



The Ties That Bind 1

D.A. Young

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It's 1994 and the summer to beat all summer's in Chatham, New Mexico as twin brothers Ransom and Harley Lawson, sons of the President of The Immortals MC are being groomed for higher-ranking positions. One is chosen to lead by birthright while the other is to be his right hand and brother's keeper.

Inseparable since birth, nothing and no one has ever come between the twenty-two-year old twins until the return of an ex-con club member and the arrival of a beautiful stranger cause their worlds to shift and their priorities right along with it.

Fed up with her grandfather's high-handed behavior, eighteen year-old Willamina "Billy" Stanton bolts from Santa Barbara wine country and heads to Chatham to escape the madness and meet her estranged father when she stumbles into Immortals territory and the arms of one, sexy, green-eyed biker.

For Ransom, she is everything his young heart will ever desire, even more than the title of "Prez", but his loyalty to Harley and the club come first, a fact that he's reminded of as his twin heads down a dangerous path.

Love blooms while deceit is planted and loyalties are tested.

Welcome to The Ties That Bind, book one of a three-installment series that starts in the past and leads up to the present.

The Ties That Bind 1 Details

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From Reader Review The Ties That Bind 1 for online ebook

Tracey says

This is my review and how I see it. Author D.A. Young's The Ties That Bind explores the relationship between Billy and Ransome two strangers that are drawn to each other at first sight.

Billy just having suffered a recent tragedy and the breakdown of a relationship that never fully got off the ground decided to visit the only person in her life that she never met.

Ransom the second born twin of the Immortals MC president Slade is the strong and silent type, but has no problem voice and breaking his own rules when it comes to Billy. However, Ransom has his own issues on the homefront and he will do everything in his power to keep his relationship with Billy and his club life separate.

Knowing their time is limited someone is bound to get hurt. Will the ties that bind Ransom to the club overrule his relationship with Billy or will a misunderstanding cause heartache on both parts?

This story ends on a cliffhanger I did not expect and September is just around the corner I can not wait to read the second book of this series.

This is my review and how I see it.

KiaBoO says

Explosive read

I just had to write a review for this one. I started this book not knowing what to expect, and then got brought into a world I wasn't expecting. I loved everything about the main characters Billy and Ransom. I felt like I was right there with them throughout this whole story. I won't say much, but you have to read this one. I'm literally feenin for the next part. Yes, it ends in a cliffhanger, but don't let that stop you from picking up this read. This book characters definitely bring you in, from Marcus, to Claudia, Shakes, and Blaze. Plus you have those characters you love to despise, in my case it's Harley, Slade, and Pitch with a passion. Another great read by D A Young. Can't wait for the next one

Musings of A Romance Junkie says

She Did That!

Y'all! This is unlike any DA Young story that I've ever read before. Yes, it has the familiar elements of love, loss, a-ha moments... But who knew she had a downright mean and dirty side?! The range, y'all. The range!

Just so you know, this is an MC (motorcycle club) romance. As with any biker story, there are some harsh elements that will have your eyebrows touching your hairline. I love the good vs. evil element between the

two brothers, Ransom and Harley. I love the feisty, headstrong heroine Billy. I love the picturesque settings of the southwest. I can smell the beer and sweat emanating from The Immortals compound. I see a\$\$es wiggling at the local strip joint. I can hear the roar of the Harleys as they push up dirt with every take off. I can feel the chemistry between Ransom and Billy leap from the pages, and yes, I even shed a tear or two during pivotal moments in this story.

All of this is what makes The Ties That Bind a winner. My every sense and emotion were captured. And that ending??? You better come through with book 2!

Tia Stewart says

The Ties That Bind

Looking for a book that causes you to anxiously await the next installment on pins and needles? Well look no further, this first installment allows us as readers to start at the beginning love story for Ransom and Billy. Billy is faced with the pain of losing a parent and picking up the pieces afterwards. Ransom is a hardcore guy who is apart of a MC known for their rough and tough demeanor. These two cross paths and this first installment shows the start of their coupling. This book gives you the good, bad, and ugly start of these two individuals. Ransom and Billy are faced with challenges, obstacles, and opposition. DA Young gives you enough to leave you on the edge of your seat in anticipation of more. Can't wait to see what happens next in the series. Come on September. Another great book in this author's catalog of greatness. DA Young, keep writing, keep believing, and keep pushing past your naysayers!!

