

Bared to You: A Crossfire Novel Study Guide

Bared to You: A Crossfire Novel by Sylvia Day

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Plot Summary

"Bared to You" is a novel in The Crossfire novel series by author Sylvia Day. The story follows Eva Tramell, a recent college graduate, as she starts her new life in New York City and her new job as an assistant to junior account manager at an advertising agency. On the day before she starts her new job, Eva makes a test run of the route to her office. While in the lobby of The Crossfire building, where her office is, Eva runs into the most gorgeous man she has ever seen. This is but the first of many encounters with the man she finds out is the billionaire playboy, Gideon Cross.

There is no question that the chemistry between Eva and Gideon is nuclear. When the two first decide to become involved, the arrangement is for them to have a sexual relationship, with no strings attached. The more the two spend time together, however, the more each of them falls in love with the other. The underlying issue is the secrets that Gideon and Eva have.

Both were sexually abused as children. Dealing with their demons puts numerous twists and turns in the relationship. Not only does the sexual abuse remain an underlying issue, but problems with friends, roommates and ex-lovers returning to the scene, cause jealousy, fighting and eventually making up. In the end, however, Gideon and Eva realize that they can make it through anything as long as they have each other.



Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary

Eva Tramell and her best friend, Cary Taylor, are settling into their new Manhattan apartment. Cary is a model and Eva is starting a new job as an assistant to a junior account manager, Mark Garrity. Cary is trying to get Eva to go out for drinks, but Eva wants to time her walk to work and then go to the gym.

After the less than thirty minute walk to The Crossfire building, Eva ends up falling on her butt when she tries to help a woman pick up the contents of her dropped purse. Eva looks up to see a very attractive man standing before her. He helps her up and Eva asks for I.D. badge. Eva leaves The Crossfire and takes a kickboxing class at the gym. The instructor tells her about a Krav Maga class he teaches and gives her the website to check it out.

Cary has dinner waiting for Eva when she arrives home. She tells him about the Krav Maga class and about the gorgeous man she ran into at The Crossfire. Eva asks about the two gift boxes, which Cary tells her is a gown for her and tux for him from her mother and step-father.

The next day, Eva goes to her first day of work. It is her first job out of college and her boss's first assistant. Right before five o'clock, Cary texts Eva about getting the drink she didn't want the night before. As Eva gets into the elevator to leave work, the only rider on the elevator is the gorgeous man from the lobby the day before.

Chapter 1 Analysis

Eva Tramell is experiencing a major transition in her life. She has just moved from the west coast to the east coast. Additionally, she has just graduated college and is starting her first job. Eva is also struggling with her independence—making her own money and paying her own bill—and accepting help from her rich mother and step-father, and help from her policeman father.

The fact that Eva keeps running into the gorgeous man at The Crossfire foreshadows the two starting a relationship. In addition, Eva is so attracted to the man that it seems as if they will have a hot, heavy and illicit affair.



Chapter 2

Chapter 2 Summary

The man greets Eva by name, which she realizes he knows because he picked up her I.D. the previous day. He asks how her first day was and wonders how he knows this. She says good and asks about his day. The elevator makes another stop to pick up three more passengers. When they get to the lobby, the man steers Eva out with his hand on the small of her back. Eva meets Cary there while the man goes out to the Bentley SUV.

Eva has a small hangover the next morning, but when Mark arrives he asks her to work late. He says a vodka company asked for a request for proposal from him by name. Eva asks if this is unusual and he agrees that it is. They work through lunch and almost through dinner until Marks' partner, Steven Ellison, calls to bring them Chinese food.

Mark and Eva continue working on the proposal the next day, all the way up until four o'clock. Mark invites Eva to attend the presentation meeting with him. Eva expects to drive to the office, but instead they ride the elevator up to a floor above theirs. To Eva's astonishment, the gorgeous man she keeps running into, Mr. Cross, is there. She stops abruptly, which makes Mark run into her back and propel her toward Mr. Cross, who catches Eva before she falls.

