



Bared to You

Sylvia Day

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From #1 "New York Times" bestselling author Sylvia Day comes the provocative masterstroke of abandon and obsession that redefined the meaning of desire and became a global phenomenon...

"Gideon Cross came into my life like lightning in the darkness."

""

He was beautiful and brilliant, jagged and white-hot. I was drawn to him as I'd never been to anything or anyone in my life. I craved his touch like a drug, even knowing it would weaken me. I was flawed and damaged, and he opened those cracks in me so easily

Gideon "knew." He had demons of his own. And we would become the mirrors that reflected each others most private wounds and desires.

The bonds of his love transformed me, even as I prayed that the torment of our pasts didn't tear us apart "

Bared to You Details

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From Reader Review Bared to You for online ebook

Katrina Passick Lumsden says

Possible spoilers and definitely NSFW (unless your workplace is made of awesome).

Oh, my god, you guys, this book! Oh, my god...

I went into this thinking it was going to be completely and totally lame. Another Fifty Shades of Moronic Writing. Another horrifying testament to the standards which modern writers are apparently held. And do you know what? It **WAS.** *Buuuut....*for the most part, I had a good time. How? By laughing uncontrollably at nearly every sex scene (and believe me, there are many).

There isn't much of a plot, but then, I guess there doesn't really need to be since it's just smut cleverly (*snort*) disguised as literature. But fans generally defend the story, and I've gotta say, as far as stories go, it's pretty lame. I mean, come on, peeps. They're damaged, they're melodramatic, they're whiny and self-absorbed, they're like, *sooo* hot, and the entire "story" is them fucking and then whining about it, and then fucking some more. When I first got started, I was terrified because I hit pretentious wordage in the *second sentence*:

"I wasn't surprised by my roommate's emphatic pronouncement."

The entire book goes on in a similar vein. Plus there's the added bonus of being told very inconsequential details, like what color shoes Eva's wearing, how many steps she had to climb, how often she eats yogurt to keep regular (I'm making up my own, but you get the gist). Having your eyes raped by adjectives and other useless textual diarrhea does not usually make for a highly compelling read. There is seriously a point where Eva tells the reader how in love she is with New York because it's so different from her hometown of San Diego with all the people and activity and sights and sounds (I'm really not kidding). The first quarter of the book was basically just useless info dump nonsense.

Things picked up a little bit when Eva first met Gideon, only because the writing in that scene was so ludicrous. Phrases like "exquisite masculinity", "magnificent maleness", "scorching force of will"...and let's not forget such treasures as, ***"I thought for a moment that he might be able to make me orgasm just by talking long enough."*** and ***"I looked at him in his civilized, urbane, outrageously expensive suit and thought of raw, primal, sheet-clawing fucking."*** <--- Try saying that three times fast.

This was also when I was introduced to Gideon's apparent mind control powers. Eva just goes on and on about how he's put some kind of spell on her, she's inexplicably drawn to him, caught up in his magnetic force, blabbidy blah blah. I suppose it doesn't hurt that Gideon is "savagely gorgeous", and that Eva's eyes "burned just from looking at him".

But **then!** Oh, then I got to the good stuff. I'm not saying that as a pervert, but as a lover of all things inappropriately hilarious. If I didn't know any better, I would swear to everything holy that this book is satire. Because while some of the sex scenes were hot, they were almost *always* laced with one or two lines that had me laughing so hard I was in tears.

Without further ado, I'm going to treat you to a small sampling. Seriously, prepare yourselves for this. Take a deep breath, make sure your bladder is empty and that you've got water and aid nearby in case you fall over. And for the love of eye bleach, don't let your kids read it:

"...his powerful body straining with the primal need to mate."

"The rhythmic slap of his heavy balls against the curve of my buttocks."

"Then he ripped open his button fly and pulled his big, beautiful penis out."

"Gideon battered my tender sex with that brutally thick column of rigid flesh..."

"...his breath leaving him in primitive grunts every time he hit the end of me."

"I'm so deep in you...I can feel it against my stomach...feel my dick pounding into you."

Seriously, is that shit supposed to be sexy? Because it's just not. He can feel his dick through her abdomen? No. That's not how wombs work. Or dicks. Or anything. She calls her ass her rear, and that's silly when you're talking about a guy finger banging your fart box, but when Gideon jammed his finger into her "puckered hole", I nearly lost my dinner/sanity/sense of direction. Just take your pick because my mind shorted out for a few seconds. I hate the word "puckered" and all its variations now. I really wish she'd just called it her puckering poopshoot and at least given the reader the joy of alliteration. Did I mention he's apparently ramming his semen in there? Oh, and this is after she stands up and drips his load all over the floor, making Gideon all hot and bothered because, apparently, lack of adequate hygiene is a major turn on for rich, neurotic alpha males.

[Edit 12/21/15: I read mostly m/m romance now, and I've read and enjoyed some pretty raunchy anal sex scenes, complete with semen insertion. And you know what? I still don't find this book hot.]

