



Alphabet Soup

C.B. Conwy

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Andy knows exactly what he needs: scenes hard enough to take him out of himself. Then he meets CK, and everything is turned upside down. CK is relaxed and gentle and nothing like what Andy's looking for. Despite that, or maybe because of it, Andy's still attracted to the stranger.

CK is new to the city and the club, but definitely not to the scene. Andy's ideas of BDSM are very different from CK's, but there's still something about the man that draws CK. Something fascinating and completely unpredictable. The results can be amazing scenes or complete disasters. Andy is difficult to get to know, and CK has to work hard to find the reason for Andy's erratic behavior. CK is nothing if not stubborn, though. He's very determined to help Andy, and Andy's ready for it, but there's so much Andy's trying to forget.

Like the conscientious Dom he is, CK guides Andy's recovery, one scene at a time. Very much against his principles, CK finds himself falling in love with the man he's trying to help. Now he has to fight not only Andy's past, but his own conscience as well.

Please note: This is a second edition of a book previously published by Torquere Publishing. This edition includes the short story "I Like You".

Alphabet Soup Details

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Author : C.B. Conwy

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From Reader Review Alphabet Soup for online ebook

Lauraadriana says

Rightness That's the first word that comes to mind when I think of a word to describe what the couple in this book found in each other.

This is the second book I've read by this author, and I have to say I love her spin on the BDSM relationship. It is about finding what you need in who you love. I love that.

Andy is a sub, and he was hurt badly by his previous Dom. He is insecure and confused in what he needs. He keeps going place in scenes that leave him hurt badly again and again. One night he meets CK at his club and the man, with one kiss, opens new possibilities for Andy. CK, this man with an open smile, tons of questions and totally unorthodox Dom behavior may be the one to fix what's been broken in Andy for so long.

CK is persistent and willing to explore where he needs to go with Andy in order to make him happy and whole. I love that.

I love the idea that there is space to be flexible and roles and rules apply of course, but they can also be pushed to find what is right for each person. Each couple.

I loved CK and Andy. They were lovely together. I can't wait for the next book. Maybe Jeff?!

Susan says

I absolutely loved this sweet hurt/comfort BDSM story, right up until one thing happened that totally ruined the book for me. I'm still kind of angry.

Andy, a 24 year old muscular carpenter knows he wants to sub, but he thinks someone has to beat him really hard for him to feel something.

It is clear to CK that Andy has suffered some sort of abuse in his past and that Andy has very strange ideas how a scene should be. Andy doesn't need more abuse, he needs someone who cares about him.

Andy is not used to someone being bigger than him, but CK is. He is also sweet and considerate and wants to talk. About everything. CK wants to know what Andy likes, not just what he thinks he wants a Dom to do to him..

This had some very good hurt/comfort going on. Andy was very damaged and CK was just so sweet and understanding. I really loved these guys together. I also loved that there was no relationship angst whatsoever.

But then.... something happened that I really really hated.

(view spoiler)

That's why I thought I'd give this book 4.5 stars, but eventually settled on 3. :(

Simsala says

In spite of being BDSM-themed the Alphabet Soup is much gentler than the Russian Bear. The self-confident but not all knowing-perfect Dom CK and the hurt and mistreated- but far from being weak Sub Andy are simply perfect for each other. I loved to read their story of growing together - especially the last chapter!

Recommended.

Serena Yates says

I really liked this book, which looks at the 'softer' side of BDSM. As this story shows, that doesn't mean it's not hard work, nor that it's any less hot for the participants.

CK is a great Dom, who knows exactly what he wants. He quickly figures out what Andy needs and gives it to him, one lesson at a time. Even when he gets emotionally involved, he never quite forgets about his sub. Well, with one exception, and that safewording scene was so well done, with such humor, it actually made me laugh. Not exactly the reaction I'd expected to ever have to a situation like that, but there you go. You have to read it to believe it.

