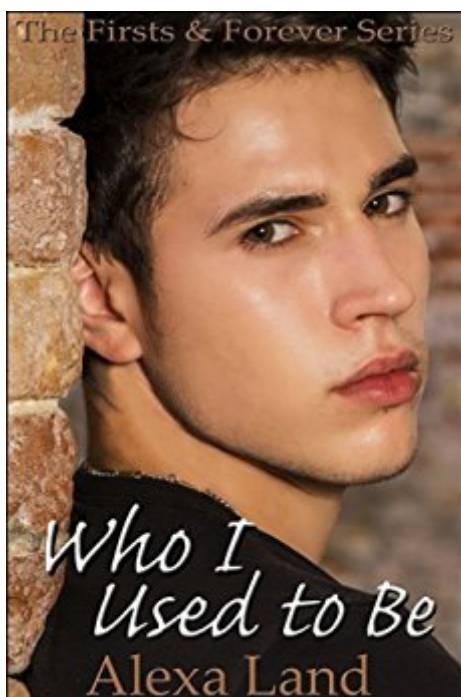


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Who I Used To Be (The Firsts And Forever Series Book 12)



Synopsis

Zachary's life is careening toward disaster. At just 24, he's had to do whatever it takes to survive, including selling his body, and the ways he's found to escape from his bleak reality are destroying him. On one of the worst nights of his life, Zachary meets TJ, a broken man with demons of his own. A former drug addiction and time in prison took him from his son Trevor at a young age and left TJ crippled with guilt. He thinks he can help Zachary though, not that he wants to be helped. It takes hitting rock bottom for Zachary to reach out to TJ, the one person he thinks will understand. Neither is expecting the attraction that flares between them, not with their substantial age difference, and certainly not while drowning in a sea of pain and regret. In the process of healing, both begin to discover so much more than they ever dreamed possible. But does love stand a chance between two lost souls who are convinced they're damaged beyond repair? *Who I Used to Be* is the twelfth book in Alexa Land's best-selling *Firsts and Forever* series, but each book is written to stand alone, so jump in anywhere. This gay contemporary romance is approximately 113,000 words in length. It contains explicit language and graphic sex and is intended for adults only.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The whole first part of this book was very depressing to read. I was literally feeling sick to my stomach as I read. I was heartsick for Zachary and I never saw what was coming. "...it made me feel so isolated, seeing all those buildings and apartments and houses, lit up and full of people. I wasn't a part of it, or of anything else. I didn't belong anywhere." This kind of stuff had me in tears. (And he was so wrong. He was wanted and DID belong to Chance, Finn, Charlie, etc.) There were some beautiful parts of this book. The way TJ took care of Zachary was sweet and kind. Zachary's friends who continued to reach out to him no matter what. Alastair's magnanimous generosity was moving, particularly because it was given without expectation of anything in return. Zachary's captivation by the small toys that TJ teaches him to make. They are symbolic of making something good out of 'junk' that others would throw away. Lovely. I always try to figure out why the author chose the title that they give a book. Sometimes titles make no sense (and I'll put that in my review because it bugs me). Sometimes they are just what you'd expect. And sometimes the title is perfect. In this case, the title is poetic and perfect and it pertains to Zachary at the 25% mark. I almost choked when I read his words, "I couldn't even remember who I used to be before...." This is about the time my heart was breaking. Nearer the end of the book, TJ also has a crisis and is thinking back to who he used to be. It's lovely how the author picked the perfect title for these two men and it's lovely how 'who they used to be' doesn't matter nearly as much as who they become together. I couldn't understand why anyone would have a problem with the age difference here.

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