Mark gives his pitch and for the entire Hour Mr. Cross stares at Eva. At the end, he asks Eva which pitch would make her buy the vodka. She tells him and Mr. Cross agrees. He asks Eva to stay behind while Mark goes back to his office. He tells Eva that he wants to have sex with her and wants to know if anyone is standing in his way. Even though Eva is very attracted to Mr. Cross, she tells him that it's none of his business. Mark is waiting for her to ask what that was all about. She says she doesn't know but thinks that Mark is going to get the account. He agrees.

Eva tells Cary the story over a glass of wine when she gets home. Cary searches for Mr. Cross online and finds out that he is Gideon Cross and that he owns The Crossfire building.

Chapter 2 Analysis

The gorgeous man is taking a liking to Eva. This is why he remembers her name from the I.D. badge. It also seems as if he has been finding out information on Eva because he somehow knows it is her first day at work. There is foreshadowing that the gorgeous man is the owner or CEO of the vodka company. because he finds out that Eva is Mark's assistant, this is why the vodka company requests Mark to submit a proposal.

Cary insinuates that Gideon Cross has marketing people that can run campaigns for his subsidiaries. He implies that Cross asks Mark to pitch because Gideon is trying to get to Eva.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

Cary and Eva arrive at Parker Smith's studio to take the Krav Maga class. Cary insists that there is no way Eva's parents will allow her to come to the bad area of town a few times a week. She says her parents won't find out because she isn't telling them. Her mom will think she wants to take the class for protection over what happened to her rather than for stress relief. After watching the class, Eva registers for it.

Her step-father, Richard Stanton, calls her the next day at work. He says he's sending a car to pick her up for lunch. Mark tells her to take two hours for lunch since she's been working so hard. When she arrives at Stanton's office, he has a catered lunch for two waiting. He tells Eva that her mother is upset about her registering for the Krav Maga class. Eva finds out that her mother has been tracking her by Eva's cell phone.

Eva asks if her mother is still seeing her doctor. Richard says that Eva was just a girl when it happened and that he and her mother are just trying to protect her. Richard wants to have a car drive Eva back and forth to Brooklyn, but Eva tells him no. she leaves angry to return to work. When Eva returns to The Crossfire, she runs into Gideon in the elevator again.

He asks her what's wrong and makes her come to his office with him. He tells her he doesn't have time to date but that he does want to sleep with her. They argue back and forth until Eva tries to leave. Gideon traps her to make her say a proper goodbye. They start kissing and Gideon picks Eva up and takes her to the couch. He's on top of her, kissing her until he suddenly stops. Eva realizes he stops because someone is standing behind him.

Chapter 3 Analysis

It seems as if Eva was attacked or raped. This is why her mom would feel like she is taking the Krav Maga class for self-defense rather than to relieve stress. Something definitely happened to Eva when she was younger, which is causing her mother to be overprotective of Eva, even though Eva is now an adult.

The attraction between Eva and Gideon is undeniable. Eva is trying to seem strong and demands respect from Gideon, who just wants to use Eva for sex. While this is the basis for their relationship to begin, in an ironic twist Gideon and Eva are going to end up falling in love with each other.



Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

Eva realizes that it is Scott, Gideon's secretary, on the intercom telling him that his two o'clock appointment is here. Gideon tries to make a plan for them to see each other after work, but Eva says she's busy. Gideon follows Eva into the elevator and continues trying to arrange time, until they settle on Monday for lunch.

Eva returns to work a little late, but Mark tells her not to worry because he just returned from a meeting anyway. She works the rest of the day until her mom calls to let her know that she left her cell phone at Stanton's office and that they dropped off with the concierge in Eva's building. Eva asks her mother if Dr. Petersen knows she's tracing her cell phone and suggests they have a joint appointment again. Her mother agrees and invites Eva and Cary for a massage the following day before they go to the charity benefit.

When the phone rings again, it's Gideon. He persists in telling Eva how much he wants her and tells her to state her demands. She denies him once again and says she has a date with her vibrator. He tries to make it a threesome, but she says that she and her vibrator have an understanding—when they are finished with each other, they know which one has been used and it's not her.

