



## Chasing Fireflies ( The Chasing Series, #1)

*Paige P. Horne*

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**Chasing Fireflies ( The Chasing Series, #1)** Paige P. Horne

An angst-ridden tale filled with heartache, passion and unyielding love.

Newly married and hell bent on making it on their own, Cash and Sara move to a small town away from their parent's disapproval. There they find friends and a place to call home.

The two fight to live a normal life as Sara struggles with mental illness. Proving to the world that marriage can be everlasting and love never gives up.

Cash and Sara William's love story is like no love story ever told.

## Chasing Fireflies ( The Chasing Series, #1) Details

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Paige P. Horne

Format :

Genre : Dark, Romance, Mental Health, Mental Illness, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance

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# From Reader Review Chasing Fireflies ( The Chasing Series, #1) for online ebook

## Liv says

I actually don't even know what to say right now. I've read all of Paige's other books and I loved all of them for how excellent and emotional they're written. This book took me on the emotional journey of Cash and Sara, and their story touched me deeply. One may say they lived no easy life because it wasn't normal what they had to deal with on a daily basis but who's to say what's normal? Of course it's not easy to live with a mental health disorder and it is not normal in society standards but it was their life and their kind of normal and even though they may have wished for better times (because who doesn't?), it was enough for them. They were enough for each other.

"You are enough. You've always been enough."

You know how I felt when I read this book? It was like driving just a few miles per hour on an unknown narrow and bumpy road way up high on a mountain in pitch black darkness, constantly worrying on what lies ahead and fearing of making the wrong move and tumbling down over the edge of the cliff. The constant fear of what might happen in the next seconds, minutes, hours or days is so much stress on the human body that it tries everything to shut it out with hope. People hope for the best and wish for better days. We desperately want to make everything good which is no easy task so we become restless and the feeling of hopelessness settles in. Okayyy, now I'm straying from the topic, sorry for that. I think you get the idea of how I felt during this read =P Let's just say there was a dark shadow lurking overhead just waiting to bring darkness and destruction but I held onto the hope and light for as long as possible. – Just like Cash did.

I cried already at the author's dedication *"To all those who suffer in silence. You matter."* THANK YOU!

The blurb brought me to tears, so you can imagine how I handled the book. It was an emotional rollercoaster. Reading about Sara's struggles and Cash's helplessness nearly broke me, but the story also had really good moments which made me smile although it never lasted for long.

"Why can't I be happy all the time?" she whispers to me, like it's a secret. But in a way, it is. Sometimes it's hard for the girl I love to get out of bed, and there are times that she only does it for me. But there are also times when I'm not even enough to fight the darkness away.'

If you haven't noticed already, I'm a REALLY emotional person. So let me give you a heads up that even if you don't cry as easily as I do, you will most certainly be moved by this story.

### The Story:

Sara and Cash have known each other since they were kids but not everybody was happy when they got married. They didn't care though about what others said because they had a love so deep for each other, not everyone's lucky enough to find such love in life. It's an unconditional and endless love, a love so strong that conquers Sara's illness at least most of the time. But a person can only hold out for so long until breaking and then one can only hope to find a way to get up again.

"My love for you makes me who I am. Without it I'd be a different person. Just as the ocean would be different without the waves, the blue sky without the sun, the darkness without the light. You are my other half. You are what makes me ... me." I shrug, looking down at her. Her baby blue eyes are filled with tears, and I can say for sure this time that they are happy ones. I kiss her nose, and she closes her eyes. Tears roll down her cheeks, and she wipes them away before she sniffs.'

### Thoughts:

I love Paige P. Horne's writing. I would read any of her books even without knowing what they're about because her stories touch me so deep, especially this one was really personal to me.

This story gives us a glimpse into Sara's and Cash's life and what it means to live and deal with a mental health disorder. It shows us their daily struggles and ups and downs of Sara's illness. It's an illness that affects everyone around her and is a constant struggle for her partner too because he always worries. She can go from happy to sad in seconds and when she's hurting it can end terribly. This is a human's nightmare. Not being able to control oneself, being dependent on medication and other people. Often not even realizing what you do and what's going on. The feeling of helplessness is overwhelming. There is no cure but a constant battle even though there is help to try to make it better.