Andy has a hard time understanding some of the things he learns about himself, nor does he accept them easily. He believes he needs hard scenes to take him out of himself, and struggles and fights so hard, because that is what he was taught. I loved seeing how he slowly comes to a very different image of himself and what he really needs and enjoys. Having CK as his Dom is almost as good as therapy (although CK is responsible enough to point out that it's not a replacement).

If you like stories with a slight twist, learning about a different kind of Dom/sub relationship, and hot men having somewhat kinky fun in and out of the bedroom, then you will probably like this novel.

NOTE: Originally read and reviewed in April 2011. Read again and edited for minor additional points for publication on Rainbow Book Reviews.

Gigi says

Re-read November 2016

This is a great comfort read for me. BDSM with a healthy dose of healing/comfort. Great mix! But this one isn't for everyone. It has a very "BDSM in place of psychiatric therapy" tone and there is a scene with a third party, (not ménage) but with both parties agreeing it would be hot. While those don't always work for me, they work for me here.

There is some angst, but it balances out so perfectly with the comfort. It is very satisfying for those who want to stay away from angst. Coupled with *serious* BDSM (Kiss me, whip me, fuck me, tell me I'm a good boy) I can highly recommend this to those who find that hot. Enjoy!

Original review:

A big thanks to Fiona for pointing out that this was a good healing/comfort book! I had asked for recommendations for my new healing comfort shelf and while I had already read Russian Bear I didn't realize this sequel was about two different characters.

I absolutely adored this book! CK was the perfect, patient Dom to Andy's broken, damaged sub. *Exactly* what I was looking for in a healing/comfort story.

If you enjoy confident, beautiful Doms, lovingly helping lost and broken sweet men through touch and love and warmth and sex, I can **HIGHLY recommend** Alphabet Soup.

I had mentioned in one of my comments that this book was destined for my "fuck yeah!" shelf, but I was only 80% done with the book at the time. I wasn't able to bump it up to that level because (view spoiler)

Plainbrownwrapper says

Let me preface this by saying, first, that I'm not turned on or excited by BDSM, and I have no attraction to pain. I do occasionally read BDSM-themed books, but when I do I often feel like a field anthropologist exploring a new and alien culture. I don't really understand it, but I sometimes find it both fascinating and educational. And because I don't really grasp it, I'm attracted to BDSM books with intelligent writing that can help me to *understand* why the characters are doing what they do.

And this is what Conwy seems to be good at. I had previously read the preceding book in this series, A Russian Bear. That one was very interesting for several reasons, including its focus on the Dom and also because it was very much about S/M and much less about D/s (in fact, the "sub" was often not submissive at all). IMHO Conwy was clear and intelligent in the way she wrote about these men, even at times when I was thinking "why in the WORLD would this guy want to go through that" during some of the scenes. Then I read about Alphabet Soup, the second in the series, with a blurb that specifically describes a very *gentle* Dom -- and I thought to myself "hmmm, looks like Conwy is doing another BDSM book that's skewed from the norm, let's give it a try too".

Well, I think I really like Conwy. I enjoy her characters, I learn from her stories, and she doesn't write the stereotypical "oh whip me Daddy, I've been SUCH a bad boy!" bullshit. This is BDSM that makes me think, in a good way. There's lots of talking and psychologizing -- in both of the books so far -- and that may not be for everyone, but I very much appreciate the insight into the thought processes. And the Doms in both books care very much for the welfare and growth of their subs *as human beings* -- not just as better-trained subs -- which I find very gratifying.

I don't know how true to life these books are, but I think better of BDSM culture in general when I read books like these. And yes, I do intend to finish the series!

Vivian says

The communication and interaction between the Dom and sub in this story is what makes it good. Andy is strong-willed and so sure he knows what he wants and needs until a new Dom, CK takes him in hand and turns his world upside down.

The care with which CK handles Andy and the questioning and self evaluation of his interaction and responsibility as a Dom is heartening. Andy's own mindset of reevaluating his preconceived ideas of what he wants and how he had gotten it so wrong, the missteps with previous Doms and the specter of abuse are powerful.

