



One More Time

Shawn Lane

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Vermont is the last place Dane Westerfield has any desire to go. He left a decade ago and has no desire to go back. California is now home. Or rather, his partner of six years was home. Yet when the unexpected death of his partner and the revelation of secrets kept send Dane reeling, he returns to the Vermont town he grew up in to help deal with his grief.

Before he even reaches his sister's home, he runs into Theo Mason, his first love and his well...first. Theo had been one of the reasons Dane had been eager to leave Vermont a decade ago, and Dane's definitely not eager to see him again. Yet the rugged police officer makes it clear he wants another chance with Dane. Theo's patience and understanding catch Dane off guard, and Dane finds himself unable to resist the once familiar heat that generates between them. But is his time with Theo just a rebound fling or can Dane move past his grief for a new chance at love?

One More Time Details

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From Reader Review One More Time for online ebook

Meggie says

Hm, this is a weird unrealistic story. I'm sure that maybe with a more developed storyline I would take it differently, but based on this plot, I can't. For me everything between Dane and Theo happens too fast and too soon. Dane and Theo hooked up just because of their past, and I didn't like it. Their emotions weren't real or true. Theo was definitely too pushy and needy and Dane emotionally cold.

Avril says

Really didn't sit right with me how quickly Dane jumped into bed with Theo. Also pissed me off that Theo just inserted himself back into Dane's life even when he knew the man was grieving. Felt selfish and opportunistic.

Arthur says

[Dane saw Theo making out with a girl several days after they had sex. (hide spoiler)]

Maria (aka Fashionista) says

Reviewed for Confessions from Romaholics

Review at Confessions from Romaholics

This is a story of past love reconnecting, while learning to grieve and let go of love just lost. I've always been a lover of Shawn Lane's books; they are sweet, fun and full of explosive emotions. You can almost never go wrong with picking one up!

Dane Westerfield has just lost his partner Donald of six years to a heart attack, but instead of mourning, he is angry, hurt and pissed off. Donald withheld secrets from him, secrets of his other life, of his past, and present. Donald was once married, and has a child, only he never told any of this to Dane. Dane had to find out after Donald's death. Even just before Donald died, Dane had come across a note that left him convinced Donald was going to leave him. Dane is left confused and alone, lost with what was and what could have been.

In his grief, Dane gets a call from his sister Emily begging him to come back home to Vermont to stay with

her and her family. She is worried that Dane will wallow in his grief, not willing to heal from the pain of losing Donald. Reluctantly Dane finally agrees to visit, but only on his terms and for a set date, as the memories of why he left Vermont in the first place make him hesitant to return. As he should ... when not even mere moments after landing in Vermont does Dan run into that reason—Theo Mason.

Theo Mason hasn't forgotten Dane or what he did to him almost 10 years ago. In light of Dane's almost hostile greeting, Theo is insistent that they reconnect, well that and his attraction to Dane is as strong as ever! With help from Emily, Theo manages to always show up wherever Dane is, much to the annoyance of Dane. Finally Theo's patience pays off with a rather explosive kiss that leads to more. It seems that even after 10 years their chemistry is still dangerously hot!

But Dane is still struggling, he feels guilt for jumping into a—who knows what you call it—thing with Theo, just weeks after losing Donald. His hurt over Donald's secrets has made him uncertain if he can trust another bisexual man. Dane had always believed Donald was gay, so when he found out about his ex-wife and young son, he was shocked and heartbroken that Donald didn't trust him enough with this information. But as his old feelings for Theo come roaring back, he has to figure out if this possible relationship is worth it or not.

Theo wants Dane to stay, but Dane isn't sure he wants to move back to Vermont and open himself up to even the possibility of future hurt. So it seems it's up to Theo to find a way to make Dane trust in them.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. While I did feel that Dane was jumping into another relationship too soon after Donald's death, it worked. Theo did come on a bit strong at times, but he was passionate in his desire to make Dane his again. I didn't like Dane's brothers, but his sister was sweet and encouraging in helping Dane get over his grief and moving on with the chance Theo brought to his life. I wish we could have gotten to know Marty more, I feel he's story was just barely touched; he was Dane's best friend and Dane doesn't even contact him about Donald's death until just before he returns I have a feeling Marty has a story to needs to be told—or so I hope!

