



# Closer

*Kaia Bennett*

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## Closer Kaia Bennett

After a whirlwind week of hot sex and growing affection, Nicole and Gabriel were forced to part ways and to return to real life. For a while they danced around each other, meeting up when they could, the distance between them rivaled only by their desire to be together again.

Now these lovers are no longer star-crossed. They're in the same city at the same time and can finally indulge their insatiable passion. At least until Gabriel's increasingly popular band goes on tour.

But the ticking clock of his budding music career isn't the only obstacle to contend with. A blast from Gabriel's wild past, a guy that kept Nicole warm in Gabriel's absence, and fear of what the future holds all converge just as they've begun to realize this might be love...

**Author's Note:** *This book contains strong language and sexual content with dark elements, some of which readers may find uncomfortable.*

## Closer Details

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Author : Kaia Bennett

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## From Reader Review Closer for online ebook

**Tina says**

*This review is based on an ARC received for an honest review*

So you know how in figure skating the judges give out scores twice? Once for Technical accomplishment and once for artistic? Well, this is kinda how I ended up feeling when I was struggling with how to rate this book. And struggle I did.

On Technical merits, this book gets very high marks. The writing is strong and assured. This is a work of erotica. So the sex scenes are plentiful -- *plentiful* -- and they are explicit and they are well done. On the characterization front, the author does a good job of crafting two distinct people and getting you into their emotional head-space. This is the sort of writing you want to be reading -- descriptive, emotional and interesting.

On the Artistic merits, however, this is where I struggled. And to be fair when I use the term 'artistic' is isn't in reference to the author's vision, but rather how the book spoke to me. How did I feel about these people? Did I understand and enjoy them? Do the ups and down of their love story grab me and make me want to root for them? And I think it is in that sense this book didn't really 100% succeed for me.

This is the second installment of a serialized story following the love story of Nicole and Gabriel. She is a recent college grad who had been in love with and fascinated with Gabriel for years. Gabriel is a few years older than Nicole and is just on the cusp of reaching commercial success with his rock band.

The first book of the series, #1 Crush, is an erotic novella that introduces them to the reader and allows them to recognize their attraction to each other and scratch a sexual itch. It ends with them going their separate ways, having agreed that the sex was fun but they each have other priorities. That book was pure erotica and a sort of appetizer for this meatier dish.

In this book, Nicole and Gabriel re-enter each other's orbit. Nicole is much more into Gabe emotionally than he is to her at first. They hook up again and their sexual attraction is immediate and strong. From there they continue to use sex to feed their emotional attachment until the two start to build something deeper and fall in love.

Because this is a serialized work, this installment doesn't dot all the romantic I's and cross all the Happy T's. This is another segment in their road happiness, but it isn't the end of it. And therein I think lies my larger problem.

Since the story doesn't end here, the romantic conflict felt somewhat manufactured. The internal conflict at first is just that Nic and Gabe can't admit to each other they love each other. This went on for awhile and it got a little tedious. They simply couldn't communicate. When they finally could admit their feelings, you knew that something else was going to come along and muck it up. And it did. I actually recoiled from some of the actions of the characters in the last 10% of the book. Honestly, it kind of put me off them. Nicole came off as immature and honestly rather stupid and easily manipulated. Gabe fared much better and I was really on team Gabe here. But in the end my overall feeling as I was reading wasn't that there was a strong, believable obstruction between the couple and their HEA that I wanted to see them work through, but rather they here was a conflict to throw in to get them to the next book.

So in that sense I think the serialization aspect works against my own emotional involvement in the story.

I do recommend this to readers who like really sexy erotica with an angsty emotional component and don't mind serialization.

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### **Monica **\*\*can't read fast enough\*\*** says**

"Wow" was all I could think when I read the last paragraph of CLOSER. In this part of the series we get to witness the tremulous beginning of a real relationship between Nicole and Gabriel. A little time has passed from the ending of #1 CRUSH. Nicole has finished college, found a full time job in New York, and is on her own. Gabriel is fully investing himself in his music career and moving forward. Now that their attraction is out in the open Nicole and Gabriel are free to explore each other in every way possible and I do mean every-way-possible. Any limited inhibitions that Nicole may have had are definitely gone. She and Gabriel go at it like rabbits. Gabriel is slowly showing Nicole a kinkier and more aggressive side of himself and she is lapping it up. Gabriel's sexual desires have a darker bent that is slowly coming to light. I freely admit that I am a bit surprised at how full blown erotic the relationship is between two relatively young people, but hey, what do I know?