If there is one thing I wish, it is that the story wasn't set in such a bubble, but that depth of character exploration comes at the expense of external plot elements. I'd rate this 3.5 stars, but rounding up because this is stronger than three stars.

~BDSM Group's January Book of the Month~

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Gift from a Secret Elf--THANK YOU!

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### **Chris says**

Very good kinky m/m romance about a carpenter who keeps going to a BDSM club and hooking up with different Doms as he tries to get what he needs. He hasn't been at all successful... and then he meets CK, who doesn't behave like any of the other Doms. This story starts immediately after *A Russian Bear* and the free short *Malaria, Cholera and Bubonic Plague* takes place during this story.

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### **Vio says**

I'm not one for reading BDSM its not something that usually appeals to me and I have difficulty with the "daddy" aspect in some storylines. I can safely say there was none of that in *Alphabet Soup*. This was not an easy read as there were some moments that had me cringing and I was not entirely comfortable but in saying that it was also fascinating, emotional and really well written.

This was a relationship based on trust and patience and someone believing in you and caring for you. CK wanted to do everything he could to make things better, to give Andy back the things that were brutally taken away from him so he could be the man he once was. The slow transformation and gradual healing was tough but the eventual love between CK and Andy was lovely. So once again another great story and one I would have passed by if it wasn't for a good friend convincing me to try it.

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## **Td says**

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This is how I feel about this book. I was told "the 'loved it' part is pretty obvious. In case it isn't: I loved it! Liked how nicely balanced it was and loved this couple and their chemistry.

Check out: Feliz's Review for a much better and detailed review.

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## **Feliz says**

A warning in advance: Those who don't like to see the heroes have sexual interactions outside the main pairing might give this one a pass, since there is an on-page scenes with Andy and someone else, where CK is present and agreeable to, but doesn't take part in.

Andy knows that he's a sub, and he knows that he needs hard scenes with enough pain that he can get away from himself. Or so he thinks, until he meets CK and the new Dom manages to make Andy almost forget his own name with only one kiss. Now Andy is completely out of his depth. How can something so simple make him feel so good? How can CK take him to such heights using minor pain, gentle touches, or sometimes without touching him at all?

This book surprised me in many ways since it featured a new-to-me aspect of the BDSM lifestyle. CK is mostly about the psychology, the balance of powers. He doesn't force, but seduces his subs into surrender. Often enough, his scenes with Andy turn into something very alike to psychotherapy sessions, leaving the sub shaken to the very core. (CK is responsible enough to point out that scenes can't take the place of therapy, though, he even suggests Andy talk to a professional.) CK takes his role very seriously, even takes time off work to tend to Andy.

The caretaker/ nurturer aspect of his Dom personality was in fact CK's strongest trait, something that carried over into his everyday persona. He is even a bit overbearing at times; in Andy's place, CK's mother – henning would most probably have driven me nuts. However, it's just what Andy needs, even though he teases CK about it once or twice.

We don't learn much about CK's background. What he does for a living remains some nebulous corporate job, his age isn't revealed until late in the story, even his real name remains a secret to the very end. (Actually, I found him being called by his initials a witty referral to the book's title.) I'd have loved to get to know him a little better in this aspect.

Andy's everyday life was much more elaborated, from his personal history to his present job in construction. I enjoyed meeting Jeff, Andy's boss and friend, who is a great guy if there ever was one, and I particularly enjoyed watching Jeff give CK a most amusing ticking-off about Andy.

I really liked Andy, who was well-drawn and multilayered. He's a physically strong man, courageous enough to own up to his need for submission. Even though he had to endure abuse, masked as BDSM play, Andy is stubborn enough to return to the scene, trying over and over again to find someone who can meet his needs. Still, Andy isn't above reconsidering what he always took for his personal truth, although it takes someone of CK's insight, compassion and persistence to make Andy see the light.

