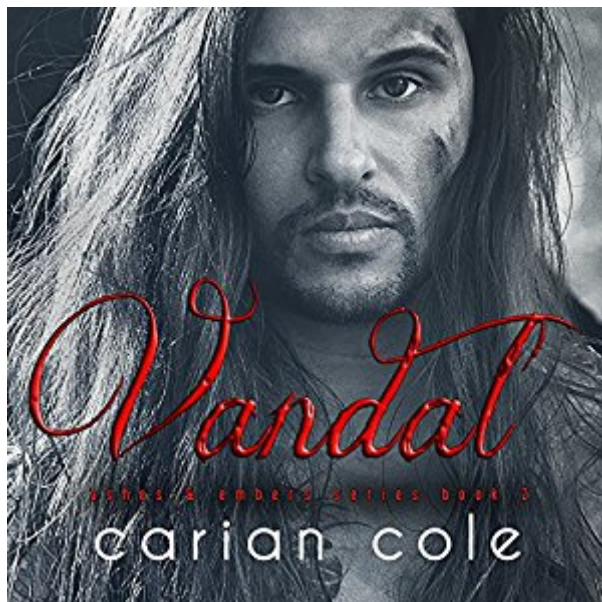


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# Vandal: Ashes & Embers, Book 2



## Synopsis

She takes my breath away; she is so beautifully damaged. Yes, I had broken her, ravished her life, and destroyed her happiness. I brought her to the ultimate despair. I was responsible for all the pain and suffering that now brought her to her knees in front of me. Broken. Hopeless. Reckless in her agony. She is a mirror of my own tortured soul. But what I took away I can give back, in ways she cannot even begin to imagine. She is everything right in all my wrongs. She loves me. She needs me. She has no idea I'm the one who wrecked her life. Contains mature themes.

## Book Information

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Whispersync for Voice: Ready

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## Customer Reviews

The book starts out with the car crash 'Storm' finishes with, so it was no surprise that Vandal is going to lose his daughter - which came as a relief to me that I already knew it and was ready for it. Vandal then goes into deep depression, which is mentioned in the book, and drags on for quite a while, but there is also a good story-line happening. As a way to get out of his own head, he pretty much starts stalking Tabi, and convinces her to get away with him for a little while. I don't want to spoil much, I enjoyed the book immensely, but it wasn't as great as the first one to the series. There was a lot of back and forth, and a lot of grief and drama and hiding things from each other. Overall, the characters were insanely relatable, and even though I didn't get as pulled in as I did with 'Storm', I was prepared to give this book 5 stars. However, the last chapter is from Tabi's POV (as are many) and the author reveals something that contradicts basically half the book. (I won't spoil.) But that last chapter did a huge dint in the book. At first, I thought, wow, girl power, but then I thought - what a manipulative b\*\*\*\*. Kind of ruined the female lead for me, and I just couldn't really like her from then

on - which makes her unlikable now through the entire book. I loved this book, and I am a huge fan of Carian Cole, but I sure wish the last chapter wasn't included.

Sometimes we all do STUPID things. In part II of the series *Ashes & Embers* our hero, well close enough, Vandal is going to do something he really should of thought thru - before doing - taking control of Tabitha's crazy life. In a fit of anger and a late night trip, Vandal destroys his own life and unknowingly, Tabitha's also. But he can't seem to get up the nerve to tell her the truth. But on the flip side, Tabitha is holding something back too. This is definitely NOT a by the book (sorry ... bad pun) kind of romance. It has quite a bit of the BDSM lifestyle included, so if that's not your thing you may want to skip Book II. It is a really good read though, including the rough stuff.

Just when I thought I had read a book (also by Ms. Cole) about two incredibly damaged people, I read this one that tops it. While the general storyline is predictable, the journey along the way isn't. Read her disclaimer at the beginning. Heed it. Be forewarned this book enters the dark and dirty recesses of a tortured mind. But be prepared to love the characters if you have the fortitude to read it. Moving on to book 3 of *Ashes & Embers*...

I knew this was a soft Dom/Sub BDSM book from the start, and so I was prepared for this lifestyle even though I don't understand it. What I could understand is broken people using control in an out of control and damaged life. Vandal was an interested character who I felt was a damaged guy trying to find a way to fix someone he hurt in a way he thought he could. Tabitha was completely shattered and broken. Somehow they found a way to find what they needed in each other and a way to move on from the tragedy that was their life while finding love and healing. The ending was quite a shock and put a whole new spin on the book. There is no cliffhanger and HEA.

I finished *Vandal* 3:30 in the morning and wanted to wait to write this review. Vandal's soul haunted me through this book. The author Carian Cole warns the reader that this book has a dark side. Vandal is not a perfect guy far from it, but to me he just needed to find that right person who could deal with his wants and needs. Tabitha was that person. Vandal could tell Tabitha was in a lot of pain and then found out he was the cause for that pain. Vandal wants to take away her pain... This subject of D/s was new to me. You could really feel the pain in Vandal and Tabitha characters, that they both were lost, lonely and angry. I really enjoyed reading this book. Please give it a try, the ending was a real surprise.

Oh, I did!!! If there was ever a bad boy, Vandal is it!! Tragedy follows him like a wraith stealing his soul bit by bit until he finds Tabi....the one ray of sunlight in his dark world!! But Tabi has suffered her own tragedy. Will that single ray of light be enough to break thru the darkness and bring them both back to the land of the living? This book will rip your heart out, make you angry, push the limits of your control, and melt your heart!! If you love D/s stories, DO NOT miss this one. And don't read it in public.....the squirming may be disruptive!!

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