I give this 4couples. It shows that while you can lose love, a new chance at love can always sneak up on you when you're not paying attention. Definitely recommended!

Ije the Devourer of Books says

CONTAINS SPOILERS

Two loves, both bisexual but did he/does he truly love me?

Is it the best thing to start a new love whilst still grieving for the old?

Dane's partner of six years dies suddenly and Dane is left to make sense of aspects of his partner's life that had been hidden. His partner was bisexual and had married, had a child and divorced before he met Dane, but had never revealed this to Dane. Now having to deal with his partner's death, Dane questions why his partner hid this part of himself and questions if his partner truly loved him.

Not long after the funeral Dane visits his childhood home and sister, and other family members who he is some what estranged from. The past rears its head when he meets Theo who was his first love in high school. Although he recognises that it is too soon after the death of his partner, he gets sexually involved with Theo realising that Theo is also bisexual.

I enjoyed seeing how Dane works through all these issues in the aftermath of huge changes to his life. He moves from being the young protected and indulged lover, to being a mature lover who wrestles with past, present, questions and choices.

The writing is engaging. Dane is no victim and despite grieving recognises his own vulnerability and his deep desires. He does his utmost to make sense of the new situation in which he finds himself and does his best to negotiate past, present, and possibilities for the future. Dane's POV has a way of drawing the reader into the story and we get to see his grief, his questions and the beginning of his recovery. I liked the way he was able to manage the demands made on him both from people and from circumstances, not in a super human way but step by step. The story was weighty and able to deal with pain and complexity but wasn't swallowed in angst.

I did enjoy reading it. I do wish it had been longer

Gwendolyn says

Uh. This guy is a co-dependent freak that lets jerks push him around. Dane needs to be alone for a while and the help of a good therapist. I hope this gets better.

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

Wow, I really didn't like this one!

Dane's lover and partner of 6 years passes away suddenly and then Dane finds out a secret that has him unhappy...

So, one month after his partner dies he goes to Vermont to visit his sister (and other asshat brothers...pointless to even have them in the story!)

So day one there he runs into his 'first' who treated him like so much trash 10 years ago...Theo (aka asshat) follows him into the bathroom and while giving his condolences comes onto Dane and kisses him....wonderful, a real stand -up guy Theo is!

Then he bullies him into a date (by the way, I liked the sister, but she was sort of pushy and not in a good way IMO)

And like before they finish dinner he is telling Dane he can write anywhere and to move to Vermont.. (Dane has a life in California...has just lost his partner and *this* is Theo's idea of a first date!) again I am

flabbergasted at this guys sense of entitlement! And he follows him into the bathroom again...and kisses him there again...I'm sensing a pattern!

Soooo...anyhows...they have sex, lots and lots of sex...then Dane says he needs to go back to CA and Theo gives him an ultimatum, stay here with me or it's over! Again, I can't stress this enough, they haven't seen each other for 10 years and weren't even friends before, they had sex once 10 yrs ago and now for the last four weeks and again, Lover has only been dead for 2 months...Theo is such a prince! *que sarcasm*

Oh, and he yells I Love You just as Dane is going through security at the airport and then runs off...

Then he appears unannounced at Dane's house a few weeks later and says come live with me...Dane the spineless whiny guy that he is says of course....and they live happily ever after....

Stacey says

2.5--blah read for me--I never warmed to either character.

Anthony says

This was a quick read. Had the potential of being more if the characters were a little more developed and though I appreciate pictures of shirtless men I think that if the story is about a police offer and another man dealing with the death of his partner than the cover should reflect that. I think the author needed to get in touch a little more on the universal feelings and emotions that surround people when their loved one dies or if the author has experienced this maybe a better way of communicating that through the book. I really want to give it 4 stars but I can't. But it is a good read while you are the airport or any short intercession of time.

blub says

2.5 stars

Dane (26) is grieving for his deceased partner and on the insistence of his sister goes to visit her in Vermont for a month. Almost immediately, he runs into his first love, Theo (29). Theo, who 10 years before broke Dane's heart, starts pursuing Dane and making the moves on him.

