



## Cherish & Blessed

*Tere Michaels*

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# **Cherish & Blessed**

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*2nd Edition*

Faith, Love, & Devotion: Books Four & Book Five

## **Cherished**

After several years of happy coupledness, Matt and Evan can relax in the knowledge that their little family has survived the worst of it. The two older girls are away at college, the twins have yet to fully hit teen angst, Matt is doing well with his part time security consulting, and Evan is about to be promoted to captain—it seems like things are calm and bright.

Until they aren't.

As the holidays approach, Evan and Matt get a shock no parent is ever prepared for: feisty Miranda, Evan's eldest, has a new boyfriend, Kent, and they are talking marriage after just three months together. In fact, Miranda wants to bring him to Thanksgiving dinner—along with his parents, Blake and Cornelia.

## **Blessed**

Lives are in transition as everyone gathers at the stunning Hamptons beach home of Daisy and Bennett to celebrate the christening of their new baby. Griffin and Jim—secretly growing tired of their rootless lifestyle—are in a rocky spot in their relationship. And as the godfather, Griffin finds himself yearning for something he's sure Jim won't be interested in.

## **Fatherhood.**

Matt and Evan are looking to reconnect during the long weekend, as their respective careers pull them in separate directions. With less time spent together, Evan grows concerned about what will happen when the last two kids leave the nest.

*1st Edition of Cherish published as an eBook by Loose Id LLC, November 2012.*

## **Cherish & Blessed Details**

Date : Published February 13th 2015 by Dreamspinner Press LLC

ISBN : 9781634761994

Author : Tere Michaels

Format : ebook 200 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Contemporary

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## From Reader Review Cherish & Blessed for online ebook

### Debra says

I loved catching up with Matt and Evan and Jim and Griffin in these two shorts. In Cherished we get caught up with the Cerelli family dynamics at an incredibly uncomfortable holiday dinner, while Blessed brought the two main couples back together and did a bit of set up for the next book, which I am incredibly excited for.

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### Kaje Harper says

I enjoyed the first half of this - "Cherish" - when I originally bought it. I was unhappy to find that the only way to get "Blessed" was to buy the first half over again, but I was willing to pay twice, to see more of one of my favorite couples - Matt and Evan.

The first half of the book is a sweet, slightly-angsty update on how the guys and the whole family are doing, several years down the road from the previous novel. I liked the low-level conflicts, the imperfect kids, and the way that the relationship was still a work in progress. I adore Matt, and he shone in this novella.

The second half, "Blessed" was less successful. The story tries to cover both Griffin and Jim, from book 2, plus Matt and Evan, and the result is a bit scattered. There are some sweet moments, and some insight into issues the couples are facing that will come back to bite them in the future. But the ending is a bit cliff-hangery and unsettled, and not much gets resolved here. It feels very much like the set-up for the next book. I was pleased that I didn't read it until I had the sequel novel on hand to follow up with.

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### Rissa (an M/M kinda Girl!!) says

I read Cherish a while back. I didn't realize there was another novella out... And I really really wanna read Truth & Tenderness. So I need to catch up!

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Blessed:

Knowing that there is Truth & Tenderness for me to dive into right away, makes the way this story ended not so bad. At least for me anyway. Some were harsh on this little novella saying they didn't even know why the author even bothered. Well maybe I wouldn't have liked the ending so much if I read it a while back, I still would have loved catching up with everyone. I had fun just kicking back and reading all the mushy gushy shenanigans everyone was getting up to, without fear that something 'bad' was about to creep up.

Good Sweet Fun getting to catch up with everyone!

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## Isa Tis says

### Cherish

Je viens d'achever la lecture de la nouvelle qui conclue cette série si chère à mon coeur.

Tere Michaels dédie cette histoire à tous les fans de Matt & Evan et c'est un bien joli cadeau qu'elle nous fait. C'est avec les larmes aux yeux que j'écris mon avis car c'est un point final, Matt & Evan continueront leur vie sans nous et cela me déchire le coeur.

Cherish, dont le titre est parfaitement choisi, permet de retrouver ces deux hommes formidables dans leur vie de tous les jours, avec ses joies et ses peines. Le repas de Thanksgiving s'annonce être un cauchemar et effectivement cela ne va pas être une partie de plaisir.

L'écriture est toujours aussi délicieuse mêlant humour et émotions. C'est bouleversant de sentir à quel point ces deux hommes tiennent l'un à l'autre, leur amour se ressent avec une telle force. Ils ont traversé tant d'épreuves, tant de souffrances avant d'atteindre, comme Matt le dit si bien, le bonheur tout simplement. Je les aime si fort...

