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Always Second Best (Broken Dreams: Em & Nick Book 2)



Synopsis

Sometimes being first isn't what you expected. Sometimes, you get a second chance at love. Seventeen-year-old ballerina Emilia Moretti is tired of always being second best. And she's going to prove the world she deserves to be first. In her upcoming School of the Performing Arts showcase. In the eyes of her birth parents. And in the heart of the guy she loves. She spends hours rehearsing, hours dreaming about becoming number one, hours imagining how her entire life is about to change. But when nothing goes the way she planned, she'll need to realize what it really means to be first. Eighteen-year-old Nick Grawski doesn't want to follow Daddy Dearest's rules any longer. He's going to prove he's meant to be a dancer "not a lawyer" and he is not going to stay away from Em just because his father demands it. He needs to show Em that "this time around" he's there to stay and that he won't break her heart again. Even when her world goes down to shit, even when he finds out his dad may have been trying to protect him all along, even if being there for one another is harder than falling in love. ALWAYS SECOND BEST is a novel of hope and heartbreak and broken dreams. It's a novel about falling in love and discovering that being first isn't always what matters.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There are so many things to love about *Always Second Best*. This is a multifaceted story if ever there was one. It broke my heart, halfway attempted to put it back together, and then broke it all over again. *Always Second Best* has Romeo & Juliet vibes for the modern YA audience, with a very different ending. It's a novel of love and of loss that shows us it's okay--even important--to question the things we feel so certain that we want. And same with relationships. Familial, romantic, platonic... Sometimes relationships seem solid in their standing, whichever that standing may be. Love. Hate. Distrust. But by the end, nothing's exactly where it began. Forgiveness and perspective and knowledge are powerful things. This is a book about discovering that no family is perfect and sometimes what may seem unforgivable is, actually, possible to let go of. Or at least to try. Nick and Emilia. Nick and Em. I already loved them from *A Summer Like No Other*--which, you don't have to read to enjoy this book, but you should read it anyway. "You're scared. But you don't need to be. Use this fear to show them who you are." Nick is a hell of a guy. I loved him in the prequel and I love him even more now. Even when things between Em and he are rocky, he remains a rock in the way that he's there for her. This is a second chance romance you'll be rooting for from page one. (Or, if you've read the prequel, from before the book even begins.) And Em. Man, life throws Em everything it can in this story and she stays on her feet. She's strong and determined and is given to gentle infusions of humor that make even the hardest scenes a little easier to bear. The plot twists and winds through unexpected loops, one after another after another. Grief piles on top of grief. This book will slay you at times, but it will also put you as close to back together as it can. Which won't be all the way. Because *Always Second Best* is the kind of book that will stick with you, deep in your chest, for a long time after reading.

After recently reading the prequel to this book, I was anxious to find out what happened to Nick and Em and to finally learn the truth behind Em's adoption. I loved Em and Nick's character growth. She's such a sweetheart and I'm glad she found happiness. And kudos to Nick for taking a stand. There was drama and romance and a hopeful ending and reading this series makes me feel like I'm visiting old friends (Nonna is THE BEST and I wish her restaurant was real so I could go there). Maybe Elodie will write a companion book featuring Rob/Giovanni or Jen next??? *hint hint*

This was a good book.

Sometimes you read a book thinking this is really good, I'm enjoying this book and then the plot twist smacks you in the face and it ends and you're thinking how did I not read this sooner all while in tears.

What a great book, loved all the details and I was always hanging at the edge of my seat! Great roller coaster of emotions and I was very happy with the ending, can't wait to read what is next!

Book three in the Broken Dreams series. Best to read *A Summer Like No Other* before this to really follow along. Eight months after their summer together, Emilia and Nick find themselves tiptoeing around each other. For Emilia, being around Nick is just too difficult for her because she's in love with him. Nick flitting from one girl to the next has crushed her. She just doesn't know why they only had one summer. She tries to focus on her dancing, since the showcase is coming up and helping her Nonna out at the restaurant. Anything to keep her mind off of Nick. Not to mention all the heartache she's suffering through because of her father and the circumstances of her birth. People in Emilia's life aren't what they seem and there are many more secrets to come out. Will Emilia learn what's most important to her? I devoured this book in hours. My heart broke for Emilia, but I loved how determined she was to figure out the truth. Standing up to a family member is never easy. Nick finally grew up and became a man in my eyes. Dancing was his passion, but he wanted to make sure he was doing it for the right reasons. I couldn't ask for anything more in the series. I received a copy from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Another great read by Elodie Nowodazkij!! Picking up eight months from when Emilia and Nick were together, they see themselves as attempting to work around one another. Emilia is unable to be around Nick because she loves him. She has been crushed by Nick going from one girl immediately onto the next. In order to get her mind on other things, she begins focusing all her attention on dancing and the showcase. I finished this book in a matter of hours. I felt the emotion and pain that Emilia was going through as if I was going through it myself. By the end of the novel, I really began to fall for Nick again. He stepped up and realized what he really wanted and what he didn't. This is another great novel by Elodie. 4 Stars!!

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