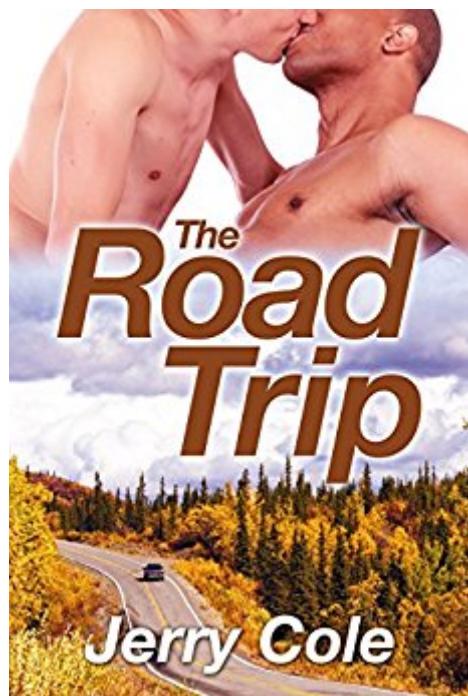


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# The Road Trip



## Synopsis

College graduation usually signals the beginning of independence, the end of any remnants of adolescence and childhood, and a time for embarking on new and exciting ventures. For recent graduate Dyson, it represents the opposite – confusion, uncertainty, and fear. An artistic, anxiety-prone fellow, Dyson sees the end of college as a looming event; he waits impatiently for his best friend and secret love, Jordan, to make a decision about what his next steps are, and when he doesn't make one, neither does Dyson. For over nine years, Dyson and Jordan have been friends, and for nine years Dyson has harbored unrequited feelings for him. Though he knows that Jordan likes women and won't ever love him the way he loves Jordan, he can't bear to think of being far apart from Jordan and refuses to make a decision about his future until Jordan does. Being a laid-back, relatively calm person, Jordan isn't too concerned about making any definite plans – that is, until the night of graduation. Running up to Dyson in an excited, drunken state, he convinces a confused Dyson to leave on a cross-country road trip the very next day, stating only that he wants to see the Grand Canyon before real life crashes down on them. Confused but willing to go, Dyson agrees and the two are on the road the next morning. But Dyson soon realizes that being in such close proximity on such a meaningful trip with the guy he loves is much more difficult than he anticipated. And as the trip progresses, Jordan becomes secretive and Dyson becomes suspicious about the true reason for Jordan's sudden desire to see the Grand Canyon. Will Dyson successfully wrestle with his feelings for Jordan? And will Dyson discover why the Grand Canyon is so important to Jordan – and be able to deal with the consequences? Please Note: This book contains Adult Language & Steamy Adult Activities, it is intended for 18+ Adults Only. Novel, approx. 70,000 words in length. HEA (happy ever after ending). Does not end with a "cliffhanger".

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

Friendship turns to love and the reverse is often true as well. A spectacular road trip to the GRAND CANYON is time consuming and hard, but when two best friends do it, it is enjoyable. Both are recent college graduates with their lives ahead of them. Each of them have a secret that must be shared, will they still be together after? This book is a must read, I am not a sentimental person, but it made me cry, it is so beautiful.

Interesting read. Magnetized and turns which kept the story INTERESTING. Would recommend your works to others.

Not one of my favorites

I love it

This is a tear jerker of a story and very well written. It's also a great book not to overlook on your reading list. It's a moving story about Jordan and Dyson, two best friends since seventh grade all the way through college. They did everything they could together. My heart clutched with pain for Dyson (a gay man) who was in love with Jordan and had endured his straight friend's affairs with women and longed to be the one in his friend's arms. He knew his friend loved him as a friend, but would be nothing more. I don't believe I had shed so many tears over a book, but as I said this is a very moving story. The story was full of humbleness with Dyson constantly putting Jordan's happiness before his own happiness. I

couldn't imagine myself being as brave and caring as Dyson, loving and longing for Jordan to notice him in a romantic way for so many years. This man retched in pain as Jordan went to bed with multi women and then sat with his best friend as he told him about his dates' gruesome torture. Dyson was so in love with Jordan he couldn't even look at another man even though he tried to date, but none compared to Jordan. Right after graduation day from college, Jordan dropped the bomb on Dyson as Jordan enthusiastically wanted to go to the Grand Canyons and for Dyson to accompany him. Dyson was baffled by this change in his friend who never cared about going anywhere but near home. He wondered why it was so urgent for Jordan to do this, so at first he said a flat "No" but the hurt and need in Jordan's eyes was enough to change his no to a yes. On their travel they learned things along the way about each other, but it seemed anywhere they went to have fun together and women came into the picture, Dyson would give up his fun time with Jordan to let his friend spend time with these girls and have a good time. At one of their overnight stops, Jordan wanted to go to a bar and Dyson dragged himself along even though he was dead tired. In the bar Jordan had encouraged his friend to go talk to a handsome guy to go to bed with. To please his friend, he befriended the man explaining his situation. The man was taken aback at first but then understood and started to play along. When Dyson placed his hand over the other man's hand he found himself on the floor. There was this huge dude that was homophobic and was going to teach Dyson a lesson, but Jordan came to his rescue and had serious words with this man. Jordan escorted Dyson to the door, but the huge man kept it up which infuriated Jordan that he pulled Dyson to him and kissed his friend in front of the homophobic to prove a point, but discovered he liked kissing Dyson. After that Jordan distanced himself from Dyson not understanding the emotions he was feeling for Dyson. Dyson had a tough negative dialogue within himself that only added to his fear of losing Jordan. After time in the car the next day of being shunned by Jordan, Dyson demanded they needed to talk. What surprised Dyson was Jordan wanted to kiss him again and that night they made love. Dyson was high on happiness only to have Jordan's phone ring early the next morning. Dyson eavesdropped on Jordan's odd conversation thinking he wanted to go back with an ex-girlfriend. But once Jordan had hung up and Dyson confronted his friend another bomb was dropped on Dyson—the reason why Jordan wanted to go to the Grand Canyons. Jordan had gotten an ex-girlfriend, Shayla, that he dated for a couple of months pregnant and he had a daughter sixteen months old he never knew about. The anger from Dyson was well warranted, his friend had betrayed his trust by not telling Dyson why they were headed west and knowing this made love to Dyson getting his hopes up that the two could have a relationship. The two went through turmoil as

