



## Desires' Guardian

*Tempeste O'Riley*

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## **Desires' Guardian** Tempeste O'Riley

Most people see Chase Manning as the party-boy twink he seems on the surface. Only James, Chase's BFF, knows the depth of his loyalty and the extent of the wounds Chase carries inside. When Chase meets Rhys Sayer things don't go well, but he can't shake his attraction to the huge, sexy man.

Rhys is a man of contradictions and fear—a strange combination for a PI and bodyguard. He's in a bad place emotionally when he sets eyes on Chase for the first time. When Chase puts the moves on him, Rhys insults him, thwarting any possibility of a relationship. Rhys doesn't see himself as a complicated man, but he dreads the very kind of connection he desires.

Just as they're trying to overcome their uncertainties, Chase is put in harm's way. Luckily Rhys and their friends have all the right talents to help Rhys save the man of his dreams.

## **Desires' Guardian Details**

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Author : Tempeste O'Riley

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## From Reader Review Desires' Guardian for online ebook

### Grace Duncan says

I thoroughly enjoyed Chase and Rhys! There were a few times I wanted to smack Chase around a bit and more than a few times I wanted to knock their heads together. But the story was lovely and kept me up until 2:30 am to finish it! Excellent story and the sex was HOT! Now to wait (im)patiently for more...

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### Ashley♥Alexis says

3.5 stars

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### Wendy Dinwiddie says

I loved this book as much as the first of the series. It is always great when authors keep past characters involved in the next story. We also got to meet new characters. This book was full of surprises as well as lots of love and romance. I look forward to more to come in the series and hope to continue to have past characters involved in future stories. I give it 5 stars

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### IslandRiverScribe says

This second full book in O'Riley's Desire Entwined series does not stand up well against her first. In the beginning of the novel, the storyline is strong, with just the right allusions to the events of the previous entry. We are introduced to our main protagonists who were significant but secondary characters in the first novel. In fact, Chase Manning's role in that entry was highly important.

And then, in Chapter 4, one sentence shook the story's foundation to its core. My first thought was that what I had just read couldn't be right. And then my second was that O'Riley had chosen drama over context and believability. And for this reader, that is not a good thing, but more on that later.

Chase Manning and Rhys Sayer met during the course of events in "Designs of Desire." It was not a pleasant meeting either, with Rhys slashing and cutting at Chase based on his appearance and his popularity at the club where they met rather than on Chase's personality or philosophies.

Chase does his best to avoid Rhys from that point on as Rhys' PI firm often does work for Seth Burns, the domestic partner of James Bryant. James and Chase are best friends, but James has become friends with Rhys also. Rather than cause the physically fragile James any undue stress or make James feel that he has to choose between them, Chase simply makes himself scarce when Rhys is around. This is actually hard for Chase because he is very much attracted to the man he has come to see as a "gentle giant" even if he is a Harley-riding ex-Marine, a private investigator and a security specialist.

Unbeknownst to him, Chase is the object of Rhys' daydreams, too. Also unbeknownst to Chase, Rhys'

repugnant behavior toward Chase was predicated by the fact that he had just thrown out his boyfriend after catching him in his own bed with another man. And Chase just happens to look remarkably similar to his ex-lover, not only in face but also in physical size and dress.

When Rhys' forensic IT specialist moves away, James brokers a deal with Chase to take the position. With space to pursue his own freelance consulting firm provided as partial compensation, Chase reluctantly accepts the deal.

As could be expected in this romance tale, Chase thaws toward Rhys and they begin a tentative relationship. And, as could be expected in this type of tale, an ex-lover of Rhys makes an unexpected appearance, lies are revealed, a fight ensues and so does a make-up scene. Unfortunately, in that make-up scene, Rhys calls out the wrong name at exactly the wrong time and the relationship comes to a grinding halt. And at this point, the execution of the storyline begins to fall apart, scene by scene.

#### DEFINITE SPOILERS FOLLOW:

The initial degradation of the plotline occurs in Chapter 4 when Chase learns of the lies that Rhys told months earlier (in the previous novel). Chase is so angry he begins throwing objects from his desk at Rhys. And that action is the beginning of the end as far as credibility is concerned, as this action is absolutely 180 degrees out of characterization for Chase.