CK, on the other hand, was a bit over the top for me. Yes, he made mistakes, misjudged Andy at first, but once they started working together in earnest, CK almost turned into Andy's larger-than-life, all-knowing savior. He was perfect for Andy, though, and the chemistry between them was as sizzling hot as their emotional connection was palpable. They made for a wonderful, believable couple, and I was happy to see them finding their HEA.

I can really recommend this book.

The title, *Alphabet Soup*, by the way, refers to the letters B-D-S-M, which through CK, gain a new significance for Andy.

Full review at [reviewsbyjessewave.com](http://reviewsbyjessewave.com)

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### **Alyosha says**

Very enjoyable soft bdsm book about a sub-ish carpenter and the not quite superman dom who helps him to heal and find himself after some very bad, damaging experiences.

Together they made a very sweet, well functioning and lovable couple.

3.5 stars

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### **? BookAddict ✎ La Crimson Femme says**

Andy, dear deluded Andy. I'm appalled at his education with BDSM. I want to kill Bryce, the bastard!!! I'm so glad CK came along to set Andy straight. I'm disappointed with Troy and the other Dom's at Slakes. What stupid assholes. I'm with CK. I'll go with him to give some much deserved ass kicking. I enjoyed this story. I loved the tenderness CK brought to Andy's life. I also liked how Andy was so cute and confused. This story touched me and I'm happy Andy found the right Master for him. It's so delicious watching him unlearn the bad misconceptions and his wonder at the way it should be for him. I wish there were more Misha in it, but I'll take what I can get.

I recommend this to beginner BDSM readers who also enjoy m/m romances. This was sweet and romantic.

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### **Tam says**

This is sort of a follow-up to *The Russian Bear* featuring the carpenter who built their bookshelves, Andy. Andy keeps seeking greater and great physical experiences at the club trying to fly, it's not really working. He meets CK, a new guy in town and CK is totally unlike other guys, he's not into beating him senseless and is very laid back and calm. It completely throws Andy for a loop and CK can't figure out what this guy is all about either since he flip flops constantly. However after a bad experience at the club, Andy agrees to try things CK's way, which means also a few forced therapy sessions where Andy reveals what happened to him with an abusive ex and why he's been seeking out greater and greater physical pain. There's not much outside drama here. It's all about CK helping Andy see that sub-space isn't just about enduring enough pain until

your body shuts down. There are some really sad and tender parts and it's not insta-cure with the magic dick. It's hard for Andy to change his thoughts and CK fears that maybe part of the attraction is thanks for helping him. But on the whole for those who don't like hardcore BDSM, it's a good choice as it looks at a different side of it from more of the D/s angle than the s/m side. I'm curious if Andy's boss/friend who is in the lifestyle will get a story.

There is a free steamy short starring Jeff (Andy's boss) here. <http://www.cbconwy.com/free-stuff.html>

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### **Danny Tyran says**

Submission is in your head, domination too.

I love how the author perceives D/s. I wish he would expand this concept by ensuring that the dominant helps his sub to improve all aspects of his life. The dominant can supervise all these improvements :

- \* Quit smoking (or drinking if the sub drinks too much)
- \* Start training
- \* Eat more healthily
- \* Get rid of his worst defects (eg, if the sub has a tendency to anger easily and to fight with everybody for nothing: teach him to keep calm)
- \* Improve its overall social skills
- \* Bring the sub to help others, too (not necessarily by dominating them)
- \* Improve his perception of himself in every way (eg get a better job or return to school -if the sub dropped out-, drive him to read anything but novels, so the sub does not see himself as an uneducated man,...) etc..

The author could use its harshest SM activities as punishments for breach of commitments to excellence by the sub and the more sexually exciting ones as rewards. ---> I am S/M, so I am looking for S/M things in the books I buy. I like caring dominants, but I prefered when they still can be "cruel" ;) (a little more often than in this book: reason why I gave 4 \* not 5).

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