Si cette lecture a été émouvante, ce n'est pas seulement parce que je ne les retrouverai plus, mais aussi parce que ce repas de famille est particulièrement éprouvant pour les nerfs de mes trésors. Le comportement de Miranda, les mots qu'elle jette à la figure d'Evan font si mal... Et c'est là que l'on se rend compte du talent de Tere Michaels, qui nous fait vivre ces passages à fleur de peau.

(view spoiler)

Evan & Matt sont fidèles à eux-mêmes, c'est-à-dire exceptionnels, ces instants d'intimité partagés avec eux sont infiniment touchants, tout comme les mots ou les gestes échangés, souvent empreints de pudeur. La vulnérabilité d'Evan est bouleversante et la façon dont Matt lui donne de la force m'a fait fondre comme neige au soleil.

Les enfants ont une place essentielle dans cette histoire, si Miranda est douée pour nous hérissier le poil, les jumeaux sont toujours aussi adorables et que dire de Katie ! Elle est épatante et sa jolie complicité avec Matt m'a donné du baume au coeur.

Enfin, Helena est aussi de la fête et nous réserve une belle surprise.

Mon seul regret est l'absence de Griffin et James, je suis certaine que Griff aurait su détendre l'atmosphère avec son humour ravageur.

Cette nouvelle est une pépite tout comme le reste de la série. Je suis vraiment triste de quitter cette famille, ces deux hommes merveilleux. Ils m'ont offert une de mes plus belles lectures, c'est un déchirement de les abandonner mais une joie immense de les avoir rencontrés. J'aurai beau lire encore et encore de la romance, je ne trouverai aucun couple qui m'apportera tant...

### Blessed

Finalement ce n'était pas un adieu mais un simple aurevoir... comme si Tere avait ressenti le besoin des fans de revoir tous les héros de la série, elle leur offre ce magnifique *Blessed*.

Tout ce que je peux dire, c'est que l'auteur a répondu à mes attentes, Blessed est exactement ce que je désirais. Nous ne retrouvons pas simplement Matt et Evan mais aussi Griffin et Jim...le bonheur à l'état brut !

Alors évidemment, passé le sentiment d'hystérie à l'annonce de ses retrouvailles inespérées, arrive l'angoisse et la grande question : qu'est-ce que l'auteur réserve à nos héros ? Mais l'auteure a rapidement fait taire mes

craintes concernant des rebondissements désastreux, tirés par les cheveux, ou autres drames inutiles. Mes bébés n'ont que ce qu'ils méritent et c'est tant mieux (n'en déplaie à certains rabat-joie) !

J'ai pu retrouver avec bonheur ces deux couples formidables et tous ces personnages drôles et attendrissants qui gravitent autour d'eux. En fait, c'est comme retrouver une personne chère trop longtemps disparue... C'est tellement bon des s'imprégner de leur amour à nouveau, de les sentir si amoureux.

L'écriture de Tere fait des merveilles et le récit est parsemé de jolies surprises (mais chuuuut). Chaque micro chapitre est un délice, entre les scènes sexy ou drôles, les dialogues taquins ou plus solennels, les passages tellement émouvants que la larme menace ou que le sourire béat s'accroche aux lèvres.

Un petit extrait qui m'a, comme tant d'autres, chamboulée, éblouie...

(view spoiler)

Comment voulez-vous que je garde mon calme avec de tels mots et pensées... surtout lorsqu'il s'agit de ceux d'Evan, mon bel incompris...

Je ne vais pas m'appesantir sur les personnages. Ils sont fidèles à eux-mêmes mes petits trésors, si parfaits et adorables qu'ils me grillent le cerveau. J'aime ce qu'ils étaient, j'aime ce qu'ils sont devenus, j'aime ce qu'ils représentent les uns pour les autres (je me répète, il me semble, mais c'est à cause de mon grand âge...n'est-ce pas Matt ?). Ces interactions entre les deux couples qui m'avaient manqué dans *Cherish* bien présentes et c'est un régal.

Au fur et à mesure que les pages se tournent, l'angoisse revient car on sent que la séparation approche, et cela fait un mal de chien. Mais cette fois, ce ne sont pas les adieux qui sont de mise car Tere nous réserve un ultime tome qui sortira en mai 2015... J'en trépigne d'impatience tout en sachant que mon cœur se brisera à la lecture du mot "fin". Purée, je vais sacrément morfler...

