



## When I Fall

*Belinda McBride*

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*Sometimes revenge is a kinder fate than justice. – Helios Dayspring*

As king, Helios Dayspring is desperate to secure the future of his people and their new homeworld. His memories are slowly returning, bringing with them danger and betrayal.

As the king's consort, Griffin Hawke wrestles with growing isolation from his lover. As Helios' secrets begin to come to light, he finds that he barely recognizes his lover anymore. Griffin is also haunted by his own secrets, as nightmares bring torture and death to his sleep.

When Helios and Griffin undertake a dangerous journey on behalf of their people, everything they fought for could be lost. Surrounded by enemies and allies, seductive aliens and dangerous operatives, Helios and Griffin find themselves tested to their physical and moral limits. Not knowing who to trust, they can only turn to each other.

*Will you be there to catch me when I fall?*

*Publisher's Note: This book contains explicit sexual situations, graphic language, and material that some readers may find objectionable: male/male sexual practices, violence.*

## When I Fall Details

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Author : Belinda McBride

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## From Reader Review When I Fall for online ebook

### Elizabeth says

'When I Fall' takes place about one year after the end of book one, An Uncommon Whore. If you have not read that first book you won't want to read this review because it contains spoilers.

We see things from Griffin's POV this time which is great because he remained a bit of an enigma in the first book. He has rescued Helios from his life as a slave/prostitute and brought him back to a new homeland where Helios will claim his rightful place as king.

Helios Dayspring

Here's what I loved about this installment of Griffin's and Helios' story:

we witness Griffin's inner turmoil and insecurities and how desperately in love with Helios he is

we see how the previous trauma to themselves and their people has affected Griffin and Helios and how changes in their social positions affects their relationship.

the incredibly intimate moments between Griffin and Helios that have a thread of unease or distrust running beneath them

the action; the court politics and intrigue that plays out (there is also a traitor that needs ferreting out)

This was a very satisfying addition to this series and I look forward to the next, presumably about Markus.

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### Bookwatcher says

[image error]

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### Katerina says

Uhm ... I fell in love ... with Lio & Grif. This is a really great series and I can hardly wait what happens next. Exciting plot, great sex (I mean outstanding - this must be mentioned once more), sympathetic characters. I really expected something else and got so much more than I had imagined. Belinda McBride really writes with attention to detail. The world created by the author is multi-dimensional. I really enjoyed reading it.

*“And if I do?” There was something there in his eyes—a kernel of fear. A desperate hope. “If I fall?” “I’ll catch you.”*

Recommended!

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### **Td says**

3 stars? I need to try and explain this rating. There are a couple of things to consider. I'm not a sci-fi fan. I wish I liked sci-fi more but it's rare and I have to strike when the brief mood is hot. I did like the first book very much and was looking forward to this one. Also this book was almost not finished at about 40%, but Jenre's review compelled me to continue. It didn't end up abandoned and I did like it.

Sci-fi aside, this book is told from Griffin's point of view and we were not connecting at all. The guy was depressing the hell out of me, truth be told and I found myself missing Pasha/Helios' voice. It took a bit but I eventually found myself intrigued by the world, events and characters surrounding the couple and the last quarter of the book made it all worthwhile. Bottom line, I liked seeing everything that happened through Griffin's eyes, he is a good storyteller and things got exciting, but I didn't like being in his head and dealing with all his internal struggles...if that makes sense. Glad I stuck it out.

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### **Jenre says**

*When I Fall* is the sequel to *An Uncommon Whore* which I liked a great deal and reviewed [HERE](#). That previous book had been taken from the first person point of view of Pasha/Helios and I found him to be a very sympathetic narrator. *When I Fall* has a change in narrative and is taken from the first person viewpoint of Griffin, Helios' rescuer and later lover. The story picks up a little while after the end of the previous book. Helios is now established king on Neo Domus, ruling over the band of displaced refugees who have found a new home on the planet. Griffin is Helios' personal guard and consort, a position which he enjoys on the whole but which has its limitations in that Griffin is not privy to many of the state secrets that Helios has to keep. It's this which is starting to cause a rift between them as the strong and protective Griffin finds himself shut out.

The story is essentially divided into two halves. The first half, set on Neo Domus is full of political wrangling and Helios' struggles with power over the council. As the story is from Griffin's point of view, and because he is excluded from some of the things that happen, it was, for me the weakest part of the book. Griffin spends most of the time moaning about feeling sorry for himself because Helios is keeping secrets and no longer needs to rely on Griffin quite so much. Gradually we learn some of these secrets but I couldn't help but get the impression that this section would have had more dramatic impact if taken from Helios' point of view. I wanted to know his thoughts and feelings about being in power, and his frustrations and sadness over his deteriorating relations with Griffin. As it is we only get everything second hand when Helios chooses to tell Griffin. The rest of the time we are subject to Griffin's sulking insecurity about his place in Helios' life.