At one point, Gideon says he feels a desire to "mark" Eva like she's his property...

I always get sidetracked when writing reviews like this because all I ever want to focus on is how funny it all

is, but maybe you want to hear how the story stacks up, how the characterization is, how the plot progresses, or what the obstacles are. I can probably sum each area up in five words or less.

Story: Two people fucking.

Characterization: Cliched and irritating.

Plot progression: It's two people fucking...?

Obstacles: Sexual abuse and shallowness.

Yes, they're both damaged and need each other and he's dark and brooding and she's blonde and angelic and the two of them end up in this mindfuck of a relationship, this monumentally codependent clusterfuck of sex and jealousy and petty mind games, and when I wasn't laughing, I kinda wanted to shoot myself in the face.

Guess what else?! Gideon gets all rapey when he's sleepy! (No, seriously, he rapes in his sleep...)

It's stupid.

Really, really stupid.

So why two stars? I'll tell you why two stars...

"The room lit up in a sudden flare of illumination. I turned toward him...And found him masturbating with shocking viciousness."

Happy Reading!

Dd says

Warning-Contains minor spoilers!!May hinder your reading experience!!

My very Honest review--

(fans of this book please bear with me.)

The story is written from the perspective of Eva Tramell. Because of her new job she has just moved to Manhattan from San Diego. The first time she meets with Gideon Cross, **sparks fly**. The tension between them is palpable and their **chemistry** is nearly **explosive**.

I really liked the first few chapters, which shows them skirting around each other. It was quite good.
(So, why the 2 stars?)

Gideon says that he wants to fuck her. She is offended to be seen as **vagina with legs.** (*And I was so happy to have a clear headed, strong heroine who does not take any shit*). When Gideon asks her what she wants, she says she does not want a relationship but will like to know something about the person she sleeps with. Gideon agrees.

It's all well and good.....

Until the first time they have sex in a limo. A connection forms between them in those moments. Gideon, (**stupid man**) emotionally withdraws. And Eva very, very hurt; runs away. Gideon of course goes to Eva and tries to make up.

(This is where I began to get irritated. She knows that he was emotionally closed off. She herself had said that she did not want a relationship, but instead of taking a stand and telling him what she felt, she runs!)

The next time, Gideon takes her to a hotel room (he owns the hotel) and they have a very good time together. Gideon is in shower, and Eva is about to join him when she finds out that Gideon brings all his women there. **She becomes angry, very angry.**

(Now, her anger is justified because Gideon means a lot to her and she too wants to mean something to him. But does she confront him? Does she give him a swift kick which he so rightly deserves? Also she was the one who said that she did not want a relationship, only sex. So does she give him a chance to make up???)

No. **She runs. Again.** Gideon runs after her and apologizes again.

This goes on again and again and again... At one point I wanted to shout at the characters--

GROW UP!!!

But really their idiocy crosses the normal level the night Eva tells Gideon about the sexual abuse she had to endure when she was a child. Then she becomes upset to see pity and horror in his eyes, not lust. (**Really, she has just told the man who may not recognize it yet but in reality loves her fiercely, that she had been a victim of sexual abuse for 4 years and what was he supposed to do???** *Jump her.*) Well to stop her from leaving, Gideon does exactly that.

Still, at night when Gideon has another of his terrifying, somehow sexually related nightmare (it might be that he too was a victim of sexual abuse), Eva asks him to tell her about that. He tries to turn the topic and.... **she leaves.** This time Gideon lets her go. Eva too does not approach him.

First, she thinks to herself (feeling hurt)-- "**He does not want to share his past with me. Well, that's a deal breaker for me.**" When Gideon does not approach her, she thinks (getting very, very hurt) "**Maybe he does not want me because of MY PAST!!**"

Gideon thinks-- "**She must be disgusted because of that violent, sexual nightmare. She has not tried to approach me. I'll try and let her go..**"

Really---It became ridiculous after sometime.

Well it goes on and on and on like this...one amazingly stupid plot after another.

*So the basic storyline of the book is--Something occurs to f*** up their relationship. Eva runs, Gideon comes after her and they have sex and make up and then something else occurs, Eva runs,.....*

By the end I was literally banging my head!

Well that's all....for now!!

Jill says

1.5 stars

Having read and enjoyed a number of Sylvia Day's historicals I decided to try this contemporary by her. I picked this book up at NetGalley based on the blurb. The book sounded interesting (despite the blurb's faint purple prose), it was categorised as romance and I've been on the lookout for more contemporary romances.

For my enjoyment of contemporary romantic fiction, there has to be at least some believability to the plot, some credibility to the characterisations. The more so for contemporary fiction, otherwise we're left with a novel closer to the fantasy genre. And this is where this novel most notably failed for me. Believability.

Where are all the unattractive people?

