



# The Freshman

*Louise Collins*

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## **The Freshman** Louise Collins

Nate Mathews is a murderer. Alfie doesn't know the details of his crime, and he doesn't want to. All he knows is Nate Mathews is evil, and his colleagues at Larkwood prison shudder at his name.

But Alfie has caught Nate's eyes, and they start flirting in the early hours. It's forbidden, terrifying, but arousing too. One whisper of 'Freshman' from Nate, and Alfie's stomach flutters, and his pulse increases. Alfie knows if he reads Nate's file his attraction to the criminal will turn to disgust, but he can't bring himself to do it. He likes Nate. Nate makes him feel wanted, and that's a first for Alfie.

Is Nate genuine? Or is Alfie destined for heartbreak?

## **The Freshman Details**

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Author : Louise Collins

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## From Reader Review The Freshman for online ebook

### Chris says

4.5 stars ... holy smokes ! A forbidden adventure for Alfie as he becomes the obsession of Nate - the high level prisoner he guards on the night shift. I loved the relationship build and could totally understand Alfie falling for Nate. I wished for an epilogue- I have so many questions!!! Read this in one hit.. really was great

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### Nazanin says

[what was on Nate's file that Alfie didn't read?? What were the details of Nate's escape plan?! And how was Nate so rich?! (hide spoiler)]

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### Truuss says

5 BIG stars

Oww whoahh!! I loved this one. Read it in one breathe, because i couldn't put it down. Forbidden so forbidden but my goodness... it was more than awesome.!!

Alfie always has the night shifts in the Larkwood prison. As being the youngest the nicknames are flying around his head. When he hears a voice whisper 'Freshman' and sees Nate for the first time he is speechless. But Nate is a dangerous killer. Together they play a dangerous game.

The building up and anticipation was just killing. The tension throughout the whole story was more than excellent. The dark atmosphere enchanting and addictive. The prison at night makes you shiver. But Alfie and Nate's dynamic tops it all.

I was constantly holding my breath... Christ that was one hell of a read.

The way of writing was more than captivating... i was under it spell. It made me lightheaded. This all take place in a quite small environment and that makes is even more attractive.

This should definitely be made into a movie!!

Kindly received an arc from the author

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### Gabriella (Gabi) says

I misjudged this book.

It's dark, sure.

But what makes it dark is the setting and the psychological war that's going on inside Alfie's head. There's no blood and gore and torture, and stuff like that.

Other than that, it's pretty effing romantic! <3

Nate seduced me with his purring "Freshman..." grrr ;P He's very intense.

Alfie is your typical Goody Two-shoes. He follows the rules and is compassionate. And loyal, he just doesn't know who to be loyal to, and therein lies the problem. He is different than the other guards, because he doesn't treat them as trash, he sees the human in them and not the animal who did those crimes. The back and forth between Nate and Alfie was fascinating to watch. How Alfie was trying to figure out if he was being played by the inmate, or if his interest in him is genuine or not.

And did I miss the part where Nate's age was mentioned, cuz I don't know. I put him around his early thirties. Which means there's at least a 12-year age gap.

I'm also not sure if it's possible to hire an 18-year old as a prison guard.

Also there were a few things that didn't make sense, like... shouldn't there be cameras in a prison?

I'm not well-versed in the prison-world, so I don't know these things.

The ending was wrapped up pretty fast, I wouldn't have minded an epilogue.

Overall I enjoyed it a lot. :D Recommended!

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### **Shin Mon Thway says**

**DAMNNNNN!!! ? All that super yummy UST! ? Kept me on the edge all damn time! If you still don't know me after all this time, I'm an impatient gal! ? I like sizzling UST just like the other gals! But I normally hate it when the action still hasn't happened at 50% mark. Well, certainly not the case in this book. I would say "The Freshman" the book is uniquely refreshing, intriguing and captivating. ? If you are not fastidious about minute details and love suspenseful, thrilling romances, this one is certainly for you. ?**

*Alfie is the youngest prison guard at Larkwood prison and he's getting sick of being treated like a child. His colleagues keep calling him fish, newb and other irritating nicknames and they certainly don't have any respect for him. In fact, Alfie has never felt wanted, loved and respected from anyone. Coming from a foster system, life was tough and unforgiving for Alfie. Nobody gives a shit about whether he lives or dies and nobody would miss him if he disappeared the next day. That was true until he met Nate Matthews, the triple murderer whose name gave a shudder to all the prison guards at Larkwood prison. Alfie knew Nate was capable of evil things, well, he did kill 3 men in cold-blooded murder. But Nate gives a shit about him. And like a fly who got trapped by a honey pot, Alfie couldn't help falling for flirty, charming, caring and confident Nate. But Nate is in prison for life and Alfie himself could go to prison if people find out he's been cajoling with Nate. The only possible outcome from this secret relationship is for them to part ways. But Nate has very different ideas and plans about Alfie and his future. And Alfie soon finds out Nate would irreversibly change both their lives, for better or for worse. ?*