Mes bébés, je vous donne donc rendez-vous en mai. Et dites à votre maman qu'elle a l'interdiction formelle de faire souffrir mon petit cœur, mais vu le titre de ce dernier opus, *Truth and Tenderness*, je suis rassurée !

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**Karen says**

*If one is good than two is even better...*

'Cherished & Blessed' are books #4 & #5 from Tere Michaels series 'Faith, Love & Devotion'. To say I love this series is a bit of an understatement but lets go with that for now.

It's actually been quite a while since I read 'Cherished' which is book #4 so I did skim through it a bit to refresh my memory. Both of these books are about Matt and Evan, although we also get to catch up with Jim and Griffin as well in book 5.

Book 4 has Matt and Evan gathering their family and friends at their home to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday and being a holiday what fun would it be without a bit of family drama. I loved this story it was like Thanksgiving with my family. Chaos and rage and angry words that can't be unspoken...yep, gotta' love those family gatherings...pass the antacids please. Seriously I totally enjoyed this story. Seeing Matt and Evan together as a couple dealing with the events of day to day life...I know it sounds boring, but honestly it wasn't it was fun and entertaining and pure enjoyment to revisit these men seeing that yes, there may be challenges but there was also a lot of love and HEA for this deserving couple.

In 'Blessed' we get to more of Matt and Evan as they maneuver the minefield that is life and along with them we also have Jim and Griffin as they try to determine the right path to take for their life together. Usually this type of story is ok and I enjoy them in smaller doses but somehow Tere Michaels has taken the ok and made it so warm and fun and sexy that I just want to keep reading.

I started reading this series back in 2010 which was early days for me in terms of reading the m/m genre I was totally enthralled with the characters and Tere Michaels ability to tell a story I adored Matt and Evan and Griffin and Jim but I also know my taste have changed a lot since then but what hasn't changed is how much I love this series. I was a favorite of mine 6 years ago and it's still a series that I highly enjoyed and would happily recommend.

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### **Annie (Under the Covers Book Blog) says**

Cherish – 5 star

Tere Michaels indulges readers by going back to back Evan and Matt. This time, it's a short story, but CHERISH is satisfying enough to sate the hunger that a lot of loyal fans are yearning for. When Evan learns that Miranda, one of Evan's teenage daughters is seeing a new guy and has plans to marry him at age twenty-one, he begins to worry and stress. Readers get a glimpse of the strong bond between Matt and Evan once again as they deal with whatever life throws at them. And even though Evan has moved on and but still loves Sherri, it doesn't seem as if Miranda has moved past the death of her mother.

As Thanksgiving approaches, drama ensues when Evan asks Miranda, her new boyfriend and his parents to dine with them and their family. They deal with conflicting beliefs, angst, lingering grief and uninhibited passion.

What I liked about this conflict is the fact that it isn't about Matt and Evan per se, but about the entire family that they have become. So even though I was only slightly disappointed when I found out they weren't getting married yet, I didn't hold on to those feelings for long. Evan and Matt already surpass that milestone even without the legal papers proving it. I think they demonstrate well how love is a measure of happiness. Their trust and loyalty in one another was satisfying enough for me. I do, however, have my fingers crossed that someday they will cement their love with marriage.

I also like how Evan still very much loves his wife even now, but accepts the fact that someone else is there for him now. It shows such growth in his character from where we see him in FAITH & FIDELITY.

Lastly, Michaels's writing is always entertaining and fun. For such a short book, she is so readily able to turn on the charm. I love that about her writing. She had me smiling and laugh out loud with some of the lines and it only made me love the characters, and this book more!

Blessed – 4 stars

A trip to the Hamptons should be nice and relaxing right? Well unfortunately for these guys, it isn't. Jim and Griffin are experiencing some complications in their communication while Matt and Evan try to get a better handle on their married life and their careers.

Because there are two couples here there is a lot of jumping around. While other readers have send that they felt disconnected from that, I didn't feel that way at all. Since the second book in the series, LOVE & LOYALTY features Jim and Griffin it makes sense that they would be here again. While I prefer Evan and Matt, I never once thought Jim and Griffin were boring. Their stories just hold some different conflicts and obstacles and thus, must be handled differently by the author.

One thing that is consistent in the series and is probably my favorite part of Tere Micheals' writing in general is that she has a great sense of humor. I laughed and smiled a lot throughout this book. There's almost a great emphasis on family and between both couples it became a theme bringing them both together and that's why I think this book worked well because they had that commonality.