The second half of the story takes place on another planet as Helios make an important diplomatic visit to secure allies for Neo Domus. Here the action and tension of the book is ramped up as Helios and Griffin are

under constant threat. This allowed for less of the self-absorption from Griffin and more positive action. We are introduced to a few new species and whilst there was still some political wrangling and arguments, this was broken up by some exciting action scenes. It was in this half where Griffin and Helios begin to resolve some of their differences, narrowing the gap that had begun to widen in their relationship. It was interesting to see how the power dynamics shifted and also how the secrets between them were used to strengthen rather than weaken the relationship.

Another aspect of the book which I found very interesting was the way in which it dealt with the trauma of the past war on the Arashan people. Some readers may not like some of the more brutal descriptions of what happened when the planet was invaded by the Landaun, but I thought it added a realistic note to the lives of these displaced people who are still recovering from the terrible things that happened to them. We get more insight into Griffin and his family, especially his wife, as a result of this dwelling on the past and some of the parts where we see the effect on Griffin's children in particular were poignant.

Despite my misgivings about the first half of the book the writing is still beautifully done. The descriptions of Neo Domus were vivid and brought the place to life in my mind. The author also has a poetic way of writing at times which lifted this story from the ordinary. In particular I liked this passage where Griffin reflects on his and Helios' differing personalities:

*Helios sat down next to me, sharing the silence like the gift it was. The snow came down heavier; tree limbs bent under its weight, until the springy branches finally bowed enough to rid themselves of the burden, then sprang up to collect it again. That was Helios. He bent under his troubles, then finally let them slip away. I was more like the giant hardwoods of Arash; they would split and crack under the burden of the snow. It was a lesson I would take to heart. I wanted to be more like him.*

It was passages like this and the descriptions of the setting which added to my enjoyment of this book.

Overall, I very much liked *When I Fall*, perhaps not as much as the first book in terms of character, but it was certainly a book with more depth and richness of setting than *An Uncommon Whore*. For those who have read the first book this is a must-read, but I do suggest that you read *An Uncommon Whore* first to really understand some of the background to this sequel.

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## **Jewel says**

### 3.5 Stars

This review is for both books *An Uncommon Whore* and *When I Fall*. You really need to read them together, they do not stand well on their own.

Can you believe I have had both books on my Kindle for nearly 2 years? That seems to happen to me a lot, but I'm working on reading my fairly massive TBR. One thing that always made me pass up these books, even though the blurbs obviously appealed to me (or I wouldn't have bought the books) is I don't really find the covers appealing. Just personal preference. I had been told, by many people, however, that the story was good, so I finally decided to see for myself.

I did enjoy both books, I am happy to say. I can't help thinking, though, that the story would have been better served by having both books 1 & 2 in a single volume. I get -- I think -- why it was put out as 2 books (POV

switch and the year time jump), but that could have been made to work. In An Uncommon Whore, there is little to no conflict or angst. All of that conflict and angst is in When I Fall. Though most of the angst came from Griffin's insecurities and jealousy, which I never really understood.

Still, I enjoyed Helios and Griffin and am glad they are secure with one another by the end of When I Fall. I do wish I had not waited so long to read these stories, but better late than never, right?

I'm off to read the third book now, which features two different MC's.

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### **?♥? Michaelle ♥? says**

4.2 Stars

Just as good as the first one of the series, if for slightly different reasons. I truly adored getting more of Griffin's POV and as such learning more about his trust & self-esteem issues, about how he feels being the right hand of a King and how heart-breaking it is to know the secrets he shared with Helios but they're memories of a happier time that Helios can't remember.

I think I'd totally read a novella about the two of them and Suzan...and I know Griff says she didn't survive but something in me really wants there to be a red-headed daughter out there, tracked by or being held by the Landaun.

Also, I love it when a character can admit to his mistakes. They all had the wrong people pegged as conspirators and traitors...and won't that make Markus' story interesting?! Definitely putting it on the TBR shortlist (along with The Bacchi).

Scifi will always be my first love and stories like this only make it more obvious why that is...

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### **Elena says**

4.5 stars!

OMG! If I thought that An Uncommon Whore, Book 1 was hot, sensual, alluring and all that alongside a pretty much well-developed worldbuilding... What can I say about Book 2 When I Fall???

