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Sticks & Stones (Cut & Run Series Book 2)



Synopsis

Cut & Run Series Book Two - Sequel to Cut & Run Six months after nearly losing their lives to a serial killer in New York City, FBI Special Agents Ty Grady and Zane Garrett are suffering through something almost as frightening: the monotony of desk duty. When they're ordered to take a vacation for the good of everyone's sanity, Ty bites the bullet and takes Zane home with him to West Virginia, hoping the peace and quiet of the mountains will give them the chance to explore the explosive attraction they've so far been unable to reconcile with their professional partnership. Ty and Zane, along with Ty's father and brother, head up into the Appalachian mountains for a nice, relaxing hike deep into the woods... where no one will hear them scream. They find themselves facing danger from all directions: unpredictable weather, the unrelenting mountains, wild animals, fellow hikers with nothing to lose, and the most terrifying challenge of all. Each other.

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Customer Reviews

If you're a fan of m/m romantic thrillers, then you can't beat the writing pair of Urban and Roux for incredible fiction, and in Sticks & Stones, the sequel to one of my favorite reads of 2009, Cut & Run

(and on Kindle: Cut & Run), the irresistible and at times irascible FBI Special Agents Zane Garrett and Ty Grady are back with a vengeance. They're still toting around all sorts of personal and professional baggage and struggling with the aftereffects of a case that nearly killed them both, not to mention struggling with their relationship with each other, and yet - thanks to incredible writing and exquisitely detailed characterization - this second book drives home just how amazing a read can be when you transcend the idea of character and plot and start to experience in a profound way these two men's lives. Just weeks after being partnered officially and drawn back to DC, Zane and Ty are riding desks at Quantico until they're cleared for casework - and neither are too happy about it. The hyper Ty is bouncing off the walls and Zane, who's too emotionally buttoned down to do much bouncing at all, is still struggling with nightmares and exhaustion and he's in a bad place head-wise. When the unofficial psych evals come down from their boss, SAC Dick Burns, they're forced into a vacation that neither wants but both desperately need.

Ty and Zane are back in this gripping and riveting Book 2. Forced to take a vacation until their next mental state evaluation, Ty took Zane with him back home in the Virginia Mountains. Here Zane meets Ty's family including a psychiatrist brother and a dominating father who still has so much control over Ty. The story starts off with an explosive encounter with FBI trainees (Have me fooled here for a while!). Then the pace slowed down a bit. Slow when compared to what we get in Cut and Run but not boring or dry at all. Far from it as the story focus on both men struggling with their feelings. Is what they have between them love or just attraction? There is no doubt that each is willing to die for the other but could their relationship be more than just sex? These are the questions these two very tough men have to resolve even as they hide their feelings. I enjoy the emotional tension between Ty and Zane. The writers have done a marvelous job exploring their relationship in deeper territories even as both Ty and Zane struggle to heal after their shocking ordeals in Cut and Run. The plot really picks up when the 4 men including Ty's brother and father hiked up into the mountains. The seamless dialogue and interaction among the 4 men is absorbing. Ty's father almost painful influence, Ty's brother gentle probing which is more than it seems. And when they encountered their first bobby trap, the story turns into an excellent and taut thriller with no let-up in any page. The scenes when they are imprisoned by scrupulous treasure diggers are nerve wrecking. Ty's PTSD attacks have me at the edge. These writer simply excel in heart stopping scenes, the suspense have my eyes glued while my fingers itch to turn to the last page of each chapter.

FBI agents Ty Grady and Zane Garrett have been sent on "vacation" to recuperate after a serial killer almost killed them both the year before. Neither man is healing well mentally, but Zane is having a particularly hard time. Zane reluctantly agrees to accompany Ty home to West Virginia for some R&R in the mountains. He quickly sees where Ty gets his craziness from after meeting Ty's family. Between the family and a hike in the mountains turning into a deadly mission, if they can get off the mountain alive, Zane and Ty may need a vacation from their vacation. I was slightly infatuated with Ty and Zane after reading *Cut and Run*, but I fell in love with them in *Sticks and Stones*. While *Sticks and Stones* has all of the action, humor, hot sex, and even more of Ty's hilarious t-shirts as *Cut and Run* does, it also has a bit more emotion and gave me the affirmation I've been waiting for between Ty and Zane. I don't think Ty is as crazy as he is hard-edged and stubborn. He's cynical, realistic, and he doesn't take bull from anyone. He shows glimpses of vulnerability rarely, so his heart to heart with his brother and then Zane is endearing. Zane is understandably going through a rough time. Add to that his insecurity regarding his relationship with Ty and he gets himself in a bit of an emotional mess. Ty and Zane don't communicate well. They spend more time arguing than making love, and they can be down right rude to each other, but they're perfect together. They make me smile every time they insult each other. Their bond is very strong. You may have to look for it, but it's there. Everything I read from Madeleine Urban and Abigail Roux rocks, so I knew *Stick and Stones* would as well. It is well written, full of angst, and exciting. It is character driven, intense and edgy, and it's very erotic.

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