



Scars

Lynley Wayne

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Jace, an injured ex-soldier suffering from PTSD, saves Nathaniel, a nineteen-year-old street kid, from a beating. In doing so, he has no way of knowing that he will find his own salvation.

Jace came home from the war scarred in more ways than one. The physical scars that he carries are nothing compared to the mental ones. Struggling with PTSD, he has closed himself off from the rest of the world. The last thing that he ever thought to do was fall in love... Nathaniel has lived on the streets since he was thirteen. When he wakes up in a strange apartment after being badly beaten, he has no idea how he got there. Little does he know that his rescuer, the large man with scars crisscrossing his face, could hold the key to healing the scars that they both have.

Scars Details

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From Reader Review Scars for online ebook

Karlijn says

It was okay. But a bit too sweet, a bit too much and a bit too perfect. Although I loved Nathaniel and the way he helped Jace through his nightmares and episodes.

Elisa Rolle says

Scars is a story about a man who needs to learn how to deal with his internal and external scars and of the man who will help him doing so. This is the main focus of the novel and the target is completely achieved, the narration of Jace's PTSD is good and realistic, with the right dose of emotion without trying to exploit the drama to make them more sensational. As the author says in the preface, she researched a lot and is near people who went through the same attacks, and you can say that from the way she described them.

Lynley Wayne is someone who apparently writes about things she know or experimented, and considering her other book is about a LGBT family, I have the feeling she experienced that is possible to build such family, maybe with some difficulties, but not impossible. Also in Scars there are various developments of the concept of LGBT family: Jace will have the chance to confront his own family with the reality of him being in a relationship with another man, will they accept his partner or not? The love they clearly have for their son will be corrupted by this news? And the same Jace, who had never once considered the possibility to be gay, will be able to accept to be in love with another man? To not give out too much of the story, I will not go further, but there are even more deployments of the concept of family in the story, more or less all of them with a positive insight.

So yes, while the story's incipit is dramatic, the development is positive, always with a good perspective, always with a light at the end of the tunnel. It's not an easy path for Jace, but Nicholas is near him, leading him through the nightmares, helping, but above all giving him a reason to fight. I liked this side of the story, even if someone else could think it was too positive: as I said, I have the feeling the author experimented that reality is possible, or at the minimum, she strongly believes it possible.

If I have to find something that didn't ring right to me, it was in Nicholas's past, a 13 years old runaway that 6 years later is still innocent and naïve; unfortunately, too often we see that in such occurrences, young boys are used and abused, sometime even by the system that should protect them. 6 years on the streets is a long time, and for how much I would like for Nicholas to be able to preserve his innocence, I highly doubted it. But probably the author didn't want to charge too much drama into the story, and considering Jace had already a lot of burden to go through, she wanted for Nicholas to be a more steady figure, someone who could give love, patience, comfort.

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1608207609/?...>

Anke says

I had some problems to get into the story, but at some point I just had to read on. I especially liked the way it

dealt with the PTSD. It was very gripping later on in the book. Like MandyM pointed out, it was insta-love but I was in the mood for that:) and yes, there was lots of sex; overall I have to say, I'm waiting for Rocky's story.

~~*Hyperion & Interabang*~*~* says

Was gifted this Trilogy by the very generous Lynley Wayne. What an awesome surprise! Thank you heaps :-)!!

Mandapanda says

Jace is an army-vet suffering from severe PTSD. On one of his lonely nightly walks he saves the life of street kid, 19 year old Nathaniel, and they fall in love. This book is a strange mix of realism and total romantic fantasy. The author doesn't pull any punches with Jace's symptoms. He has terrifying dreams and debilitating panic attacks. He is humiliated by people's reactions to his scars and has isolated himself from his family and friends.

On the other hand Nathaniel is the ultimate *Mary-Sue*. He ran away from an abusive home at age 13 and has lived rough ever since, but he sounds and acts nothing like you would expect for someone with that background. He is sweet, pure, kind and nurturing. He immediately slips into the role of Jace's carer and his character stays strangely static throughout the novel, never changing or growing. None of the issues from his past history are addressed. He and Jace fall instantly in love and have amazing gay sex despite neither of them being attracted to men before this.

Much of this story had me rolling my eyes, the easy acceptance by Jace's family, the (view spoiler) development, the insta-love, the fact that neither of them have any job prospects or income. There was waaaay too much sex. But then the confronting nature of Jace's PTSD would rear its head again and I would be sucked back in. By the end of the book the PTSD seemed to be controlled, but I thought it was a bit of a cop out that the control came with the (view spoiler).

So this story had good and bad points for me. It would definitely appeal to fans of insta-love and the *hurt/comfort* theme. Despite my reservations I think the author showed potential and I will probably buy the sequel (? about Rocky) which seemed to be set up at the end of this book.

Meggie says

This story teaches a lot about soldiers suffering from PTSD, which is actually pretty awesome. But I have to admit, the main storyline here lost this intense pull as soon as Jase & Nathaniel started to mess around with each other. For starters, Nathaniel is homeless kid without anything, as such this Instant love between both MC's is definitely unrealistic.

