



Beyond The Music

Ann Lister

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Lincoln Stallworth, bass player for Black Ice, has quietly watched each of his band mates fall in love and has accepted the fact he'll probably never find the same for himself. He doesn't really believe in true love, couldn't fully understand the absurdity of it, or the notion there could be just one perfect person for everyone. A debilitating health issue began to shadow Lincoln in the middle of their last tour. As his physical symptoms worsen, Lincoln has to fight the urge to hide from the world and himself inside his estate.

Aaron Baylor enters Lincoln's life at his lowest point. Lincoln feels broken, damaged beyond repair, and he's ready to give-up. Aaron's patience and unwavering support slowly begin to pull Lincoln back to being present in his own life and gives him hope for a future and for love. Will Aaron be the glue that holds the broken pieces of Lincoln's life together? Can Lincoln fight his way back to good health and take a chance at love? Or will the task be too great for Lincoln to handle?

Beyond The Music is Book 7 in The Rock Gods series. This is the final story in the series, but also the launch of a new M/M spin-off series, Guarding the Gods, which will have many cameo appearances from The Rock Gods characters in each story. If you enjoyed The Rock Gods, I hope you'll give Guarding the Gods a try!

Beyond The Music Details

Date : Published February 23rd 2016 by SleighFarm Publishing Group

ISBN :

Author : Ann Lister

Format : ebook 454 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance

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From Reader Review Beyond The Music for online ebook

Helen says

As this is the last book in this great series , I felt I should say a little something !

I LOVED IT !!!

With each book I was convinced that this couple where my favourite , but Lincoln and Aaron may indeed be my favourite , or is it Dagger and Ryan ?

Anyway We haven't heard much from Lincoln before getting his own book , and the reason for this becomes clear , he has had much bigger worries on his mind , his bewildering array of symptoms .

When he finally is forced into getting his diagnosis , as the reader you are urging him to do the things he should to manage his condition . But Lincoln displays a realistic , if frustrating , reaction .

Thank goodness for the arrival of Aaron , initially Lincoln's nurse , but soon more than that . The whole situation and developing relationship is handled in a sensitive and genuine fashion .

They are lovely together , and Aaron's support of Lincoln is wonderful , but Lincoln is (after his initial griping) readily open to experience these new feelings too . As the story progresses we see all the characters from the previous books and they are all present at the happy ending .

I am very sorry to see this series finish , surely there must be more Gay Rock Gods who need their story telling by Ann Lister ?

Lisa Cullinan says

This review is the hardest one I've ever written for so many reasons. I was thinking back to when I opened up my kindle to the first page of Fall For Me—Dagger and Ryan's story. After finishing that book, I realized that I would follow Ann Lister and her Rock Gods the same way an addict needs their next fix. When it got to the point where I was starting to 'jones', Take What You Want was released. We met Alex, Chase, and Danni. That satisfied me for a bit until I needed the next, Make You Mine—Cooper and Jayson's heartfelt love story. Ann's timing with each new book was akin to being edged; waiting for the pleasure to finally makes its way with the release of another Rock God; Wheland and Rooster found love and a little kink in Looking at Forever. Following their story, Jared and Tony, the quiet duo who were joined at the hip, easily navigated their way from friends to lovers in Meant For Me. I was hanging on by a thread waiting for the next book, Fighting His Fire—Dante and Ashton's explosive and passionate story. There, we were treated to bathroom after bathroom being destroyed while in the throws of lust. Now, it's time to go Beyond the Music, where Lincoln has sat painfully quiet, patiently waiting his turn for his story to be told, his voice to be heard, his diagnosis to be named. Lincoln is beautiful. Inside and out, he is breathtaking and, Lincoln is sick. He's not sure why, but because of his symptoms, he fears his career as bass player for Black Ice might be over. The worst part of not knowing what's wrong parallels the ability to cope with the fallout when you finally get the answer. I can't help but feel personally invested in Lincoln's journey because I too, along with Ann, travel the same path. It's not an easy one but it can be managed. I'd be lying if I said that his story didn't bring me easily to tears at times. Everyone needs support. Luckily for Lincoln, his source of assistance comes in the shape and form of Aaron. Aaron is a nurse who helps those regain their strength and dignity by helping his clients live a healthier lifestyle. Aaron not only is smokin hot, but he exudes positivity, intelligence, kindness, motivation and patience. He helps Lincoln manage his meds, his meals, and his life, in general. He

