



atherine Leigh and Kyle Weston have the perfect friendship — deep, lasting, and platonic.

Friendship without sex? The world of gossip doesn't buy it. You see, Catherine is beautiful, trusting, and married. Kyle is single, charming, and a handsome movie star with a tabloid reputation. Their bond may be magical and honest, but will the boundaries they have created to protect their friendship ultimately destroy it?

Antonia Gavrihel's breakout novel is thought-provoking, beautifully written, and unique.

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EXCERPT

ick accurately predicted Kyle's concern.

"Your friend's gonna be popular tonight," he said to Kyle. "See those dudes over there. I'd keep an eye on them if I were you."

Kyle already had a bad feeling about the guys huddled near the stage. The way they leered at Catherine really pissed him off.

Nick was fixing another magical concoction.

"At least, your friend's wise and buys her own drinks," he said. "She always sends any drinks back that are bought for her. Now, this drink she bought for herself."

Nick placed the drink on Susan's tray, and Kyle watched as she weaved her way through the crowd.

As Susan passed the group of guys, one of them playfully grabbed her. At the same time, another snatched the tray out of Susan's hands. After asking him to return the tray, Susan and all six fellows delivered Catherine's drink to her.

"Dammit," Kyle roared as he jumped up, pushed through the crowd, making it to the table just as Susan set down Catherine's drink. The group circled Catherine's table, each leaning in to talk as she picked up the glass to take a sip. Kyle grabbed it from her hand.

"Hey!" Catherine snapped as she turned to see Kyle. She had never seen him so upset. He took a chair, scooting close to her.

"Kyle, that's my drink," she said, trying to snatch it back.

"Not anymore. Drink this." Kyle set his scotch down in front of her.

"Get lost, fellas." Kyle gave them a cold, deadly stare that spoke volumes. Resentfully, they slowly retreated to their table.

"Thank you, but I could have handled that." She glanced down at the glass he placed in front of her and made a face. "What is this, scotch? I hate scotch! Why are you drinking this? You only drink scotch when you're having a rough day."

"Well, I'm having one."

"Why can't I drink my drink?" She reached for her glass, and he pushed it further away.

"It might have something in it."

She picked up the glass, holding it so she could peer through the bottom. "Like a bug?"

"No ... you live in your own little world, don't you?"



- hiddenshelfpublishinghouse.com
- info@hiddenshelfpublishinghouse.com

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: ANTONIA GAVRIHEL



Antonia has been writing since childhood. Born to an entertainment family — her father a comedian and actor, her mother a big band singer — she began acting as a child.

Antonia moved to Alabama to start a family where she was the Executive Director of a non-profit Arts Organization and the Greater Birmingham Humane Society.

While still acting on occasion, she is a law professor at Birmingham School of Law and an Enrolled Agent/Master Tax Advisor.

https://antoniagavrihel.com

instagram.com/antoniagavrihel facebook.com/antoniagavrihel twitter.com/agavrihel



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- info@hiddenshelfpublishinghouse.com

AUTHOR QUESTIONNAIRE

What inspired you to write Back to One?

I originally wrote this story in 1994 / 1995 when my son was a toddler. After work, after settling my son to sleep, I would write a story about a woman, much like me, with her young son and a life of adventure that I could only wish to have.

You were raised in a family of entertainers. How did that shape you?

My father was a comedian and actor, and my mother was a big band singer. I was surrounded by the entertainment business all my life. Growing up, I would quietly sit and do my homework while my mother would cut a record or my father would film a scene on a movie set.

My mother put me in front of the camera at a very young age. I found a home in acting and I have been acting ever since.

Being raised by entertainers gives you an interesting perspective on life. When I was in college I went to my dad and told him I wanted to go on to law school to become an attorney. In his entertainer's mind he had the perfect solution, "Honey why don't you just get a part in a TV show or film and play a lawyer ... hey, you can even play a doctor!" That was classic entertainer-speak for everything. Just play a new part.

Although I enjoyed acting, the most consistent dream in my life was to be a writer. My love affair with words, and the visual pictures they create began at a very young age to amuse myself. Writing was my passion as a little girl. I was a latch-key child so writing stories and plays allowed me into a world of adventure, drama, love and laughter as I sat isolated in my home.

What makes this story different from what is on bookstore shelves today?

Its main characters are engaging individuals who could be your best friends. It is a different kind of "love story" where the friendship supersedes all else.



What three words describe you? Resilient, Perseverant, Vivacious

Where did you grow up?
Phoenix, Arizona

What was your favorite book as a child?

The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Do you have any hidden talents?

I can cook authentic Italian cuisine - recipes handed down by my four grandparents who came over at the turn of the 20th century from Italy and Sicily.

What were you like in high school?

I was an "A" student at an allgirls school, but I never fit in. I was immensely grateful when my prep school allowed me to dual-enroll with the public high school and attend junior college so I could take theater and creative writing courses.

What do you do when not writing?

Go to the movies!



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- info@hiddenshelfpublishinghouse.com

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Rachel Wickstrom
Marketing Director
Hidden Shelf Publishing House
rachel@hiddenshelfpublishinghouse.com
www.hiddenshelfpublishinghouse.com

Press Release

Birmingham, ALABAMA – *Back to One* by Antonia Gavrihel will officially release to the public on November 2, 2021.

Gavrihel's thought-provoking debut novel follows the friendship between a beautiful woman from Alabama and a handsome Hollywood movie star. Catherine Leigh is married with a young child. Kyle Weston is single, hounded by a long string of tabloid rumors. Still, what seems scandalous is just the opposite. To maintain their true and lasting bond, Cate and Kyle have vowed to keep their relationship platonic. Will the boundary they have created to protect their friendship ultimately destroy it?

From Hidden Shelf Publishing House, *Back to One* by Antonia Gavrihel is beautifully written, deeply personal, and unique.

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ABOUT HIDDEN SHELF PUBLISHING HOUSE

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Hidden Shelf Publishing House is an independent publisher based in Idaho. Founded in 2017, we aim to amplify underrepresented voices through our books and illuminate hidden narratives through innovative stories and unique perspectives. Our broad range of titles includes historical accounts, fiction, women's interest, children's literature, and more.

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