'She hurts, and I do, too. Our hearts beat the same rhythm, and our souls are made from the same star, but her mind fights it and it ruins us both.'

Sara means everything to Cash. She's his whole world and there is nothing he wouldn't do for her. He loves her no matter what and wants just the best for her. I was blown by how intense, deep and unconditional his love was for her. Any woman would be unbelievably happy to find a guy like him. He was so strong dealing with everything thrown his way where a lot of people would've stepped away already, he was there and never backed down even though he had some rough patches here and there.

'I love her on the outside, like I love her on the inside. Deep and hard, rough and soft. Life-changing and earthshattering. She's everything, and I tell her over and over.'

This was such an emotional story. I loved everything about it even the sad parts. The secondary characters were just perfect. I liked that the author didn't shy away from the bad and ugly of this topic and dealt with it so beautifully.

"I'm a burning house, and you're stuck inside. Soon I won't be anything but ash, and I'm going to take you right down with me."

Although this wasn't my first book dealing with bipolar disorder, it was one of the best I've read so far. It was realistic and I felt everything of what this couple went through as when it were my own.

Well, with a story like this, dealing with such sensitive topic you kinda have to expect everything. So, be

prepared for good and bad feelings, overwhelming emotions, dark and heavy thoughts as well as lots of sudden mood changes but also sweet and tender moments.

”Who's to say anyone's relationship is healthy? We all got our shit to sort. It's not giving up on each other when the shit sorting gets tough – that's what matters”

*-- I received an ARC of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review. --*

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### **Angela Shirley says**

The story is of unconditional, raw and everlasting love. I recommend you have a box of tissues handy when you read this book as you will need them.

Cash and Sara Williams has been together since high school but their relationship has gone through ups and down. Sara has always been labelled the weird one and with her being happy and jovial one minute and then spending days hidden away in her room the rumours continue to go around their town, but Cash has always dismissed the names and loved her for who she is. The story gives you the point of view of both parties and I believe that the story is told in such a way you have a real insight into this difficult topic.

You get to see the real struggle with this illness and that Sara feels the pain when the disorder takes over and she is cocooned in a world of dark thoughts and depression. You get to see inside the mind of Sara as she lives in the pain of this disorder but wants to just be normal whatever that is. I love the point of view of Cash as he is trying to be positive but as the story goes on you get to see the frustration in trying to understand the mood swings and how do you love someone who sometimes can't love themselves.

I truly enjoyed this story and thought that the author dealt with the difficult topic that is Bipolar disorder and manic depression in a way you at least understand some of the issues these remarkable people go through on a daily basis, but I also loved the way she portrayed the loved ones in these relationships and the struggle and frustrations that they have also. The book certainly had me pondering the subject and feeling emotional at some of the scenes that Sara goes through. I would recommend this book to friends.

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### **Colleen (The Book Lover Blog) says**

This is not an uplifting story, and it may be tough to read for some. Ms. Horne has tackled the subject of mental illness, specifically Bipolar Disorder/manic depression, quite beautifully. You not only get a glimpse of what it is like for Sara living with the illness, but you get to see the effect it has on her loved ones as well.

Sara struggles to cope with her day to day highs and lows, all she wants is to feel normal, to be normal. Cash loves Sara unconditionally and does his best to support her. He gets frustrated with her at times, desperately trying to understand her. My heart broke for each of them, for different reasons. Ms. Horne's depiction of the constant struggle felt both honest and real.

Chasing fireflies is a raw, tragic, and heart-wrenching story. I did shed a few tears towards the end, so I recommend having some tissues close by!

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## **Caz says**

I was after a different book and I came across an author talking about her book on Facebook page and I listened to her read a part of it (I did love the accent) but I thought what she was reading sounded amazing and exactly what I was looking for.

Chasing Fireflies by Paige P Horne was such a beautiful, unforgettable, interesting and perfectly written book. I had so many emotions going on while I was reading this book. It was a really beautiful love story and how far you go for the ones you love.