Or just the homely, plain, average people? The fat, plump, thin? The big-eared, big-nosed, lank-haired? The neat, but plainly-dressed, the badly-dressed? The everyday people that play the secondary and tertiary roles in fiction. This novel was void of any such realistic characters.

It's a given in romance that the hero is handsome. Sometimes the heroine is pretty or even beautiful. But the secondary characters here were described almost universally as pretty, good-looking, attractive, beautiful, handsome, gorgeous, stunning, exquisite.

Even the extras, those usually nameless characters used to fill out the scene – waiters, receptionists, passers-by – were described in the same glowing terms. I may have possibly missed an average-looking character, but it was so over-populated by the beautiful people I wondered if NYC indeed has any ordinary-looking people at all. *Ah, NY. You rock.*

If this was a mistake on the part of the author, I find it hard to believe. If this was deliberate, an attempt to 'glamorise' the novel with all these impossibly beautiful people, I suppose she may have succeeded. But what's wrong with having plain or unattractive people in the story? It lends an authentic feel and degree of realism. Otherwise, as here, it pushes contemporary fiction too close to fantasy.

The hero

The next major departure from reality for me was in the characterisation of the hero. This is a man who at the

relatively young age of twenty-eight has taken the business world by storm. Not just a comfortably well-off, self-made man. Not just a millionaire. But a billionaire.

When I look around at the business world's billionaire tycoons all I see are sagging jowls, pot bellies and thinning hair. In other words, older men. I realise this is fiction, but at least a passing acquaintance with reality is necessary. Why must he be so young? A man in his early 40s or even late 30s would be much more believable.

A sensitive issue

I read a book recently where the plot revolved around Hurricane Katrina and was asked if the author was sensitive to the plight of those who were affected. I understand the concern and share it as I too dislike when an author uses a natural disaster, a major calamity, an act of terrorism, a serious social or health issue in a way that feels exploitative.

I have no problems with authors writing about these events and issues if they're handled properly, sensitively. Afterall, these things are real. But if it's going to be used as part of the plot or a character's background, then I want it to be dealt with carefully and believably.

Day's ham-fisted attempt to portray a hero with a history of childhood sexual abuse was awkward, unbelievable and offensive. Survivors of childhood sexual abuse can spend years dealing with very real, very serious problems. Often they have a number of very deep emotional, psychological, even spiritual issues. Self-worth, self-esteem has often been eroded. Usually therapy, counselling, support and sometimes even medication, are the necessary paths to a fulfilling life. Success in careers, education and relationships, and financial independence is very, very difficult.

The fact that Cross could possibly become this billionaire business tycoon at twenty-eight, negotiating through all the pain and problems of childhood sexual abuse, is beyond ridiculous.

Besides the lack of realism...

The romance

If a novel is categorised as a romance **that's** what I want to feel. The connection, the relationship between the hero and heroine, regardless of the setting, the number or type of sex scenes, the time period or sub-genre. And I simply didn't feel the romance here.

There was a lack of emotional connection. There was little chemistry. It lacked any romantic subtleties or affectionate nuances or sweet build-up or passionate climaxes. The sex scenes were not overly explicit. Yet the protagonists' relationship was based strongly on a sexual connection which came off as harsh, sterile and shallow.

This book relies heavily on the erotic for its appeal. With numerous, over-wrought sexual interludes, this may suit many readers. Some may even consider Cross the ultimate silver-tongued Lothario. A bit of dirty talk in the bedroom between lovers can be wonderfully erotic. The same talk from a near-stranger comes across as creepy, ill-mannered and bizarre.

But as far as **romance** goes, both Cross and this novel were about as romantic and charmingly glib as a fourteen year-old schoolboy sniffing around for his first conquest.

Something vaguely familiar

There's something vaguely familiar about the premise of the book. A billionaire businessman with a history of childhood sexual abuse, who's into control, and a dominant.

Other issues

Briefly, some of the other issues I had with this novel.

There were many inconsistencies. For example, Cross is afraid of being at his parents' house, he rarely goes there. Whatever gives him nightmares has happened at this house. Despite this, he has time at one point to stay long enough to go a couple of rounds with the heroine, regardless that he was desperate to leave. I suppose this inconsistency was overlooked so that the setup for the exhibitionist sex scenes could be played out.

Because of their pasts neither indulge in anal play. Suddenly out-of-the-blue, the heroine announces she wants it. No prior discussion, no build-up, no need of counsel, no step-by-step increments towards including this in their sexual lives. When this has been such a monumental and painful issue for them both in their pasts.

The heroine who starts out independent and self-assured, seemingly loses these strengths upon meeting Cross. She stumbles around him. She's obsessed and jealous. She gushes on and on about how beautiful he is. She comments (constantly) throughout the novel on how good he smells. While wondering how magnificent he would be in bed, she's then appalled at his crassness, his profanity when he wants to know if she's available for sex. Her first response is to always run away when there's a hitch with Cross. Her way of dealing with her problems is too often with alcohol.