Like I said, if you are a nitpicking reader who wants all their details and puzzles solved, this might not be the book for you. However, if you can forgo reality and are amiable with going along for a ride, well, my friend, you are in one hell of a ride. ? It was just so interesting and captivating to see how Alfie started to get attracted to Nate despite his better judgement. Nate is one very complicated and complex character. He was an enigma, caring and loving to those who he holds dear and ruthless and

cruel to those who ever dare to cross him. It was just so enthralling to see how this story unraveled piece by piece and I loved every single second of it. ? The only complaint I can make for this delicious book is the lack of an epilogue but it ended with a very satisfying HEA so I can't really complain that much. ? I hope Louise Collins will visit these two again in the future and provide us a glimpse into their happily ever after. This is my very first time reading the author's work and certainly won't be my last. I'm VERY impressed. ? If you are a fan of prison romance who liked their books suspenseful, mysterious and psychologically thrilling, well, you found yourself your next favorite read. ?

**5 trust me for your life and your heart stars**

??????????

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**Lorraine Lesar says**

**The slow burn that sizzles in the heat it throws out....**

My lips are sealed.

All you need to know is that this was a 5\* read for me.

But I'll be kind and warn all you purists out there that you are going to have questions, lots and lots of questions.

But....you are not going to get the answers you are looking for. And I think, that in this case, it was the right decision by the author, because did we really need to know?

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**Maria says**

Twisted and hot. Mind games. It has that funky fall for an inmate taboo. A well written page turner without oodles of erotica thrown in but sweet biscuit! The whispers alone were off the charts seductive. Trust me on this one. These are the things I really enjoyed. All of the above.

Now for the infamous eye roll. Implausibility is thy middle name. Let's just say it was a pretty long stretch, especially toward the end. Dear Author, you hooked me early and often. It got to where I didn't care anymore, vested in the characters as I was.

I would love a sequel, Nate and Alfie, Part II.

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**Karla says**

**3.5 stars!**

I had some mixed feelings with this one. It definitely started strong and it actually was a pretty solid read till the last couple of chapters. Those chapters were enough to bring down my rating and I how I ended up feeling about this book.

**What I liked** was the sexual tension, the chemistry between the MC, maybe it felt so intense because it was forbidden with one of them being a prisoner, and the other a prison guard. Whatever it was it was definitely the best part for me. Another thing I liked was how different they were not just physically but in personalities. I love when one character is more dominant and aggressive and Nate definitely was all alpha. One thing I was pleasantly surprised was the dry sense of humor especially with the other guards man some back up crew they were lol!

**What I didn't like** was the abrupt ending. The story had a great pace and for it to end up so rushed I was like WTH?! And also I thought the situation with Nate and Alfie wasn't fair especially for Alfie. An epilogue would made this story so much better for me but overall I enjoyed it. ♥?

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### **Laxmama says**

After powering through Louise Collins series Adrenaline Jake I needed to see what else she had for me. I had this one on my TBR for some time, GR fiends highly recommend, but I didn't realize it was the same author. Great story that had me hooked from the beginning. I will definitely be following

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### **Martin says**

**I absolutely loved this!**

I mean, gosh, those characters...

18 year old former foster home kid Alfie is proud of his job as a night guard in a prison. It earns him a nice income, free housing close to work and gives him a responsible task.

His colleagues call him all kinds of names, as he's still the green new guy, not to mention the youngest guard in Larkwood prison ever.

Alfie wants to finally move to the day shift, but he's grateful when he's promoted to do nights at the infamous H-Wing where the most gruesome inmates do their time. And the name of the worst monster of them all is only whispered by the other guards: Nate Mathews, triple murderer and all-out psychopath.

However, for some reason, Nate takes a liking to the new guy and whispers to him through the closed cell door when Alfie does his night round through H-Wing checking that all guys are accounted for before handing them over to the day shift staff.