Belinda McBride outdoes herself in bringing a whole plethora of new species and peoples into Lio and Grif's lives!!! Again, we see two different worlds: Neo Domus - king Helios' new home - still struggling to be safe and self-sufficient, with its beautiful landscapes and colourful nature:

And Prima Vera - an Interstellar Coalition planet - with high-tech, spacecraft-like infrastructure and sunny, lush environment:

In this instalment of our Uncommon Whore's adventures we meet a lot of new creatures: the Zamoran, the Vash, the AmWere, the Somian - many of whom become Helios and Griffin's new friends and allies and also their long-time enemies: the Landaun (and let me just say: ARGH!!!)

This instalment is entirely Grif's POV for which I'm grateful, as we can see his powerful emotions (and not only positive, mind you!) and his perception of Lio's politics and deeds...

The two of them get more depth, more insight in this part. It takes place one year after the events of An Uncommon Whore and so their actions are driven by totally different motivations now...

Lio becomes a full-blood King, a true political leader of his people.

And Grif takes up the role of King's Consort, fiercely protective and supportive and... (view spoiler)

I don't want to spoil any more plot to you but with all that happens and with all the new, important protagonists, there's only one final thought that comes to my mind: this part is about **the power of FAMILY and their feelings.**

**Highly recommended for eventful sci-fi, emotional space opera fans!**

It should be read after An Uncommon Whore my review of which you can find [here](#).

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### **Heather C says**

**Who were the characters in this book?!?!** They certainly were not the same Lio and Grif from An Uncommon Whore. What happened to them because they were so great and these two guys were so boring?! First off, the story is told from Griffin's POV and it turns out that he is a really boring and depressing character with ridiculous jealousy and insecurity issues. Helios is keeping secrets from him, but Griffin is also keeping some pretty major secrets himself. Neither of them have trust and faith in their relationship...blah, blah blah. So it goes on and on like that for the entire book. (view spoiler) And then it doesn't even end with a HEA.

I **loved** the 1st book but this was nearly a dnf for me. It was overrun with planet politics that I didn't find interesting and the sex wasn't hot because I didn't like either of the characters. Even the identity of the traitor was ridiculously obvious. I do wonder if I would have enjoyed this better if I wouldn't have just read An Uncommon Whore because the two books just don't compare.

Oddly enough I still want to find out what happens next because it ends on a bit of a cliffhanger and I do really like Belinda's writing. But I don't think I will read the next story if the MCs are Helios and Griffin.

(view spoiler)

This story just wasn't for me. :( **1.5 Stars**

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### **Jess Candela says**

I had trouble getting into the first half, but stuck with it and loved the second half almost as much as the first book.

Besides Grif's sulking and self-pity, part of what made the beginning so difficult for me was that I'd just re-read An Uncommon Whore, so it was glaringly obvious to me that Maia and Lauren had swapped characters. In the first book, Maia is blonde while Lauren is the image of Grif and also scarred. In the second, suddenly Lauren is the scar-free blonde and Maia is the mini-Grif.

I had to go back and find the description in the first book to be sure, because that seemed too bizarre to have not been caught in edits. So I think my reading was more cautious for a while after that, leery of what else might trip me up. But it won me over by the end, and now I'm looking forward to reading more about Markus and Caius.

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### **Christelle says**

4 strong stars.

Part 2 of this series (can't be read as a standalone) : even better than book 1.

Helios and Griffin are back to their new “home” planet where everything has to be built to make “Neo Domus” a safe and prosperous place.

This part is full of intrigues and plots, as Helios assumes his role as King and Griffin as his consort, both having to deal with the established homeland council but also the consortium of the surrounding planets. Add in the mix the weight of secrets. All this take a huge toll on Helios and Griffin’s relationship.

It also deals with the aftermath of the war that decimated the population and this part was really heartbreakingly as Griffin’s children, falling safe again, let all their nightmares and fear surface.

I loved this atmosphere full of suspicion, doubts, anguish, but also longing, hope and love. And the steam is still as good as it was in book 1.

Helios and Griffin’s journey doesn’t disappoint and is very entertaining.

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### **Bev says**

## **Second installment of 'An Uncommon Whore' and another really good read. 4 stars and a big**

This tale is told from Griffin's POV as opposed to 'An Uncommon Whore' which was from Helios' POV. In this one, we learn that Helios is unsurprisingly struggling with the burdens of leadership/kingship, which is further complicated by the fact that the council on Neo Domus will not sanction his marriage to Griffin. The couple spend less and less time together, political intrigue, plotting and general pigheadedness on both their parts also come into the mix, so when their party eventually arrives on another planet to find out whether they have been accepted as a member of the Interstellar Coalition of Planets, assassins are waiting..... They discover who has been betraying them, they find old friends...and make new ones, and find that some of their old secrets are no longer secret. On the downside, some of their allies are murdered, others including Griff just about survive.