Since I listened to this book on audio, I feel like I should mention a few things. While I enjoyed the story as a whole, sometimes I felt that the narrator made all the voice sound either too extreme (like in the case of females with high falsetto tones) and the men who basically all sounded the same. Sometimes it was just hard to tell who was talking.

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**Elise ✕ a.k.a Ryder's Pet ✕ says**

**?????\*Keep waiting for something\*?????**

Why do I keep reading this series when I know I won't be happy with it? Answer; I keep waiting for something. I'm guessing it's police officer - soon to be captain - **Evan Cerelli** (38?) who I have problems with. I still feel like he doesn't deserve former cop turned security consultant and a househusband **Matthew 'Matt' 'Matty' Haight** (49?). I just feel like Matt should have *more*. I had already read **Cherish**, so I skipped it in this one. And I also skimmed through **Jim Shea** and his boyfriend **Griffin Drake**, because I'm not interested in their story. Only Matt. Overall, I just have one more book in the series, then I'm done. Which I'm happy about.

*“Empty house. Weddings. Grandkids,” Matt said, his voice cracking a little—something he tried to cover up with a laugh.*

*“You think you’re so cute, Mr. Haight. All that stuff is what we’ll be going through together.”*

**Quick basic facts:**

**Genre:** - (Adult) Contemporary Romance (M/M)

**Series:** - Series, Book Four & Five.

**Love triangle?** - (view spoiler)

**Cheating?** - (view spoiler)

**HEA?** - (view spoiler)

**Favorite character?** - Matthew 'Matt' 'Matty' Haight

**Would I read more by this author/or of series?** - Unsure.

**Would I recommend this book/series?** - Unsure.

**Will I read this again in the future?** - No.

**Rating** - 2 stars.

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**Alvin says**

**REVIEW FOR "Blessed"**

I think this was perfect. I decided to not re-read the entire series, so this installment was a *fantastic refresher*. I forgot most of the details from the previous books, especially Love & Loyalty, but the author made an effort to bring back a lot of things that happened then. I think this was a perfect interlude. We know the author switched publishers so maybe that was the reason for making this, and it is welcome to me.

I like Jim & Griffin and the rest of the characters. But Evan & Matt, is just... I can't even! **THEY ARE SO FREAKING ADORABLE AND PROBABLY ONE OF THOSE ESTABLISHED M/M COUPLES I LOVE TO READ.** Their relationship is at a stage that a lot of couples will envy. They are settled, but still very much in love! ...and in lust. ;)

Overall I enjoyed everything about this and I gotta note that I think I saw improvement on Ms. Michael's reading so congratulations!

Off to Book 6!

**4 STARS!**

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**Lala says**

Me <==== DISAPPOINTED

My rating is only for **Blessed**. I've read **Cherished** a long time ago, and I really enjoyed it. Sadly, that can't be said of the new novella...*Blessed* annoyed me so much. I don't even get the point of it being published...it was such a sap-fest! Everyone is happy-happy, accomplished, marrying and breeding and earning money and living nice and being content...it was a hundred pages of all tell rather than show, with POV-s jumping from one hero to another, and with a tiny contrived drama in Jim & Griffin's relationship. Yawn..

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## A Girl Has No Name says

3.5 stars!

*Blessed* offered me the opportunity to meet up once again with one of my **all time favorite m/m couples** and it was so nice to see how life is going on for **Matt and Evan**. They are an **established couple** for many years now, but due to the many kids and other couples around them, their **life never gets boring**.

While *Cherish* focused on the **Carelli family** and lets us be part of a **terrible family diner**, *Blessed* is free of any real drama between Evan, Matt and the kids. The book is bringing **Matt and Evan** back together with **Jim and Griffin**, the couple from the second book in the series.

The book is covering quite a few **important moments** in the lives of both couples and it gave an interesting overview; I however had the feeling that it moved a little too fast sometimes. I would have loved to get a few more details in some episodes. *Blessed* is setting the stage for the last book in the series and while I'm dreading to read it solely due to the fact that it is the last story featuring **Matt and Evan**, I'm also very curious. I guess I can't keep myself from reading it for long!

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## BWT (Belen) says

This is based on listening to the book. For once, JP Handler did a pretty good job. I was pleasantly surprised.

I had read **Cherished** (4 stars) before, and really liked it. Upon a "re-read", I was even more incensed at Miranda's behavior, but liked the story just as much.

This was my first time reading **Blessed** (2 Stars). I struggled with it. I can see how it's a setup to Truth & Tenderness. Although, where I had been super excited about that release...I'm now quite a bit more cautious. I feel like it's going to be really drama-filled, and perhaps not in a good way?