also helps him out with some other ... stuff. Lincoln is so deserving of love; he's never had it, but he's smart enough to not let go of what he's found with Aaron. As we watch the dynamic of this unique relationship unfold between the two them, it also brings out the very best in every single member of both bands. There is so much love. So much friendship. So many laughs. Dagger stands out in this story as well; he is brilliant. There's also the introduction to the bodyguards keeping the boys safe as Ann sets us up for her spin-off series, Guarding the Gods. Ann tied every aspect of this series up in a beautiful big bow (I'm crying and I'm not sure exactly why). Ann rocked Lincoln's story, along with the whole Rock Gods series, into the stratosphere. I just want to say thank you Ann, for your guys and their music because THE ROCK GODS RULE THE WORLD! Lots of luck trying to top this series! I'll forever think of Black Ice every time I listen to Soundgarden. Shinedown, Nickelback or Puddle of Mud will always remind me of Ivory Tower. On a personal note, your friendship, your humor, and your kind words mean the world to me ~ thanks for that ~ ok, well, the lights have turned on, there are no more encores ~ I guess it's time to go ... I was given this as an ARC for an honest review ~

Truuss says

Lincoln and Aaron

A lovely story it was. Oke here and there a bit sappy but what the hell

Sometimes hot as f*ck.

Aaron he was a sweet stable personality and Lincoln a bit grumpy

But after you read why you will understand him completely

The story has a good line and a bit predictable but again what the hell

I loved all the story's

“Give your doubts to me, Lincoln, and I promise to be there for you,” Aaron breathed into Lincoln’s partially opened mouth. “I’ll be your strength, if you let me.”

(I thought Mario games were only on Nintendo devices.....and not on Xbox maybe an Europe thing)

Shannon says

I have really loved this series by Ann Lister, and the finale to it did not disappoint!

Lincoln has pretty much been a mystery through-out this series, and it was great to finally get inside his head, to see what was going on with him, finding out all his secrets.

I loved the connection he had with Aaron, once he let his guard down and really opened himself up.

This was an emotional read, Lincoln had a lot to deal with and work through, and it was hard going for him at times. Aaron stuck with him though, he was there for him every step of the way as he was learning to deal with everything that was thrown at him.

And I thought Spumoni was amazing...I'd love to see him get his own story one day!

I'm so sad to see this series come to an end, but I'm excited for what Ms. Lister had planned with the body guards!

***Thanks once again to my cousin for loaning me these books! <3

Mandie Foxylutely says

Oh Ann Lister can really rock the heart strings. Last in the series and what a wonderful read to end on!

Review to follow for the blog tour at Foxylutely Books! - coming soon. In the meantime I recommend you grab a copy of this one!

REVIEW

This is the final and seventh book in the Rock Gods series and finally we catch up with Lincoln from Black Ice.

Over the past few years Lincoln has been hiding something from his band mates but also casting it from his mind so he won't need to accept what the signs are telling him. It is whilst he is home from tour that something happens and luckily Spumoni was there to see and click what was happening. He quickly takes charge and tells Linc some home truths and puts forward a solution for Linc, that being Aaron.

Prickly Linc puts his barriers in place but Aaron soon soothes the hard headed bass player and with time Linc comes to trust Aaron. The pair are thrown in close proximity which in turn takes fate in hand and they start to develop feelings for each other. At first it is full on raunchy mode but the relationship develops into so much more.

It is hard to write this review without giving away the storyline. However this is one of the most emotional and soul bearing books in the series for me. The subject matter was cleverly tackled and explained so the reader was taken on the same journey as Linc was in his need to make changes in his life.

As in all the books in the series there was plenty of steamy hot sex thrown in with both men fighting for dominance. I liked that Aaron was able to win Linc round which in turn lead to the trust and love between the pair to flourish. Seeing Lincoln unravel and put aside his need for control and order into something so much more worthy of this gorgeous man. He has always kind of been on the periphery of the other books so for him to now get his own book was fabulous.

