



The Silver Cord

Anonymous

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The Silver Cord, a companion novel to The Silver Cage, travels back in time to tell the story of Caleb Bright and Jamie Foust. The ill-fated lovers meet as young boys and form a powerful, inseparable bond, which shapes their teenage years and forever alters their adulthoods. This haunting, tragic romance brings Caleb's past to life and sheds light on his tortured future.

The Silver Cord is a full-length novel at 63,000 words. It can be read as a standalone.

WARNING: The Silver Cord is intended for mature readers 18+. It contains graphic descriptions of sex and a mild trigger warning for rape and self-harm.

Anonymous is a pseudonymous international bestseller. Find updates on upcoming titles on the author's Twitter at twitter.com/thesilvercage

The Silver Cord Details

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Author : Anonymous

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Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Young Adult, Coming Of Age, Lgbt

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From Reader Review The Silver Cord for online ebook

Jan says

[
Cutting to the chase:
I felt detached from Cal's narration, like watching a movie from afar.

Besides, there were my feelings, a strong and horrible sense of judgment that for the life of me I couldn't shake off. **I couldn't hold back the judgment.** I know it's ugly and awful and I should shut it, but I can't and I am gonna show you here my ugly face.
Why? Why the bloody why?

Why Cal chose to cage, entrap, chain his soul in name of a God and his family? Such a horrendous and miserabl

Hulya Kara Yuksel says

Edit: I changed my rating from 5 stars to 4 stars! For me 1st book was better but still this one hit me hard too!

My god, I'm so sick of crying.. Caleb, my heart broken for you. ???

Ps. If you're okay to read MM books, I highly recommend it to you... And I highly recommend "The Silver Cage" too. ♥

Dear Anonymous author, I'm begging you to please write a book about Michael. At least you owe us for this!
<3

Cristina says

After the deeply unsettling and emotional experience of *The Silver Cage*, *The Silver Cord* provides the reader with a coming-of-age story focusing on Caleb Bright.

Told from Caleb's exclusive POV, the novel recounts his meeting, friendship and troubled relationship with Jamie Foust while at the same time chronicling his relations with religion, family and wife and the progress

of his literary career until the dramatic events that set the pace and background for the story already narrated in the previous book.

As pointed out by other reviewers, writing about this novel without giving away parts of the plot is a hard task. The story is not complicated *per se* but the number and weight of the psychological and emotional issues faced by the characters make it a very complex read.

In particular, *The Silver Cord* analyses the internal struggle between Caleb's strong religious beliefs and his sexual identity and it's, therefore, not a novel focused on big events but, rather, on a series of internal shifts and crashes.

There are some instances where momentous things intervene to disrupt the brittle facade constructed by Caleb, but the real core of the novel is found in the way he tries to negotiate his deep self with the expectations and limitations imposed on him by his strict religious upbringing and by his self-imposed loyalty towards his family and the values they embody.

As in the previous book, Caleb may come across as cold and detached but - yet again - this facet of his personality becomes one of the most moving aspects of the book. Whilst Jamie is more emotional and open in expressing his distress and unhappiness when confronted by their situation, Caleb seems to take it upon himself to act in a more rational and apparently unemotional manner. This results in a deeply-seated depression and hopelessness that lingers beneath the surface of his every action and reaction.

The set-up of his character in this prequel is perfectly in line with the Caleb-character that the reader has seen or will see in *The Silver Cage* : guarded, guilt-ridden, cautious but at the same time, ultimately unable to deny his truest identity.

The consequences of these moments of truth and clarity are outlined with a beautiful lack of over-dramatization by the author who, in both novels, bravely takes things to their most desperate and extreme outcomes, not for drama's sake but, simply and tragically, because those are the only possible results.

Both *The Silver Cage* and *The Silver Cord* are unsettling and desperate books but their discussion of religious conditioning, denial, and physical and emotional self-harm make them powerful and important novels animated by wonderful writing and fantastic characters.

The only missing piece now would be a third novel focusing on Michael Beck. I really hope the author will decide to write it.

Really highly recommended.

warhawke says

Genre: MM Romance

Type: Companion novel to The Silver Cage

POV: First Person - Male

Rating:

Caleb Bright and Jamie Foust met at summer camp as kids. Very quickly, they bonded and became inseparable. Throughout the years, what started as friendship turned into something more. But indulging in what they wanted came with a risk that might not be worth taking.

I no longer knew how to behave normally; I couldn't remember what normal looked like. I couldn't wait to be alone with him. Nothing else mattered.

Caleb and Jamie were two completely different souls. While Caleb was the stronger, protective one, Jamie was the sensitive, fragile one and together they lived in the safety of their own world.

I knew God wasn't cruel, but what could possibly motivate me to battle against desires that felt so natural?

