



Sugar & Gold

Emma Scott

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Nikolai Alexei Young was born with a special gift...one he'd do anything to lose. The heart and soul of every person he comes into contact with is an open book to his heightened senses. Colorful emotions, whispers of thoughts, the sour tastes of old memories...He feels them all. The sci-fi books would call him an empath. For Nikolai, his ability has made him an exile. He roams the U.S. alone, avoiding the glut of life in big cities, and using his innate talents to win money in underground poker games. Just enough to keep going, one town to the next. He has no hope that his life can be anything else, until he meets her...

At nineteen, Fiona Starling was trapped in an ugly, desperate situation until she freed herself the only way she knew how. Now three years later, living outside Savannah, Georgia, she is rebuilding her life on her own terms; seizing every moment and saving every penny so that she might fulfill her dream of moving to the raw wilderness of Costa Rica. But behind her carefree smile beats the heart of a lonely young woman haunted by her past, until a chance encounter with a tattooed stranger changes everything...

Fiona takes Nikolai under her roof for three sultry nights, waiting out the rain of a summer storm. She grows more and more fascinated by this brooding stranger with whom she shares an intense physical connection—a connection so strong, she wonders if there is something between them beyond lust and passion. Nikolai is shocked to discover that Fiona calms the raging turmoil in his heart. She alone silences the din of other people's lives, and envelops him in the sweet beauty of her inner self. Every moment he's with her—every touch of her skin—brings him closer to the peace that's been eluding him his entire life.

But Fiona harbors secrets that she is too terrified to reveal. After Nikolai confesses his unique ability, she is caught between wanting to believe him and fearing he'll eventually unearth her own dark past. When the unthinkable happens, Fiona's plans come crashing down, and Nikolai discovers his hated ability might be the only thing that can save the woman he loves.

Sugar & Gold is a STANDALONE new adult romance with shades of the paranormal. Intended for readers 18 and up.

Sugar & Gold Details

Date : Published June 13th 2017

ISBN :

Author : Emma Scott

Format : Kindle Edition 323 pages

Genre : Romance, Fantasy, Paranormal, New Adult, Contemporary, Sociology, Abuse

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From Reader Review Sugar & Gold for online ebook

Dana Ilie says

Two souls bound together. Two souls that are fragile and beyond repair find the glue to hold their fractured hearts together. It will take a miracle and some mystical intervention to save both of their lives.

Once again Emma Scott had me enraptured. I could not put this book down. If you have read her previous novel How To Save A Life you will appreciate this book all the more.

KAS says

5+ 'Ken' She Possibly Be My Cure? Stars

?Sugar and Gold is 100% SOLID GOLD!!!

My goodness gracious, what an adrenaline rush! My heart bubbled over with raw emotion. It is impossible to read something this beautiful and not be affected.

5 Reasons to Read Sugar and Gold:

- It is a passionate, riveting page turner
- The unexpected is simply amazing
- The characters will fill you with joy
- It is everything you want in a romance
- The author is Emma Scott

Thanks for the memories, Nikolai and Fiona! Your incredible love for each other will transcend time.

Nikolai has the '*ken*.' The innate ability to 'see' feelings. He has always had it, has always hated it. All he wants is for it to go away. So frightened of it, his mother had him committed to a hospital for three years where they drugged and 'shocked' him into oblivion. Feeling other people's emotions and bad memories is slowly sucking the life out of him. Thoughts of ending it all niggle at him. The only solace he seems to find is from the stinging, painful needles of a tattoo gun. His body is covered in them. Of course the relief is only temporary. He is in desperate need of another outlet to dull the loud, debilitating noise in his head.

As Nikolai is once again crisscrossing the states trying to outrun the '*ken*,' he meets the willowy, pink haired, blue-eyed beauty named Fiona, and calmness washes over him. He wants to get lost in all that is Fiona. The need to touch her is unbearable. With Fiona, the '*ken*' isn't an insufferable torment. Is it possible she is his cure?