I firmly believe that everyone needs a cash in their life, this man is honourable, loyal, caring and loves with all his heart and he was just a beautiful character to read loved everything about him, he tried hard with Sara to make her so happy and he was perfect.

Sara was a very very lost soul with manic depression and bipolar and all she wanted to be was normal but that was never going to be. I really loved how the author portrayed this character and really got into the nitty gritty with the mental health issues and didn't hold back and this made the story that more powerful.

If you love a book with heart and soul and beautiful writing that you have a cry and fall deeply into the stories that you read then this one is for you it is a must read. So different to the books out there and I loved every part of it.

Big huge 5 stars can't wait to read more from this author

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## **Lauren says**

### 4.5 Stars

Chasing fireflies is the first book of Paige's that I have read. I will admit that at first I struggled to get into this book but as soon as I had got to 15% I was gripped by Paige's hauntingly beautiful story. Cash and Sara's story is an emotional roller coaster that grabs hold of your heart and squeezes it. Although I found it slow in parts I would definitely tell people to stick with it and carry on reading because this book is so worth it! I fell in love with Cash and Sara, I adored them as a couple and my heart went out to them.

After I had read this story and had read Paige's acknowledgements and saw what she had written about how she had gotten the idea for this story, I had to go and watch the music video that it is based on (Chris Stapleton's fire away). After I had watched the music video it was like watching this story come to life before my eyes. Although heart breaking this love story is beautiful.

I am itching to get my hands on Ellie's story! I want to know her as an adult and how what happened in her family life affected her childhood.

I will say one thing: Chasing fireflies will get you thinking. This story is an emotional roller coaster that makes you realise/see that you should cherish the moments you have with your loved ones whether they are good times or hard times. Because after all you don't know how much you appreciate something or someone

until they are gone.

Cash Williams loves his childhood sweetheart, his wife Sara with all of his heart but their life isn't an easy one. All Cash wants is for Sara to be happy. No matter what happens, Cash cherishes the time he has with his wife, the happy times, the sad times, the good and the bad. Cash sees Sara's daily struggle and makes sure she knows his love for her. Sara has struggled with her bipolar depression every single day of her life. She loves Cash with all of her heart but some days she cannot fight the darkness within herself but she struggles to find the light. With some days darker than others she fights with all of her will. But how long can she carry on fighting when her depression is determined to drag her down and win the fight. She wants to be free but overall she wants Cash and her baby girl to have a happy life. A life without having to worry about breaking their heart. She wants to be free; she wants her happy to be free of her darkness. Chasing fireflies is a story of love, tough times and the personal fight against depression.

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### **Doris says**

This one was a little bit hard to get through.

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### **Nora Fresse says**

Crazy Heart, grab a box of tissues.

OMG! This is not a story I will soon forget. I don't know what to do with myself now. What a heart wrenching, emotionally draining and beautifully written love story.

We follow the lives of Cash and Sara who have loved each other since high school. Sara was always the quirky girl full of life one minute and unable to get out of bed for days the next. Because of this she had a reputation in their town of being weird. Cash only knew that he loved her unconditionally. He didn't care what anyone said, not even his parents. He wanted to be with her and no one could tell him otherwise.

Paige does such an excellent job taking us into Cash and Sara's world. It's such a difficult topic and the author tackles it brilliantly. We get the POV of both characters. We feel Sara's pain in dealing with her bipolar disorder. The constant struggle she goes through in her mind to be normal or to be free from her pain permanently is truly heartbreaking. We feel Cash's frustration in trying to understand her ups and downs and his fear that she will ultimately leave him alone. Throughout it all they cling to one another and their love, hoping against hope that they can survive it.

Without giving anything away, I'll just say that you will definitely need some tissues to read this story. There are moments of great happiness and moments of pure agony and sadness. I truly enjoyed reading Cash and Sara's story. It's a world not many people get to experience but I think this story helps us to understand it a little bit better.

I voluntarily reviewed an ARC of this book.

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## **Smashlybookaliciousreviewingchicks says**

Emotional, tragic and happiness all rolled into one is the best way I could describe the feelings from this book. Bravo to this author for taking on such a taboo topic in full detail! We were able to see not only what someone with a mental illness battles, but the battles that your support system battles as well. Days later and this book still hurts my heart!