At the beginning I actually liked it a lot, but then all went down the drain. I don't get it, why so much sex, sex, sex. For my taste it was simply to much of sex scenes compared to problems both Jase & Nathaniel were dealing with. Anyway this wasn't story for me. This sweet HEA at the end wasn't satisfying.

Jess says

I dont even know where to start, I guess I will go with the good.

The good points:

- * The author gave a graphic but I think well researched depiction of a man with chronic PTSD. I truly felt for him and his horror/sorrow.
- * I enjoyed the two as a couple.
- * The age gap was NEVER an issue for me (I usually hate them)
- * The sex was hot and there was epic amounts of it.
- * Its a long book so the author took time to develop Jace's character and to built a romance between the two MCs (even if I had issues)

The Bad points:

- * It was to perfect, apart from Jace having PTSD the rest of the book was super easy. There was no challenges because everything turned out perfect.
- * There was to many cliches (view spoiler)
- * We never really got to understand how Nathaniel survived on the streets. He had money in his shoe but where did he get it from. He never did tricks and he said he had no jobs ever so where did it come from and how did he survive.
- * It was unrealistic how perfect Nathaniel was - could he just have ONE fault??
- * There was parts that the author glossed over, like details about farming - how big and/or rich they were for the farm to support 4 sons each with their own truck??? no girlfriends nothing...it seemed a bit weird for me and showed a lack of research.
- * I hated how Jace treated his parents, after finally getting back to the farm and seeing his family the first thing they do is lock themselves up in the room and fuck. Then when the parents walk in on them and then they get the shits at the parents. Hell if I was their mum I would have been in there hours before wanting a god damn hug.

Conclusion:

I really wanted to rate this higher because I did like the beautiful love between the two characters, however there was just to many issues that I listed that just frustrated me. I would have loved to have seen more of a fragility to Nathaniel or some kind of fault. However I do think that this is one of those books that can only be judged by reading it. I recommend this book to anyone that likes a wounded hero and insta love.

V says

I'm not going to tell you what this book is about because the blurb it is very clear.

What I would tell you though, is what a wonderful story this is, Jace is an ex army suffering from PTSD, carry his scars inside and out, the Author did a wonderful job with this part of the story, very realistic.

Also, if you like stories about "Gay for you" you are going to love this, Jace didn't know he was attracted to men until he met Nathaniel, mind you, he is only attracted to Nathaniel.

The only part that for me is a little bit of an issue, the sex scenes, even though there were fantastic, in my humble opinion, there were too many.

There are some parts of this story you might find unrealistic also, however, this story is not entirely impossible to happen in real life.

I was homeless once, not living on the street, but I was still homeless, and I can assure you, you can really grow up really quickly and see the life in a different way.

Many of you will think Nathaniel acts and behaves nothing like a normal 19 year old, or he really is "too good to be true" for someone who was homeless.

He is extremely mature for his age, sweet and kind for the kind of life he had and for many, this, will be a deal breaker.

Why? I wonder, many of us survive, and we grow up faster than many, and I really hope that what makes us a better person.

Wonderful story, ...yes, I found my own Jace :)

Awilk -never sleeps- says

This was a sweet romance that I sat down and read in one sitting. Parts were a little unrealistic, but they didn't take my enjoyment away at all.

Jace is a retuned soldier who has come home from war with scars, inside and out. He suffers from extreme PTSD, which causes him panic attacks that leave him curled up in a ball crying, unable to stop his tears, and nightmares that have him waking up in a cold sweat and a sore throat from screaming. With this happening to him, he still has the inner strength to keep on getting up and making htrough another day.

We all have scars. Only some of us wears ours on the inside. They don't change who we are, only who we might've been

Nathaniel is a young homeless boy who is so much wiser then his years. He should have had such a terrible attitude after surviving his horrid childhood, but he was instead the most loving and caring man you can imagine.

Jace hears the sounds of someone being beaten, when he is out on one of his early morning walks. Going to investigate he ends up saving Nathaniel, and takes him home with him so he can take care of him.

Jace starts to have feelings for Jace that he can't understand. He has never been attracted to a man before, but can't deny that he is starting to have very strong feelings for Nathaniel.

I believe we're attracted to who someone is on the inside more then the packaging they come in. The sex of the person isn't as important as their heart.

The two of them start a love affair, and we get to watch Nathaniel's love start to heal Jace. I was moved by this story very much, and wish the book never had to end.

Jace came from a farming family, who had five sons and I enjoyed all these characters. My only wish is that there was more books to continue this story. I would enjoy seeing more of Jace and Nathaniel, and seeing how their lives together went.

I will be looking for more from this author.

