



Gwendolyn vs. the Band of Barren Hearts

Mary E. Palmerin

[Download now](#)

[Read Online ➔](#)

Gwendolyn vs. the Band of Barren Hearts

Mary E. Palmerin

Gwendolyn vs. the Band of Barren Hearts Mary E. Palmerin

Monsters. They don't hide in your nightmares. They steal you away from the good life and prevent you from living your dreams.

That's where 17-year-old Gwendolyn Fitzpatrick found herself; surrounded by wicked fiends after everything she thought she had was gone in the blink of an eye. She was shuffled away with one bag of memories miles away to a pair of foster parents that hardly had her best interests at hand. Forced to obey and listen to her caregiver's commands, Gwendolyn buries her old self and focuses on the pain to become one of them.

A monster herself to seek vengeance.

While yearning for her teeming point to come, Gwendolyn starts to connect with another 17-year-old foster boy living with her who calls himself Welch. Just when Gwendolyn starts to feel faith splice its way through the venom of pain, the connection she has with Welch is put in jeopardy as the harshness gets worse with each passing day.

Will the two tattered spirits make it out alive?

Gwendolyn vs. the Band of Barren Hearts Details

Date : Published January 22nd 2015

ISBN :

Author : Mary E. Palmerin

Format : ebook

Genre : Dark, Sociology, Abuse, Thriller, Mystery Thriller, Romance

 [Download Gwendolyn vs. the Band of Barren Hearts ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Gwendolyn vs. the Band of Barren Hearts ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Gwendolyn vs. the Band of Barren Hearts Mary E. Palmerin

From Reader Review Gwendolyn vs. the Band of Barren Hearts for online ebook

Cecily Bonney says

Gwen is a young woman that had not a care in the world...well that is until she lost both of her parents in a horrible car accident. She is now 17 years old with nothing of her own while having to enter into the world as something new, a foster child. She never wanted this but the future is ever changing, that much I know for sure. While having to enter into this new lifestyle, Gwen is scared and lonely but she is dead set on not letting them see her cry.

After meeting Gwen, we then come to know Welch. He is a very broken young man who is soon to be 18 and eligible to get out of the hell hole he has come to know. Yep that's right...he is in foster care too. And don't get me wrong, most foster care parents are wonderful but there are those few that slip through the cracks and well unfortunately for Gwen and Welch they were dealt the wrong card. Anyways, back to Welch. This young man is sweet, gentle, and polite, that is as long as his foster parents are nowhere near. And when he meets Gwen, he becomes very determined to help save and comfort her through her transition as best he can.

So as you may gather from my previous statement in the above paragraph, Gwen and Welch literally live in HELL. Their foster parents are the devil. While reading this book all I wanted to do was go there and kick both of their asses and lock them up and throw away the key. How they ever passed the qualifications and evaluations for becoming foster parents, I will never know. But they are they absolute WORST!!

But even though the parents make me want to scream, Gwen and Welch make me all warm inside. I love both of these characters through and through but I will say that after reading this book I took a little piece of Welch and I tucked him safely inside my heart. This character is beyond inspiring and brave. When Gwen called him...

"My boy. My monster. My all. My savior. My wonderful fucking William Welch. My own Prince Charming." She wasn't lying. He is all those and more!

Now this book is not your typical hearts and roses stuff, but it is about shit that people don't like to talk about. The shit that happens in real life. This bullshit happens to good, young, innocent people. All when they are in the need of someone the most. So it may not be all that gushy mushy stuff but it's something that will truly break your soul. I'm not lying!

Mary E Palmerin will take you to dark places and she will bring you to your knees sobbing...BUT...then she will wipe your tears and bring you back to the light.

I read this book and cried about four times. And once I got to chapter 23, I actually texted the author and said Holy *ucking shit you just ripped my heart out!!!

All I can say is...

1. You will love it.
2. Have tissues close to you.
3. Pour yourself a tall glass of wine first...you WILL need it!

Regan says

The demons will soon come out to dance with the devil and I have front row seats to the show.