\*shakes head\*

No! I am going to be optimistic that Truth & Tenderness is going to be AWESOME.

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## Mirjana **\*\*DTR - Down to Read\*\*** says

**\*\*\*4 Stars\*\*\***

### **Cherished**

The book focuses solely on Matt & Evan. This book is a second addition with some revised and additional content, though nothing changed with regards to the overall plot or story. I had already read this when it was originally released.

Basically, this is a real family, dealing with real issues, in the real world. The guys are in it for the long haul,

and each child has their own views about that. Miranda (Evan's oldest) is struggling the most and all those emotions come to a head. Some adjustments need to be made, some hard truths need to be faced and some compromises need to be reached. You get a lot of emotion in this book, but you don't lose the love, humor or romance that you've come to expect with this series.

## **Blessed**

This book focuses on all the couples. Evan & Matt, Jim & Griffin and bits with Shane & Helena and Bennett & Daisy

We start off with catching up on what's been going on with Jim & Griffin and their slightly nomadic lifestyle. During this time, Daisy gives birth to her and Bennett's daughter, Sadie. A seven month time jump and everyone is gathering for a weekend in the Hamptons for Sadie's christening.

Gathering together to celebrate such a huge life event and seeing all the couples in various labels of commitment (married, partnered, dating, parents, etc...) has Evan & Matt and Jim & Griffin re-evaluating their own relationships and what the future may hold.

I gotta say, I really loved seeing everyone begin to settle. All the angsty turmoil was behind them and it was just a matter of each couple figuring out what it is they truly want. What path their lives would go in to find contentment and happiness. What comes next.

I loved catching up with all the couples, but I especially enjoyed any time with Evan and Matt. I love the realness of their relationship. The feeling of love and family that cocoons them.

"You told Jim you weren't a bachelor."

"I'm not. I'm shacked up with you. You remember that, right?"

"I remember."

"We raise kids and pay taxes. We cut coupons. We complain about the kids across the street playing hockey too late on school nights."

"I love you. I'm glad you're the one I do all those things with."

However, I have to admit that at times the book was a bit jumpy in the POV's from man to man and couple to couple. Sometimes it would take me a minute to figure out where I was and whose head I was in.

Some past issues are brought up in the end to set up the sixth, and I believe final book. Evan is waiting on word of his promotion to captain and he's afraid he'll be used as the poster gay guy for the NYPD. Jim is still having issues letting go of the Kelly case and Tripp Ingersoll. Some new developments come to light and Jim finds himself fighting the urge to keep digging.

*I do have to be honest and say that I'm not a big fan of authors revising their work, re-releasing it with updated or new content, and then expecting their readers to pay for the book a second time.*

*Here, Cherished was edited and Blessed was added as a completely new novella to continue the series. I would have preferred Blessed be released as its own novella, rather than having to pay for Cherished a second time in order to read Blessed.*

*But clearly I wasn't too upset by this since I ended up buying it :)*

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## **Diana says**

### **Actual rating 3.5 stars**

In *Book 4- Cherish*, we get to see the Cerilli family gather for Thanksgiving dinner. What could go wrong?

Evan's oldest daughter, Miranda, is being a real bitch. Not only did she neglect to tell her father she has a new boyfriend, Kent, she "forgot" to tell Kent and his family about Evan and Matt. So when Kent and his parents arrive for Thanksgiving, emotions run high. Of course you get to see Evan try to control his temper, and Matt is trying to handle everything with a smile.

**"This family should come with a warning label:**

Evan and Matt are one of my favorite couples. I love the way they love and support one another. They each have a different parenting style. Evan is all about talking things out and Matt is more of giving them \$20 and steering them in the right direction.

In *Book 5-Blessed* I was wee bit disappointed. This story had the gang of Jim/Griffin, Bennett/Daisy and Shane/Helena spending Labor Day weekend in the Hampton estate of Bennett and Daisy. It was more about Jim/Griffin's relationship and we barely got to see Evan/Matt. It was confusing at times because you get 4 different POV's and I had to re-read some parts to figure out who was talking.

I think Cherish is a 4.5 stars and Blessed was more of a 3 star read for me. I will finish up with Truth & Tenderness a little later on.

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## **Gigi says**

Matt/Evan and Jim/Griffen

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**John The Cosmic Wanderer says**

Only read Evan and Matt's moments (love them!), the other couple is just irrelevant to me :D

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