Eva arrives home to find Cary sitting on the couch with a guy, Trey. They introduce themselves and Trey says he has to go to class. Trey agrees to come back Tuesday night for pizza and movies so he can get to know Eva. Parker calls to let Eva know that classes are cancelled next week because her step-father is making some safety improvements to the studio.

Over a glass of wine, Eva tells Cary about her mom tracing her cell phone and what happened with Gideon. They decide to go out clubbing for the night. After clubbing all night, a hawkler gives them an expensive business card for a club to get them in free. Eva and Cary decide to go. The card gets them in without having to wait in the line and gets the free drinks the entire night.

When two brothers try to sit at their VIP table, Gideon approaches and says that Eva is taken. He knows Cary's name and introduces himself. Cary heads to the dance floor with the two guys. Gideon orders Eva's drink the way she likes it. She asks Gideon how he knows Cary's name and the drink she likes. He admits she used her credit card at a club he owns and that Cary's name is on the apartment lease. Gideon owns some of the clubs they went to tonight and the building they live in.

Gideon continues to try to get Eva to consent to having sex with him. She tells him that she doesn't treat sex like it's a business transaction, like he does. She agrees to have sex with him if he agrees to spend time with her not having sex, and not considering it a



date, because she has to have more of a connection with the person she's having sex with. Gideon agrees.

Chapter 4 Analysis

Eva is playing hard to get but she really wants Gideon as much as he wants her. The longer Eva plays hard to get, the more attractive it is making her to Gideon. While Gideon is a player that uses women for sex and doesn't want a relationship, he is going to end up falling in love with Eva.

Eva tells Gideon that she doesn't want to date, but she is lying to herself as much as she is lying to Gideon—although it is at a subconscious level. Eva and Gideon entering into a casual sex "contract" or "agreement" is simply going to complicate the matter. One of both of them is going to fall in love. If only one of them falls in love, then the other one is going to get hurt.



Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Summary

Eva wakes up the next morning with a hangover. Cary points out a package that arrived for her. It's a bottle of "hangover cure" from Gideon with his business card and a note to call him with his phone number. She drinks it and tells Cary about her and Gideon's arrangement. Then she and Cary head off to the spa.

Cary asks Monica if she knows Gideon. Monica says he's a ladies' man with good taste that is the twenty-fifth wealthiest man on the Forbes list. Cary divulges that he's interested in Eva. Monica says something to Eva about not telling her and Eva tells her mother not to embarrass her. Eva isn't looking forward to attending the abused children's charity tonight. She knows her parents champion for these events because it relates to her. After the spa, Cary and Monica drop Eva off while they go shopping for cufflinks for Stanton.

Eva calls Gideon. He knows it's her when he answers. He tells her he's around the corner and to call the doorman to let them know he's coming. Wearing just a robe, Eva answers the door. Gideon starts kissing Eva and carries her to the couch. He tells her that he wants to go to the benefit with her tonight. Again she realizes he knows everything about her.

He fingers Eva on the couch and then performs oral sex on her. Each time he makes her climax, they stare into each other's eyes and they both know that he owns Eva right now. He scoops Eva up off the couch, adjusts her robe and reminds her that he'll pick her up at seven.

Chapter 5 Analysis

The implication is that Eva was molested or raped as a child. This is why Monica is so overprotective of her, and why she is a staunch supporter of abused children's charities. While Eva has experience with men, Gideon has far more experience with women. He knows exactly what to do to Eva to make her want him, and this is precisely what he is doing. His power and his money allow him to find out information on Eva that a normal man would not be able to find out.

Ironically, Eva thinks that she is nothing like her mother. While her mother seeks money and power, Eva doesn't think she does. In a twist of irony, Eva ends up being seduced by Gideon's power and money—making her exactly the same way that Monica Stanton is.



Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

Eva calls her dad to update him on her new job and new living situation. While she is talking to her dad, she thinks about her stepbrother abusing her and how her father doesn't know. She says as soon as her mother found out, Monica divorced her husband, the father of the son that was abusing Eva.

Eva gets ready for the party. When she is done, Cary tells her that he's printed out some research on Gideon and left it on her desk, if she's interested. Eva goes to her room to read the information. She finds out that Gideon's father was caught in a Ponzi scheme and committed suicide when Gideon was five. His mother remarried and had two more children.