Ashley Smith says

Omg!!!

I just love billy and ransom. Wow that cliffhanger was so out of left field i didnt even see that one coming!! Cant wait for part 2!!

Dawn says

Lots of ish going on in this book

**** possible spoilers****

This is my first book by this author. I'm not sure how a "biker gang" book is supposed to be written but there was a cheese factor level going on with the male and female leads.

So we meet Billy. Billy has gone through a life crisis at the age of 18. At a request from her mother, she goes to live with her grandparents, never knowing her father. After a while, Billy understands why her mother left home.

While all of this happening, you meet Ransom. The younger half of identical twins Harley and Ransom.

They are the sons of club Prez Slade Lawson of the immortals Mortor cycle club. Ransom just knows the MC Is the way of life. He will always be of service to his family. But Slade and Harley have other plans along with Pitch.

So Billy and Harley meet and it's lust at first sight lol They were cute but I understand a little when other reviewers say their characters were one-dimensional. They are really young in this book but almost seem to have an older adult mindset except for the spat about their relationship was childish at best. The book left many questions. Especially about Harley and what is going on with Harley. He and Pitch are serial killers? Possibly and the twist at the end with Angela. Yup, the rest of the book is going to be interesting. Everybody is deep in Ish. Billy's Grandparents, Billy's father. Ransom's Brother, father and mother are all in some mess. I'll read other books by this author.

Robin says

OMG!!! I need book 2 ASAP!!!

Cherryl Montgomery says

Some people have a harder lesson to learn than others

Harley and Pitch have set themselves up for a deadly lesson to be learned. Harley's attitude and behavior is just atrocious and Pitch is just as bad being his enabler with his own agenda. Slade Lawson, Harley and Ransom's father, may have learned his lesson too late for Claudia Vargas his wife and mother of the twins. She may be giving him back a taste of his own medicine. Even Neville Stanton, Willamina "Billy" Stanton's grandfather is making an effort to change his ways for the sake his granddaughter.

When Ransom rescued Billy from car trouble on the side of a lonely country road, they both felt an instant attraction and chemistry. They held off on consummating that attraction but when they did, it was on and popping hot and heavy. They fell deeply in love for one another. There were only several problems with this relationship. Ransom did not want his fancypants anywhere around his family's motorcycle club, the Immortals. He did not want to contaminate her life with this lifestyle and neither did her father Marcus "Rage" Glover. The other problem was that Billy was scheduled to start her freshman year in college in several weeks and would have to leave. They wanted to make the best of their time together where Ransom spent as much time with his wildthing as possible before she was to leave. Despite this, Billy was willing to try to make a long distance relationship work. Ransom felt the same way and had a difficult time in verbalizing how he really felt to her. He wanted to keep his fancypants by his side and never left her go but felt that that would not be fair to her. Billy misinterpreted his silence as his only being content with their relationship being only a sexual one and abruptly left Chatham. Little did she know that when she left, she left a gaping whole in Ransom's chest where his heart used to be and this turned his world upside down.

This was a well written story about a strong sassy independent young woman trying to go on with life and mourning the death of her mother and dealing with falling in love for the first time. It's going to be interesting to see what's in store for Billy and Ransom in the upcoming books.

Lynnai says

Bully's Ransom

I don't normally read books about young adults, but I am a D.A. Young fan. So I decided to read this one. I was pleasantly surprised. I was engaged from beginning to the end and liked getting to know the characters. I loved Billy's personality she did not play. Ransom is a better man with her. He had quite a bit to juggle. Harley needs serious help. The ending ?