Costa Rica, a place full of sunshine, is calling Fiona's name. Her need to put as many miles between she and her sociopathic ex-husband is her goal. She escaped the abusive marriage two years ago, but watches over her shoulder waiting for him to find her and take her back to a life full of cruel verbal punishment. She vows to never give her trust or her heart to a man ever again. That is until she locks eyes with the sexy, handsome tatted and pierced man staring at her while she moves to the music on the nightclub's dance floor.

? I gently laid my lips to hers, tasting rainwater, and then the sweetness of her. Even in a deluge of rain, kissing Fiona was like tasting candy under a sun at midday. Warmth and sweetness suffused me.

? She laid her hand on my chest, over my heart. "Don't hold back. Whatever you are...this..." She pressed her hand harder. "I want this. You. The power of you." She looked up at me, her eyes dark with yearning. "I want all of it."

From that moment on Nik and Fi's love story begins. Although it isn't perfect and their journey is hard fault, Fi would describe it as a fairytale love story. It is one full of lust, laughter and longing. Passion, plans and pitfalls. Sacrifice, sex and secrets. Devotion, desire and despair. Heartbreak, heroism and healing. But most of all their love centers around peace. The peace they find being with each other.

? "This feeling right now?" he said, his voice low. "Do you feel it?"

? "Yes ..."

? "I don't want it to end. Not yet. I want to take you out and sit across from you and know that in an hour later you'll be in my bed." He searched my eyes. "If that's what you want."

I doubt I will ever look at cotton candy again, and not be reminded of the love shared between Nikolai and Fiona ;))

I was generously provided an ARC for an honest review

Megan♦*Steamy Reads Blog*♦ says

“Love and hope. Love and fucking hope...”

Wow... Just Wow! Every time I read a book from Emma Scott it fast becomes my new favorite; that is until she releases a new story and that one then becomes my favorite. Emma Scott always has the ability to capture me from the very first page with her powerful and touching plot lines and unforgettable characters that I devour and enjoy every page of. *Sugar & Gold* was such a unique and moving story; an absolute treasure that everyone, who loves a great story should discover.

I wholeheartedly loved and adored Fiona. Her determination and passion was inspiring to me. The way she strives to live her life the way she sees fit, her determination to see through her plans for the future and her desire to be happy made her a loveable character. I loved the relationship she had with her canary Lemony and the way that they would converse. Lemony literally stole my heart. Fiona is determined to leave the ghosts of her past behind and move on from all the bad things that have ravaged her mind and thoughts. Even though Fiona has not had the easiest life in her short twenty three years, she is still very strong and never lets those things diminish her vibrancy and spirit.

“No rules. Live out loud. Find the sunshine.”

My heart absolutely shattered for poor Nikolai, he was such a beautiful broken person. He has been dealt with his fair share of suffering and as a result is always trying to escape not just from everyone else, but also from himself. He hides behind tattoos and piercings and thrives on the pain they bring. Nikolai has been born with a gift (*ken*) or a curse as he sees it. He doesn't want these powers and just wishes he was “*normal*.” He has a desire to love and be loved deeply and I just felt for him and the pain he was suffering.

“I got tattoos – dozens of tattoos because the needle’s pain was real. It felt like it was the only thing that was real. Pain to remind me that I was still alive. That I was still here.”

When Fiona and Nikolai meet there is an instant attraction and chemistry; two broken souls coming together in order to heal one another. They were both able to find the peace, love and trust they had been searching for.

The character development was second to none. I felt everything these characters had endured and were going through. It was like I was a part of this spectacular journey and they became a part of me and I know that I will never forget them.

Sugar & Gold is a beautifully written story of love, hope, strength and finding that special person to complete and heal your broken self. Even though this story is classified as paranormal/fantasy, the elements are quite minimal and even if you’re not a PNR fan, don’t let that deter you, as long as you love a spectacularly heart-felt story that will remain with you long after the last word is read, then definitely check this one out. **I COULD NOT RECOMMEND THIS UNFORGETTABLE STORY HIGHLY ENOUGH!**

Christy says

5 stars!!!

Emma Scott never ceases to amaze me with her brilliant writing, original story-lines, and amazingly well developed characters. *Sugar & Gold* blew me away. I know, I know... I say this every time I read a book by this author. I can’t even help it. Her books are magical.