To have either the hero or heroine with a tortured past in romantic fiction is pretty standard. To have both, is stretching it. Yet we have not just the hero and the heroine, but her best friend as well. And her mother and possibly his brother have some real emotional baggage.

In conclusion

Overall, I found *Bared to You* terribly melodramatic, unrealistic, with major lapses in character consistency. The hero was crude, crass and lacking charm. Unoriginal, trite and using childhood sexual abuse in such a context, felt too much like trivialising an indescribably painful issue. The romance lacked subtlety. The relationship between the protagonists never seemed to develop from its superficial, sexual beginnings.

Steam: 4

ARC courtesy of NetGalley

Vallsykes says

[(whose mom didn't find out until you violently miscarried and the doc pronounced that what should have been virginal was actually violated and scarred) (hide spoiler)]

Baba says

In order not to step on anyone's toes or hurt anyone's feelings I won't rate Bared to You. DNF when I hit the 50 % mark. As far as I can judge, *Bared to You* is a sensitive topic because it's already related to *Fifty*. Frankly, it's not my intention to start a turmoil by writing a negative review. When I'm reviewing a book I want to be able to write about my feelings. I want to be honest, and a review should always reflect my emotions why I didn't like a book. Naturally it's the same the other way round. With that said, I'm trying to write my reviews in an open and respectable manner. I know this is not always possible--sometimes we get out of line. We all know that tastes and opinions tend to differ. And that's all right--that's the beauty of books.

Bared to You did not work at all for me for numerous reasons. My rating would have been very low and I'll be honest when I'm gonna say that my review would have been the opposite of flattering. Even though I'm happy for those readers who loved the book, I demand that you respect my point of view as well when I say this was a bad book for me. Needless to say that I don't get the hype. Funny thing is while reading *Bared to You* I never got the *Fifty* vibes. *Bared to You* is a different book but I didn't like it all the same. Personally, I think the book benefits in a major way of the fact that many readers have rec'd it to *Fifty* devotees. Again, it's all right and it's nothing that will compromise my reading life in a severe way. Anyone who is seriously interested to know why the story didn't work for me may send me a message, and I will outline my issues.

Kristen Ashley has written something very beautiful. I borrowed it from her book *Golden Trail*:
"See, that's the beauty of books. We get to take what we want out of them and it can be different for everyone. You get a good one, you may even find what you need."

Unfortunately it was not a good one and I couldn't find what I needed. Anyway, I'm off to the next one.

Bared to You was kindly provided by NetGalley.com in behalf of Sylvia Day (publisher & author)

Remittance Girl says

I decided to read *Bared To You* because it was sold as a well-written version of *Fifty Shades of Grey*. To give credit where credit is due, Sylvia Day is not E.L. James. Her grammar is good, she varies her sentence structures and, although her propensity for purple prose is at times off-putting, she's a competent wordsmith. That being said, I would not want to imply there was anything remotely literary about this book. There isn't. Which is a shame, because someone should start writing literary erotica again.

It was certainly gratifying to discover that at least this heroine wasn't a 22-year old virgin who'd never masturbated. However, like *FSOG*, it casts improbably young people in improbably mature situations. Eva is 22, a recent graduate who has landed a job at an ad agency in Manhattan with little to recommend her. She lives in an apartment with a wine fridge and a bi-sexual roommate who tucks bottles of Cristal on ice for her as a favour. Gideon Cross is a 28-year old billionaire who seems to own half of Manhattan.

I have to admit to being puzzled by the choice of age of the characters, both in this novel and in *50 Shades*, until I realized that there is no way the litany of contrived conflicts in the plot would work with even marginally mature grown-ups. It takes characters with hair-trigger reactions, non-existent impulse control and an expectation that your lover comes to you without a past to make the plot move forward. Just like *50*

Shades, the story jerks spasmodically along from emo moment to sex scene to emo moment like pawns doggedly inching their way across a chessboard of adolescent over-reactions.

The sex is interestingly written. It's a rather strange hybrid between female-focused sex acts and the sort of cliché-ridden over-explicit dialogue that people who learn from porn-sites call 'dirty talk'. He's either going down on her repeatedly, or gasping out lovelorn remarks like 'your cunt's so tight'. Well, she's 22. I'm not sure how this goes down with the mommy consumers of mommy porn. Does it remind them to redouble their kegel exercise efforts, or do they resign themselves to saving their pennies for a vaginoplasty?

Still, I'm unsure whether it's the sex that is supposed to get you off or the conspicuous consumption. The book is littered with brand names. An ever-present materialism thrums like drone through the whole novel and is eerily reminiscent of Bret Easton Ellis's psychopaths obsession with brand names. It is so ubiquitous, I have to wonder if the 'kink' hiding in this story isn't actually subliminal "1% fetishism". Except, of course, the 1% doesn't refer to everything by brand name. It's the wannabe 1% who do that - or psychopaths.