This was a great follow-up to AUW, and although there was a lot of politicking involved, it didn't detract too much from the story for me. Next up 'The Bacchi' which features several of the characters from this book but is **not** a sequel.

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### **Ariana says**

This follows on from book 1 (An Uncommon Whore), so you'll really need to read this beforehand!

And to make this clear: this one is told from Grif's POV.

Helios has been king for a year. It's a job he relishes, but it burdens him down at the same time. He's become more serious and introvert, and although Grif is at his side as his consort, it seems Lio doesn't share everything with him anymore. At times Grif feels shoved aside, finding out about talks and decisions only afterwards, and what's worse, he's sure that Lio is keeping bigger secrets from him.

For a man who has always made clear that he likes to be in control, this is a situation Grif finds increasingly difficult to deal with. And he starts doubting himself, Lio and their relationship. And to make matters more complicated, Grif has got a secret of his own he hasn't been able to share with Lio. And let me tell you - it's a biggie!

There's a decided atmosphere of two men deeply in love, but torn apart by circumstance. An undercurrent of bittersweet melancholy runs deeply through most of the book - and it was lovely! Both men seem to try desperately to hold on to what they've got, but not quite sure whether it will work. And so we get gorgeous moments like this:

tender, heart-wrenching lines like that:

**Grif: "You will not fall."**

**Lio: "And if I do? ... If I fall?"**

**Grif: "I'll catch you"**

mingling with deep felt anguish,

**I realized how little I know of my lover. He'd been changing during this past year, becoming a person, who was a mystery to me.**

as well as self-doubt,

**I glanced into the mirror and was transfixed by the fierce, surly expression. The harsh image reflected made me feel... sick.**

and a good portion of sex (Not sure all those BJs were necessary - \*G\*)

In short both men have to re-evaluate their relationship, whilst carving a future out for their people and trying to stay alive. Great stuff for a plot.

I also appreciated that the horrible events of the past were not just cast aside. The serious issues of the children after what they witnessed was dealt with sensitively, and my heart just broke for them. And for Grief, too.

I did enjoy the writing as a whole much better than in part 1, as I found a lot more depth in world-building and plot development. What made me grin was the author's obvious love for long hair (view spoiler) which heavily features in all love scenes. Even Grif gets to let his hair grow in the end! \*G\*

This was fun and even more "Star Warish" than the first book.

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### **Bubbles Hunty Honest & Direct Opinions says**

[First he is always mad at Lio for keeping little secrets but he is keeping huge secrets... asshole

Then when Lio was trying to explain stuff to him he just runs away leaving Lio all alone and unprotected... WTF is up with t

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### **Angel Martinez says**

Ah, SF. My greatest and first love. Too much M/M Science Fiction is mislabeled. It's M/M romance that

someone stuck on another planet. It may as well be down at the corner bar or the local club. Without the imaginative settings, tech, speculative futures, well-developed alien cultures, don't bother to label it SF. Just stick to your contemporary writing and leave the SF fans alone.

Rant over. Belinda has written Science Fiction. My biggest complaint(s) about the first book were that the universe building was a bit sketchy and the coincidences a bit too neat. This second book is the perfect companion to the first, in that it truly addresses so many of those issues.

Here, we see what motivated the baddies to invade Helios and Griff's world in the first place and come to understand a little better why they spared Helios rather than execute him with the rest of his family. We also see that the years of separation, the habits of keeping secrets, and the responsibilities heaped on both our MC's are wearing on their relationship. The first book was entirely in Helios's POV, and I mourned not being allowed Griff's. Here we get Griff - all Griff, all the time - and our brave, stalwart warrior of the first book is slowly unraveling at the seams. Partly, this is delayed trauma reaction, for both of them, partly it's coming to terms with having to share Helios with an entire planet.

While the alien races are still touched on only here and there, we do get a better picture of the galaxy and its government, of the issues facing our boys at home, of the economics and social dynamics involved. All the stuff the SF fan lives for. There's a bit of tech thrown in here and there as well (always a plus :))

This is not a happy book. Much of it has the MC's wrapped in increasing isolation and anxious guilt. (But never fear, it is a romance. You know the drill.) I enjoyed it, in many ways, more than the first, since there was more care taken with setting and history, with motivations and consequences. My only niggles would be what felt like a bit of a rushed ending and the need for Griff to regain and redeem himself (I think he's on the right track, but he's still working on it.) I fully anticipate another, since we've been introduced to Raven Hawke, huge Weres, and the possibility that Markus Dayspring was not a traitor (omg!) With so many teasers left lying around, there better be another. (Are you listening, Belinda?)

A very solid 85% - a truly enjoyable read for the SF fan.

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