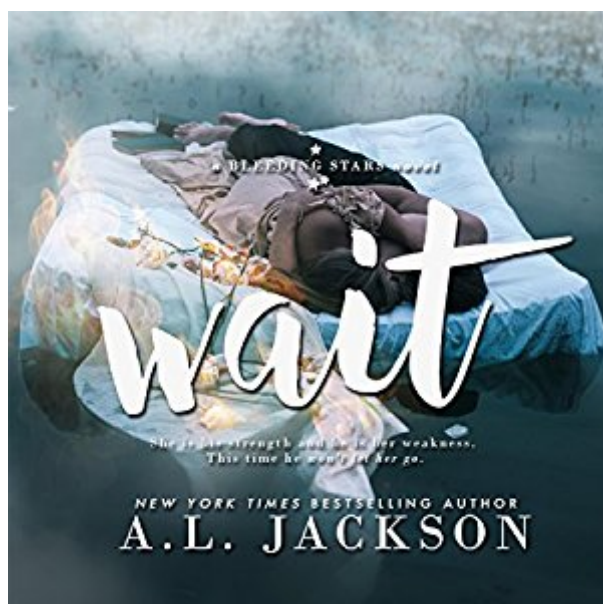


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Wait: A Bleeding Stars Stand-Alone Novel



Synopsis

From a NYT and USA Today best-selling author comes a new Bleeding Stars stand-alone novel. She is his strength, and he is her weakness. And this time he won't let her go. Edie Evans is gorgeous. Sexy. Kind. She's also the definition of off-limits. But that didn't stop me from sneaking into her room to comfort her at night. But guys like me? We destroy everything, so it should have been no surprise when I destroyed us, too. The night I sent her running, I thought I'd never see her again. Until I saw her standing like a vision in the crowd. Austin Stone is dangerous. Alluring. Tempting. He broke my heart, and I refused to give him the chance to do it again. It's been years since I've seen him, and now I can't do anything but stare at the gorgeous, tattooed man playing onstage. I should run. I know I should. But like a fool, I run straight back to him. Our desire is overpowering. Our need unrelenting. She is my hope. He is my weakness. We should have known a passion this intense would burn us right into the ground.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A glance. A touch. A spark of young love. Two tortured souls, bound together by the dark. Fate brought Austin & Edie together, but a broken promise tore them apart. A haunting tale. A shattered love. A search for solace in the light. In just one instant, with one tragic mistake, Austin Stone's life was set off course. With a single, irreversible choice, he was led down a self-destructive path. Blindly walking his way through life, he searched tirelessly for redemption. But he couldn't turn back time. Nor could he undo the destruction triggered by his very own

hand. Haunted by the sins of his past, Austin sought atonement to no avail. Suffocating from the prevailing heartache, he turned to drugs, seeking to numb the searing pain. Then, Edie Evans entered his life. With her unceremonious entry, she infiltrated Austin's world and filled the hollow space that promised to consume his grieving heart. Edie Evans had a secret. And Austin Stone promised to keep it safe. During the day, Edie hid behind a wall of pretense. But during the night, she revisited the horror of past mistakes. Drawn to one another, they reveled in the comfort of each other's arms. Nightfall provided them cover; a refuge from their pain. They shared a connection, bound together by despair. Clinging to each other, they clawed desperately at the darkness, grasping for the light. No matter how far you run or how best you try to hide, the past is never far behind. For Austin Stone and Edie Evans, the past and present is fated to collide. When a secret falls from Austin's lips, Edie flees, leaving heartache in her wake. Years pass, others move on. But both Austin and Edie's lives seem interminably stalled. Despite the passage of time, despite their tattered hearts, four years later--when their eyes meet across a crowded club--a spark is reignited, bringing back to life a passion that had never truly died. Austin is determined to win Edie back; to repair the damage that his careless words had wrought. But Austin's betrayal cut Edie deep, wounding her to the core. Brokenhearted and unsure, Edie struggles with the warring emotions she has swirling deep inside. Trust doesn't come easy for Edie, yet she chooses to take a leap of faith. But with a looming threat, a secret dangerously close to exposure, and Sebastian's persistent pleas beckoning Austin home, salvaging their relationship might just be Austin's biggest challenge of all. Will Austin finally be able to set things right? Or, will he continue the pattern and destroy all that he has touched?

One could say that my budding love affair with Austin Stone dates back to "Stone in the Sea," when I was already falling hard for his older brother Sebastian--lead singer for the rock band Sunder. Glimpses of the rock star's younger brother showcased his vulnerability, and the rawness of emotion that he displayed throughout that book and the next, tugged achingly at my heart. I saw a broken boy, drowning in guilt, desperate for absolution. The enormity of his sorrow engulfed me, and I felt an overwhelming need to wrap him under my protective wing and soothe his throbbing ache. By the time Austin was ready to leave the safety of his brother's care and set off on his own, I was desperate to unearth the truth behind his painful past--not just to appease my curiosity, but to appease my desire for Austin's healing to commence. As Austin embarked on a journey towards self-discovery, I hoped he would find the peace he so greatly needed. But above all else, I wished for Austin to find his HEA. Little did I know, that Edie Evans was the key to Austin eventually finding it all. Once upon a time, there was a story called "Stone in the