Nikolai is a roamer. He rides his motorcycle from town to town, keeps to himself, and just wants quiet. That’s a problem for him, though. It’s never quiet. He always feels. He feels what’s in people’s heart and soul. He feels the good, the bad, and the ugly. It’s a blessing and a curse, but most of the time it feels like a

curse to him. Because of this, he stays alone. He can't get too close to anyone. It's too 'loud'.

Fiona is a beautiful soul in a small town trying to work her way up to a fresh start. Fiona was in a bad relationship and got away, but not far enough away. She has a few friends in the town she's living in, but her ultimate goal is to get further away. She dreams of moving somewhere far away from all her problems and her past.

When Nikolai first meets Fiona, he's shocked. His response to her is different than he's used to. They have a spark. Two loners, two lost souls find each other in an unlikely way. Both of these characters were so special to me. They both have things in their past that broke my heart. Both are a little damaged, a little broken, but somehow these two broken souls make each other whole.

Made it bearable. Made it livable. She made life livable.

I loved the direction Emma took with this story. It was unpredictable and unique. One of the greatest joys of reading is not being able to tell what's going to happen next. *Sugar & Gold* caught me by surprise more than once. Also... that cameo. GAH! You couldn't have wiped the smile off my face when 'someone' came into the book for a short time. I loved that!

Sugar & Gold is a special book. It's one that needs to be read. Let me rephrase that- Emma Scott is an author that needs to be read. You can't go wrong with any of her books. She's quickly made her way to the top of my favorites list with every lyrical, beautiful, and creative story she writes. READ THIS BOOK! You won't regret it!

No rules. Live out loud. Find the sunshine.

warhawke says

Genre: Contemporary Romance

Type: Standalone Book 2 of Dreamcatcher series

POV: First Person - Dual

Rating:

For a few years Fiona Starling lived a terrorized life. Two years after escaping that life, she still wasn't living other than working and surviving in order to achieve her end goal. But everything changed when she encountered a handsome tattooed stranger.

Nikolai (Nik) Alexei Young had a burden to carry since he was very young. With an innate ability to read

people, he was often overwhelmed, forcing him to live an isolated life. He never knew calm until her presence soothed him. However, the secrets they both carried could end up pushing them apart.

I was already too addicted to the inexplicable peace this woman brought me. The last thing I needed was to get close to her, to feel anything more than lust, though part of me wondered if I were too late.

I really like Nik right from the beginning. I could feel the strain of his life and how much he wanted it to go away. And I like how the bits and pieces of his past helped shed the light on his plight.

Everything about her was pink; her drink, her hair, the bright halo of glimmering dust that surrounded her. Kindness, compassion, charity. Those were the feelings I associated with pink.

As someone who has been traumatized, Fiona was understandably cautious. She needed to protect herself from making the same mistake. She did show some spontaneity, but I'd like to see more of that especially towards the end.

They screamed their lives at me in a riot of colors, and filled my mouth with the bitter taste of their bad memories.

What I like the most about the author's work is how each of her books centered around characters' life/situation that are not overly used in the over saturated market of romance genre. It made them stand out among (what I call) the "normal" books.

I like how both characters balanced each other's turmoil. They had good chemistry together and this book is the sexiest of the author's work I've read so far. However, the earlier part of the book was slower than I like. It took more than half the book for it to pick up, but once it did it certainly added more layers to the story.

But the longing I felt to be with Fiona had nothing to do with what she gave me and everything to do with who she was.

Sugar & Gold revolves around a couple who have to learn to adapt to the life they were thrown into. It would appeal to readers looking for a contemporary romance with a little something extra.

Standalone books in the series:

? ? ? . . . (F)BR With Loyda . . . ? ? ?

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**Patty Belongs To Kellan~Jesse~Lautner~Miller~Jack~Racer~Rafe~Liam~Prince
Nicholas~Hayes~Simon~Gianluca & Archer says**

*******4.5 LOVE AND HOPE STARS*******

{ARC Generously Provided by Author}

Love and hope. She had given me so much of both, my heart was full of love for her...and a gratitude greater than thank you.