Along with the consumerism is an unvarying textual obeisance to the buff, ripped, perfect body. No one in this novel has any flaws. No one is plump, no one is bony, no one has acne, no one has visible scars. No one has a single physical shortcoming. It's a world of Calvin Klein ad models, toned and photogenically sheened in odorless sweat, fucking on the immaculately decorated set of a feature piece for Vogue.

Their perfect bodies might be read as an ironic juxtaposition to their myriad emotional scars. But probably not. It has the heavy taint of soap opera about it: the baseless, instant jealousies that are conveniently forged into both signs of inner damage and smoldering romantic love. There is a supporting cast of the mildly villainous and the long-sufferingly loyal to provide that friction: catty female rivals and overly affectionate gay friends. Puppets to adorn the rococo melodrama.

Don't mistake me. There is actually a very compelling and rather serious plot beneath the glutinous and facile emo soup.(view spoiler) Had this been a novel about two realistic, imperfect, damaged souls who struggled to negotiate a sexual and emotional relationship in the wake of those experiences, it would have been a very good, and very hot, novel.

But sadly, this novel has used what might have been a very credible and almost insurmountable internal conflict and commoditized it, much like the bodies, the wardrobes, the interior décor and the characters.

Perhaps I'm just not the right sort of woman to read these types of books. I don't need my fiction strewn with glossy images of super-rich lifestyles, impossibly sculpted bodies, decorated with brand products, or have my fictional mental traumas used to such transparently sensational plot-driven ends. The explicit sex doesn't compensate for the number of times I rolled my eyes while reading this. I miss reading stories about adults.

Finally, I am quickly recognizing the blatantly mercenary strategy for publishers to manipulate readers into buying into a whole series by shoddily and abruptly ending the first book. Both this book and FSOG used this strategy. It is a supreme comment on how publishers - even the big ones like Random House and Penguin - have become nothing more than Mall-Chain discount sellers. No wonder they are quickly losing their legitimacy as arbiters of good fiction.

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

I'm just going to start by saying that this was a tough book to get through, and a couple of times it almost landed on my DNF shelf. Had I not read it right on the heels of the Fifty Shades trilogy, I might have enjoyed it more, and one look at the ratings and you'll know that I'm in the minority when it comes to how I feel about this story. Oh well, it is what it is, right? Here are my thoughts about *Bared to You*.

Oh, before I begin, it's important to note that I am not comparing this book to the Fifty Shades books as far as quality goes, but because both books pushed similar buttons, I'll mention them side-by-side.

I've heard it said, repeatedly, that *Bared to You* is similar to, but much better than, the Fifty Shades books. While I agree, the writing was much more polished, I was surprised at how similar the stories are and how unremarkable this one is overall. As in the Fifty books we had the same type of hero, same type of heroine and both had similar conflicts as Ana and Christian (the Fifty H/h) had. Again, as in the Fifty books, the thoughts and actions of the H/h are in total contradiction to what we're expected to believe about them. For example, despite the repeated references to his need for sexual control, Gideon is *not* a dominant. And sadly, as in the Fifty books, Eva, the heroine in this story, has completely emasculated him, in my opinion. I do not find anything about that appealing in any way, shape or form – and wouldn't regardless of whether or not I'd read Fifty. Another issue I have with this story is a sex scene towards the end that just didn't add up. To avoid spoilers I won't go into details, but will just say it was too soon, too wrong for their circumstances, and not sexy considering said circumstances.

I've had the pleasure of reading a couple of Sylvia Day's other books and I know she's a talented author, capable of creating her own unique worlds and characters. Unfortunately, I found *Bared to You* to be so similar to *Fifty Shades of Grey* that rather than enjoy *this* story, I kept being distracted and annoyed by the similarities.

The bottom line: The most disappointing part of this story is that I know what Sylvia Day is capable of, and it's better than this. It's almost as though she and her friends were sitting around bashing Fifty and someone dared her to write the same story, but better. Well, it's the same story, just not 'better.'

Breakdown:

Originality - 1

Writing - 4

Sex - 3

Hero - 3

Heroine - 2

Overall - 2.6 rounded to 3 stars

Wendy says

Hot, passionate and totally addictive read.

The chemistry between Eva and Gideon, explodes on the page. They are made for each other. They're not perfect, as they have their own issues to deal with. But as they work themselves through it, you'll be taken on an emotional ride like no other. Wow, what a ride!

Gideon

If you want a great story with a lot of heat, you can't go wrong with this book. Loved it!

Ninoska Goris says

Español - English

Eva Tramel, rubia, latina, 24 años, nueva en la ciudad de NY.

Gideon Cross, moreno, ojos azules, 28 años, dueño de medio NY (!?!)

Hermosos y perfectos los dos, pero ambos esconden pasados abusivos.

Cuando se conocen tienen al instante la sensación de pertenencia, pero por el pasado de ambos no será nada fácil. En lo que no tendrán ningún problema es en el sexo porque tienen una química tremenda.