This amazing end to a truly fantastic series was an absolute five star read for me. I can't wait to catch up with the guys in their cameo appearances in the new spin off series **Guarding the Gods! FLOVED!**

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

Caroline Brand says

REVIEWED FOR PRISM BOOK ALLIANCE

Reading Beyond the Music was bittersweet for me as I'm sure it will be for the majority of Ann Lister fans. It doesn't seem like it was back in 2013 when Fall for Me hit our kindles and we were introduced to Dagger

and Ryan. A really big part of why I loved this series so much was that it was always a continuation from that first book. We may have met and fallen in love with different couples, or even a throuple, along the way but the stories evolved into a family. These men were damaged, deluded, broken and more often than not frustrating as all hell but they always pulled together and made you smile in the end.

Lincoln is the last band member to tell his story and it's very different to those who have come before him. He's not as glamourous as some of the boys and his life isn't as in your face. He's not out of control, he doesn't need an intervention and he doesn't need his manager to constantly run interference. What he does need is to move on from the denial that he is in and realise something is seriously wrong with his health.

Lincoln hasn't been well for a while but he is a master at hiding things – until he can't. Just because his band members have been busy with their own lives and problems doesn't mean his odd behaviour has gone completely unnoticed. Pushed to finally take action he is left devastated with his diagnosis and for a while it seems as if he has resigned himself to 'being ill' rather than looking at solutions to continue and take charge of the disease.

Aaron Baylor is a nurse who takes on clients privately and works with them in their homes. Lincoln does not make a good patient and pushes Aaron's patience to the limit in the beginning. Along with the obvious symptoms of his disease he has some let's say more embarrassing symptoms and I loved how the author dealt with this. The tentative steps, the care from Aaron and the way Aaron celebrated Lincoln's successes really made this story for me. It's not a conventional romance at all but they fall in love quickly, madly and deeply and Lincoln comes out of the shadows often times still embarrassed but with much more power.

To describe this story in one word I would say intimate. Lincoln doesn't just have to overcome physical problems, emotionally he is fragile and Aaron slowly coaxes him out of his shell. If a series has to end then Ann has found the perfect way to end it. This brought all the boys back together, it took us through a personal and difficult storyline, she put their lives in danger once again and she left us well and truly teased for what is to come next. Goodbye Rock Gods and welcome to their Guards!

Ann I have loved every minute of the ride you have taken us on – thank you ?

Isa Jones (Jo&Isalovebooks Blog) says

"A touching and Heartwarming story of the incredible power of Love" That is the best way I can describe this story.

This is the first book I have read from this Author and I feel I have been living under a rock! Why did it take me so long to read these books??? This is the 7th book in The Rock Gods series and I am delighted to have had the opportunity to have read it. Even though there are 6 previous books, I didn't feel lost or confused whilst reading, yes all the other characters are there and occasionally we heard about their previous experiences but it only made me want to start from the beginning and that is what I intend to do.

Lincoln is the bass player for the famous rock band, Black Ice. As the last remaining unattached member in the band, he has seen his friends who he refers to as his "brothers" find love and fall hard. He mocks the fact that they are all so lost in their fluffy and sickly romantic world. He seriously believes Love will never be something he will ever find or get to experience and he basically rejects any idea that this will ever happen, specially after finding out he has an illness that has starting to hinder his abilities. (This brought so much

emotion to the story, the last I was expecting to see on a rocker book was this to be honest, but it completely transfixed me and submerged me into Linc's world). Sorry I regress, so as Linc finds his lifestyle has to change in order to deal with the prognosis with which he has been presented, he comes to the realisation that he needs help, not that he really wants it and boy did he make his emotions clear. Enters Aaron Baylor, he finds Lincoln at a very low and fragile point, a point where some people cross that line of losing themselves in depression and despair, but Aaron not only teaches Linc but also the reader, what patience and Love can do to a human heart.

I recommend you, no, I URGE you to pick up this book. If you are a fan of MM romance then you will fall madly in love with the series, as I have too.

Fast paced, romantic, emotional, raw and scorchingly HOT, Beyond The Music, goes BEYOND THE WORDS.

