



# Inhaling Smoke

*Tia Fielding*

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## Inhaling Smoke Tia Fielding

Dear Author,

*They did not think I could do this, when a phone call woke me and my boyfriend, telling me my best friend who I had donated sperm to had died in a terrible accident, and it was me or foster care for the baby. They did not think I could raise this baby. Being a tattooed, pierced, young, gay tattoo artist. But I WILL prove them wrong. I will be amazing. \with the help of my super supportive boyfriend I will get through this.*

### Photo Description:

A shirtless young man with tattooed arms, stretched ears and a lip piercing holds a toddler. The baby is looking down at something; it almost looks like they're drawing together.

This story was written as a part of the M/M Romance Group's "**Love's Landscapes**" event. Group members were asked to write a story prompt inspired by a photo of their choice. Authors of the group selected a photo and prompt that spoke to them and wrote a short story.

This story may contain sexually explicit content and is **intended for adult readers**. It may contain content that is disagreeable or distressing to some readers. The M/M Romance Group strongly recommends that each reader review the General Information section before each story for story tags as well as for content warnings.

## Inhaling Smoke Details

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## **From Reader Review Inhaling Smoke for online ebook**

### **Lucy says**

Very sweet, very fluffy even with the tragedy.

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### **mw138 says**

Tattoo artist, Austin, has a great life. He has a job he loves, a best friend who always supports him and, best of all, an incredible man, Micah, whom he loves with all his heart. Tragedy strikes and Austin is faced with raising his best friend's son (well, the little boy is technically his son since he donated the sperm). Will he be able to navigate fatherhood and not completely screw up the little boy entrusted in his care?

Incredibly sweet, this story warmed my heart from start to finish. All of the characters were very likable and there was relatively no conflict. I could feel the connection between Austin and his adorably awkward and shy boyfriend. In my opinion, Micah stole the show with his kind demeanor and cute mannerisms. Tia Fielding mentions that a story from Micah's POV is in the works, and I definitely look forward to reading more about him and the beautiful family featured in this short story.

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### **Tina says**

Very nice story, I really enjoyed reading it. Can't wait to see how this comes together with what Tia Fielding is currently working on.

Those two are just sweet together, a cute and adorable gay couple (a tattoo artist and a shy and introverted artist) who suddenly find themselves with a 16 month old son. The story itself is sweet and really well done. Recommended!

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### **Vivian says**

Affectionate men loving and tender, taking care of a toddler--there ain't nothing sexier than that.

Sweet story even though tragedy changes a couples' lives. I liked the positive viewpoint of the characters and I'd like to think most people don't jump to assumptions on appearances, age or gender. Yes, my world is very sunny.

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~☆~Dαni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

[Austin's best friend, Katie, dies in a house fire; her 16-month-old son survives the smoke inhalation, but she doesn't. (hide spoiler)]

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### **Jade says**

4.5 stars

This was such a sweet and loving read. I loved the asexual representation! This is an orientation that almost never gets talked about, outside of an educational context. I loved that this had an established relationship. Those are always fun to read because we get to see the familiarity and comfort. I loved that there was no jealous or breaking up drama. This story was all about love, support, and strength.

But I do have to agree with Dani and say that the title is creepy as fuck considering the situation.

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### **K says**

somewhere approaching 4 stars

Very sweet story of a young couple who suddenly find themselves with a 16 month old son, after the tragic death of his mother (who is one of the MC's oldest friends and who is himself the natural father of the child). The author asserts from the start that this is part of a potentially a longer story told from another character's point of view, but never the less it felt like a complete story.

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

2.5 stars

I saw in the foreword that this is part of the author's verse, so that could explain the info dumps on side characters who only get a line or two. We didn't even get to the parenting part until the 60% mark, there's a couple of very brief scenes of them dealing with an earache which were sweet, then the last 15% is the couple having some bedroom time. It didn't really address the prompt and too much page space was spent on inconsequential stuff.

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### **Meep says**

Not bad (I really didn't get far enough to judge), just not for me.

It starts by introducing each person then doing an info-dump on them, which could have something to do with it being part of a larger verse.

Not sure if 'Foxy' is better or worse than 'Baby' but a group of girls standing around cooing 'Awwww... they're so cute' at the two gay boys kissing convinced me this wasn't a fic I'd be able to connect to.

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## V says

This was such a lovely story, it remind me that day when I saw a younger guy full of tattoos and very scary looking walking in the park with the most beautiful red rose in his hand, and my son said to me, looks are deceiving are they? I know that guy, he is a great friend.

This story remind me of that guy, looks are deceiving for sure, Austin and Micah were so adorable and so tender to each other and the child.

Very sweet story.

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## Elizabeth says

On a short story kick reading everything I can get my hands on. I'm reading enough of them to know that no matter how good a short story is, I am never satisfied. Maybe they are not my thing. Another good one. A little heavy to be a short one though.

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## Penumbra says

*Inhaling Smoke* is the story of Austin Moore and his boyfriend Micah as they adjust to the sudden addition of a toddler to their lives. This is told in third person through the eyes of Austin.

Austin is a tattoo artist working at 'Fiery Squid Tattoo.' Austin is covered in tattoos and is talkative. Micah is studying art and is shy and quiet.

The other significant people in the story were Katie, Austin's best female friend, and their son River. They never had a romantic relationship, but Austin donated sperm so Katie could have a baby. Tragedy strikes and Katie dies, and Austin and Micah have to take on the job of raising River.

There are a few things that bothered me in this story. While I think the dialogue worked, when there wasn't dialogue, the story went into 'info-dump' mode and that was boring, unfortunately.

Another thing had to do with inconsistency. These two lines contradict themselves:

*"Austin had taught Micah how to touch another person and in return Micah had taught him how to love."*

*"They (Micah's people/family) were tactile, hardworking people with a fear of God instilled in them by the preacher."*

I used only those lines, the part in parenthesis are my words, but Austin is thinking that he taught Micah to be comfortable with touching, but then in the second sentence above, it says that Micah's people/family, were tactile. If that's the case Micah would have been very touchy-feely with Austin. He wouldn't need to be taught to be tactile. So that's something I had issues with.

I did however enjoy the author's choice of names. "Fiery Squid Tattoo," is awesome, also some of the names of the characters, "Soda," one of the tattoo artists, "Hyacinth" or "Hy" for the boss, "River" for the son's name.

This story has its sad parts, but also has a hopeful future for Austin, Micah and River. It's easy and fast to read. I give this **3 Stars**

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### **A??ela W. says**

This was a short quick read that I liked. Tattoo artist Austin and his partner Micah who is also artist become parents when his best friend Katie dies in a house fire her 16-month-old son survives the smoke inhalation. This was a sad good little story that I did find the name of it morbid considering someone died in a fire. This was my first time reading this author. The book was well written with no errors in grammar or spelling. I am looking forward to reading more of her work.

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### **Crispy says**

This was an ok story, a bit sappy in a Pollyanna-ish sort of way but the writing was competent. The thing that really bugged me was that the only two characters who were portrayed as openly homophobic were both nurses. Grrr!!! Three grudging stars.

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### **Awilk -never sleeps- says**

Tia Fielding did something that is very rare for me. She gave me a beautiful sort story that left me wanting more, but not disappointed with what I actually got.

This is very sweet, with an adorable couple of men, and I would love to spend more time with them.

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