The beauty of this book is the subject matter. It was painful seeing two people who were unable to love each other freely due societal expectations and religious bigotry. I felt their fears, frustrations and angers.

However, this book affected me less than book 1 did. First, already knowing what to expect did lower the overall feel. Second, the ending felt too rushed and impersonal where it could have added more impact even with knowing the outcome.

Why couldn't he understand that? To keep lying for both of us, acting normal for both of us, wasn't easy.

The Silver Cord is a story of two people trying to fit into a mold. It would appeal to readers looking for a poignant coming of age story.

Note:

The Silver Cord is a prequel to The Silver Cage. If you plan to read both, I suggest start with this book to get the full impact of both books.

Books in the series:

???. . . (F)BR With Twinsie CC & Loyda . . . ???

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Sophie "Beware Of The Reader" says

I promise to keep this spoiler free not only for The Silver Cord but also for The Silver Cage

5 "I needed closure" stars

“He came to me when I was a child. We were both children and therein lay the danger. It is in the blue mist of youth that the legends of our whole life are born. Whatever we come to love in those years—whatever we read or hear, whomever we admire or idolize—haunts us to death. For me, it was that boy. He was my soul’s totem, a guide outside of morality. I followed him until the end.”

To better understand this review I advise you to read The Silver Cage’s review **HERE**

First of all I want to thank Anonymous not only for gifting me this book but also for giving me closure.

The Silver Cage left me bereft. It was like an open wound that would never close. I was revolted, angry, upset...I could not comprehend why it was wrong. Why it was sick. Why it had to be like that.

When I began The Silver Cord I already knew the ending as this is a companion novel to The Silver Cage. It travels back in time to Caleb’s youth.

I thought I would be destroyed again never imagining it would be just what I needed to end what I could compare to grieving. I am at peace....finally.

It is still profoundly unfair.

It is still immensely sad.

It is still incredibly well written.

It is still utterly beautiful.

But above all else revisiting Caleb's story, delving once more in his psyche, in his faith being a key component of who he IS gave me a better understanding and acceptance of what would unfold.

From the first sentences I was into the story and could find “My” Caleb back. He already had a fire, a presence, a charisma. **Religion plays a key role again in this story, being its very own character.** Bathing in a faith that condemned what he wanted was stifling. Caleb loved his faith and would not have it any other way yet instead of elating him it shunned his true self. **Constantly battling against his true nature was exhausting. I could not imagine living years and years hiding such secret, denying my body and soul what they truly needed.**

I described Caleb in "The Silver Cage" like " a dark predator. A wild animal prowling, circling innocent preys."

The Silver Cord is your "before" and shows a younger Caleb very different. It was before he had been destroyed by life.

In "The Silver Cord" Caleb has a deep protective instinct. He was the strong one. Always placing Jamie above anything else. **Soft and sweet Jamie was his Achille's heel.**

"He was shy. I was outgoing. He disliked—even seemed to resent—sharing his ideas with others. I was charismatic. He enjoyed painting, cooking, and playing computer games. I preferred being outdoors and fitness."

I delighted in reading about Caleb and Jamie's youth. Their innocence. Their evidence.

I learned all the important details about their relationship. It grew with the kids and morphed into a powerful bond never to be broken till the very end.

I kept this spoiler free and maybe vague as I want everyone to dive in this book duet completely blind.

To be enjoyed...

No that's not a word I would use for reading these...

To be affected the way it should you have to read The Silver Cage first.

Why?

Because I want you to be changed and hurt like I've been.

Because there is beauty in this pain.

I don't know who the author is but I bet I would recognize his prose among any other.

Anonymous has an elegant yet incredibly efficient writing. He will use all the right words to make you experience this story down to your bone marrow. Yet not one unnecessary word will be used. It is indomitable. Like a surgeon's scalpel. **It will cut you open and won't let you hide behind false pretense.**

You just have to live this story. Just like Caleb and Jamie had to live it.

With the joy, the elation but also the fury, the disgust and the guilt.

Recommend it? It is a MUST read if you have read The Silver Cage and if you haven't yet, what are you waiting for?

Have you read these books yet? Did I convince you to give them a chance?

Thanks for reading!

Sophie

Find me on:

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CC says

4.5 Stars

In this companion novel to *The Silver Cage*, we are transported back to Caleb Bright as a pre-teen who commences his first session at summer camp. During this time, Caleb befriends a shy boy named Jamie Foust. Discovering how their lives are quite different, they share a common bond of religion but also they seem to balance each other in every way. As each year passes, Caleb and Jamie reunite at camp reinforcing their friendship, but they also come to realize their feelings are much deeper than they could have imagined.