Emma Scott is one of those authors that I would put in a class all her own. Her stories are never predictable and her characters are quite unique and eclectic. The main characters in **SUGAR & GOLD** come from different worlds and yet they have so much in common that it seems they were destined to be soulmates. They were two pieces of an intricate puzzle that fit together perfectly. The first half of the story flows smoothly and I almost fell into the trap of thinking that I knew what was going to happen next but then the author shakes things up majorly in the latter half and it was all I could do to keep myself from taking a peek at the last page to find out how everything works out in the end. Get ready to be totally consumed by this story!

Fiona Starling lives a simple life in a small town outside of Savannah, Georgia. She works at a landscape and garden shop and is happy with her tiny apartment and pet canary, Lemony. She has a few friends who have

become family to her and who would do anything to protect her from harm. But Fiona has a secret past that she keeps bottled up inside. Fiona is a fighter and she hasn't had an easy life. Demons from her past haunt her on almost a daily basis but somehow she finds a way to persevere. Her love life has been non-existent for several years and one night she decides to take matters into her own hands and goes to a local club in search of a man to take care of some of her needs. It only takes a few minutes for her to cross paths with one sexy as hell stranger, who has no problems going back to her place with her.

Nikolai Young is a loner who travels from city to city, looking for illegal poker games so that he can make some serious cash. He has a "gift" that enables him to read people's "tells" during card games. Nik doesn't have a place he calls home, nor does he have the love and support of any family or friends. At times he struggles to fight his desire to end it all. He too is haunted by memories from his past and by the abandonment from those who should have loved him the most. When he sees Fiona at the club it's like she is a shining beacon that he is inexplicably drawn to. The two share one of the most passionate nights of their lives but when the sun comes up and their one night of lust has come to an end, neither is too eager to say goodbye. When Nik and Fiona are together they both experience happiness and a sense of peace that they've never felt before and soon enough a passing fling turns into a life-altering relationship.

With each passing day, their feelings for each other grow deeper and it's not what either of them wanted or expected to happen. Both Fiona and Nik are holding back major pieces of their lives from each other and once secrets are revealed the story goes through twists and turns that I could never have predicted would happen. That's what makes this author truly one of the best!! From that moment on I was on the edge of my seat, stressing over what was to become of these two beautiful characters!!

SUGAR & GOLD releases on June 13th!!

Amazon US: <http://amzn.to/2sdf0kD>

Amazon Universal: myBook.to/SugarGoldEmmaScott

Malene says

How do you do it Emma Scott. You've rendered me speechless once again. My heart and soul is filled with light, love and vibrant colors. Sugar & Gold was such a beautiful and profound reading experience that left me wanting for more once I turned the final page. Bravo.

Sugar & Gold is part of the Dreamcatcher series. It can easily be read as a standalone but I strongly recommend that you read How To Save a Life because it's just as fabulous and because a couple of characters make an appearance in S&G which I was freaking excited about. Ecstatic was more like it. How Emma Scott incorporated these characters into S&G was done flawlessly and with a purpose. It strengthened the premise of the story and the characters connection. Both HTSAL and S&G have shades of the paranormal and I love that it's within the characters cause that only makes them more unique and intriguing.

S&G moved me numerous times to tears especially because of Nik and Fiona. They were both flawed and tormented but for different reasons. Nik, because of his affliction, the ken which made him see, taste other people emotions. At times even hearing other people's thoughts. Fiona was fighting her past which had left her weak and doubting her own self worth. In a way she was rediscovering herself and becoming stronger. When Nik and Fiona stumbled across one another they both found solace and peace in the midst of their own struggles. Their union was intense and intoxicating. I almost felt I had the ken like Nik because I could see and feel everything they were experiencing. It was powerful and emotional at times. Suddenly tears appeared and I couldn't hold them back. That's a testament of a skillful author when words can evoke such strong emotions from a reader.

Emma Scott is a master storyteller. Her elegant and poignant prose enveloped me from the first page and kept me safely tucked in a cocoon filled with warm, joy and love until I reached the final page. There's an artistry to storytelling and Sugar & Gold encompasses all of that thanks to Emma Scott.