Sea and another called Drowning to Breathe. It was then, while reading those stories, that I fell head-over-heels in love with Sebastian Stone. But then another story came along, Where Lightning Strikes, and I fell even harder for the bad boy guitarist named Lyrik West. Yet through it all, Austin Stone meandered around in the recesses of my mind. I wanted Austin's story. In fact, I craved it! Austin's past garnered lots of questions, and I became restless to have those questions answered. In writing Wait, AL Jackson gave me the answers I sought, as well as a whole lot more. She gave me Edie Evans' story and with that, a reason to cheer for Austin; to be proud of the man he had become. Because despite the echoes of his past and beyond his misguided betrayal, Austin Stone had found a purpose. He was "first and foremost" Edie Evans' protector; her avenger; her savior. He offered up salvation and Edie clung to it. With remnants of the scared little boy pushed aside, Austin Stone became her unsung hero. Though some cracks might still exist, Austin Stone was far from being broken. Without a doubt, Austin Stone and Edie Evans were irrevocably shaped by their collective pasts. But moving forward, they chose not to let the past define them. Deriving strength from one another, each shrugged off their protective cloak, and allowed themselves the freedom to accept the love that the other had to offer. Wrapped securely in each other's arms, Austin and Edie finally found the HEA that they both so desperately deserved. Not only does Wait have all the wonderful feels one would expect from an AL Jackson book, but the love scenes between this couple are positively scorching hot! A gripping, heartbreaking journey of a fated love tainted by the sins of the past, Wait is both emotion-packed and wickedly, wickedly sexy!!

Wait it's the fourth book in the Bleeding Stars series. All I can say is wow! I didn't think I could love anyone more than Sebastian and then along came Lyrik and now Austin. Who would've thought such a story could unfold as this. Austin is so broken and even with the love and support from his brother, Sebastian, he feels utterly lost and alone. He has settled into the fact that he will live with his past sins and regrets and isn't worthy. Then one day the cries from another broken and hurt soul call to him like a beacon of light. Edie, Ash's sister, is the one thing Austin never expected. These two broken teenagers found each other and began to mend their shattered hearts. Their past pain absolutely shattered my heart. Trying to protect Edie, Austin ended up hurting her more and crushing her completely causing her to run. Which in turn was what caused Austin to leave Sebastian and go "find himself." Four years later fate brings these two back together in a firestorm of emotions. The pain, love and anguish are palpable on the pages. Edie doesn't know if she can ever

let go and trust Austin again. Austin loves her and will always "wait." My heart turned to mush when Austin spoke his heart to Edie. "I'm so f#*~ing sorry, Edie. I know I wrecked it. That I wrecked us. For the last four years, I've woken up every single day regretting it. I went to sleep wishing I could take it back. But right here.... with me....this is where you're supposed to be. Where you've always belonged."You will be pulled in hard and won't want to let go. There's so much to their story that unfolds. I was an absolute blubbering mess at the end of this book, but my heart was completely full. Wait is most definitely five stars that were well worth the wait!!

Wait is the reason I read. The reason why I happily get caught up in an author's words and don't want to let go. The very reason why I fall hard for well-written characters and the happiness they so desperately seek. It is a book that consumes your soul and keeps you entranced with every turn of the page. Pure brilliance. Featuring Baz Stone's troubled baby brother, Wait tells the story of Austin and the girl he drove away, Ash Evan's baby sister, Edie. All part of the Sunder crew, no one ever guessed how close a young Austin became to the quiet and nightmare-ridden Edie. Getting to witness first-hand, through a series of flashbacks, how they came to find one another and how they were the balm to each other's pain was heartbreaking. How they managed to find a beam of light through all the darkness, Austin's being the guilt over the loss of his twin brother and Edie's being the regret over one night and her own loss in the aftermath, was as beautiful as it was tragic. Then finding each other again some years later proved once more how fated this couple was from the start. We wonder right along with them if perhaps this might finally be their time and they can both rise from the mire that has held them down for way too long. AL Jackson's talent for bringing hope to circumstances filled with so much despair has never been more apparent. Wait is perfectly told in alternate POV's, in a wonderfully gradual style that had me hanging onto every word, every thought and happily along for what promises to be an extremely emotional journey. I felt as if I was right there with Austin and Edie each and every step of the way, never doubting their sincere affection for each other but often cursing the luck that seemed to want to thwart any joy that had in their reach. The addition of Baz, Shea and the rest of the Sunder family added just the right touch. The right amount of symmetry when it was needed the most. The author is a master storyteller and the poetic nature of her writing blew me away. I must've highlighted more passages than I can even count, the words so magnificent they deserved to be remembered. I am forever in awe of AL Jackson's books and I look forward to more in this series. I feel as if Wait brings her work to an even higher level of perfection if that is even possible. It is not to be missed and although you don't have to read the first 3 in the series, you'll want to, I can promise you that. A huge 5+++ stars and very highly

recommended.

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