



# Ripped

*Mia Downing*

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## Ripped Mia Downing

Lifeguard/artist Gavin White has been holding the ripped shreds of his life together by the seams. Facing the anniversary of his sister's death, he fights the dark call of dependency and is at the edge of succumbing when his best friend since preschool returns to his life.

Handsome geek-turned-hunk, Erik Clarke, wasn't afraid to come out and had been bold enough to kiss Gavin the last time they were together. Damn that kiss. Gavin wants more. So much more, but he was never brave enough to tell Erik his dreams. With his future hanging by a tattered thread, Gavin must trade one temptation for another or risk ripping his life apart.

Contains: Graphic language, explicit m/m sex, very light BDSM

## Ripped Details

Date : Published August 31st 2012 by The Wild Rose Press (first published August 29th 2012)

ISBN :

Author : Mia Downing

Format : ebook 100 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Contemporary, Erotica, Bdsm, Short Stories, Adult Fiction,  
Contemporary Romance, Erotic Romance

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## From Reader Review Ripped for online ebook

### **Jaime says**

Hot sex, hot characters and a good story line! I really liked this.

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### **Kim says**

I've said it before, I'll say it again...NO ONE writes angst like Mia Downing. The emotional struggle between these 2 best friends turned lovers tugged at my heart strings. In the beginning, I felt so sorry for Erik. As the story went on, Gavin and his history turned me to mush. I can't even begin to say how much this story affected me, but I'm so glad I read it and look forward to reading even more from Ms. Downing.

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### **Cindi says**

This is a nice friends-to-lovers story. Gavin and Erik have been best friends since pre-school. Gavin has lived a personal hell most of his life with Erik being the only true constant during that time. Erik has been in love with Gavin his entire life but has always believed his friend to be straight. It takes awhile for the truth to come to light but when it does things happen quickly... perhaps too quickly. I enjoyed this but I never quite felt the connection between the two characters. Good story but a bit unrealistic in some places.

I love the cover. ;)

Full review can be found at [On Top Down Under Book Reviews](#).

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### **I ♥ Bookie Nookie ([bookienookiereviews.blogspot.com](http://bookienookiereviews.blogspot.com)) says**

Best friends since grade school, Gavin and Erik try to make sense of the feelings that have flourished between them over the years. Gavin battles the inner demons that stem from a complicated set of circumstances surrounding the death of his sister and his less than perfect childhood. Erik pulls out all the stops to make Gavin feel safe and loved and wanted.

RIPPED is surprisingly deep and emotional for a quick read. I loved the characters and how they figure out how to love one another; the process was entertaining, sexy and hot! Looking for a good quickie? You should pick this book up!

*\*\* Copy provided by the author/publisher for an honest review.*

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If you like this type of book, you might enjoy one of these groups. Check us out!

Menage Readers

Erotic Enchants

Bookie Nookie's Erotic Lending Group

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### **Daisy Sloan says**

OMG! I LOVED this book. Mia Downing has painted a beautiful picture of two men who grew up together. One is a jock and the other a geek. Now they're all grown up. The jock is now a lifeguard and elementary school teacher. The geek is still a geek. They love each other and not just as best friends, but will they ever be together. Will they ever tell each other how they feel?

I loved Gavin. He's been through so much in his life. He's carries guilt he shouldn't carry and while he loves his best friend Erik, he doesn't feel he deserves that love.

Erik is just as lovable to me as Gavin. He's loved Gavin from afar and since he can't have Gavin like he wants, he'll move to California. Let Gavin live here and maybe, Erik will be able to start living his life.

It was amazing to watch Gavin come to terms with what's happened in his life and realize Erik wasn't going to leave him. At least he hopes not. Gavin realizes he hasn't been giving Erik what he needs and plans to try.

I really liked how Mia brought all of this around. None of it was easy for either one of them. They had to fight to bring their feelings to the front and admit them to each other. It wasn't a walk in the park. I also liked that everything was in baby steps. There were no "OMG you're right and I'm all better in one word moments". They had epiphanies and acted on those but it wasn't easy. Life rarely is.

Male-Male romances are something I'm just getting in to. As I find authors that write amazing M/M stories I'm starting to fall in love with the genre. Mia Downing definitely does that!