“Wanting him and being unable to do anything about it was like burning alive, but inside, where nobody could see. And I was supposed to smile and act normal, to go day after day in that state, for the rest of my life.”

What took seed at summer camp was formative to Caleb in that he realized he was wired differently than he thought. The feelings he developed for Jamie were grounded in the desire to protect, nurture and love and yet he was taught such a relationship between two men was wrong. Battling to please his parents and to conform to doctrine, a war raged inside of Caleb. The ever-present tension of doing what is expected and trying to appear “normal” is inescapable. As the years pass, the pull doesn’t diminish causing Caleb to assimilate due to necessity.

“Loving him, protecting him, had been my life’s purpose. I should never have put anything before him.”

With this narrative focused on Caleb’s perspective, the enormous pressure he feels is intense and tangible. There were times when I wanted Caleb to renounce his beliefs and be honest with his family but then the consequences became suffocating. Though Caleb experienced stolen and precious moments with Jamie, those times remained the most brilliant.

“He was made for me. He begged the whole time, even when I sped up, even when I pushed him flat on the mattress and began pounding against him. We shook the bed. The grip of his body was intoxicating.”

Experiencing a range of emotion while reading, the injustice of their situation is resounding. To what degree must Caleb sacrifice his true self and who shall truly benefit? Knowing that Caleb and Jamie had their time is the silver lining to a poignant and painful life.

Silver Cord is about a man's journey struggling with his own sense of duty and the truth. Filled with moments of self-discovery, wonderment, love, hopelessness and pure sadness, this story is important and the characters have lasting value.

This was a (F)BR with Twinsie Hawkey and Loyda!

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Damjana says

Yesterday when I finished this book, I also read some reviews. I noticed some readers won't read this second book because they already know the ending.

Let me say this, and I am the Queen of #I-become-bored-easily, you should read this book and you won't regret it!!!

I don't believe this is fiction. I believe this is real story. Maybe this is main reason I love it so much. It doesn't feel like story written for readers, but it is heartbroken confession, written records of someone who found the only relief / distraction in writing. And Caleb actually wrote all his books in that manner. This is not classic mainstream romantic story to gain more and more readers (in this case wouldn't be issued by Anonymous). I believe this second book was written by Caleb (or what his real name was) or it was summarized from his record. You can really feel his deep struggle within himself and his life. First book was written by Michael to describe their story.

I am re-reading first book again, I am sure I will get it now even better.

Otherwise there are so many why-s, everything could be so different, but one decision leads into another; one lie and mistake into another... I am sure this story / both books are going to stick with me for long time.

Christine says

I can't even do a review right now. Maybe sometime in the future. I'm too raw from this.

Jennifer Kyle says

3.5 Stars

Well that was miserable for all the characters...

Suanne Laqueur says

That was unbelievably sad. Such a waste of love and life and for what purpose?

I don't feel as destroyed as I did with Cage, maybe because I knew how it all would go down. And where it goes from here. I just feel depressed because while this is fiction, it's a lot of people's reality. And why? In the end, Love is Love.

Fuck, I'm sad. Cage was like a hurricane. Cord is like a month of steady rain.

Xia Xia Lake says

There are times when a TV show or a movie numb my senses so much, I end up staring at a black screen long after the credits end.

That's how I feel now. Numb and turned to stone. A deer in the headlights.

I was supposed to start with the Silver Cage first, but I couldn't do it. Two pages in I dropped the book and came to the Silver Cord, which I almost read in one sitting.

Inside of me there was a still, dark pool, which reflected no one's face but his.

Friends, this author can write.

I was sucked in Caleb and Jamie's love story, living every emotion. I think it was the first time I've read a love scene while shedding tears of sadness.

I had no idea what was about to happen, so everything hit me hard.

If the religious aspect of this book is the only thing keeping you away from reading the Silver Cord, then I want to say you're missing out. This book is gorgeous, sad and very serious.

This book is a mirror of life in a religious community, with its good and bad characteristics. I was born in a family descending from a long line of Orthodox Priests. Caleb's family is mirrored in the DNA of most of my family. I used to pity my aunts and uncles for the horse blinders placed around their eyes. Not anymore, we are all a result of our own choices for which we learn and pay.

Caleb had made his choice.

Now I can't wait to see how he's going to pay for it in the Silver Cage.

Jenny - TotallybookedBlog says

‘To be the curator of another’s love is no light or laughing matter. It is a grave, sacred, and honorable undertaking. It is a lifelong post, a vigil until the end. I had known this once, but I had forgotten it somewhere along the way.’

Our hearts are wrecked. Completely and utterly wrecked. Not only from the events in The Silver Cord but from the consequences that followed the end of this story into The Silver Cage, bringing those original feelings to the surface once again, adding a whole new depth to those original emotions.