Gwendolyn vs. the Band of Barren Hearts reminds us that bad things can happen to good people. After her parents passed, bright-eyed American sweetheart Gwen was thrust into the foster system and finds herself a new foster daughter to sadistic and cruel foster parents. The only solace Gwen finds in her new Hell is her foster brother, Welch.

When situations reach a breaking point-- its now or never--and both Gwen and Welch will have to live with the consequences of their actions.

But our love isn't strong enough, rich enough, or smart enough to buy us a future.

The majority of this story is told through Gwen's point of view- naturally the reader has very subjective emotions at the horrors Gwen witnesses. I sure felt a mixed bag of emotions while reading this-- disgust, triumph, sorrow, irritation, ...the list could go on! And at the very end I needed to sit in silence for a while- just to process what all happened. This was a very intense read for me.

Gwen was a character I both loved and hated. She was strong-willed, fierce, and had a poetic narrative. However, if you thought Anastasia's inner goddess was bad- she has nothing on Gwen's "monster" ramblings. There were points were Gwen's thoughts were on a runaway train and became overly repetitive and left me with a feeling she was overly haughty.

Welch tugged at my heartstrings throughout the story. He's one of the few male main characters I've ever read that had such a hard life but refused to be broken down. Welch is a true representation of what the human spirit can endure and get through. *sniff*

Overall, a **solid 4.5 star read**- wonderfully unique, beautiful although rushed dark romance, and has elements of a thriller. I would highly recommend this - but beware! This is not for the faint of heart and contains triggers for all forms of abuse.

Jacqueline's Reads says

3 Conflicting Stars

This is a super graphic dark book. I was in a dark mood, I wanted something a little dramatic and kind of taboo and I did get it.

So you have two foster kids, Gwen and Welch. This is a true love-story, with a lot of wicked stuff. Gwen and Welch have awful foster parents who do awful things. Here's my take on this book. The first 50% was good. I was interested in the painful part, the abuse. Gwen and Welch only have each other and because of that, they sort of form this bond.

I thought the bond was kind of forced. I think if there was a little more angst (I know I can't believe I said that), but it's true. Instead of (view spoiler) I don't know, it just felt off to me.

The second half the book felt really forced to me. The author continues to tell me what a monster Gwen and Welch are, but I really didn't see it. Yes, they had to do bad things because they became tainted and horrible people, but I felt like they were doing what they needed to do to survive.

I'm not really fond of an author telling me my feelings. Telling me someone is bad, a monster and should die. I rather read it through the actions and emotions of the characters.

What really get you hooked into the story are all the BAD things. This isn't a cookie-cutter book and shouldn't be read by the faint of heart. It's really sick, twisted and more than just rape happens.

Some of the stuff to expect...

Spoiler 1 (view spoiler) Okay, so there is the wow factor in there, but it's NOT as bad as I thought it would be.

Spoiler 2 (view spoiler) Super dark right?

There are also killings that are detailed in the book (like super detailed).

So overall, the graphic and dark stuff is all there. The wow factor keeps you hooked and glued to the pages. There just needs to be minor tweaking in the chemistry between the two main characters. I didn't connect with the love story. I didn't see a relationship, but just two people in a bad situation wanting to be together instead of alone.

I may take some time before I go into the second book, but I am curious to what is going to happen. I can only imagine more twisted stuff.

Read on Kindle Unlimited

Jaime says

I received this book for an honest review.

Wow!

This book is so emotionally draining.

My boy.

My monster

My savior.

My all.

My sweet girl.

My heart broke for the main characters Gwen and Welch.

Gwen's parents died and was sent to foster care.

Welch didn't know his dad but his mother died and was bounced from one foster home to another.

Gwen and Welch both end up at Claude and Helen's house and the torture and abuse starts from day one.

Welch has been with Claude and Helen a lot longer than Gwen.

He has become some mentally/emotionally void just to survive.

Gwen is still in the grieving process when she begins to get abused.

Claude and Helen are smart, they don't sexually abuse these two 17 year old kids.

Welch is forced to rape Gwen.

They are so broken from the beatings that they find love and safety with each other.