In the first novel, Seth, in anger, throws a phone against a wall and breaks it, with James close by. Because some of James' physical problems stem from repeated abuse, Chase lights into Seth with a vengeance and tries to get James to end the relationship. For pages, Chase goes on and on about throwing objects being absolutely unacceptable. And now, in this entry, Chase begins screaming and throwing objects at Rhys, actually hitting him in the face and drawing blood. Very dramatic but very out of character.

After this scene, a number of small-to-medium events occur – or do not occur – within the story, which cause the reader repeated pause. For instance, after Rhys calls out the wrong name, Chase flees in the night and refuses to take Rhys' calls or respond to his texts. And, at that point, that subplot just stops. Even though they are in the same office for hours every day, Rhys never once goes to Chase and asks what went wrong, even though he wants to reconcile. And Chase does not confront Rhys about the name even though he gladly bloodied Rhys' face over that name only hours earlier. Then, after several weeks, they are back together, having never discussed the issue at all. Chase alludes once, in a backhanded way as to why he fled, but that's all. Sizzle, fizzle, stop.

O'Riley's writing style deteriorates in other ways also. Transitions between scenes and chapters cease to flow smoothly. Many scenes feel disjointed as if edited for word count and the parts we need for comprehension are now on the cutting room floor.

Another point of confusion is that no one's professional choice is ever given any substance, not Chase as an IT expert nor Rhys as a PI. Even Dal Sayer's position and experience on the police force is washed over. We don't actually know why any of them are qualified to do what they do, especially when they get involved in the investigation of the murders of gay men that have been disguised as suicides. This is far different from the way in which professional creds supported the events in the first novel. And since the murder investigation leads right to Chase's doorstep, not as perpetrator but as ultimate victim, it seems that O'Riley just expects the reader to believe these guys are capable of rescuing him before it's too late.

O'Riley's glossing over of easily researchable issues leads to other inconsistencies and inaccuracies. For one

thing, Chase is beaten unmercifully and repeatedly while bound, both hands and feet, and tightly gagged. Even though he vomits with that gag in his mouth, he doesn't aspirate the vomit (don't try to imitate that in real life if you intend to see tomorrow!). Even though he is kicked viciously, over and over, in the torso, he doesn't sustain even a single cracked rib, let alone kidney or spleen bruising. Dramatic, yes; intense reading, yes; realistic, absolutely not!

Then, when the group attempts Chase's rescue, Dal Sayer, Rhys' cop brother, does not call for backup. Of course, had he done so, then he would probably not have been shot or ultimately wind up on the wrong side of an IA investigation. Again, O'Riley goes for drama and angst rather than believability.

Finally, there was the issue of the wristband that Chase wears. This leather band plays a significant part in the story, a subplot in and of itself as far as Chase's backstory is concerned and as far as his ability to continue in a relationship with Rhys is concerned. Then, with the blink of an eye and a swipe of the pen, the leather band is gone. We are told, oh-by-the-way, in retrospect, in the epilogue, in the space of one whole sentence, that Rhys replaced it with a platinum band – six months prior to the events of the epilogue! So, a scene that would have actually been legitimately dramatic and emotionally fulfilling isn't even written. Again, sizzle, fizzle, stop!

Earlier in this review, I stated that it appeared O'Riley had chosen drama over plausibility, essentially fluff over substance. I watched and read as her main storyline and subplots degenerated into events based on unrealistic or false premises, utilized inaccurate medical and police procedures and reached the point where even suspension of disbelief could not save the proverbial day. She consistently placed the need for emotionally dramatic interludes above the need to convince the reader that the drama had a legitimate basis to build on.

Based on this entry, I do not believe that I will purchase the third book in the series when it comes out. And, I hate to feel that way, because the first book in the series is absolutely outstanding!

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## **Jason Bradley says**

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1. I really dislike when gay men swish their hips to be sexy. I think that is a female thing and I'm not even sure my hips know how to swish.

2. In a spoken conversation:

“That nice friend of yours, James. I ran into him at the grocery store. He said you are seeing some detective.... Reece, maybe?”

