



# The Intersection of Purgatory and Paradise

*A.J. Thomas*

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## **The Intersection of Purgatory and Paradise** A.J. Thomas

Life in small-town Montana has become hell for former San Diego homicide detective Christopher Hayes. No one will hire him, he has made the seething racism his lover Doug Heavy Runner faces at work worse by adding homophobia to the mix, and his most recent jog through town ends when two gay-bashing teenagers hit him in the head with a rock. Deputy Sheriff Doug Heavy Runner has never overcome the abusive relationship that traumatized and shattered him as a young adult. The memories, the lingering shame, and the fear he has never acknowledged have left him resigned to endure the discrimination he faces in Elkin. But he can't stand it when Christopher becomes a target for that same hatred.

When the mutilated body of one of the boys who assaulted Christopher is found in Doug's garage, Christopher and Doug return from a vacation in San Diego and uncover a tangle of secrets, lies, and tragedy lurking beneath Elkin's small-town façade. With their relationship at a crossroads, they'll have to work together to catch the killer and maybe find a paradise of their own.

## **The Intersection of Purgatory and Paradise Details**

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Author : A.J. Thomas

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## **From Reader Review The Intersection of Purgatory and Paradise for online ebook**

### **Anke says**

As this is obviously the follow-up of book#1 of this series, I'll give this a try, although book#2 really didn't work for me at all.

Just finished! Read it more or less in one sitting and loved it from first to last page. Much, much better than book#2 of this series. And I wouldn't mind to read a follow-up.

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### **Cathy Brockman says**

What's at the Intersection of Purgatory and Paradise? Two sexy men, a lot of angst and chilling suspense. (This is book three of the Least Likely Partnership books and I do recommend you read book one before this one. There is plenty of information drop that it fills you in but you have better understanding if you read Just a Casual Weekend first.)

This book takes us back to Doug and Christopher. Chris is still trying to heal from his ordeal a year ago. Elkin looks at Christopher as the pedophile his brother was. He can't get a job and basically runs and hangs at the ranch until Doug gets home from work.

Doug doesn't realize until too late that when they went back to Christopher's home for the Wedding of his partner Ray and Elliot that Chris may not be going back with him.

Then there is a fire and a dead boy in Doug's shed causing him to cut his vacation short.

I love Doug and Chris. We get more insight into both men in this story and Doug's past. The murders are a bit gruesome but well written. It is mostly off the page but we get just the right amount of detail to show us just how bad it was. There is a fine balance of happiness from the wedding to help tone down all the angst. I am a big fan of titles and especially like it when the title is prominent part of the story. I loved how A.J. dropped the reason for the title in the story. I found that a pretty swoon-worthy moment. Let's not forget about the sexual dynamics between these two men. Very sexy!

If you like a good mystery/suspense/drama with lots of angst, police detectives, broken men, a sweet loving sexy romance, and some hot man-sex this is for you!

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### **Harshini says**

Skipped book 2 as I wasn't interested in reading about the other partnership.

Have to post some of the quotes I highlighted later, great writing style, great characterisation & plot, pretty much everything I want in a book

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## **Chris says**

4.5 stars a great follow up from book 1 - Christopher and Doug's life continued to be dragged down by the dramas in Elkin until they came back to San Diego for Rays wedding. Reality hit and changes needed to be made. Christopher was miserable in Elkin but he loved Doug - even after a year of almost being hidden. Doug couldn't let go of the past and remained in Elkin as a form of penance. While they came to a point of major emotional pain another death occurred that dragged them back to Elkin. Of course drama continued but eventually all was well. They really deserved their HEA

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## **Vfields Don't touch my happy! says**

I have been worried about Christopher Hayes since April 2014. No joke! We left him staying with Doug healing from his injuries and the whole thing felt like HFN not HEA to me. I had so many concerns about them and I thought about it often. It stuck with me through book #2 and now finally I get the closure I needed in book #3. All that crazy should tell you what a good, solid writer AJ Thomas is. This mystery series has all the elements of a hard-boiled mystery; hard life, tough choices, fear and disappointment, a series of potential suspects, that ends with a confrontation between detectives and criminals. There's some ugly things going on with the boys on the football team that keeps getting uglier. While all that's going on Doug Heavy Runner is one lucky man to have Christopher love him the way he's love and wait for him to make decisions for *them* not just for *himself*.  
If there's a #4 I'm all on board.

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## **Andrea (Catsos Person) is a Compulsive eBook Hoarder says**

I can read and reread this series and I love it every time. Doug and Christopher have place of honor on my "favorite couples" shelf here at GR. This is a special place for romance titles of any gender combination who are special to me.

MMRG Ultimate Challenge February 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018. March/February bonus, state, Montana.

First Reading/Review November 15, 2015

I'm giving this a 5-star rating on the contingency that there is at least one more book about the two MCs featured here. If I find out this is the last book, I'm taking this rating down to 3 stars.

I love these MCs and I hope there is more to come because I think there is more of their story that needs to be told.

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## **ConM says**

Very good. Good action, suspense and a relationship that moved realistically forward.

And perhaps more books in the series?