5 BadAssDirtyLoveAndHopeStars

Arc generously provided by the author for an honest review

Pavlina [Read more](#) [sleep less blog](#) ❤️ ❤️ says

4-4.5 intense stars ❤️

"The thrumming life all around me grew quiet. For the first time, I felt close to peace, and I wanted more."

Sugar & Gold was a beautiful, sweet, romantic, sexy and intense story. Nikolai and Fiona were two unique characters that you can't stop yourself from falling in love with them.

I really like Nikolai from the beginning and as I learn more about him, I fell hard and my heart aches for him and Fiona. Both are so broken and lonely. They are perfect for each other.

"She had what I wanted- what I needed-and every touch brought me closer to it."

I loved the writing in this one, there were many parts I highlighted in the story. Also there were moments I was surprised and I loved it for this. Overall I enjoyed it a lot and the paranormal aspect to the story was perfect!

Tijuana *Book Twins Reviews* says

Available Now - Free in Kindle Unlimited
Amazon US: <http://amzn.to/2qbMIH7>

I have no idea what I did to get so lucky to Beta Read this beauty, but I'll do it over and over when I figure it out. I loved every word!! It's so addictive. When you stay up all night to read chapters and beg the author for more as soon as you finish one!!

Yep! That's yours truly, while reading Sugar & Gold. It's Certified Kindle Crack folks!! You'll definitely fall in love with Nikolai and Fiona's story. Here's a glimpse of my casting for those two extraordinary characters.

The story is captivating, vibrant, and sexy! Don't worry, it's classic Emma so you will definitely feel all the feels. It's the story of two lonely souls finding love and solace in each other, but it's so much. It's an experience. That's one of the things Emma Scott does so well. As a reader, we want to connect with the characters in our books. Nik and Fiona jump off the page and imprint on your heart.

The story is unique and enthralling. The slight paranormal elements will intrigue and wow any reader. Gah! It's so good. Stop reading this gushy review and buy it RIGHT NOW!! Trust me, you won't be disappointed.

Paige says

5+ "Another Sunrise" Stars

There are times when you read a book at exactly the right moment and that becomes more than just a book. It becomes the exact thing you needed. The right words. The right characters. The right emotions. Sugar & Gold was exactly that. It's a book that spoke to my soul in a way that I needed and was everything I could have wanted.

Sugar & Gold was the story of two lost and wandering souls that found peace and acceptance in each other

when they least expected it. Nik and Fiona weren't looking for each other. They weren't looking period. Yet there was just something undeniable about them from the very start.

There was just something uniquely special about these two. Their story was a balm on my heart and mind. It settled the anxiety that I have spent the last few weeks seemingly entombed in. Emma Scott's words not only brought forth peace for Nik and Fiona, but for my racing heart as well. As I read about their first meeting. Then about their first full introduction to each other, I physically felt the words. Ms. Scott's masterful writing grabbed ahold of me and never let go.

My review isn't doing her words justice. It's hard to explain how a love story can change the chemistry of your head but it happened and I am so thankful for this story. I fell in love with Nik. His struggles and his "ken". I fell in love with Fiona. Her optimistic outlook on life only to be pulled under when she least expected it. I've not faced the struggles that these two faces specifically. Yet with the constant racing of my mind, I could relate better than I ever anticipated. And the way in which they worked through them and the instant connection they had, felt real and was absolutely something I could relate to. As Nik and Fiona fought their way through their feelings, through their pasts and through their ever present demons, this story became not only one of my Emma Scott favorites, and not only one of my favorites this year, but will sit atop the list of books that have become my most favorite ever.

If you've never met an Emma Scott hero, you are missing out.

ARC provided to A is for Alpha B is for Books for honest review.

Jessica-►Chatterbooks Book Blog► says

I just popped my Emma Scott cherry with Sugar & Gold, and I'm kicking myself for not giving it up sooner. I have heard nothing but rave reviews from friends about her work, but most of them mentioned how her books made them cry hysterically. Hearing that kind of scared me off, because I am not one of those girls that loves to cry. That's what probably made this the perfect book for me to start with, because while I teared up several times, I never had a full on sob fest which is fine by me! Without even reading the other books that she's written, I already think I know why they have the effect on people that they do. This author's writing makes you FEEL above all else, and that is one of the most important things to me in a story. If there is one thing I've come away from this book believing, it's that Emma Scott is one hell of a writer!