Nile Princess says

Started off well enough, and I was really excited, but it turned into a clichéd, overdone mess that had me skimming. I LOVED Ransom. Billy, I liked her half the time and was irritated with her the other half. I'm deathly allergic to ghetto and her mother's advice, though good in theory, just proved annoying and an excuse for her to act a fool. I was really enjoying her and Ransom though, until she threw me for a loop with the typical black heroine faulty, dramatic non-logic. So you've decided that this is a temporary thing, and you're leaving town soon because a biker town is not in your future and you have a life to go back to. That already threw me for a loop since it seemed like she was thinking long term, but then when Ransom said EXACTLY what she just said, for the exact same reasons, she's mad and huffy because he's 'giving up', and doesn't 'want to fight' for their all-of-five-day relationship. Then you up and leave town without telling him. For why? Cause you're independent and he didn't tell you he loved you back when you told him? Yeah ok. Just totally lost me, and I really have no interest in reading about their reunion. Also, I HATED the undercover law enforcement reveal. So clichéd and corny.

The most interesting thing to me now is the reveal at the end, and to see what will happen with Harley. And the Marcus/Claudia angle cause that will surely throw a wrench in MANY things.

Sherry Molock says

Passionate

I'm a big fan of the author's work so I was really happy to see there was a new series. This is a MC romance, which is one of my favorite genre. This is the story of Random and Willamina " Billy", who goes to the small town where Ransom MC is located to get to know her estranged father after her mother's death from cancer. Neither of them plan on starting a relationship but the fiery chemistry between them can't be denied. The author always writes pretty complex plots so there are LOTS of characters to get to know and lots of plot twists. I really like Billy a lot, she's young but she's pretty mature and while she falls for Ransom pretty fast, she remains her own person and doesn't give up her dreams for Ransom. Ransom is something else! Handsome and passionate about all things Billy, he falls hard for her but is conflicted because of his loyalty to his club and to his deranged identical twin Harley.

The only reason I didn't give the book 4 stars is its a cliffhanger. Why don't authors tell you that upfront?! I would have waited for the entire series to be published so I wouldn't have disruptions in my reading.

Marquitta Warren says

Amazingly Wonderful!!

WOW!! This was truly one of the best MC books I've ever read. firstly, Slade is a horrible man, leader and dad they way he ran his family and tortured his sons I can see how Harley is disturbed he really needs some help he is on a self destructive path along with Pitch. I love Ransom he was so protective of Harley, he was caring and loyal with a kind heart. When Billy showed up she changed him and his whole demeanor changed he was acting differently with her and it was because he fell in love for the first time. Thing got messed when he denied what they had for the club and his brother but, he realize he messed up it was to late because she was gone. Man this is one crazy ride Harley is into some deep mess and Ransom is stimbling down the road of heartbreak while Billy has an unknown crush who's fighting to win her over. D. A. Young has left me with so many questions and courios to what's going to happen next. She has never disappointed me from her very first release until now. I know she will definitely bring it in part 2.

Monique says

Where do I begin with this one? For full disclosure, this is my first time reading a D.A. Young book. I won't bother with a summary of *The Ties that Bind*. Let's get right to the review. I'm anxious to be done with it.

The Good

Technically speaking the book was readable. There was some copy edit issues, but that's par for the course with indie reads. Pacing was touch and go. It took me two days to get through the sample. Keep in mind that's only fifteen percent of the book. Otherwise, the structure of the story was fine, although the author was inconsistent with how she formatted her dialogue. Parts of present conversations were sometimes italicized for no reason, which could be confusing when flashbacks were also italicized. What stood out the best though?

Young does a respectable job laying out the rough and dirty atmosphere of a biker gang. There are no Prince Charmings in this bunch. These are unpleasant people; men and women alike. This is no fairytale dressed in a leather cut. And while there's little to nothing to love about the bikers in this story, there is one thing to love about the heroine.

The author does something I rarely see in the BWWM Romance genre, she creates a heroine with an aesthetic that doesn't fall into the trap many other books are plagued with: colorism and featurism. Billy, is described as having deep brown skin (nutmeg if you will – gotta love those food adjectives), dark brown eyes, full lips and a broad nose. Well, I do not know how many BWWM romance books you've read, but I cannot count one time, not one time, I've read a book in this genre that described the heroine as having a broad nose. If I'm being honest, that's the sole reason, she earned the first star in this review. On that alone, she deserved props. But there's nothing prop-worthy about the rest of this review.