This was a good read but I was dissatisfied with the ending. I felt like Theo was only taking from the relationship and never giving anything back. There was no compromise, he just stated what he wanted to happen and if it didn't then it couldn't work out. Even though at the end Theo tried to compromise, it was already too late by then, Dane ended up giving Theo what he wanted.

Anita says

So clearly I am late to the Shawn Lane party!! This was uber sexy yet very sobering. Dane's partner has died and Dane discovers that he was keeping secrets from him. He's devastated by the sudden death of Donald and doubly so because of what he found out. He decides to go to Vermont where he grew up to spend time with his sister. Once there, he runs into a blast from his past. I had some difficulty with Theo, at first.

Thought he was creepy, pushy and completely inappropriate. As the book proceeds, though, I was left feeling that the situation Dane finds himself in mirrors reality in all its complicated confusion. Emotions are unbelievably complex. How you should feel. How you should act. I must admit that Dane and Theo's relationship gave me pause but who is to say that what he's doing is wrong. For that, I say, kudos to Dane for living his life. This book really made me think. The writing was strong, the characters engaging. Great secondary characters and the depiction of Dane's distant members of his family well done. The smexy bits.... OMG burned up my Kindle! Downloaded quite a few of this author's other books.

Morgana says

[I didn't like the fact that only a month after the death of his lover of six years the MC started having sex with another man. Doesn't matter that person was the other MC. The whole thing just didn't sit right with me. (hide spoiler)]

Alina says

I love Shawn Lane's stories and this one was no exception!

Dane was a very likeable and sympathetic protagonist, I loved how their relationship with Donald were described and I really liked Donald, despite his mistake it seems he really loved Dane.

Theo was a really nice guy too. I expected there'd be some time before I'd warm up to him, but I actually liked him from the moment he made the first appearance :)

Very well done!

Pete W says

3.5 round up.

A smooth reading story. The angst level was not overwhelming despite the overall subject of losing one's partner.

Dane loses his partner of six years, Donald, to heart attack. Dane discovered Donald's secret one that Donald planned to discuss with Dane but he died before he got to. A few days before and was struggling to cope with the fact that Donald died before Dane got the chance to talk about that secret. That resolved soon enough but left Dane with uncertainties.

I think that it was a missed opportunity to do more with Donald's family. I kept thinking that perhaps Dane should have left the house to Donald's son but I guess it's not on his mind.

About another MC, Theo, while I think that it was too soon for Dane to start things with Theo, perhaps it wasn't as much as beginning anew but rekindle the old flame. However, that would have been more of a high school crush and not full scale love since they were only together once before Theo chickened out and

withdrawn from Dane. Theo pretty much made up for lost time, all but plowed through Dane's defenses and reluctance to get Dane under him.

I agreed with another reviewer that Theo hardly made any concession for Dane at all. Everything must be in Theo's terms, from the very beginning when Theo got scared and avoid Dane to the time in the book when 'Yes I want you here full time in my house, in my life' no matter how you feels that you buried your SO only a month ago.

Also, long-distance relationship... How did Dane (or the author, perhaps it just to make the point) figured that he would only see Theo only twice a year? Dane had the money he should be able to make the trip like once every two months or something. All in all, Theo and Dane seems to require a lot more communications to maintain this relationship.

Most of the secondary characters except for Dane's family seemed to appear only to serve a purpose and then disappear. Perhaps this is to emphasize that Dane was pretty a loner who content with Donald and a few people in his life.

Overall, I think this is a pretty sweet story but not completely due to a few dark points here and there.

Candice says

This story was okay for me. There was a lot of potential for this story in the beginning, however, then it sort of went downhill for me after that. I found Dane's quick turnaround after his partner of six years died a little too fast and unbelievable. I like second chance stories, but this one did not work for me.