Although the descriptive sex is plentiful throughout CLOSER Bennett does bring more actual relationship development in this one. Gabriel and Nicole become exclusive and try to make a relationship that will have to endure periods of separation work. A tentative trust is built between them but it is also tested pretty quickly. A specter from Gabriel's past appears in the form of Meredith, a woman that he was involved with before Nicole and who is now back in his life in a way that she can't be easily avoided. Meredith is so freaking unlikable that I found myself gritting my teeth every single time that she had any interaction with Nicole. She is manipulative, deceptive, and selfish and is the perfect nemesis for Nicole. They are complete opposites and she had my palm itching to slap someone!

Nicole is tempted to go further outside of what she's comfortable with all because she thinks it would please Gabriel. She falls into the trap of self doubt that so many young women find themselves in when trying to please someone else more than themselves. Self confidence and a lack of a bigger sense of self worth are issues Nicole wrestles with in this one. Gabriel on the other hand wrestles with the fear of letting Nicole see who he once was even though he has moved forward from his past. Gabriel doesn't trust that someone can love him enough to accept his failures and mistakes and give him credit for who he is now.

Bennett has definitely delivered again! She has presented another installment that left me twitching a bit as I finished because it does end in a cliffhanger. Luckily for me I came into this series at the very end and the third and final book, MIND OVER MATTER, is out today!

**\*\*I received a copy in exchange for an honest review.\*\***

**You can find more from me at**

**•(♥).•\*Monlatable Book Reviews\*•(♥)•**

**<http://www.monlatablereviews.com/>**

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## IndieSage PR says

Happy Teaser Tuesday! HAPPY RELEASE DAY! **CLOSER** is now available! Enjoy these sizzling teaser from **CLOSER**!

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## Dianne says

Warning, if you are easily embarrassed, not able to deal with extremely graphic sexual encounters that border on rough and animalistic or do not like brutality in your sex scenes, this is not for you. That said, if you like the down and dirty aspects of explicit sex, you are in for a treat of sensations, visual and mental close ups and the power of the physical act of sexual intimacy.

Gabriele is an up and coming rockstar, with a dark and animalistic side that needs to be in control, needs to show his feelings through rough behavior. He also has a very possessive streak that overcomes all that is Nicole. Together they are such a dynamic duo between the sheets that fire alarms must be going off all over town. But do they have what it takes to face the mundane day to day world of being a couple? Is Nicole becoming too dependent on Gabriele's approval to live for herself or find her own path in life?

Looking to know more about the people involved or where they live, what they do outside of their sexual needs? It isn't here, but Kaia Bennett's **Closer** does profile the intimate relationship in spades. I, myself, would like to understand the characters as people, how they live, where they live and what happens with them when not in the throes of their sexual antics.

I received this ARC edition from Kaia Bennett in exchange for my honest review.

Series: Loose Ends - Book 2

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## Jessica Alcazar says

**\*\*ARC kindly provided by the author in exchange for an honest review\*\***

I'm not gonna lie, I don't like cliffhangers. And it's not even cliffhangers, it's mostly stories that span the length of 2 to 3 and sometimes more books to tell the story of two people. Why? Because when you have full length novels like these, you run the risk of people losing interest after one or two books. So the story better be damn engaging. AND IT IS! I couldn't get enough of these two from page one, book one! This is a powerful story of the growth of two people as individuals AND as a relationship that spans some time. It's not a quickie. YES, since the moment Nicole laid her eyes on Gabriel, she knew she wanted him. AND the same goes for Gabriel. But sometimes (actually always), life happens and you gotta roll with it....

OK, so not only is this book a roller-coaster of twist and turns and ups and downs, but the whole series is like this. BUT IT'S GOOD. Because life is messy, kids. And if you don't think it is, then you probably haven't lived enough just yet to get that! LOL I LOVED that Nicole and Gabriel were not easy. It made it real to me. It made it realistic and relatable. #AWESOMENESS!

So Closer picks up about a year or so after #1 Crush ends. And before you ask, of course you have to read it first! But trust me, it is no hardship. You'll want to see how these two came together. How powerful their connection was from the very beginning. Because as their 'relationship' unfolds in this book, they become even more powerful. (If I've lost you, it's because you haven't read the books and you have to do that, RIGHT NOW!)