Sara and Cash were high school sweethearts. Life was normal until one day it wasn't. People including family were against their relationship due to Sara's illness. Moving to a small town to start over was brave of them. They had nothing and made the best of life with the one person they loved (each other). I got to say the secondary characters were a great bonus to this story. We not only got to see the support and friendships made, we also got a story about them. While some was just as sad, we got many laughs out of them too. Sara had good days and bad days. Even on those bad days all she wanted was to feel normal. The meds made her sleepy and she hated taking them. While I cannot fully understand the feels someone with goes through on the meds, I can only imagine how horrible it makes you feel. I hope in the real life one day a new pill is found to help those with this illness feel better and not worse while trying to be better.

Cash be still my heart for you from beginning of book to end of this book. Even days later I must say. It wasn't always easy dealing with Sara and you took it with a grain of salt even during those hard days she had. You never let her illness take away from living life to the fullest for both of you in that town. Loved how normal you treated her. Unlike her mother! I wanted to smack her good. She actually made it worse for Sara and triggered bad times on her good days.

We got to see many happy times between Sara/Cash, but we got many sad times as well. You will need tissues reading this book so be prepared before you start reading this book. To others a Crazy Heart means a crazy dysfunctional love, but in this story Crazy Heart meant he loved the crazy they had from beginning to end. They had a normal relationship outside of the illness. He accepted her no matter how stressful and hard it could be in their relationship.

Little Miss and your curls! Chasing those Fireflies will be an experience you will never forget as a memory I bet. I cannot wait to read Ellie's story. It means more Cash of course!

This story was told with heart while helping others learn or to help assist in knowing others feel just like you and you are not alone. This really needs to be made into a movie! Emotional, Funny, Suspenseful with a twist and a Taboo topic that others can see what is truly happening and how it affects not only those dealing with the illness.

Crazy Heart!

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## **&#x1f339;Natasha&#x1f339; says**

Cash and Sara have been married for awhile now. On the outside they are a perfect couple who are madly in love who live a picture perfect little life. Only that's not the case. Sara is struggling with a mental disorder and Cash spends most of his days worrying about her.

Another story I have mixed feelings about. ?

I've been looking for a book that's going to just break me and make me want to throw my kindle across the room. I want a book that's real and that's going to make me feel. I'm starting to turn away from the normal



alpha hero or the cute little love story. It's ok on occasion but I prefer the heartbreaking stories. I'm not the girl looking for a happily ever after in the books I read.

So it's 2 am and I just finished this one. But I'm conflicted with this story. I enjoyed it but there were times I was just thinking, "can we just get to the point." There were lots of times when I felt like the author was just trying to fill the pages with things that didn't matter. I don't need to hear every detail of every day. It just felt like there were a lot of fillers in there.

This is actually going to sound crazy but I didn't like the way Cash and Sara were with one another. It was a little too lovey dovey for my liking. It was to the point where it felt like the author was trying way too hard to convince us of how much they loved each other. I was just rolling my eyes at certain parts.

But on the other hand I found this story completely heartbreaking. Depression and bipolar disorder is no joke. What's really hard is when someone else doesn't understand why you are so tired or why you've been in bed all day long sometimes days at a time. It's easy for them to tell you to snap out of it. But it's not so easy for the person with the disorder.

I felt for Sara. What went on in her mind was so sad but her disorder didn't just hurt her, it hurt Cash. It was just as hard for him and I really started thinking about how sometimes people don't always realize that. It's not just the person dealing with the sickness that's hurting but it's everyone else involved in their life as well. The parents, the siblings, the spouse, the friends. It's everyone because all they want is for that person to be ok. They worry themselves sick and are constantly trying their hardest to make that person happy yet inside they are struggling as well. So I felt for Cash.

Paige did a great job with raising awareness with this story. So many people don't understand depression or bipolar disorder. It's not easy to just push it aside and go about your day. It's physically impossible at times. Most days you don't even know why you feel the way you do. So bravo in the author showing that and really delving into all the issues that come along with these disorders.