“Rhys is a PI, not a detective, but yeah, I am. It's pretty new, though, so I hadn't intr

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## **Diane Dannenfeldt says**

I enjoyed the story but I don't really care for the narrator. Full review to come. Off to the next one.

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## **Serena Yates says**

When someone's image is different from the way that person sees themselves, that difference can cause pain on both sides of the perception. Chase, James's best friend from book one in the series, is in just such a situation in regards to Rhys, who was James's bodyguard during the stalking. Normally the difference of opinion would not matter, but everyone else seems to think Chase and Rhys belong together, and they keep pushing Chase to at least go on a date with Rhys. Their resulting story is filled with misunderstandings, the pain of dealing with Chase's past, and lots of conflict and external threat. It was great to see James and Seth again, as well as their other friends – still as loving, chaotic, and quirky as ever.

Chase looks, usually dresses, and mostly behaves like a party-boy twink. While he isn't like that at all, he enjoys the flirting and the clubbing, but has never had a one-night stand in his life. He takes his relationships seriously, but hasn't had much luck so far. And with Rhys calling him names when they first meet, Chase is not inclined to give the man the time of day after that, no matter how attractive he may be or how much everyone else insists Rhys is a great guy. But when Chase starts to work for Rhys's PI business (James's brilliant idea), they are forced to deal with each other, and Chase slowly begins to thaw. It's not easy for him, considering how much he's been hurt before and what other dark secrets he carries from his teenage days, but Chase knows he'll have to deal with all of that at some point, and Rhys is too attractive to keep turning down.

Rhys is a former Marine and now runs a bodyguard/PI business with his best friend. Rhys had been recently emotionally hurt when he lashed out at Chase the first time they met, and initially does everything to keep the man at a distance. But then James decides Chase is the best person to help Rhys with the tech issues he has, so Rhys swallows his pride and asks Chase to work with him. He quickly learns that Chase is very different from what he assumed, and decides to pursue a relationship. It's a good thing he is stubborn and persistent because Chase is not an easy man to get to know!

If you like stories about emotionally damaged men who have built walls around their hearts to protect themselves from being hurt ever again, if you're interested in a "battle of the wills" as well as an "opening of the hearts" kind of story, and if you're looking for a read that shows what can happen when preconceived perceptions are defied, is emotionally touching, and contains some light but very hot BDSM, then you will probably like this novel.

NOTE: This book was provided by the author for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

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## **Diverse says**

When I read book 1 of this series (*Designs of Desire*) and met Chase and Rhys I secretly hoped they'd get their own story. Alas, they have! Chase is so damn strong on the inside and Rhys is strong on the outside. Chase's life has been quite rocky and his friendship with James has truly been his saving grace for so many years. Sure he has others in his life but James is it for him in the BFF department. They are more like brothers. Then he meets Rhys and he really doesn't like him, Rhys gives off a vibe, not to mention NOT the best first impression. I really loved watching these 2 and their journey to loving one another. Of course it's not perfect until there is drama and Tempeste O'Riley delivers!

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## Love Bytes Reviews says

4.5 star review by Roberta.

So, I read the first book and I really liked it. I couldn't wait to read the second book. I had such high hopes for the second book and it lived up my expectations.

So, Chase Manning is the wonderful guy whom we met in Designs of Desire. He took such good care of his best friend, James. I loved him to pieces and couldn't wait to get into his story. Chase has left his job and has started his computer consultant business and he's doing pretty well. Chase is such a wonderful character. He loves his friends and goes out of his way to help in any way that he can. Chase is kind, loving, loyal and so very generous. He's had some issues in his past that has guided him in the direction that he now lives his life by. Chase has this wonderfully dominant personality in the bedroom. I liked that about him. There was this wonderful switch-up from what he looks like and how he is in the bedroom. Chase is the kind of guy that you'd love to have as a friend. You know that he'll always be there for you and help you in any way that he can.

Rhys Sayer, is the bodyguard that we met like Chase in Designs of Desire. He was hired to protect James. Rhys is this wonderful blend of tough biker and yet, he's got this really sweet, tender side. Rhys takes his job and those that he cares about very seriously. Rhys is loving, tender and so giving. The way that he shows that he cares for others is just so wonderfully sweet. When it comes to Chase, Rhys is just the biggest, softest, most cuddliest guy ever!! When he gives of himself, it's the most beautiful thing to behold. He withheld nothing from Chase.