Going back in time to Caleb and Jamie’s ill-fated love story gave us a better understanding of the events of The Silver Cage. If Caleb Bright cut a sad, troubled and lonely figure in Silver Cage, our feelings intensified tenfold once we came to fully understand how his emotional and mental state came to be, and it broke us. Our hearts were annihilated, leaving us in a flood of tears, with these characters consuming our souls days after finishing, and yet, we wouldn’t have missed this reading experience for the world. This book made us feel so much.

‘Intimacy is easier, simpler than morality. It is a land without borders; morality is a civil war.’

We were with Jamie and Caleb every moment, from the heady, perplexing days of youth, sharing their confusion and love, their sorrow and despair and beyond, though we could never shake the dark cloud and impending pain we knew we were destined to feel. Jamie Foust and Caleb Bright should have been allowed to ‘just be’. They should’ve been allowed to expose and embrace their love, but unfortunately, their strict Christian upbringing and their desire to ‘do the right thing’ would continually plague them, and shape their future lives.

‘There was no point in saying I loved someone I wasn’t allowed to love.’

The Silver Cord is a melancholy coming of age story delivered with the utmost honesty, sincerity and breathtakingly intoxicating prose from this incredibly talented author. Told in an almost autobiographical way we forgot we were reading a work of fiction. The rawness of the storytelling had us believing and experiencing every aching moment as though we knew the characters, making this reading experience sharper, more personal, with an overpowering instinct to protect these sensitive beautiful men from the world around them.

‘It is difficult to speak about happiness. Life rushes forward continually and we are pulled along with it, a child one day and an adult the next.’

A range of emotions; a small amount of hope, anger, frustration, sadness over the family influences in these boy’s lives left us bereft. These two boys who became men and never stopped sacrificing their own happiness for others, with their religious beliefs tormenting them with a need to fit into society.

This author is nothing short of brilliant. The way in which these sensitive characters love story was brought to fruition, the way in which it was delivered with such a realistic narrative, gave us much pause for thought in this emotionally charged and tragically complicated love story.

Our combatted hearts are forever touched by Jamie, Caleb, and this phenomenal author. Love is a religion we should all embrace. Love is love. End of.

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Karen says

Got to love a long train journey on the day your most anticipated book of the year is released.

Caleb Bright will forever hold my heart. All of the broken pieces of it.

The ending is a forgone conclusion. We read about it in *The Silver Cage*. *The Silver Cord* is the love story of Caleb and Jamie. Full of the pain and trauma that steals them of their love but also full of love.

My heart sang in places and hurt beyond measure in others.

Now I'm just sad.

But I loved the book.

The writing is breathtaking. The journey from boy to man is sweet and sour. I wish I could hug Jamie and Caleb and tell them love is love. It is pure and true.

“It is in the blue mist of youth that the legends of our whole life are born.”

Moony Eliver says

4.5 stars. This is possibly one of the most challenging books I've tried to review without spoilers (of this one or *The Silver Cage*). So it might seem a little vague, but I'll do my best.

Many of us thought this volume would take place after *Cage*, but it turned out to be the prequel, Caleb's coming of age. While I do hope for a sequel eventually, I was thrilled to get this part of the story.

Experiencing Caleb's upbringing — his relationship to his religion and to his family — was the only thing I felt was missing from *Cage*. And not only did this volume deliver that, it also handed me every single bit of the agonizing fury I knew would come from reading about it.

The brilliantly evocative writing, combined with a real scenario that has affected (and continues to affect) countless queer people the world over, equals one of the most emotionally difficult works I've ever read. I wanted to KILL SOMETHING. The author was completely successful in making me feel Caleb's struggle, his desire, his frustration, his hopelessness.

My only real critique of this book is its self-described "standalone." Sure, you don't have to read *Cage* before or even after this one, but as a standalone, the last 10% is very rushed. It still felt that way to me, even knowing how the story would unfold. It was almost anticlimactic and skimmed over, considering how crucial this time was to Caleb. So, I don't consider this book a standalone, not really, not in order to get the full experience.

I've seen (and taken part in) a couple of discussions since this book's release last night about which should be read first. Obviously, I read *Cage* first, so what I knew from that colored absolutely every line I read in this one. I don't think you can go wrong either way, but personally if I'd had the opportunity to read this prequel blind first, I think the emotional impact of both books would have been even more intense. Hmm, so maybe I should be grateful for being spared that? Haha. But given the choice, I will always choose to not know what's on the last page until I get there.

I'm actually going to read *Cage* again now, which pretty much proves to me that I should be committed. That's not a book I ever thought I would re-read. But this volume gave so much more perspective to Caleb, and I need to snap the pieces together now in the way that I only can when reading them back-to-back.

Akiko says

[with a different type of ending??? (hide spoiler)]