Though the pain they share together during isn't a healthy but it is survival and their way of taking control.

They finally have their freedom but they are on the run.

They end up in Wyoming and try to get a bus ticket to Portland but it costs too much.

So they do what they know best, they use sex to get the money.

It just didn't turn out they way they had hoped.

The events from the time they took their freedom from Claude and Helen to trying to say good bye to Wyoming finds Gwen and Welch separated and in the loony bin.

They are awaiting trial.

Will they finally be free to love? to move on? to not be the monsters they see of them?

This book is a dark read, and if you do not like to read about rape, beatings, and molestation, then this book is not for you.

But this book does make you think of the foster care system and how some kids fall through the cracks.

I can't wait to read book 2 about Welch.

Reviewed by Jaime of Mommy's Naughty Playground

Christine says

A dark and twisted tale of Gwendolyn and Welch. Put into care together and having to endure brutal acts from their carers.

Both are damaged nearly beyond repair. An emotional read with a good ending and nice to have some more to come in the summer from these two.

Philomena Callan Cheekypee says

I read this authors Scars & Sorrow Saga series and I loved it. However nothing prepared me for reading this book. It's dark-real dark and I loved it. Doesn't that say a lot for my warped mind lol

Gwendolyn ends up in foster care when her parents die. In care she meets Welch who has had a horrific life. What happens with their foster parents is unthinkable- just so sick. Gwen and Welch try to help each other through their horrific times.

I'm not saying any more. If you like really dark reads then 1-click. Personally I felt drained after reading this book. I'm so hoping Mary has plans for more books like this:)

Tip: tissues & alcohol may be needed.

Dusti Hanrahan says

I LOVED this broken, tragic, soul crushing story!!!

Jennifer Gauthier says

WOW! This is my first book by this author, and I fell in love with her writing. This gut wrenching story is beautifully written.

I found it odd that the character herself did not cringe at certain thoughts, however, I did reading them, "fists clenched cringed", but could not stop reading it.

Gwendolyn vs the Band of Barren Hearts had me on the edge of my seat, it had me closing the book, it had me in tears. It kept me reading that's for sure. This book contains every emotion possible.

The love, the friendship of these two characters would stand the test of time.

My boy

My monster

My all

My saviour

Sweet Girl

Gwen and Welch

No matter what you call them, their story is one you should read.

I look forward to next book from Mary Palmerin.

Tbird London says

I had the honor of working with Mary E Palmerin on this book. While she was no stranger to the dark evilness in this world with her first series, this was a new adventure for her and I feel she did an outstanding job. She made it very clear to me in the beginning she wanted this story to be a realistic message of how far

the system pushes teenagers who find themselves in foster care. While what you are about to read isn't the usual outcome for those kids, what Gwen and Welch endures is common more often than should be allowed. It was important to Mary that the readers see how far society pushes people into the blackness of survival only to punish them for what they had to do to stay alive. I am very proud of her because I think she took a huge challenge and won with this book.

Gwen's life suddenly changed at the death of her parents. From being the beloved daughter and center of her parents' world, she now finds herself with Claude and Helen, in a rundown trailer. Her value in life was reduced to a monthly paycheck from the state. With no one to care about her now, no goals for the future other than survive; Gwen has to reclaim a new identity, one that will help her find the fight to save herself. She needed to discover the monster that was within her soul that she never wanted to nurture.

Welch is her new foster brother; he wants to connect with Gwen. He knows the abuse that goes on in the trailer, he has suffered at the hands of Helen and Claude for too long, and seen to many other girls come and go. Maybe with Gwen they can plan their escape as soon as they both turn 18. The time to run had come, but as with everything freedom doesn't come for free. Life on the outside of that trailer wasn't any kinder to them and a new level of angst had begun to smother them. When it came time to pay for their sins, they find they are also paying for the sins of every person who had laid a hand on them in the past or had forgotten that they were only kids who needed help.