OK, so even tho these two belong together, they went their separate ways at the end of #1 Crush. Neither wanted to hold the other back in life so they decided that was the best course of action at that time. But now it is now. Nicole has got her college degree and is back home living closer to her sister and Gabriel's music is about to go thru the roof with a new record deal and tour on the horizon. Life is good, right? So let's DO THIS ..... again, life is never that easy LOL But Nicole and Gabriel do try. How could they not? Their chemistry is insane! The sex scenes between these two left me speechless. I was wow'd over and over again by every one. These two had POWER together. And if you pay close attention, you will see that Nicole and Gabriel never just have sex, oh no, they connect. Deeply and irrevocably! As you read thru these scenes, you get to know the real Gabriel. And he is INTENSE, with a side of kink LOL The man can dirty talk with the best of them!

There's an outside force introduced to us that the only way I can describe is EVIL, and she goes by the name 'Mere'. JESUS, but this woman needed a good spanking (and not the good kind!) You see, Gabriel's darker sexual desires has had him turn to Mere in the past and she uses this to really try and (insert inappropriate foul word but yet SO appropriate) with what Nicole and Gabriel are trying to build ..... aaaaaaand cue our Closer cliffy! That's all the story you get from me :) but I would be remiss if I did not touch on Kaia Bennett and her MADD writing skills! Her style is confident and strong. Her characters are well developed and not lacking. Every person and or scene makes sense. Nothing is put in for fluff. The sex is erotic, explicit, engaging and abundant :) And lastly, the pacing of the book is done exceedingly well. And even tho I have enjoyed the heck out of Nicole and Gabriel, my anxiety cannot take much more and I will be VERY happy when Mind Over Matter releases and we get our much awaited HEA!

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## **Freda Assamany-Grigg says**

I was given an advanced copy of this book for an honest review. Well, here goes.

First of all I have been waiting for this book like an addict!!!

I have to say I wasn't disappointed. The characters seem real and you find yourself saying 'I get why she/she did that'. This makes them relatable, makes you root for the main characters. I think Gabriel is a total babe-man! Even with that, you have glimpses of him being vulnerable. He is human after all. Nicole is sweet. Sort of like an everyday girl, which for me is a plus as we are now surrounded by either these caramel mocha ladies with blue/green eyes and a perfect body or someone with body image issues. Nicole seems happy with herself(if only physically) These little things make a book work for me. Grammar (which is very important!) was on point and there wasn't any glaring mistake that would take you out of the story. All in all, I give out 5 stars!!!!

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## **Shirley Frances says**

This installment picks up about a year after Nicole and Gabe went their separate ways. Nicole has graduated college and settling into her life while Gabe is finally getting his music career off the ground.

They have kept in touch and hook up whenever they see each other. But what will happen now that they live in the same area?

Well, you guessed it--a whole lot of sex!!!

Now don't get me wrong..this installment has the explicit, hot, hot, hot sex of the previous installment but let's just say that it's been taken up a notch and it's been mixed with quite a bit of angst.

Now that their encounters are more frequent and even more intense, Nicole and Gabe find themselves conflicted and trying to keep their emotions at bay. Nicole because she doesn't want to get hurt if Gabe doesn't return her feelings and Gabe because he doesn't know what the hell is happening to him emotion-wise.

Nicole had grown quite a bit in that year apart apart, but she's still susceptible to Gabe. She wants to please him and struggles with her independence and the urge to be meet Gabe needs.

They manage to keep it somewhat together, but they still hold back emotionally. And this goes on for a while until Gabe's commitments take him on the road and away from Nicole. And this is where the drama just went overboard and it all came crashing down for me.

I understand the need for angst and drama in a story. Hell, I love angst and drama in a story but only if it's necessary and helps to develop the characters and strengthen their connection. Sadly, this is not the case here. For me, it just served to show Nicole and Gabe's unwillingness to communicate and how little they have come to know one another.

Regardless of Gabe's needs and Nicole's willingness to please him, if what they shared was truly real they wouldn't have found themselves in that type of situation. I just couldn't accept it which only led me to lose interest in their 'relationship' and not care one way or another how these two were going to fare along the

way.