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### **Madeleine East says**

This book was so beautiful. I feel in love with Cash and Sara. There is love, heartache, happiness, tragedy, darkness. I was glued to this book from the very start and was crying towards the end. I absolutely loved this book. I would definitely recommend this book.

I reviewed an advance reader copy of this book.

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### **Lily Garcia says**

**4.75 stars! ARC review!**

*"I love you," I tell her. "I'll love you even when we are nothing but a faded memory."*

*"Promise me," she says.*

*"Promise, promise, baby."*

Wow...umm, I was not expecting that ending at all. I sit here a day later trying to come up with the right words to write my review without giving too much away, but I don't think I can.

*"She's everything to me, and I'm her fucking lifeline."*

**Sara** and **Cash** were high school sweethearts. At the age of 16, Sara is diagnosed with manic depression. Against all odds and even their families, Cash and Sara chose to be together and years later when they marry, they move one town over.

*"She cries, and I breathe. She hurts, and I do, too. Our hearts beat the same rhythm, and our souls are made from the same star, but her mind fights it and it ruins us both."*

Cash and Sara's story was full of blissful and sad moments. It was raw, realistic, tragic, heartbreaking and we got to witness the struggles they each faced in their marriage and daily lives.

Cash's love for Sara was fierce, his protectiveness, his devotion. Everything about him was perfect! Going above and beyond for Sara and never letting her go. **He is definitely one of my all-time favorite book boyfriends** Sara felt she was not enough for Cash, but he wouldn't let her think about it. She loved him so much and tried her best to be better for him.

*"You're perfect. You're enough. You're mine."*

Did I love it? Yes, but the outcome will always be very hard for me to digest. Would I recommend it? Absolutely, but it is not for everyone.

Please be advised that this book deals with a very hard and sensitive subject that many are not aware of how serious it is: **Manic Depression**. It exists! People deal with it on a daily basis and those around them are affected as well. The author did an excellent job in integrating awareness into this poignant love story. Is it a hard read? At times, yes. All I can say is make sure to have some tissues ready because you'll definitely need it.

I can't wait for **Ellie's** (Cash and Sara's daughter) book! **Paige P Horne**, I may not like you very much right now, but thank you for writing such an amazing story.

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### **Katia Rose says**

'Chasing Fireflies' is more than just a good book; it's an important book. I'm happy to live in a time when mental health awareness is more pronounced and less stigmatized than it ever has been before, but we still have such a long way to go in achieving understanding and support for those who need it. This book is an excellent step in that direction, and sheds light on a topic many other writers would shy away from.

What really solidified my appreciation for 'Chasing Fireflies' was its honesty. The book paints a picture of life that is both beautiful and heartbreaking in its accuracy. There is both hope and hopelessness in the story, and highs that we all experience are as well represented as the lows. This makes the struggles of the

characters more relatable, allowing readers to really place themselves in both Cash and Sara's shoes. I found myself being forced to confront questions I hadn't asked myself before, wondering what I would do or how I would feel in the same situation.

The writing itself was poignant and captured the tone and atmosphere of the story well. The rustic, small town vibe comes across strongly, and immerses readers in the world of the characters. Life seems to slow down when you read this novel, matching the laconic, sitting-on-the-porch-watching-the-sunset mood that pervades throughout the book.

I still haven't been able to get the story out of my head, and while it was difficult to read at times, it's one that needs to be told. I applaud Paige Horne for having been brave and honest enough to tell it.

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### **Danielle Robbins says**

I don't even know where to start with this review! I felt so many emotions reading this. It gives you a real look at bipolar disorder/manic depression and how it effects everyone.

Cash and Sara's love was beautiful and tragic. You could really see how much they loved each other. Even though Cash had to deal with Sara's depression, I thought he was amazing with her and how much he loved her was beautiful.

Everytime I read Sara's POV, I felt so bad for her and how she was struggling.

This was an amazing book and you need to read this!

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### **Liz says**

"I'll love you. I'll love you even when we are nothing but a faded memory...Promise, promise."