Nikolai has the preternatural ability to see people's feelings in colors, smells, and tastes. Sometimes, he can even hear their thoughts. He calls it his ken, and this ability has been a source of torment for him almost all his life. His parents don't have it, and they never understood it. His father left them because of it, and his mother sent him to doctors that tried things like shock therapy to "fix" him. He travels the country gambling his way from one place to the next. The ken allows him to tell when people are bluffing or have a good hand and that makes winning come easy. Sitting through the games can be difficult though, because the ken is overwhelming. When he is around people, he is bombarded with sights, sounds, smells, and thoughts of others. It becomes hard to tell the difference sometimes between his feelings and theirs. The only time he doesn't have trouble is when he gets tattoos. He is covered in them, because when he feels the pain of the needle, he knows that is all his pain and no one else's.

Fiona is running from her past, and by that I mean her abusive husband. He never physically harmed her, but he tore her apart with his words. Now that she has escaped him, she is trying to rebuild her self-esteem and live the life that she wants, and she would prefer to do it far away from the man that almost completely destroyed her. Costa Rica is where she feels she can finally be happy and free, and she saves all of her extra money to help fund her dream of living there.

Fiona decides to go out one night in search of some much needed affection in the form of a one night stand. She doesn't see the point in looking for a relationship, because she will be leaving to go to another country soon. As luck would have it, Nikolai needed to go out that night too and winds up at the exact same place as Fiona. One look at her pink hair and willowy figure on the dance floor and he can't keep his eyes off of her. She notices him too, and as they begin talking, Nikolai realizes that Fiona helps make everything else bearable. Around her, the ken doesn't drive him mad. With Fiona, he can have peace. When she asks him to go home with her, he jumps at the chance. It's only supposed to be for one night, but before it's over, they both know one night isn't going to be enough.

Nikolai and Fiona's story is absolutely beautiful. The writing is perfection, the story is heartwarming, the romance is breathtaking and steamy, and the characters are easy to love. Fiona may be beaten down, but I love that she never gave up on her dream. It would have been easy to especially with Nikolai's fine ass and everything that happens to her over the course of the book, but she keeps her eye on her goal the whole time. She doesn't waver, and I loved watching her go from a scared young woman to a fierce one before the story ends. Nikolai broke my heart many times over. His story would pull at anyone's heart strings. I wanted more than anything for him to finally get the happy ending he deserved. I loved the way he put Fiona's happiness ahead of his own and tried to give her everything she wanted whether it included him or not. He is most definitely book boyfriend material, and it doesn't hurt that I heard he was modeled after Stephen Jamesand that I want to have ten thousand of that man's babies! Lol

Bottom line, Sugar & Gold is a touching romance about two broken individuals that find healing and peace in each other. The only negative I can really give might be that if you like fast paced books, this might not be for you. The book is kind of slow moving which made it hard for me to keep reading sometimes (I'm also in a bit of a book slump), but I think that helped to build the connection between the characters and make the strength of their feelings more believable in the long run. If you don't normally read paranormal romance, I still think you should give this book a try, because this barely felt like one. My blog sister doesn't read paranormal romance, and she fell head over heels in love with this story! If you love romance that makes your heart feel like it's going to burst and your eyes mist with happy tears, this one's for you!

ARC generously provided for an honest review.

Astrid - The Bookish Sweet Tooth says

★★★ ALL THE STARS ★★★

Review @ Vanilla & Spice Books

Oh my. Where do I even start?

"Love and hope. Love and fucking hope..."

When Nik was a kid he was treated with shock therapy because he claimed that he could see, feel and taste other people's feelings and thoughts. His own mother thought he had the devil in him.

Today he uses his ability in poker games. He never loses if he doesn't plan to. Ever. But the constant buzz of other people's variety of feelings is oppressive. For that reason Nikolai avoids big cities if it can be helped. The tattoo needle gives him reprieve for a short time because that pain is his own and not other people's. After leaving behind his last poker game in Atlanta Nik sets up camp in a small town just outside of Savannah. He relishes the quiet.