I am not sure how you can read this book and not have your heart shattered by what is done to these two kids, who only wanted a chance to chase their dreams, finish school and know what high school love was like. The author kept it real; she didn't pull any punches with the tragedy that Welch and Gwen call their life now. Each was willing to become the monster the other needed in order to make it out of this alive. I was impressed with how she weaved love into one of the darkest situations a teenager could fine, not the fly by night kind of love, but the self-sacrificing love that people rarely find or can give.

I strongly suggest you grab your copy of this book now, get some tissues and be prepared to find within yourself the power to change situations like this.

Expresso-Girls Just Wanna Have Books ; A Mafia Romance says

I love, love, love Gwen and Welch! Gwen and Welch's experience claimed my heart from the beginning! This story is gut clenching, heartbreakingly, pitiful and extremely sad. Gwen and Welch's love and resilience are beautiful sights to behold!

For different reasons Gwen and Welch end up in the foster care system and in the same home. Their foster care parents are perverted, vile, evil molesters who force Gwen and Welch to perform and participate in unspeakable acts! Claude and Helen, the foster parents, are the epitome of evil and ultimately receive their karma!

Starved and severely abused, Gwen and Welch are on the run. These two kids are under the illusion their love will keep them safe and most important, together. While on the streets attempting to survive, they are forced back into the cycle of abuse and sex. The two must make enough money for their bus tickets to Portland, OR. Freedom. Fresh Start. New Beginnings. The authorities are closing in on Gwen and Welch. In an attempt to reclaim some portion of her life and not "unwillingly" separate from Welch, she allows a

moving car to strike her during a police chase. It is the last time she and Welch are together. Gwen survives but the trauma "breaks" her and she is institutionalized.

After a decade in a mental institution and without any contact with Welch, she makes it to Portland, OR. Gwen is determined to pursue their dreams. Pursuing their dreams without her sweet boy, her sweet monster, her Welch...

This book is poignantly heartbreaking and so freakin beautiful! I don't quite know what I was expecting when I started this story. However, it is a beautifully written, real, raw, story that will consume and exploit every emotion you possess! Due to dark subjects, this book may contain triggers for some readers. Please adhere to the warnings.

5+ stars!

Natalie says

Two fucked up people, two lives changed forever, two monsters formed from the devils of the world.

This book was all about the good, the bad and the very ugly.

The good = Gwendolyn and Welch

The bad = Claude and Helen

The ugly = everything that happens between them.

After the loss of her parents Gwendolyn is placed in foster care shortly before her 18th birthday. It is there that she meets Welch, who is also in foster care in the same home. Not long after arriving Gwen falls victim to Claude and Helen, her very sick and depraved foster parents. Abused in the most horrific ways Gwen and Welch band together for protection and comfort but it's not enough. Abuse changes people and for Gwen and Welch it leads them down a path of heartbreak, pain and destruction.

This book is not your typical dark romance. There is no kidnapping, the evil monster doesn't change his ways and fall for the fragile girl. This is a story about young teens who are abused and used by the people who are supposed to care for them which makes it even that much more difficult to read.

As unnerving and as graphic as it was to read I was totally engrossed in the story and couldn't put the book down. I wanted to see these characters through to the finish. While I am still torn about the ending (I honestly would have liked it to be different but I respect the author for the path she followed) I can't deny that this was a very well written, emotionally gripping story. Author Mary E. Palmer clearly has talent. Her lyrical writing style flows beautifully and she captured the the pain and loss of these two very broken characters really well. I am very much looking forward to the next book in the series.

Kim BookJunkie says

5 stars

I love dark books. I love dark romance. I am straight up addicted to dark erotica! There is a third dark category too; one that I rarely read since I find it to be so depressing. I refer to this third category as, "sad dark". This book definitely belongs in this third category and is by far the saddest book I've ever read. Although it's been years since I've read a book that pulled on my heartstrings like this book did, it wasn't depressing. My heart ached for some of the characters while I felt rage and hatred towards others. The fact that I felt so many emotions proves how powerful Mary E. Palmerin's writing is!