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Sonja says**

I bought and read this book because I loved Just Ask by Mia Downing. Unfortunately this shorter story didn't meet my expectations, but I suspect that's mainly because it was, well, *short*. Gavin and Erik have lots of history and baggage, both shared and individually, but there just isn't enough story to fully develop that connection, the tension, and their developing relationship.

Reread 10/22/13 - raised rating from 1 to 3 stars

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### **Tabatha says**

This was a fantastic m/m read and felt it was complete even with it being a quick short read. I was surprised by how deep and emotional this story was with the two characters, Gavin and Erik, who have been friends since childhood. What really got me about the story was just how real it felt to me on an emotional level. Gavin has some very deep emotional scars, and if only he would allow him, Erik could help him truly heal and move on from the past. The sex between them is sizzling hot, but that definitely came from how very emotional the scenes were. Nice job Mia and I really look forward to reading more from you! :)

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### **Donna says**

OK...I can see why my friend Patricia gave this book 5 stars...but I am only going to give it 4 and let me tell you why....hmmmm...well, hell...OK...5 stars it is!!! LOL

This is a story that while you are reading it...your heart starts hurting and you have to lay down your reader and walk away for a bit...then, while you load the dishwasher or clean the toilet you hear it calling to you...so, you give up and go back in and read some more...then, when you get to the end, you yell...NO, don't stop there...I want to SEE the wonderful life that Erik and Gavin are finally going to get...but, alas...the story is ended for now...and you find yourself back in the kitchen, loading the dishwasher, mentally writing the next chapter of their lives, with all the safe, loving happiness that they both deserve...

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### **Wendy Ann says**

No punishment whatsoever for being short, although I definitely would have loved more! This story hit a very emotional chord for me and was very poignant despite its short length. I love a great friends-to-lovers theme and this one was great. Gavin's broken character had me wanting to reach out with hugs and lots of love to help give Erik a boost in "fixing" his best friend and making up for the bad things that had happened to him. Just the right blend of sugar and spice for me! I'm looking forward to much more by this author!! :)

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### **NiteReader says**

#### **4+ steamy stars**

I loved this novella and that's saying something because I usually feel short changed by the length of them. The characters are beautifully portrayed with great chemistry and the sex is seriously steamy!! For all my m/m loving friends, you should read it, I think you'll really like it!!

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### **Lori says**

Won this book as part of the MM group celebrations - I chose my prize well!!

Thank you Mia Downing for a lovely friends to lovers story. The path to true love is not easy and Gavin has

to learn to forgive himself before he lets Erik in.

For a relatively short story this was a great read. It shared emotion, understanding and love.

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### **Julia says**

[the photo shoot that ended in a kiss, (hide spoiler)]

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### **Plainbrownwrapper says**

A solid 4 star read. A little over the top at times, a little simplistic at times (hey, it's a short story), but some lovely honest emotions and sweet characters.

And incidentally, great use of a title to reflect multiple aspects of a story. I see what you did there, Ms. Downing. ;-( (Reader, be on the lookout for these references as you read.)

Here's a couple of my observations:

First -- the cover! Boy, I love that kind of build -- and boy, I'm a sucker for wet men. Combine the two, and you've already grabbed my interest. And no, I don't care if some folks sneer at the "headless torso" style of book cover -- it works for me! And since it also reflects one of the MCs (a lifeguard), so much the better.

As for the first sex scene -- I often avoid BDSM because some aspects of it make me uncomfortable, but I love the way it was handled here. It's very mild, and I really really like the realism of the MC's conflicted emotions about it. None of this "Oh whip me daddy this is what I've always craved" crap. ;-) And I also like the other MC's attitude -- why he wants to Dom, the...ummm...interactive? communicative? collaborative?... way he goes about it, his own conflicted emotions about it, and so on. And how they handle it later on in the story. Good writing throughout.

I do have one gripe, about a scene with a rip current. Good play on the title, but I didn't buy it. (view spoiler)

Over all, I enjoyed this quite a bit. It's a quick, touching read that lets you feel both the joy and the pain for just a little while, then sigh with satisfaction at the end.