5 ROCKING STARS. Isalovesbooks

Abbey's Fully Booked says

*** "I'm certain we'll get there... and we're gonna get there together, when you can be in that moment with me. Okay?" ***

It's always so bittersweet when reading the last book in the series and this book was no exception.

Lincoln has also been such a mystery to me when reading the other books in the series, so was dead excited when I found out we were gonna be able to get inside his head and see just who is Lincoln.

Aaron was a complete gem, seriously. His patience and love for Lincoln was enough to make anyone swoon.

The inside knowledge that Ann delivers on to what is wrong with Lincoln was interesting but after a while I felt like I was reading a medical journal.. maybe abit to much info!.

I love their love story and thoroughly enjoyed them getting their HEA, how ever I was kinda expecting abit more of a drama/angsty feel to the book then what was delivered.

The set up and introduction to the characters of Guarding the Gods was exciting and can not wait to see where Ann goes with that.

All in all, a very good end to an amazing series. I am sad to see them go!

*** "You make me feel like a porn star every single time we're in bed together. "**

"You're my porn star," [he] added, and his legs opened for [him] to settle between them.

"That's good, because I only want to be yours." *

Keri says

Lincoln's story was a straight up 10+ stars. Lincoln completely broke my heart and I was crying at times feeling his empty soul and pain. But, not only did Aaron completely heal my broken heart but he filled Lincoln's life with joy and love which caused him to mentally heal, as the physical illness will forever be with him. Spumoni, the enigma of the series stepped in and took loyalty to another level and helped Lincoln in his deepest, darkest time of life. He brought Aaron to Lincoln's life and Aaron ran with it with his heart of gold. Lincoln had inner and outer strength but had lost his inner strength. Aaron was right there to help him not forget and to learn to overcome the disease that caused that loss. The lines of patient-nurse were becoming blurred. But, when Aaron was giving himself over to Lincoln so Lincoln could use his strength, not only was Lincoln healing, his heart was opening to true love. The compassion, respect and love that they showed each other was heart warming. They never pushed each other and let the pieces fall together naturally, as a true relationship should.

As a series ender story, not so many stars. Yes, we get to see all the other men, although a few were minimally talked about, I just felt like I didn't have my overall wrap up of these powerful sexy men. I still feel like I'm hanging. I am so sad that this series is over. The next series is definitely about the bodyguards. I am sure we will see these swoon worthy men or at least I am hoping with everything that we will, and that we get a good look into their future. I am extremely curious as to what the future holds for my most favorite and one of my top BFFs of all time, Wheeland! *sigh, Wheeland, my heart and love* I am not ready to give up on these men, which tells me that Ann wrote each of these stories with exceptional and amazing heart felt clarity that we hurt for them and fell in love with them. My only wish is that I could seriously befriend these men and be a devoted friend to all of them.

I received this ARC to read for Inked Rainbow Reads in exchange for an honest review.

Diana says

Lincoln Stallworth is the bass player for the world famous Black Ice. After two years of suffering from unexplainable health problems, he reluctantly decides to find out what is wrong with him. When the doctor explains he has a life altering illness, Lincoln shuts down. He is terrified that not only will he lose his job, but his entire life will be different. The doctor suggest a home health nurse to help him adjust his lifestyle.

Aaron Baylor is a nurse that not only helps medically, but also has a knack of helping his patients mentally. Although he has worked for some famous people, he is not ready to handle a cranky ass Lincoln. It is hard for Lincoln to ask for help, but if Lincoln wants to be able to join his band on tour, he knows he has to work hard to regain some of his strength. It takes some time, a few arguments, and plenty of temper tantrums, but along the way, they find they need each other.

"Give your doubts to me, Lincoln, and I promise to be there for you. I'll be your strength, if you let me."

I absolutely adored Lincoln and Aaron. When Lincoln finally let his walls down and allowed Aaron in, they were perfect for one another. Lincoln had a lot to deal with, but Aaron had such patience and understanding with Lincoln. He was always there when Lincoln needed help with such love and support.

Beyond the Music is book 7 in the Rock Gods series, and it is also the last. I have loved each and every book. This series will always have a special place in my heart. I have been reading this series as a M/M buddy read for over a year with the girls from Turning Pages at Midnight. We have read many books together since, but in a way, The Rock Gods was the beginning.....Now I need a moment.