Fiona works at the garden center. The job is a means to an end. Her plan is to move to Costa Rica, away from the past that still haunts her. But before that she intends to do things she has never done before. Like, say, a one night stand? At the local bar a tattooed and pierced guy saves her from an overly enthusiastic dance partner. Fiona allows herself to have one night of sensual bliss. But neither of them seem to keep away from each other and one night becomes three nights.

Nikolai finds peace from the onslaught of human emotions when he is with Fiona. For the first time he feels a resemblance of normalcy but he knows he can't stay. When Nik finally leaves either of them keeps telling themselves that it's better this way. Fiona can't have anyone in her life who keeps her from fulfilling her dream to go to Costa Rica. She lost too much when she left her ex-husband. Especially her ability to trust in her own gut feeling when it comes to people and her self esteem. So how can she trust a stranger?

And beneath the peace, was something clean and pure and simple. I missed her. Her. Fiona.

Emma Scott has an infallible knack for writing lovable and deep characters you can't help but care about. Nikolai is a beautiful soul, tormented, so much so that his despair drives him to thoughts of ending his life. Not because he doesn't want to live but his ability is making his life a living hell.

I didn't want to die but this wasn't living. I wanted an end.

The person who was supposed to love him unconditionally couldn't even look at him because of the ability

he was born with and which had been more curse than gift. That massive hurt still lingers inside of him. His loneliness slayed me.

The way Nikolai takes care of Fiona, sensing her every mood change and adapting to it, giving her room when she needs it is endearing. He is selfless, giving and generous, has a wicked sense of humor and is a beast in the sack. I love the way Nik sees his girl, shades of pink and gold, her kindness, sweetness and love.

"I want to take you out tomorrow and...talk about it."

"Okay," I said slowly. "Sure. If you want to."

"No, Fiona," Nik said, his voice low. "If you want to."

Fiona is this beautiful girl who seems carefree on the outside but her demons still rattle her cage. And living in a cage she does - until she realizes that she can't outrun the monster in her mind and needs to face her ex-husband, otherwise she will never really be free, because, when has it ever worked to run away from your problems? Fiona doesn't realize how strong she really is.

"My heart is telling me one thing and my mind is telling me another and I don't know which to believe. Story of my life."

She is a sweet, kind young woman with a goodness that radiates from the pages. She gives Nik the appreciation and gentleness his broken soul craves. Nik gives her back the self esteem that was cruelly taken away from her and makes her feel beautiful. Their connection was gorgeous, I felt completely wrapped up in love.

Emma Scott has a successful formula of writing stories that make you feel deeply. She is one of those authors who write their heart out. She bares her soul in every book. They are packed with emotion and will move even the most jaded reader. Every word in it is perfection, there is no room for fillers and she still comes up with 520+ pages that feel like half of that. You just can't make yourself stop reading, it's that good.

Ms Scott's writing style is unbelievably engaging and captivating with a little grit to keep it from getting too sweet. And when she cranks up the feels it's like a punch to the guts. I hope Emma keeps writing, she has already a very loyal fanbase and I'm sure they will stick with her if she keeps knocking these stories out of the park!

Danielle ❤? Pretty Mess Reading ❤? says

*****4.5 STARS*****

One night.

One night is all Fiona has to give to this sexy stranger who she has fell in lust with.

Nothing more.

Just one night.

Or so they say. Because that one night becomes three and that lust becomes something more. But who is this man? This man who has not only given her the best orgasm she has every had, but who also may have taken a piece of her heart that's been so closed off.

“I have the devil in me.”

“Do you think what you can do – the ken – is wrong?”

“I don’t like it. I don’t want it. Can you make it go away?”

– Nikolai/Doctor

Nikolai is beautiful. Most men don’t like to be called beautiful. It’s not manly enough they say, but to me, there is no better way to describe him. Think about the meaning of the word for a second.

Beautiful – pleasing the senses or mind aesthetically or of a very high standard; excellent.