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## Anita says

Full disclosure - I was gifted an ARC in exchange for an honest review. My thanks to the author. Where to begin... First off, this is why I don't like serials. I don't like cliffhangers. I don't like having to wait to find out what happens. I just don't like it. But this author hooked me on her writing with Sunday so I put aside my misgivings and now I almost wish I hadn't. Dayyyuum this book put me through the wringer. So this takes place about a year or so after Gabriel and Nicole first hook up in #1 Crush and yes, you have to read that one first! Nicole has graduated college and moved to NY to be closer to her sister, Jackie and Jackie's boyfriend, Ian. Gabriel's music is about to take off. They have seen each other on and off and are doing the friends thing but they both know that they are taking different paths and there's no time to even think about a relationship. Nicole is doing her thing and as she says at one point "is having her needs taken care of." And Gabriel is clearly doing his thing but the connection they forged during that time Nicole was visiting her sister from college is still there. There is a line early on in the book that states that Nicole is brave. And goodness yes, this girl is brave. So they are now in the same place at the same time and they re-connect. And every time they are together, flames shot out of my Kindle. At one point, I was thinking - is there too much sex because they are going at it constantly - and there is a funny line in chapter 12 where Gabriel is thinking to himself "he should be fresh out of come from fucking around with this girl...." and I am thinking, yep, you should be out of come, buddy!! But see, if you read those scenes carefully, there is a deeper connection being forged every time they make love. There's a dynamic brewing between these two that highlights some "preferences" if you will or maybe darker desires. I don't want to say the d/s words because immediately people think of handcuffs and floggers. That's not what this is about. Gabriel and Nicole find something in each other sexually that fulfills a need that is just otherworldly in its intensity. They scarily complete each other and connect on a primal, elemental level. Might not make sense but the author takes the reader down this road and you might say, damn but isn't this sexing all the time just too much. But you have to let this play out because it just underscores the combustible nature of their relationship and illuminates why they should be together. And this is where Nicole's bravery comes in. She is scared but allows herself to become what Gabriel needs because she needs it too. She owns her sexuality and is not ashamed. We find out bits and pieces about Gabriel's past through a venomous young woman named Meredith or Mere, a fellow musician. And I have to say at about the 87% point I nearly DNFed. OMG this woman just made me so mad and I was mad at the author for going in this direction. But I rode the wave and finished and am left with a cliffhanger, and I am mildly pissed and no knowledge of when the 3rd book, Mind Over Matter, is to be released. But that's my issue. We do get a bit of MOM at the end. The book is exceedingly well written. Deeply erotic. Well done character driven romance. Great pacing. Clearly defined secondary characters - Chase, Nuke, Jonny and the others are wonderful guys. Jackie and Ian are still hilarious. But the slow burn of the development of the dynamic between Nicole and Gabriel is what has you mesmerized. You have this laser focus on those two and almost forget about the other characters. We get both of their POVs so you are clear about what each is thinking. A minor quibble and it did not detract from my score, but I would have loved more information about where they lived. All we know is they live in NY. Well I am an experiential reader and want descriptions of places and spaces and I didn't necessarily get there here. Probably because I am from NY so wanted to imagine their surroundings, but alas, did not get that. But just a minor quibble.

So if you are looking for a solidly written romance, with lots of heat, complex relationships, and yet another kick-ass heroine from Ms. Bennett, you won't be disappointed.

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## **Vintage says**

[The two MC hook up after a year and it is true love. Can I cuss? Because I feel the need for a barrage of F words. The fly in the ointment is Mere, whatsits gorgeous and evil ex-lover. Her manipulation is so fucking obvious and OTT you can see it from space. What does dumb bunny Nicole do? She gets manipulated and dared into a threes

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## **Meka♥books says**

[anal, use of blind fold, bondage, biting, spanking, outdoor sex & degradation (hide spoiler)]

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## **Mspraise50 says**

Book 2 in the Loose End Series. I was given an ARC of this book for my honest review.

In book 2 we pick up with Nicola and Gabriel with their friends with benefits relationship. They hook up for sex whenever they can and are seeing other people in-between. Eventually they realise they want to be together and enter into a relationship. They are mostly honest with each other and are building a relationship that should be based on trust and honesty. Again every chapter has a erotic scene.

An Ex hook-up buddy of Gabriel's deliberately tries to sabotage the relationship between Nicole and Gabriel. I believe that they both allowed this person to come in and drop a bomb in their lives because Nicole was too naive not to see this person wanted to destroy her relationship and Gabriel because he lied by omission.