Ricardo says

Holly predictable and full of clichés, Batman

Straight vet with PTSD rescues 19-year old from a beating in an alley and brings him home to heal. Jace nurses Nathaniel back to health but the author writes these characters completely one-dimensional and absolutely perfect. They only do good deeds, they never hurt other people, they only say the right things, etc. Although Nathaniel left home when he was 13 and never had any formal education, he talks about PTSD like he has a degree in psychology and his vocabulary is more like someone studying in a university than someone who lived on the streets during all their teens. Jace has the most amazing psychologist in the world, he can call her any time and whenever he does, he spends up to an hour and a half talking to her and going over his day and what happened. I'm not sure what kind of retainer she was on but the author forgot to say how he could afford to have someone at his beck and call and basically have therapy 7 days a week.

Of course, Jace's family (4 brothers and his parents), are also perfect people. Jace has started a romantic/sexual relationship with Nathaniel despite not being gay. Nathaniel had no sexual experience before but he knew his way around a bed like a seasoned porn star. Jace's family accepts this new development without much problem and it turns out one of the other brothers is also gay. Anyway, at one point the book turned into a comedy for me because it was so over the top with stereotypes, and fake dialogue, and the story just seemed to be saying what the author thought a reader would expect to hear that I couldn't help but laugh

Natalie says

[ex-girlfriend has a kid and Jace is the father (hide spoiler)]

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

[a surprise baby that the momma is willing to give full custody of to Jace and his male lover OF ONE MONTH Nathani

Ami says

DNF at 16%

I was in the bad mood initially when I picked this up, since I experienced so-so stories one after another.

The premise is interesting, but the story lost its appeal for me quick, when Nathaniel acted so mature (he was only 19 years old) and was able to 'sort-of-heal' Jace's issues and persuaded Jace to meet the family when Jace's best friend and brother couldn't even do it -- all within the first 50+ pages.

When I rolled my eyes because Jace said to Nathaniel "*Then you fall into my life and are this ray of sunshine, showing me the way to salvation.*" after only a couple of days (the reason of my DNF) ... it was a sign that this story wouldn't be my cup of tea. With this kind of premise, I am expecting the angst and emotion and journey towards healing to stretch a lot longer than that.

I'm sure other readers won't find this as an issue. I might actually missing a good story by DNF-ing. But I need something extraordinary at this current moment. I blame my bad mood.

So please check other opinions first because I'm sure they will do better to review this book.

Page Crusherz says

This is a tough one to review. I liked the characters and the story but I felt like it was an enjoyable flat line of a ride. There weren't any huge actions in the book. It was a lot of PTSD, sex, more PTSD, more sex, etc. I didn't believe that Nathaniel had been on the street for so long and hadn't had to compromise himself more to survive...I wanted to know more about him. Overall, though, I liked the characters and the story. It could have been shorter and more powerful I think.

Susan65 says

***This review is absolutely a case of it was me, not you, dear author, as the reviews I've seen confirmed.

So close, yet so far away. I love the tortured soul, the wounded soldier story, but I also need to have a little more realism in my books. Jace and Nathaniel were just a little too unbelievable to be true. The author did an amazing job of depicting the PTSD that Jace was suffering, and I was totally enraptured by this struggles. Knowing that such a big man could be so tormented is a weakness of mine and it's what drew me to this story. What pulled me out was Nathaniel, the insta-love, and the family drama.

Don't get me wrong, the story is good, but you really need to suspend belief..a lot. Jace is the suffering ex-military man and Nathaniel is the nineteen year old homeless youth that saves Jace from himself. Both have horrid pasts but only Jace's is thoroughly depicted. Nathaniel is just too perfect. Here is an uneducated, street kid who instinctively knows how to ground someone suffering from panic attacks, PTSD induced nightmares, who stands up to Jace's father without even knowing the man. Maybe it's possible, but

Nathaniel is the epitome of the perfect person and that never works for me, especially when he was unloved and homeless since age thirteen. By all rights, Nathaniel should have needed some kind of help himself.

Jace's family is suffering right alongside him because he shuts them out. So when he finally does go home, he ends up treating them terribly. Yes, he has major issues, and yes his family needed to back off a little, but Jace needed to man up and explain why he didn't come home after he was released back to the states...not just treat his parents like they were spoiled toddlers. It gets better, but the fact that Jace and Nathaniel chose to stay in their room and have sex, over and over again, instead of spending time with the family that has been worried sick just reeks of disrespect and entitlement. Plus, the fact that Jace carried Nathaniel everywhere just about did me in. My eyes were just about rolling out of my head. Nathaniel is a man, not a girl and not a child, so please authors allow men to be men.

The ex-girlfriend story line was just a big no. I can't even go there because it felt off from the start to the end. The fact that a baby is involved was fine; the fact that two men who have severe emotional and psychological issues, are in a new relationship, can so easily decide to take on a newborn together just did not work.

I am sorry that this sounds like I hated it and turned the review into a major critique, and I usually am better at being a little more constructive in my not so stellar reviews, but I cannot get past too many aspects that consistently took me out of the story. I know this is book one of a series, and I really liked both Landon (Jace's friend) and Rocky (Jace's brother), so I might try book two to see if their story works better for me.