El nombre del libro no sólo tiene que ver con la desnudez física (que existe en exceso en el libro) sino como Eva se presenta ante Gideon y le enseña todo lo que es y le habla de su pasado.

Es un libro erótico, pero con una historia interesante.

--

Eva Tramel, blonde, Latina, 24, new in NY City.

Gideon Cross, dark-haired, blue-eyed, 28, owner of half NY (!?!)

Beautiful and perfect both, but both hide abusive pasts.

When they know each other they have the feeling of belonging, but their past will not be easy. In what they will not have any problem is in the sex because they have a tremendous chemistry.

The name of the book not only has to do with physical nudity (which exists in excess in the book) but how Eva presents herself to Gideon and teaches him everything that she is and tells him about her past.

It's an erotic book, but with an interesting story.

Jessica Edwards says

What to say? Hm....

Bared to you centers around Eva Tramell, a twenty four year old woman who is a survivor of childhood

sexual abuse. Eva finds it extremely hard at times to overcome this past, but she is drawn to young, billionaire Gideon Cross as soon as she meets him. It is later revealed in the book that Gideon is also a childhood sexual abuse survivor. The two must find a way to heal each other in order to move on from their pasts and establish a healthy romantic relationship.

I used to love reading books about hot men who are playboys, but if I'm being honest, it now bores me because this kind of story is being repeated all the time.

I've read 'This Man,' 'Up in the Air,' and 'Fifty Shades of Grey,' and most of the concept in these books/series is sex, and I think after reading this book twice, I've had enough of reading erotica. I've actually had enough! Like I want something different for once! Not the same thing being repeated multiple freaking times! (Can you tell I'm frustrated with this!?)

In this book, when I saw that a sex scene was coming up, I skipped all the pages and sighed to myself saying, 'Yup, another one.' (Surely I'm not the only one who did this?)

And with this series....it's like never ending? I thought after Entwined with you...it was the end but I guess not, but *sigh* I don't know anymore...

The men in these series really have a problem, like how many times do you need to get laid...

I don't know maybe I'm just not in the mood to read this kind of genre anymore...

Aestas Book Blog says

6 +++ stars!!!!

SQUEEEEEE!!!!!! HOLY. FREAKING. GOD. THIS. BOOK. IS. BEYOND. AMAZING.

This book was absolute perfection for me!! It had me **swooning, drooling and panting** over Gideon Cross and had me reading for the better part of it with the world's biggest grin on my face. It was the perfect blend of heart warming, **HOTNESS**, and seriously tortured Alpha hero (and heroine).

The story is told from the perspective of Eva Hammel, a 24 year old girl who comes from money but wants to make it on her own in the world. She chooses to start at the bottom and work her way to the top and gets a job in an advertising agency where she meets the guy who owns the company she works for (and pretty much everything in NYC) Gideon Cross and it's just an instant connection between them. Sparks fly from the first glance. And things go from there.

Gideon Cross is just pure perfection in my eyes! He is tortured, passionate, controlling, but isn't afraid to admit he f*cked up, tender, possessive, gorgeous, absolutely and utterly in LOVE with his girl... <3 <3 Gah! my heart is bursting here! <3

He's so messed up but he's trying his absolute best to be everything his girl needs him to be. I love how on the outside he's this unobtainable larger-than-life god but on the inside, he's just a man who wants to be loved by his girl.

"Oh, Eva." He rubbed his cheek against my damp face. "I must've wished for you so hard and so often you had no choice but to come true."

"What do you want, Gideon?" I asked softly.

He caught me to him and cupped my cheek in one hand. "I want to keep feeling the way I feel when I'm with you. Just tell me what I have to do. And give me some room to screw up. I've never done this before. There's a learning curve."

There are a lot of wonderful book couples out there but the thing that made me just LOVE this book was how *functional* Gideon and Eva were. Despite both having very messed up pasts, and both having their fair share of f*ck ups, they worked through *everything* functional and passionately in a way that deeply warmed my heart. I loved how open and honest they learned to be with each other. They both made mistakes but they were understandable mistakes, nothing that make me want to throw my Kindle at the wall, nothing where I couldn't understand the reaction they had, and they always talked everything through after. I loved how their love for each other made them stronger than any problems that came their way. It was so refreshing and heart warming.

[This relationship] is going to be a lot of work, Gideon." I warned him.

"I'm not afraid of work." He was touching me restlessly, his hands sliding over my thighs and buttocks as if caressing my bare skin was as necessary to him as breathing. "I'm only afraid of losing you."

I pressed my cheek to his. We completed each other. Even now, as his hands roamed possessively over me, I felt a thawing in my soul, the desperate relief of being held - finally - by the man who understood and satisfied my deepest, most intimate desires."

I loved how neither of them were man-whores or virgins before meeting each other. Not that I have a problem with either one. But it was refreshing and realistic that they had both been in a normal amount of relationships for a couple of mid-twenty year olds.