This book is about a 17-year-old boy and a 17-year-old girl who share a room in a tiny trailer owned by sadistic, "foster parents". The majority of the first half of the book focuses on the female main character Gwendolyn. Poor freaking Gwendolyn! Maybe a month or a few months shy of her 18th birthday, she is living in hell. Although she tries not to talk to anyone, afraid of forming relationships and being hurt again, she is forced into situations that cause her to grow close to her roommate and schoolmate, "Welch". Welch and Gwen aren't anything like the sadistic couple who foster them, yet Gwen and Welch still refer to themselves as, "monsters". In this book, Gwen learns that not all monsters are ugly or scary. Gwen discovers that being abused is horrific, painful and heartbreakingly yet she also learns that not all pain hurts.

Normally I would never give 5 stars to a book containing typos and inconsistencies or that was as disorganized as this book is. However, the depth of depravity and darkness in this book totally overpowered the poor editing! Palmerin wasn't afraid to push boundaries - actually, she didn't just push boundaries, she totally disregarded them! Sure, editing would improve this book yet the premise, the storyline and the characters are so messed up and so fascinating that things like typos (which typically would drive me insane) didn't even matter!! Despite the editing issues, the terrible title (at first glance I thought this book would be about a band, as in music) and the cruel, evil cliffhanger ending, this book is phenomenal and definitely going on my, "favorites" shelf. I am extremely excited to have discovered this author and can't wait to see what all she's got! I'm off to start book#2 right now...

Di Covey says

Arc kindly provided in exchange for an honest review.

3.5 Stars!

This was a new author for me. Thank you, Mary for letting me read and review your work.

Warning: Dark Elements, Forced Non-Con, and Murder.

This was an unique mix of dark. Not sure I've read young dark characters like this before. How long do you play with monsters before you turn into one? Gwendolyn's parents are gone, leaving her a orphan with DISGUSTING, sadistic foster parents. Welch, her foster brother is broke, he's damaged from the life of pain he's lived, the torture he's endured through the years. Can they heal together or are they forever doomed for a life of hell? Can two damaged souls mend each other?

I had mixed feelings about this one. The plot/storyline was original, dark, and completely out of the box. But I wasn't actually convinced Gwen was a monster, I think she was living the best way she could. Her life was turned upside down with the death of her parents, she was fighting for freedom from the real monsters.

Monster was a term used quite frequently, but I didn't think so. She wasn't the monster in this story and neither was Welch. I was told, but never really felt it. Their circumstances were heartbreaking more so than most dark stories, their ages playing a huge part. The scenes between Gwen and Welch was disturbingly beautiful. I don't know how to explain it, dark but sweet. Weird, I know.

"I have to do things to you, Gwendolyn. Bad things to you-," he pauses, clenching his jaw and scrunching his eyebrows."

This had a vibe of Bonnie & Clyde, younger version of course. There's twists and turns, speed bumps that you don't expect, and a certain naivety about these characters that you can't help but love. I was routing until the very end for these two damaged souls. The ending was completely unexpected and somehow perfect. This book leaves on a good ending, but I would certainly love more of Gwen and Welch. A follow up book would be fantastic.

My first book by Mary E. Palmerin, it will not be my last. I like her style.

Charlie ☆ WLTB Blog ☆ says

I really Enjoyed this book very hard to read at times I felt for Gwendolyn and Welch I really wanted to get inside the book and Kill the foster parents such an emotional twisted heart racing book I really Can't wait for book 2 so looking forward to reading it

Nance says

*****Warning – this book is sexually graphic and highly abusive in nature*****

I really have to think about my review for this book...

In truth, I was deeply affected by Gwendolyn and Welch's story. There were times when I felt I just couldn't read on. But, I had to know how their story ended. My God, it was brutally horrifying! My heart went out to them so painfully so. This was a terrifying account of abuse that brought tears to my eyes. Ms. Palmerin holds nothing back when exploring their numerous ordeals of violation. There's not much more to say other than I was not expecting that ending. Abuse, whether verbal or physical, triggers the mind to play tricks and alter your thinking, which was shown here from the abhorrent level of defilement. This is one harrowing tale of survival! Masterfully written! Honestly told! All portrayed without pacifying the reader.

Now onto Part 2...
