about Doug and Mat in their new apartment, slowly trying to find their way back to their brotherhood.

Well, I was not too troubled about Doug after all, since I was very much focused on what was going on between Mat and Nate;-).

I was so sad after the last episode, since it looked pretty dark for Mat and Nate. But I should have known. I should have known that Mat doesn't stay down long. As with all other things; the slavery, the escape, the therapy, he keeps going, and he doesn't give up. So I should have known that Mat would fight for Nate as well, and refuse to let the rape come between them.

The scene on the sofa was just yummy:-).

„Nate's hands rested on his waist, his touch light, but no longer afraid. Just gentle. Perfectly thoughtful. Not like Mat was breakable, but like he was precious and awe-inspiring. At that moment, in Nate's arms, feeling Nate's worshipful lips playing across his own, Mat felt like he actually could be.“

Unfortunately for me, Nate says the cursed words “*Let's take it slow*“. Grrr. Yes, it is probably for the best, etc etc, but I am getting seriously frustrated here. I NEED some old-fashioned, world-shaking, awesome **consensual** sex between these two. And there are only two episodes left. How are the authors going to squeeze in all the dirty stuff I want, eh? (or maybe I should just accept that this series is NOT about a romance...).

What I was left with after finishing is, do I need to worry about them? As in, „I hope there are no cartel-people out there looking to kill off witnesses for this case...“.

And of course, I wonder how Nikolai and Roger are doing (although I hope the last books will focus on Nate/Mat/Doug...)

Debra says

There is hope and light at the end of the tunnel. This episode focuses solely on Mat, Dougie and Nate. The brothers and Nate are all dealing differently with the impact of what happened to them and none of them are going to heal quickly. I can't even be mad with Dougie Doug any more. With only two books left, there is still quite a bit left open and things that can go wrong, but so much is finally going right and those moments were so nice to see.

Em says

The brothers are finally together again and on the very long road to recovery. The scene at the gallery with the picture Doug spotted broke my heart, it was so touching.

JustJen "Miss Conduct" says

4.5 star review by The Blogger Girls.

So close, yet so far. As things draw near the end, the boys are now concentrating on recovery. It is going easier for some than for others it seems.

Doug, don't call me Dougie now, seems to be having the most difficulty, as expected. Outwardly, he seems ungrateful and non-appreciative of being saved. The reality of his mental state is shown through his actions. He feels let down by Nikolai, and is at a loss as to what he will do without a master to serve. To that end, he believes he has nothing to offer anyone but his service and who he has been trained to be.

Mat is doing a bit better, though he has been fairly stable mentally all along. Still, he realizes he will need professional help to really heal. He is at a loss as well in regards to what he will do. He cannot go back to fighting after what doing so turned him into, etc. On top of that, he continues to harbor a humongous amount of responsibility where Doug is concerned. At the same time, he is having a difficult time dealing with Nate's sudden rejection and stand-offishness.

Then there is Nate, who is dealing with his trauma in his own way. He carries an extreme amount of guilt over what happened at Allen's between him and Mat and believes Mat couldn't possibly feel differently about those events.

Basically, the main safe house set up for all the victims wasn't working so well for Doug, setting him back and causing him to fall back on his old ways of servicing whomever he can. Mat takes control and responsibility again, and they are moved to a private safe house until the trial. They seem to make a few breakthroughs thankfully. But, the real joy was Nate returning Mat and Doug's things and the intimacy that followed as they finally communicate.

Things are moving along, but there is still a ways to go for these guys (mostly Doug), and with only two episodes left, very little time in which to get there. It has been a fantastic ride though, and one I'm really not quite ready to see end. This is a very unique, well written serial that continues to keep me intrigued. As with all previous episodes, I'm eager for the next.

Cory says

Poor Dougie (or Doug, I guess)! I feel so bad for him. He's so confused and angry (as he should be). I think it's going to be a long road ahead, but Mat is an awesome brother. Looking forward to the next one.

Jenna says

Can this story just go on forever please?

Shile says

So much better than the rest Finally!

Doug not Dougie or Douglas now, is still trying to adjust to his new found freedom. Angry at the world and everyone. I wanted to hug him and at the same time slap him hard for being a dick to the one person who loves him Mat.

Mat is the hero that he is, trying to be strong for himself and also for Doug, and to my surprise Nate too. The guy is a freaking Hero.

Mat and Nate are so cute together.

The road to recovery will not be smooth but for now! we are freeeeeeeee!!!

No more Nikolai no more Allen.