I also LOVED the side characters. Eva's boss Mark and his partner Steven were delightful and fun. Her bisexual room-mate and best friend Cary was just so lovable. He was the ultimate big brother character with his own set of problems - I really really hope he gets a HEA. He so deserves one! We don't get to see much of his past, but you can tell its really heart-breaking. I loved how he knew Eva so well, he just knew when something was wrong just by looking at her.

*"I want there to be happily-ever-afters for the f*cked up crowd. Show me the way, Eva honey. Make me believe." ~Cary*

And did I mention how utterly HOT this book was?? I swear I was fanning myself from the moment they met (which was pretty much right at the beginning) till the very last page.

For those of you wondering about the connection between this book and Fifty Shades, I'd say they have about as much in common as Fifty Shades does with Twilight. Sure the basics are similar, mega-billionaire hero who is possessive of his girl... wait, no, that's it actually. The BDSM element is utterly UNlike Fifty. There is no contract or anything like that, and it only comes up about 70% of the way through the book, and only briefly at that. Its more about the sexual control, but even then, its not about the kinky f*ckery the same way that Fifty was. But don't let that deter you, this book is HOT, SEXY, deeply emotional, and a serious page turner.... I found this book more deeply emotional than Fifty and I loved Gideon even more than Christian which is saying a lot cuz all of the Fifty books are on my 6 star list.

"You forget who submits, Eva," he said gruffly. "I've given up control for you. I've bent and adjusted for you. I'll do anything to keep you and make you happy. But I can't be tamed or topped. Don't mistake indulgence for weakness."

... and gah, the library scene!!! *dies* seriously **HOTTTTT**

I just loved seeing these two people from such tortured and broken pasts coming together, finding peace in each other, making things work... its a beautiful story!!

“I love you, Gideon.”

“God.” He looked at me with something that resembled disgust. Whether it was directed at me or himself, I didn’t know. “How can you say that?”

“Because it’s the truth.”

“You just see this”—he gestured at himself with a wave of his hand. “You’re not seeing the fucked-up, broken mess inside.”

I inhaled sharply. “You can say that to me? When you know I’m fucked up and broken, too?”

The ending was in a perfect place. Happy, resolved but leaving me biting my nails waiting for October to pleeeeease get here faster!!

We'll never be over, Eva. ~Gideon

This is a MUST read!! I'm buying it in hard copy to put on my favorites shelf and know for sure that I'll be rereading it many times!! *swoon*

CASTING:

For more of my reviews, come visit <http://aestasbookblog.com>
Or join <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Aestas-...>

Karla says

5 Big Stars!

This is a sophisticated, provocative, titillating, highly erotic, sexually driven read and is extremely well done. The title fits the book in more ways than one. It not only applies to the sexual nature of the book, but how Eva and Gideon give of themselves to one each other in body, mind, heart and soul. Eva is a smart, self-assured woman who finds herself drawn to the charismatic, enigmatic Gideon. Their relationship is initially based solely on sex, but their connection is so powerful, that they are overwhelmed with the need to be with one another. Most times their dates, rendezvous, encounters...whatever, result in some very primal raw sex. The two of them are insatiable, especially Gideon, who takes it to a level with Eva that leaves her completely undone. The scenes are quite vivid, and the feelings they exude...well WOW and WOW and WOW again!! Gideon is all about giving pleasure and then saving his for last. I was EXHAUSTED!! The misting fan could not compete with his exuberant bouts of sex, yet, none of this ever felt dirty, but necessary for the two of them. Much of this has to do with the fact that Eva and Gideon are tormented from past trauma and this is a form of healing for them. Eva's confides in Gideon, and he is slowly opening himself up to her.

So, as the book came to its conclusion the story of Eva and Gideon did not. I was satisfied enough that I

could leave them for a while, but I need to know how this all plays out, and that my friends will remain to be seen...hopefully in October! In the meantime...I can't recommend this book enough, you will run the gambit of emotions while you join Eva and Gideon on their quest to find themselves and each other.

This is my **Gideon**...I know he doesn't have blue eyes, but the rest...ahhhh!

Just my thoughts on this matter!

Much has been made about the comparison of Bared to You and Fifty Shades of Grey, and frankly I don't see it. In any romance and sub-genre there are always going to be similarities, it can't be helped, but the direction the story takes, the personality of the characters, how they are presented, and of course the writing, is what makes each of them unique. I enjoyed Fifty Shades of Grey, but I loved Bared to You. There is no doubt that EL James is a gifted author, but Sylvia Day is a talented, skilled writer and has written an exceptional book. So, if I had to choose between the two...Bared to You...without a doubt is my pick!! Why? Because it's **50 times BETTER!**

Crossfire by Brandon Flowers

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aD4npn...>

?Karlyn P? says

4.5!! WAAAAAY better than that Fifty Shades of Grey. I do get the comparison, but truly this is a MUCH better read. Simply put, this book had the polish that FSoG grossly lacked. (I read FSoG just before I read this one. Sadly, I found it disturbing and only gave it a 1-star review.)