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## **Jewel says**

4.5 Stars

*The Intersection of Purgatory and Paradise*, while the third book in the Least Likely Partnership series, is the continuation of Doug and Christopher's story from book 1, *A Casual Weekend Thing*.

They've been together for a year now, and Christopher is having trouble digging himself out of depression. He can't find work in Elkin, MT because pretty much everyone in their small town sees Christopher as being like his brother was. The fact that Christopher is gay just makes it worse. Christopher loves Doug, but Doug won't even consider leaving Elkin and Christopher knows he can't be happy there.

But Doug isn't any happier than Christopher is about living in Elkin. He feels it is his penance, for something that he should see wasn't his fault. Still, he feels the bigotry and isolated feel of his home town are deserved. And Doug has more than just bigotry against gay people to contend with. He is also Salish, so he has plenty of experience with racial bigotry, too.

A brief reprieve to San Diego for a wedding, shows them both what life could be. They can be open there and both of them could easily get work with the San Diego Police Department. Christopher wants to move back to San Diego where he can work and be open about who he is again. He wants Doug to come with him and knows that Doug could be happy there, too.

Meanwhile, back in Montana, the body of a teenage boy is found on Doug's property, so he has to go back for the inquiry. A stubborn misunderstanding prompts Doug to go back alone. And this is where we find our angst. Thankfully, that angst resolves itself within a couple days.

The suspense story line was pretty good, though I suspected who the murderer was early on. The event that triggered the whole murder plot line just broke my heart. No one should have to endure what that boy went through.

While working this case, which hit rather close to home, both figuratively and literally, for both Doug and Christopher, they each discover what's really important in life and love. I loved the story behind the book title, too. It was romantic and sweet and it helped Doug to find his way. I teared up a little there.

If you enjoyed the first book in this series, I think you will like this one, too. Recommended.

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## **Susan65 says**

I loved *A Casual Weekend Thing*; it was one of my favorite books, so I was excited to see Doug Heavy Runner and Christopher Hayes get another book. Doug had a lot more to his story that was barely touched upon, so Chris needed to get to the root of his issues before they could attempt a forever kind of relationship. In addition to their own relationship issues, the guys are dealing with murder and suicide cases that will rock the town's foundation, including the police department. Of course, our boys are right smack in the middle of

it all.

Watching Doug ignore the homophobia running rampant in his small town Montana home, while Chris is continually being treated like crap, was really hard to read. No matter what Chris did, he was always suspected in any nefarious business, even when the evidence was to the contrary. How Doug could just blow that off didn't sit well with me. I was rooting for Chris to move back to San Diego even if it meant these two had to split up...it was that bad.

The title of the book is an excellent representation of the back and forth between these two men who are trying to build a life together. Doug needed to stop punishing himself and allow them to be happy, and Chris needed to nudge him along. I believe Doug would have lived his life dutifully going about his business, regardless of how the town treated him, had he not met Christopher...and that's really sad. Fortunately, Doug loved Chris more than he hated himself and his past. I was so very happy with the ending, I don't think I would have been happy with any other outcome.

As much as I liked this story, and loved catching back up with Doug and Chris, it was not as exciting as the first book, and I found myself gladly seeing them settled in their new life together. If there is another book, I will probably read it, but I think it ended well here.

The Blogger Girls

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### **Kade Boehme says**

Holy shit. \*stands\* \*slow claps\*

And THAT is how a sequel is done, ladies and gentlemen. I was nervous because I loved LOVED Casual Weekend Thing so much, but the only thing I was frustrated by (though it didn't stop me from 5 starring the shit out of that book) was that the book was SO FUCKING BLEAK and hard to get thru so the HFN was good but after all the fight I wanted a bit more. But it was too good to hold that against the book since they did in fact end up together. And I was kinda opposed to a sequel, preferring just an epilogue or something.

But AJ, dear, you out did yourself. This was perfection. Loved it.

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### **Linda ~ chock full of hoot, just a little bit of nanny ~ says**

[Discussion of rape, pedophilia and incest; violent murders, one of which is described in detail; racism; homophobia; suicide and suicide ideation. (hide spoiler)]

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### **?? ? Michaele ✨?? says**

4.5 Stars

Such a great way to wrap up what I really thought was an unrealistic HEA in the first book. We all want everyone in such a small town to recognize people for their worth, to not stereotype or treat badly those

different than themselves. And I wanted these guys to find a bit of paradise in the place Doug chose to make his home. But man, that didn't seem possible given the citizens in that book. (Not counting the side characters.) This is the ending I really kind of wanted in the first place.

So, it feels like the whole saga has been wrapped up but I must mention that I would totally read a book centered on Alejandro and all his fucked-upedness. Especially given the epilogue.

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### **Baba says**

[Jeff, Levi and Michael. (hide spoiler)]

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### **Lou~Silver Medalist in DNF's says**

[ after Doug told Christopher about his past, he assumed their relationship was done. Okay, a little weird. The part I just couldn't get, even ripping the bandage off, he left without so much as a fare-thee-well-nice-knowing-ya? After a year of living together. Er what? (hide spoiler)]

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### **LynW says**

I am happy to say, even though the second in the series didn't do it for me, this one was back to the caliber of the first.

I love Doug and Christopher and am thrilled with their HEA. It did seem that there is room to continue on so I will look for another!

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