The Bad

Outside of aesthetics, Billy is a threadbare, superficial character. From the writing, I gather that the intention is for us to empathize with her. That she is the focus, the main guide on this journey. But she's a poor guide. We're offered unflattering tidbits about her: she buys drugs, steals, and is quick to fight when someone disrespects her. But later, these actions are glossed over as mere misunderstandings. That she did these things

for a noble cause. I would respect the story more, if the author had stuck by this depiction, and built the character up, allowed the character to grow from her youthful, misguided behaviors. Giving her an out, just seemed uninteresting and trite. Also, we're constantly reminded how, innocent, poised, sophisticated and well-off Billy is, and yet, her actions and behaviors are the complete opposite. Aside from the constant brand dropping throughout the story, Billy constantly uses slang, refers to women as bitches and ho's, overreacts to minor situations with violence or the threat of violence, and has no problem offering her body to someone of questionable character, who she barely knows. I get that the character is eighteen, what I do not get is why we're supposed to believe that this eighteen year old who was raised in wealth and privilege is acting so basic and hood-like? Are we supposed to just ignore that and pretend that's not the background she was given? That her actions don't match up to that background? Of course, the author tries and fails to provide a reason for Billy's off-ness by interjecting her dead mother into the narrative. In my opinion, that's just lackluster writing. When it all winds down, we're left with one of the most basic and trite tropes that run rampant through this genre. A cliffhanger I don't need to spoil it here, you can guess without thinking too hard on it. It's like, really? But let me move on, because a threadbare heroine and trite ending is one thing, the rest of the story is a different, graver matter. One that just doesn't pass the sniff test.

The Ugly

I do not want to spoil too much here for those of you that decide to forge ahead and read this book despite my review. But I will state this, have some Tylenol on hand, and read on an empty stomach. Aside from the massive headache you may come away with, you may also be inclined to repeatedly dry heave. This story contains rape. Yes, rape. Not dubious consent or some BDSM play. No, I'm talking brutal rape and murder. Speaking of murder, there's lots of it in this book. Human life is taken without so much as a bat of the eye. And the victims most thoroughly explored are women. That is something that's too ugly to contemplate. That the hero of the story is very aware and involved in this behavior is something that kills the romance vibe. A romance mind you that never had wings to begin with.

Young does everything wrong in building the romance aspect of the story. From the trite way in which they meet, to having the hero and heroine fall in love at first sight without any nuance. They get physical in the blink of an eye – again without any build up or nuance. But most egregious is that the heroine reacts in a dismissive manner to the hero's confession of being involved in illegal and violent behavior (including murder). That is far from romantic. Frankly, it's gross!

Sutter did it better

Now, I know (it's painfully obvious) the author was inspired by *Sons of Anarchy* - and I personally have no objection to stories being created and built around fictional Motorcycle Clubs. What I have a problem with is, everyone thinking they're Kurt Sutter, when they ain't! The reason S.O.A with all its problems, worked, is because Sutter made you care about the characters. Even the most despicable ones. He built a universe with intricate plots. He developed characters so that you understood their motivations (right or wrong). Most of his villains and heroes weren't drawn as black or white. There's layers to this! Most important he wasn't writing a romance or erotic series! And if you do not get that, then trying to write something as hard as this is going to go very wrong, very fast. Sadly, Young's story took a wrong turn fast, and failed to hit its mark. Unless she's writing a thriller, sans the romance, I don't see how she can recover from this. The book, as edgy romance, just doesn't work. Will I continue this series? Before this book, I hadn't read any of the MC series that have popped up in the years since *Sons of Anarchy* hit the airwaves. *The Ties that Bind* doesn't endear me to explore the trend further. I'm 99% certain, I will **not** continue with this series. Until next time, happy reading!

My rating: A Sutter did it better 2.0

Amber says

This is the type of drama in a book I live for ?

Se'Quasha Smith says

3.5 Stars. I dug this novel. It was entertaining, and the characters were interesting. The cliffhanger had me shook.