The good news is that there will be a spinoff series revolving around Ventura Security, the bodyguards for Black Ice and Ivory Tower, which we were introduced to in this book. So, hopefully we will see some of our beloved Rock Gods in the new series.

Jaime says

5+ Stars For Linc & Aaron

This is a story of losing control of your life. This is a story of feeling helpless. This is a story of learning to reclaim control of your life and learning you are stronger than you think.

This story reminds me of the phrase "**You don't know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have.**" Life isn't fair. Life will kick you until you're down, then kick ya a couple more times -- just because. That is what Linc faces in this story. The harsh reality that nobody is safe from chronic illness - - that it's okay to be scared and to lean on someone.

"I'm in no hurry to get there, Linc," Aaron's voice was laced with promise. "I'm certain we'll get there . . . and we're gonna get there together, when you can be in that moment with me. Okay?"

Ann Lister has written an excellent book that will have you going through an array of emotion from beginning to end.

Lincoln or Linc is the Bass Guitarist of Black Ice and he has been having some trouble for a while, but he is the master of deception and hiding it from his band mates ..passing off any questionable behavior with an attitude and a mind your own business glare. It isn't until he wakes up one morning with trouble seeing that he seeks out a doctor, and what that doctor tells him -- rocks him hard! Now he has to learn to live differently, think differently, be different and he is scared, hopeless, and angry. The only one who knows what is going on with Linc is Spumani the Black Ice roadie who was there to take Linc to the hospital. Linc has sworn Spumani to secrecy -- nobody is to know.

A couple of days later Spuman shows up at Linc's house with someone. That someone is Aaron. Aaron is a nurse/therapist and he played a bit of a cameo before in this series when he helped take care of Alex. Now Spuman has brought Aaron over to help Linc...but Linc wants nothing to do with him, he will not recognize his illness. After some cajoling Linc agrees to give Aaron a trial and their story really begins.

"I'm not sure I'm strong enough to deal with this and I fucking hate feeling helpless." "Give your doubts to me, Lincoln, and I promise to be there for you," Aaron breathed into Lincoln's partially opened mouth. "I'll be your strength, if you let me."

I loved this story. It is packed full of emotion and real life situations. The nurse in me wanted to jump in the book and help Linc, but Aaron has Linc under control. I loved the witty banter, the pet names, the way Aaron helped Linc to learn to live again. Aaron helps Linc see that life doesn't have to end with a life-changing diagnosis, it only has to be modified and taken one day at a time!

5+ stars for this last book in The Rock Gods Series! Can't wait to start the new series where we follow the body guards as they find love ~ best of the series!! Highly recommend!

*ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review. Reviewed by Jaime from Alpha Book Club and Gay Book Reviews

Sarah says

What a wonderful, moving conclusion to the Rock Gods! Lincoln, the Black Ice bassist, has been pretty invisible in the series to date but when the author gives Lincoln some of her own medical history, she writes him beautifully and passionately.

The build-up to Lincoln's devastating diagnosis is heartbreaking and his initial response is painfully realistic - if not terribly sensible. In many ways, this last book is less of a romance and more the story of Lincoln's personal journey towards accepting and managing his diagnosis. There is an intensity and truth to the writing of this story that I appreciated but didn't understand until the author explained her own medical history in the epilogue. All the Rock Gods books are fantastic, but this one is really special.

Aaron is a more noble character - but as Lincoln points out, it's easier to be brave when you're not the patient. If Lincoln is an awful patient at the start, I was ready to hate the smug, healthy, tofu and greens therapist from the moment he's introduced. But Lincoln and Aaron soften each other's rough edges, making them both more balanced people.

Unlike other stories in the series, the heat in this book takes a long time to build. Aaron and Lincoln aren't an obvious couple and I had Lincoln matched with another character at the start of the book. But I loved the slow burn intimacy and the difficult, at times unconventional sexual relationship between Aaron and Lincoln.

Around Lincoln's personal story, the author weaves in the characters we've come to love. I'd forgotten just how much I loved each of the couples/triples in each of these stories! I think readers need to start at the

beginning - if only because it would be a shame to miss out on such a wonderful series. This might stand alone, but I really wouldn't know. I've been a fan since Dagger first met Ryan in a free Kindle promotion for a brand new author.