they patched up their budding relationship and Jordan claimed he wanted to be with Dyson and that his ex-girlfriend was not in the picture other than the mother of his child. They smoothed things between them before they arrived at the exes' house. It was quite emotional with meeting his daughter and Dyson's now boyfriend talking with his ex about their daughter. Dyson felt like an outsider and quietly left and went outside. He was sure he had lost Jordan before they could ever really start their relationship to the ex. But he was wrong and Jordan told him so in many words to convince his lover that he was never going to leave him and the three spent the entire day together getting to know his daughter. They were going to stay the night until the mother came home from a conference early and found Jordan and Dyson kissing during a makeup kiss. That first meeting with the mother went south quick when she told them to get out of her house and Jordan was not fit to see his daughter carrying on with another man's homophonic mother. I was torn to shreds when Dyson sacrificed himself when he asked the mother if Jordan wasn't involved with him could Jordan see his daughter. In order for Jordan to see his daughter, Dyson had to leave never to see Jordan again. The pain and tears flooded me when Dyson made his hard choice. For a decade Dyson had dreamed of having a life and relationship that was more than friend with Jordan and now that he has it he has to give Jordan up so he could see his daughter. Shayla's mother had even gave money to Dyson for the car fare and his plane ticket to go home. But the torment didn't stop there and my heart bled for Dyson when he went to Jordan's mother's home for emotional support and blurted out his feeling for Jordan and that they had started dating. Dyson's emotions I felt and his tears of agony went directly to my heart. Then I cried when Jordan came after his lover, his beloved and the shouting match of pain and then the beautiful joyful reunion between the two was overwhelming. Now I have to tell you that I couldn't stop my tears no matter how hard I tried as I read. Tears blurred my eyes and slid down my cheeks while I was reading this on a ferry to NY. I hoped no one had noticed.

Don't let that stop you from reading this book. It's an incredible journey about two best friends that loved each other as brothers to romantic love. I read a complimentary Advanced Reader Copy of the book & I am voluntarily leaving an honest and unbiased review.

This has become one of my favorite stories by Jerry Cole, and that is saying something. This is a standard friends to lovers book that is anything but standard. You have Jordan, the popular jock. Easy going, makes friends with anyone and everyone, dates every woman in the school. Then you have nerdy, quiet, gay Dyson. Somehow they've been friends since they were 13, and Dyson feels that he's been in love with Jordan since the beginning. They've just graduated college, and Jordan,

out of nowhere, tells Dyson he wants to go to the Grand Canyon as a last hoorah, the final trip before they settle down into jobs and life after college. Dyson is a planner, so he's totally thrown for a loop, but like always, Jordan is able to talk him into going. As they travel from New York to Arizona, Dyson becomes increasingly aware that something is up with Jordan. Then, one night in a bar Dyson gets assaulted, and Jordan comes to his rescue. Then to get out of the bar, Jordan kisses Dyson. Dyson's world stops, and he thinks Jordan may like him. But back in the hotel room Jordan freezes up, and Dyson gets hurt emotionally. The next day in the car is extremely awkward. When they finally have it out Jordan says he's had feelings for Dyson for awhile, but has been nervous about doing anything. Dyson is thrilled. This is the beginning of their sexual relationship. Come the day after next, it's almost also the end of it. Jordan finally comes clean about this impulsive trip—he has a daughter living in Arizona he just found out about. The rest of the book takes an emotional toll on the reader, as Dyson is prepared to sacrifice his relationship with Jordan so he can have a relationship with his daughter. I loved this book. Even though it was a friends to lovers, it had an unique twist to it. It kept me so engaged I finished it in 1 night!!! The characters were ones I personally wanted to know. Jordan and Dyson were written just right. If you love gay romance, whether it's friends to lovers or not, you've got to give this book a try. I promise you won't regret it :) I read a complimentary Advanced Reader Copy of the book & I am voluntarily leaving an honest and unbiased review.

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