The major similarities:

- hero is a young (late 20's), gorgeous, brilliant zillionaire business mogul who sports non-stop erections and has sex on the brain 24/7
- hero has a controlling and obsessive desire for the heroine, including a jealous streak that is off-the-charts
- hero has a dark and tortured soul that shapes his very world, brought on by years of abuse as a child
- hero maintains a platonic relationship with his past sexual partners, which drives a major wedge with the heroine
- HOT, HOT, HOT sex scenes

The major differences:

- Gideon isn't a predator. Unlike Grey, Gideon never tries to coerce and manipulate Eva into doing anything that is for his sole pleasure alone. He doesn't try to coerce and manipulate her into believing his desires should be the only desires that matter.
- Eva has about 100+ IQ points on Ana, and can actually converse in an intelligent conversation without all of the "Whoa!", "Oh, My!" and "Gasp!" (To say I like Eva better than Ana is an understatement!)
- Gideon isn't into 'period sex'. *Yuck.*
- No BDSM, at least not yet. This series will continue, so hard to say where it will go. Hmmmm. There was some light talk of subs & doms, pain-as-pleasure...etc.
- No Arnica cream to sooth 'bruising, sprains and injuries'. (Christian's remedy for a bruising sore ass, *oh lovely*)
- The writing is great. Tight, edited and well plotted. It is also quite refreshing when compared to the comic

book tone of FSoG.

--Not just ONE, but TWO main characters with damaged souls. (Yep, Eva has a dark soul too and it controls her.)

There are some other small similarities to FSoG, but for the most part I found this book stood well on its own. Gideon was a damaged soul, and the relationship between him and Eva often felt like a co-dependent mess and not a true romance. Eva's past continues to haunt her, so the main question is can two damaged souls build a healthy relationship? Beneath all the layers of their relationship I did believe they will find true love and heal as best they can from their past. I never believed that with Grey and Ana in FSoG. This was a gripping story and I loved watching these two come together and try to get it right.

If you are holding off reading this because you didn't like FSoG, you might miss out. If you like dark, edgy erotica romance with great writing, then forget the comparison to FSoG. I can't wait to see how Sylvia Day closes their story.

Sept 21 - Audiobook review and update

The audiobook version of this book is really good! Loved the narrator.

I think I enjoyed this book even more the second time through. The connection between Gideon and Eva is so deep and emotionally raw, and I think I connected with them even more in my re-read. They are intensely interesting characters, both individually and together as a couple. I picked up on many of the subtle details this time that helps to further explain why they are damaged souls, and why their turbulent relationship might be the healthiest thing for them.

Leslie says

Okay, with roughly 100 pages to go, I think I've read enough. I just couldn't finish this book and find myself very disappointed that Ms. Day created her own story based on the wildly popular E.L. James book, "Fifty Shades of Grey." Sure, Christian Grey is now, "Gideon Cross" (*I'm not a rocket scientist, but I figured out the initial exchange - along with changing "Ana" to "Eva."*) But here's where I'm baffled: Ms. Day is actually a good writer. There's a reason I read as many pages as I did. Because of that fact, with each turn of the page, my heart sank for her.

Without going into the meat of this story, if you've read FSOG, you essentially already know it. Yes, the people, places and situations have been jumbled around a bit, but for the most part; (and it pains me to say it since this story had such great potential), **someone** should have waved a red flag in Day's direction long before it was published.

This is the first review where I am at a loss for words...

Kristin (KC) - Traveling Sister says

Fell short of my expectations.

I really wanted to like this book. The first few chapters held promise for me. I felt as though it was well written and had good dialogue. There are terrific reviews, and I picked it up after just having finished FSOG. I assumed it would be everything I was searching for in my next read but, for me, it fell short. My biggest issues were being unable to connect with Gideon at all, and I didn't find that the characters ever came alive. I never felt that the book explained what made Eva so different in Gideon's eyes or why he had an immediate obsession with her. They used sex instead of talking through their horrific issues, and it seemed to fix everything and nothing at the same time. I don't mind a steamy read -- but I have to be emotionally connected to a story in order to appreciate it, and with this book, I just wasn't.

I know there is a sequel, which obviously will explain more of Gideon's character, but I just hate finishing an entire book feeling as though I don't *know* one of the lead characters.

Book Stats:

- ? Genre/Category:** Erotica
- ? Steam Caliber:** Maximum steam
- ? Romance:** Fairly weak and unconvincing. Insta-lust.
- ? Characters:** Tormented and damaged. Alpha hero.
- ? Plot:** Skimmed the surface of an in-depth storyline.
- ? Writing:** Well-written and expressive.
- ? POV:** First person: Heroine
- ? Cliffhanger:** Yes. Left open for more story.
- ? Next Installment:** Follow up/continues