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review for Inked Rainbow Reads.

Wendy says

I absolutely loved this last book in this series. After the ending of the previous book I was very curious, about what was going on with Linc. My heart broke for him when I (and he) found out what was wrong.

Now this review is gonna be hard for me to write because I don't want to spoiler it. So I will try to keep this to a minimum.

Linc (bass player of Black Ice) is going through a very hard time and it was very surprising for me to see that it was Spumoni, who was his savior at first. I've always been curious about that guy and he turned out to be one awesome dude. I hope we'll get to see more of him in the new series.

Spumoni introduces Linc to Aaron, who will turn out to be his saving grace, in more ways than one.

This book, for me, was the most emotional one and it has kicked Ashton and Dante from their number one spot !! It was emotional, beautiful and surprisingly steamy. I think this was the steamiest one of all.

Besides it being a serious read at times, I still laughed my ass off. It was so nice to see all the members of Black Ice and Ivory Tower again. I'm gonna miss them, but as far as I know, they will play a part in the new series...yippieeeeeee !!

If you've read any of the other books in this series, I'm sure you're gonna love this one too. If not, it can be read as a stand-alone, but I think, with all the side characters, the experience would be best if you've read the previous books. I myself, still need to read book 1, because the angst in the reviews, scared me off a little ;) I will start with that one soon though, because this author is definitely one of my favorites !

5 Stars from me and I can't wait for the first book of the new series to be published. Zac already had my interest piqued :))

Joanne Swinney says

Beyond 5 stars

Oh how and why have I waited so long to read this Author's books? I have been in Rock Gods heaven and will be venturing back for more. This is book seven in The Rock Gods Series and I hadn't read the other six, I know but I was too keen, anyways I didn't get lost in the story. I believe it can be read as a standalone but it does mention other characters from previous books, so definitely not spoiler free. I am going to start at the very beginning because the writing of this story grabbed my full attention and I can't wait to read all the characters stories that I was introduced to.

This book tells the story of Lincoln, my first introduction to a Rock God and I was not disappointed, he's not your typical charming man. Are any Rockers? I don't know but he's an adonis, I wouldn't mind losing myself in. Long hair, huge abs, beautiful heart that no one can get close to, until now. Lincoln has some huge changes to make in his life, the biggest being his lifestyle or is it? How can you just stop being a rocker?

Aaron the most loving, caring guy anyone would be lucky to have in their life. He goes out of his way to care for others, not because it's job but he has the heart to want to help. He wants to help Lincoln through his difficult time but like with any other person they must want the help to proceed with their own life. All the help in the world won't really help anyone unless they can first help themselves by admitting they need it.

The sexual content in this book is beyond hot, the story is filled with affection and love that took me by surprise. This is a romance that you do not want to miss out on.

This book deserves beyond 5 stars, the Author deserves another 5 for such brilliant writing. I have heard this quote before 'music is the sound of feelings', how very true. I was feeling this story way beyond the music.

Judy says

I have greatly enjoyed the Rock Gods series. Each story so different from the previous one.

Lincoln.

I was very intrigued by Linc, and could not wait to know more about him.

Just what was going on? What secret was he hiding?

I had my suspicions and couldn't wait to read this book!

The fear of knowing the truth was just as intense as remaining in the dark and fear had a way of pulling one down to the dark place where Lincoln found himself.

From his struggle to his new-found hope, and ultimately his look on life and love....
Lincoln's story was beautiful, and sad.

He was so broken and defeated, yet he kept it all to himself.

Until Aaron!!

I adored him.

"I'll be your strength if you let me."

Not only did these men share a steamy chemistry, but they had quite the deep connection. It was all about intimacy and trust.

Of course there was also laughter, sexual innuendo, and amazing lyrics!

It was a quick read, full of emotions, friendship, love and a suspenseful twist thrown in the mix.

Overall to me this book served three purposes. It was Linc's story, the final wrap up of the Rock Gods and their men, and woman, and the promise of a new beginning.

I see more hot men in my future!!!

*arc provided by author in exchange for an honest review

Read more at Judy's Confessions