Now, we've already met James and Seth from Designs of Desire. It was really nice to see them again. I love the relationship between James and Chase. The love and devotion between the two of them was really beautiful to read. Dal, who is a police officer and Rhys' brother was such a wonderful character. He puts his all into what he does. He backs up Rhys' when needed and when he falls in love, it was really sweet to watch. Simon and the gang, they really loved Chase and were even willing to give Rhys a chance when they started dating. They just wanted the best for Chase because he deserves it.

There was a mystery going on in this book and I solved it long before they really got into it. I guess I followed the theme of the last book when it was someone that they knew, but didn't really expect. I am known for picking up who did what and reading between the lines. I will say that it was a good mystery. I liked that you were given little clues that you had to put together.

The sex in this book was pretty damn hot. I have to say that Dominant Chase was really sexy. My poor kindle. It was steaming up a storm. Chase and Rhys together was really hot and I'm glad that my kindle didn't burn up with all of the steamy, very hot sex.

This book did have a storyline from Chase's past regarding suicide. This was done so well. It told of the aftermath of that decision. I really thought that the way in which it was written and how it was handled was so very well researched and written into the story was great. I give kudos to the author for dealing with such a sad storyline in such a kind and caring manner.

This was a fun book and I really enjoyed reading it. I didn't want it to end, I was so into the story. I will say

that this book had a fair amount of angst, but it wasn't over the top. There were communication issues between Chase and Rhys, but they weren't too bad and they made a conscience effort to talk and discuss things as the story moved about.

I would recommend this book for anyone who enjoys a nice mystery that isn't too hard to figure out and some good sexy times and not too much angst. This is a wonderful story if you have time. It's a great book to fall into and enjoy some really good characters. You don't even have to have read the first book, even though, it would be nice to see these two before they got together. So, sit back and enjoy falling for Chase and Rhys.

A copy of this book was provided for reviewing. Please visit [www.lovebytesreviews.com](http://www.lovebytesreviews.com) to see this and many more reviews!

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### **Katy Beth Mckee says**

Chase seems to almost self-destructive in his attempts to keep far away from Rhys. These two start off on the wrong foot but they are still drawn to each other. And when men are found dead it could very well be a major game changer.

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### **Jodi Pushkin says**

Please see my full review on the Smoocher's Voice blog: <http://www.smoochersvoice.com/2014/06...>

When readers see Chase Manning in chapter one of *Desires' Guardian*, they meet a hung over party boy. But the fact that he literally jumps out of bed to go meet his best friend, James, for lunch, gives an insight into his character. Chase is the poster boy for the phrase "don't judge a book by its cover".

*Desires' Guardian* is the second book in the Desires Entwined series, and this book is more detailed and the characters more developed than the first book in the series. Although this book could be read as a standalone, it is more engaging if it is read after *Designs of Desire*. Reading the books in order provides a depth to the plot and characters that would be missed otherwise.

In the first book of the series, readers meet James and his best friend Chase. Although the first book concentrates on James and his budding relationship with Seth Burns, Chase plays a prominent role. Author Tempeste O'Riley does a great job developing Chase's character. He is multidimensional. On the one hand, he is a bit of a bull dog when it comes to James, but he is vulnerable in many ways, which are explored throughout the pages of this book.

O'Riley's writing touches on realism as the two characters struggle with their attraction for each other despite the fact that both are wary of getting involved romantically. The fact that the men are stubborn and lack good communication skills is frustrating, but, again, very realistic.

The subplot of the story has Rhys and his brother Dal investigating a series of alleged gay suicides. Rhys believes these crimes are murder, and the investigation becomes more intense as more bodies are discovered. Chase is helping with background research. And, as the investigation builds, it takes a strange twist that not



only brings past crashing down on him, but also leaves him vulnerable and puts his life in danger.

Tempeste O'Riley does a wonderful job developing this story. The focus of the story is on the romance between Chase and Rhys, but the subplots in the story reveal the depth with which O'Riley has designed this series. O'Riley's prose are beautiful and descriptive. The dialogue serves the purpose of moving the story along and providing insights into the characters. O'Riley's characters are multi-dimensional, strong, vulnerable, and sometimes leave their true selves between the lines of prose and dialogue. The dimensions of the characters are often revealed through subtle actions, and that is what makes this book a great read.