That’s Nikolai. Don’t get me wrong, the man is sexy as fuck too, but who he is on the inside is even better. He has a gift, which he calls, the ken, that is destroying apart of him every single day. He hates it and it’s heartbreaking. You wonder, “How can a man so beautiful hate this part of himself so much?”

Fiona is astounding. Her journey to rebuild her life and find her self-worth is incredible to read about. She is what every woman should strive to be. I don’t mean that we all should be just like her, I mean we all should learn to value ourselves.

It’s a daily struggle for Fiona to keep her demons away, but one she doesn’t mind fighting. This is why I feel in love with her. Even when others words about her rang loud in her head, she tried to remind herself that those words aren’t true.

“I deserve better than that, and I’ve worked really hard to get to a place where I can say it: I deserve better than that.”

“Yeah, you do.” – Fiona/Nikolai

As Fiona was finding more and more ways to love herself, Nikolai was doing the opposite. Nik’s ken never turns off, he can’t control it. He’s isolated himself to the outside world. He finds ways that bring him pain in order to lessen the ken anyway he can. He rides around the country on his motorcycle (sexy), he plays poker for money (again, sexy) but he does it all alone (tragic).

But then along comes Fiona, the only person in the world that quiets his ken and allows him find himself. Fiona allows him to find a sense of calm in a world that full of noise and chaos. Plus, she drop dead gorgeous which doesn’t hurt.

Normally, I don’t enjoy books where there is too much self-loathing but it’s impossible not to understand where Nikolai is coming from. I would personally react the same way as he did. Well, maybe not the same way, I would have thrown some drugs and alcohol in there too. I never claimed to be perfect or have everything figured out.

As Nikolai began to realize that he could find a way to live with the ken as long as he could have Fiona, she was only willing to give him so much of herself. He just didn’t know whether or not it was enough for him. He needed more from her but she wouldn’t come easily.

I love a man who is willing to fight for a woman. Hottest thing EVER. Nik was ready and willing to put up the good fight for Fiona because she was worth it. To him, she was worth him finding a better way to live with the ken so he wouldn’t have to live without her.

“I imagined what it would be like if I said no to you. To. . .us. Whatever that might be. And I didn’t like it.” – Fiona

When Fiona decided she was ready to move on and embrace love, it could only be on her terms. I fucking adored that about her. She was my kind of chick!

But wait a hot damn minute! When she does decide to embrace the possibility of love with Nik, he still doesn’t tell her about the ken. Bad move, Nik. Bad fucking move. That choice to keep quiet alters everything! Shit starts to get real, real.

Men and their silly secrets. I swear the world would be so much better if men just kept it honest. What can we do? Nada. They will still be stupid, just saying.

Stalk all things messy...

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Jenny••Steamy Reads Blog•• says

When you read a book that captures your attention and your heart, it's definitely a winner. A book that will stay with you. This author can do it, every book I've read of hers has done this. Love love love Emma Scott.

She created Nikolai Young in this gem of a book. And oh my god i have fell in love again. Nik is strong, he's all about surviving and not giving up, he's handsome, he's sexy, passionate, and he has a heart of GOLD. And Nik has a special magic about him that people only dream about.

Fiona Starling is living day to day, getting emotionally stronger each day. She's had a bad past and is committed to making sure she never lives like it again, that she becomes someone stronger, and someone that is independent from everyone but herself. She sweet, she's strong, and she is beautiful. A night of getting something she wanted, turned out to be a night she got her dream.

This story is beautiful?? It makes you smile, it makes you sad, it lets you be giddy with happiness. Another winner from this amazing author♥?♥?

Emma Scott says

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The rain crashed down and Fiona stepped into the downpour. The water drenched her instantly, turning her white dress translucent. It clung to her body, revealing everything to me. She watched me watching her; her lips parted slightly and the deep red of her desire tasted like a lick of fire on my tongue.

"Tell me, Nikolai Alexei..." She lifted her hair off her neck, turning her face to the sky. "Have you ever kissed a stranger in the rain?"

Sugar & Gold, is a new adult romance with shades of the paranormal and is the second book in the Dreamcatcher novels, a series of interconnected STANDALONES.