I have to say I did find the story frustrating. Nicola and Gabriel are supposed to be building their relationship on trust, they have that in the bedroom but when they really needed it outside of the bedroom, it was shockingly lacking. The story towards the end was a real emotional roller coaster and I felt dissatisfied with the ending.

I now have to wait for book 3 to find out how this story ends!

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## **wendy Shelton(obsessedbybooks) says**

I had the honor of beta reading this awesome authors work and that is exactly what closer is its awesome. in #1 crush we seen nicole and Gabe cross that line of sexual attraction to only decided it was better to just remain friends and they went their separate ways Gabe with his band, Nicole to finish school, in closer we get to see them meet back up Gabe's band is getting signed to a major record deal and of course he wants to share it with nicole. he let's her know that he will be in town and would love to see her, and of course she says yes. see nicole has always wanted to be more than friends with gabe, she just didn't want to hold him back. let me tell you as soon as they see each other it gets hot. Gabe loves dirty talking and he is so good at it. This book speaks sex it is HOT I felt myself blush reading it. Gabe and Nicole have always promised to be honest with each other, so while they are spending all this time together nicole meets Meredith "mere" and notices how Gabe stiffens up when ever she's around, when nicole mention it he tells her they slept together

no big deal it's the past, but the truth is Gabe has a very particular taste in sex and is afraid that if Nicole learns the truth she'll leave. Will Gabe confess the truth, will his love for her be enough for both. Will Nicole confess her true feelings and can she trust him with hers. OMG this book kept my attention with every page I turned. Gabe is a sexy dominant male who you just want to lick (fanning myself). This book brings back characters from #1 Crush and they interact perfectly together. Can't wait to see what's in store next for Nicole and Gabe. Awesome job definitely a must read and you do need to read #1 Crush first. 5 out of 5.

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## **Karen's Bookshelf says**

\*\*\*ARC copy for and honest review\*\*\*

In Closer, we meet up with Gabriel and Nicole again from Ms Bennett's Loose Ends Series. They're still trying to figure out their complicated relationship. Nicole has graduated from college, and Gabriel's music career is finally taking off. Whenever the two of them meet up the magnetic pull between the two of them is too hard to deny. They are finally in the same place, and realize that the love they have for one another is worth fighting for. Gabe and Nicole are finally happy together, but will their love be strong enough to fight off a part of Gabriel's past that has decided she wants to be a part of his future too.

I loved getting better acquainted with Gabriel and Nicole. In the first book Nicole was just coming into her own, but in book 2 she seems more sure of herself, and willing to go after what she wants. I also like seeing Gabriel open up to Nicole about his feelings and letting her see his softer side. Watching their relationship grow was very sweet, and the sex scenes were hot. The love making scenes were definitely not for the faint at heart. The story flowed well from the beginning to the end. My favorite part was when Gabriel told Nicole that he loved her. I really felt the emotions coming through in that scene. My least favorite part was when Nicole started to second guess Gabriel's commitment to her. I was sad to see this story end because I'm left wondering what happens next, but I can't wait to find out. I'm definitely looking forward to book 3.

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## **Zandra says**

### **SOOOO GOOD**

Modern, non-cliche, and on the money. Modern dating mores involves just hooking up. But what do you do about those feelings when they turn from unrequited love to lust to love? As modern and cool as we try to be, our basic need for support, security, and love never changes. This is what Kaia Bennett has hit on the head. This series isn't your typical IR, paint-by-numbers serial. This series is modern, fresh, realistic, and pretty darn hot. I would suggest reading #1 Crush first. This book is absolutely not a stand alone. You need all the info from book 1 to engage in this follow up.

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## **Crystal Moody says**

omg! OMG!!

Closer is the much anticipated sequel to #1 Crush. When I read #1 Crush, the book was so hot, I had to remove layers of clothing. And Closer did not disappoint. Goodness, it was hotter! I didn't want this book to end. Kaia Bennett really did her thing with this. I need to get inside her head...or maybe I don't...but omg!!! I

just finished reading an ARC and this is my honest review. This book is amazing. I swear, her writing style becomes clearer with each book she releases. And she gets better and better. She is my author crush. She's just that good! Now, I am waiting for part three and I know she's going to deliver!! Keep crushing, Kaia!!!

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