Alfie thinks of himself as a professional and tries not to let Nate's seductive voice get to him, but an unguarded moment leaves Alfie vulnerable to Nate and to Alfie's surprise, the feared murderer does not turn on him, but cranks up the heat between them instead.

And with Alfie's past as an unloved foster home kid whose parents abandoned him, he slowly falls for the loving words of Larkwood's darkest character.

This is like watching a car wreck as it happens. And I am a bit angry at the blurb for spoiling basically everything up to the last page.

I absolutely loved the complexity of the characters and the darkness in the story. I love me some drama and difficulties in the stories I read, so this was basically heaven.

Sure, there were some questions left unanswered, like where the hell does a guy on a life sentence get that much cash or what exactly the guy did that everyone feared him like that. And is anything he says the truth or just a honey trap for Alfie??

And where the hell are the security cameras in that lame excuse of a high security prison?! Seriously...

The story closed satisfyingly (for me), but also leaves me wondering...  
To me, that's an awesome conclusion for a deeply psychological love story.

**5 stars and a favorite!**

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### **Alex says**

Wow... Wow...

First book from this author and I devoured it.

Too short but yet still very complete. I would have loved to have Nate's PoV but Alfie's innocence was so perfect here. I really felt everything between these 2.

LOVED IT!!!

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### **Jan says**

Holy shit!

Suspend disbelief and enjoy this ride, people!

Louise Collins **killed** at the slow burn.

I mean, sweet baby jesus....THE TENSION she created is out of this world.

It kept me on my toes all along making it really hard to put down.

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## Denise H. says

**\*\*\*\*\* This is a gem ! The anticipation, the circumstances, the erotic feel of this tale is stunning !  
In the UK, Alfie, 18, is new as a prison guard.**

**He takes more crap from his fellow guards than the prisoners.** It's tough being the new guy. His boss is cantankerous and his fellow guards are slackers.

**Triple murderer, Nate, who's been there 10 years,**

**has taken a liking to Alfie.** He calls Alfie "**Freshman**" but in a nice way, and they are drawn to each other, but Alfie can't let his guard down.

**This is unlike any prisoner book I've read.** It is a convicted killer and a guard, so, they are not the usual jail type scenarios.

**This is different, with a tenseness and sharpness that fills each scene.**

**It is a story that is fresh, exciting and "un-put-down-able."**

**Magnificent characters** all the way through, and our author makes us feel like we are there watching and waiting.

**The sex is truly vibrant. We have a wonderfully written book, with a first time with this author for me, and I'm impressed.**

**The ending is a total surprise. I loved this story.**

**Highly recommended. ENJOY !**

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Thanks to Martin and Truus for their reviews that made me take a chance on a new author !

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## MouthLeaf says

Before I say anything else, I need to get this off my chest:

This prison has the most bumbling, incompetent staff and lacking security protocol I've ever seen (and I should know, I've watched a number of prison documentaries and stuff!).

Also, whoever (copy)edited this deserves editor jail because so. many. typos.



Also, I *still* don't know why Alfie wanted to become a prison guard, it was never explained! But after having everyone ask him about it, I too want to know. Was it for the good money? Did he want to protect the world from criminals? I mean, just answer the question, Alfie!

All that being said... this weird, claustrophobic prison romance was creepily sexy. And I liked it.

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## **Ariana says**

This really is as good as many reviews have promised.

I was totally intrigued and on the edge of my seat from beginning to end.

Because what could possibly be the outcome of a young, innocent guy (Alfie) being systematically pursued by a triple murderer (Nate) but complete disaster?

The increasing trepidation as Alfie gradually falls for Nate and - against his (and my) better judgement - gives in to his seduction games, is really beautifully executed. Full kudos to Louise Collins for all the 'Don't do it!' 'Don't listen to him!' 'No no no' she ripped out of my mouth!

I could never see at any point where this was going. The end took me by surprise, I have to say, and I'm not sure if I can really condone it. I'm also not certain if Alfie really knows what he's let himself in for. It is a lovely notion that he loves Nate for the man he is NOW, not judging him for what he has done BEFORE, but ...

Nate's crime is only hinted at and we did get some kind of 'excuse' for his actions. It is never revealed, however, what he really did, apart from that it was awful. It is also made clear that he has an aggressive streak.

How can Alfie know that Nate will never ever show that side again? Not necessarily against Alfie, but other people. And how would Alfie live with that? Could he?

No doubt I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Alfie is so sweet, Nate so dark, and their sexual chemistry is intense!

This one will keep you on your toes!

Thank you so much, Christelle, for that wonderful gift! <3

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