"Memories flood my mind- blonde curls and baby blue eyes. Painful moments and a lifetime of struggles, but I'd do it all again." ~Cash

Cash and Sara Williams have the storybook romance. The kind that outsiders looking in are jealous of. What most don't realize is that Sara suffers from a mental illness that rocks every day of their lives. She has manic depression, bi-polar. They want to have as normal as a life as they can together. Unfortunately, their parents make that very hard on them and so they find a small town close to the city they grew up in and buy a house, and start fresh. "After years of saving up and months of looking, we finally found a place. We went to the bank, put down everything we had, and got a loan."

For a while Sara is doing well. She gets a job at the local library and they both make friends in the small town. Forming a little family amongst them all. The thing is with Sara's condition she can go from a high happy to a deadly low in a matter of moments. With zero warning and often for no reason. They go on like this, up and down, together no matter what for several years. Both hiding the true damage that it is doing to them. "Lying is easy when you're protecting the person you love. You don't want anyone to judge them harshly, so you don't give them any reason to. You can because it's your love, but nobody else better ----- do it, so you lie. You lie to keep yourself believing everything is okay- that your life is normal. That it's fine

your wife sometimes would rather stay in the dark than see the sunshine. You talk yourself up and you make yourself believe that she'll be alright, and if she isn't, you'll do everything in your power to make her be." Cash struggles to convince her that life is worth living and that she has reasons to hope for a better tomorrow. It also takes a big toll on him, which most times is not something that gets noticed. It isn't really talked about what it does to those that love the ones that suffer.

A surprise pregnancy seems to be a good stabilizer for Sara. She is a great mother for Little Miss, or Ellie, their daughter. Five years go by with a fairly normal pace, they manage to get through the tough times and treasure the good times. All is good, but then again this can change at the drop of a hat. Sara is tired of taking meds, tired of feeling the pain, of suffering, feeling like she is not worthy of the love she is being given. "No, everything hurts, and nothing hurts at all. My mind is falling in on itself. Life seems blurry. Nothing is clear. You know that natural hope that most people have? I don't have it. I can't seem to find a reason to want to stay." In the end the thoughts win and the people who loved her and cared for her feel the void left on earth where she once was. It is important to realize that this affects so many different things. "We will forever fly, but forever be no more."

What a remarkable novel. Chasing Fireflies touches on one of the most difficult topics that affect millions of people every day. It is so hard to talk about, still looked down upon, and almost shunned, when really it should be at the forefront and treated with dignity. Mental illness, suicide, they are silent killers and most of us who suffer with it day to day struggle with just talking about it, and finding the words to say what we feel. Paige P. Horne nailed it. You can tell that she spent a great deal of time on this novel, poured her heart and soul into it, and truly educated herself about all aspects of, not only being someone who suffers, but also those who love the ones who suffer.

If you or someone you know are suffering, know that you are not alone. Just as the dedication of this book so rightly stated: "To all those who suffer in silence. You matter." Please know there is someone out there who understands where you are at or where your loved one is at in their minds. There is the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-8255, someone is available 24/7 to just listen and help as much as they can. If you can't call or talk you can now text the Crisis Text Line in the event it is a non-life-threatening crisis. Text START to 741-741. There is help, reach out, I promise you, that there is a reason you are walking this earth.

Thank you Paige P. Horne for writing this book, for touching my soul, and reigniting my passion to help those who suffer just like I have in the past myself.

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## **Mary Jancsek says**

\* I was gifted an ARC by the author in exchange for an honest review\*

Where to start, where to start, where to start. This book held my attention from the first page. This book gave me every feeling imaginable. Paige did an incredible job shedding light on a topic that so little is known about by the mainstream world.

Cash and Sara Williams are characters I will not soon forget. It's not often that you find a book, series, or characters that their story will stick with you long after you've moved onto the next story. I'm an emotional reader, but not every character impacts my emotions or my thoughts the way Cash and Sara did. While

reading this book even when taking breaks to "adult" or live this thing called they were always fresh in the back of my mind fighting to make their way to the forefront of my thoughts.

I honestly believe, Paige P. Horne, you've become an author that I will whatever you write even without reading the blurb. Your writing is just that amazing to me.

I will be recommending this book to all my reader friends even those that don't read.

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