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### **Debfirpo says**

Oh what a pleasure it was to read Chase and Rhys story! I loved Chase from the very first book! I hope we will see more of these guys in the future.

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### **Tamika♥RBF MOOD♥ says**

3.5 stars

While this was a big step up from book 1 it still left me unsure of some things. I liked Rhys & Chase from book 1. I honestly felt like this was one big role reversal in this book. Don't get me wrong, I'm not basing it on both of their physical appearances either. I felt like Chase's character in book 1 was so approachable and happy all the times. I understand people aren't always happy and he was a secondary character. It wasn't alot for me to base much on Rhy's character because he just seemed like a body guard.

I liked the story alot. I do felt like the mystery was just thrown in there for aesthetics purposes only. I understand Rhys needing a reason for Chase being in his life because of his work, but I felt like it was other ways of it to happen.

I think my biggest issue was the lack of communication. Come on, you want me to believe that you two weren't able to talk about why you weren't talking to each other after 1 night of coming together. I didn't feel like these two would have that issue, What did Rhys exactly do, because based on few terms he used I felt like the act didn't get rectified.

I did like how protective Chase friends were, oh my goodness. It was like the Twink Gang, they were all over threatening Rhys about treating their friend right. I appreciated it a ton, I loved how both guys had supportive families on both sides. Rhys parents were amazing, and sure his dad giving Dal an ultimatum sucked but we'll see where that leads in book 3. With the intensity of these two, I was happy with the ending. They both wanted to pace their relationship and just get to know each other well.

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### **T.M. Smith says**

4.5/5 stars

Chase Manning is still reeling over the brush off and subsequent insult that fell from the delectable lips of

one Rhys Sayers. Chase is accomplished and successful in his career, the rock and strength for his best friend James, but his personal life is non-existent. Everyone, including the sexy PI that makes his blood boil and his dick hard all at the same time, thinks of Chase as a party animal bed-hopping twink. And Chase is anything but any of these things.

Rhys Sayers is smitten with smaller, smart and sexy IT guy from the start. Having just gotten out of a bad relationship with someone that resembles Chase, in physical appearance only, Rhys is brash and insulting to Chase when he makes a move on him. He immediately regrets his actions, but Chase is already walking away. The two end up working together and in very close quarters which makes it hard for either of them to deny their mutual attraction. After words are exchanged and a few items from Chase's desk are thrown, and a heated, wet kiss is shared... the two wind up in Rhys's bed. And it is nothing that either of them expected.

Appearances can be deceiving, and while Chase can accept Rhys taking charge at work and taking care of him in public, in the bedroom, Chase takes control. And the big man with Welsh roots and a temper to match both his height and his upbringing, loves every minute of it! While Rhys and Chase are trying to safely navigate the mine fields that litter their budding relationship, there is a killer at large that is targeting Chase's ex-boyfriends. Could Chase be the next target?

This is my favorite in this series so far. I love seeing how these characters are growing, all of them. As individuals, as couples, as friends and as a family. There is more back story for Chase and James, their friendship and how they met and grew so close. You also get a more in-depth look into Chase's past. Why he always wears the cuff bracelet, the story behind the necklace. Just all the little details that O'Riley put into this story that made it even more engaging. I loved the role reversal for the two male leads, with what you first see and think being opposite of what they become. These two are really passionate and electric when they come together.

This is the third book in a series that should be read in order, and I suggest you do. If you are a fan of hard luck stories, where there is happiness and success in the end then you'll love these books. There is some mystery and suspense, love, loss, betrayal but most important, there is some hot men and they get their happy ever after. I got a little misty-eyed, I swear! I'm so excited for Dal and Alex's story next, write faster Tempeste!!!

\* I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review through MM Good Book Reviews \*  
<http://www.mmgoodbookreviews.wordpress...>

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## **Marc | Rainbow Gold Reviews says**

The first half was very frustrating for me, the second half very emotional and strong. It fluctuated from 3 to 5 stars for me, so I think 4 stars are a good compromise.

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