I think this is the first thing I've read by Mia Downing, but it won't be the last.

*disclaimer -- I did receive a free copy of this, but I was not under any obligation to review it.*

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### **Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says**

Slick's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

4 Stars

Right up front, I'm going to tell you that the awesome cover of this book drew me in. I'm so glad I have a Kindle Fire now because I can look at it in color and boy, do I love looking at it! Then I read the synopsis and I knew it was something I had to read and I'm so glad I did. Mia Downing is a new to me author and I very much enjoyed Ripped.

Erik Clarke and Gavin White have been friends since pre-school (yep, pre-school). Erik has been in love with Gavin for years but it's been one sided. While they've remained friends and Gavin has always been something of a protector for Erik that's all they've been until a month ago. That's when Erik kissed Gavin and Gavin sent him away.

For such a short story I'm pretty amazed at how much we learn about Erik and Gavin and their past lives. Mia does a great job making sure that we fully understand where these men have come from and where they are going and for that I'm truly grateful.

Erik is somewhat of a computer nerd. He's known he was gay for most of his life; he came out in high school, has had some relationships, and has a very supportive family. While he's been in love with Gavin for years, he knows it's one-sided and so he's decided to make some changes in his life.

Gavin is one seriously messed up guy. He's a recovering addict (alcohol and drugs), he was abused by this father as a child, he's used sex as a coping mechanism, and he still blames himself for his sister's death.

Gavin confesses to Erik that he's been leading a double life of sorts and while this shocks Erik, it also excites him. However, Gavin feels Erik is too good for him so it takes some heavy duty convincing on Erik's part to prove otherwise. They embark on a physical relationship with some BDSM elements much to Erik's surprise. While Erik is sure of what he wants, Gavin is still hesitant. A near death experience really makes Gavin sit back and realize what he needs to do.

I was drawn to both of these characters from the start. Erik because of his maturity and how level headed he is. I also love that he just tells it like it is, he doesn't mince words or try to pretty things up. Gavin is one of those people I just want to bring home and take care of. He sees himself unworthy of love or people's time and that just saddens me. He doesn't see the protector that he's always been, the friend, the knight in shining armor. It was touching to read how they each saw the other and how their lives have been connected for so long.

This is truly a story of best friends realizing they want more from each other and finding a way to make that happen. It's also a story about how verbal abuse can sometimes do more damage than physical abuse. Mostly though it's a story about hope and healing and the fact that through acceptance, love will find a way.

Review copy provided for an honest review.

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### **Christi Snow says**

My Review:

Okay, it's official...Mia Downing now holds the spot as my favorite author who writes emotional angst. This book broke my heart with the depth of feeling between these two guys. They've always been best friends, but that's been tested since Erik unexpectedly kissed Gavin a month ago. As far as Erik knows, Gavin is straight, but Gavin has spent his entire life hiding just about everything from Erik. Erik has no idea what the true

reason was behind Gavin's reaction to the kiss.

Gavin is a tough character...he has such deep emotional scars and he's well aware of it. As a result, he knows he's not good enough for Erik no matter how much he wants him. And he does want him, although he's never let on to Erik that he's gay. The closest he's ever come to that truth is through his art. Erik is his favorite model to paint.

There are a lot of layers to the emotion in this book. First, there's the pain of the anniversary of Gavin's sister's death. This is what brings Erik back into Gavin's realm. He knows that Gavin is going to have an issue with the date, but there's so much more to the story than Erik knows. Then there is the simple secret that Gavin is gay and his true sexual orientation...Erik has no idea. But there's also Gavin's addiction which can be traced to a history that again, he's managed to keep hidden from Erik his entire life.

Despite all that, Erik loves Gavin desperately, but he knows that unless Gavin can love himself, then there's no true hope for the two of them. I'm telling you, it's heart-breaking. There were moments in this book that I just wanted to sob for one or both of them. Their feelings are so true and pure, but there is so much standing in their way...mainly Gavin's mental state.

It truly is an amazing read...so beautiful in the emotion of it. I fell in love with these two guys and their romantic story. I especially loved the moments between Gavin and Erik's mom...so sweet. He deserves so much love. \*sigh\*

I received a complementary copy of this book in return for an honest review.

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