Gideon comes to pick Eva up for the charity dinner. On the ride in the limo, Eva convinces Gideon to have sex, which he says he has never done in a limo before. They have amazing sex together, but when it is over, Gideon withdraws, becoming quiet and distant.

Chapter 6 Analysis

Gideon's father committing suicide when Gideon was young suggests that this is the reason that Gideon chooses not to get too close to people. He prefers to keep people at a distance so that he doesn't get too attached to anyone. By not getting too attached to people, if they leave or something happens to them, Gideon cannot get hurt again. A further illustration of this is his withdrawal after he and Eva have sex in the limo. Gideon knows that he let his guard down when he was having sex with Eva. He is afraid of where his feelings and emotions for him might take him, so this is why he tries to pull away from her after they have sex.



Chapter 7

Chapter 7 Summary

The tension is so intense by the time they arrive at the benefit that Eva parts from Gideon as soon as they get inside. She finds her parents and Cary. Gideon ends up coming over to the group looking for Eva, but encourages Eva not to make a scene when Eva tries to lash out at Gideon. Gideon stands up to give a speech about sexually abused children. Eva is so moved by his speech for she starts a standing ovation at the end.

People surround Gideon to talk with him at the end of his speech. Gideon's half-brother, Christopher Vidal, introduces himself to Eva and asks her to dance. While they are dancing, Christopher asks if she is single and then hints that he's interested in her when she says that she is not taken. Eva dances with Cary next and then Gideon breaks in for a dance. While they are dancing, Gideon warns Eva to stay away from his brother. When Eva tries to push Gideon away, Cary and Gideon exchange some words of contempt.

Eva runs into Magdalene Perez, one of Gideon's exes, in the bathroom. Magdalene says she knows that Eva has already slept with Gideon, which means that Eva is done. Magdalene says she has never slept with Gideon and that is why he stays with her because he thinks of her as long-term.

The next morning, Eva comes out to the living room to a dozen red roses and a card from Gideon. She tells Cary about the limo ride, about Gideon pulling away and about her run in with Magdalene in the restroom. As Cary embraces her, Eva thinks about his scars from cutting himself and about the group therapy sessions they attended together. Cary also tells Eva the phone has been ringing all morning, but he turned off the ringer so it wouldn't wake her up.

Monday at work is very busy. Gideon calls Eva's desk to ask if she got the roses and his phone messages. He also says he arranged for lunch in his office so they wouldn't waste any of the hour coming and going. Eva agrees to have lunch with him. Gideon arrives at her desk to pick her up for lunch and tells Mark they have a lunch date. In the elevator, Gideon and Eva kiss. When they get to his office, Eva tells Gideon they shouldn't see each other anymore.

Chapter 7 Analysis

There is a hint in Gideon's speech that he too might have been sexually abused as a child. This would be additional evidence as to why he treats women and his sexual relationships in the controlling manner he does. If he is in control of the situation, then he is in control of his emotions.



Since Eva thinks about Cary's cutting scars, he must have gone through a tragic event in his life as we. Since the two met in group therapy, it suggests that Cary was sexually abused too. If not, then the suggestion is that Eva might have tried to kill herself because of the sexual abuse and this is why she and Cary were in the same group therapy sessions.

Now Eva is having second thoughts about dating Gideon. She feels as if she is losing control of her emotions. Rather than allow herself to be hurt by Gideon, Eva is cutting ties with him now. Of course, Gideon is not going to allow Eva to do this, so he will continue to woo her and try to win her back. Ultimately, it will lead to Gideon confessing to Eva why he is pushing her away.



Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

Gideon tells Eva that she doesn't mean that they shouldn't see each other anymore. He admits that his feelings for her are so strong and out of control that it scared him. He apologizes for the way he acted after sex in the limo and convinces her to stay in the relationship with him. They also discuss being with each other exclusively. Eva admits that Magdalene is going to be a problem for her because she is very jealous and possessive. Eva also tells him exactly what Magdalene said to her. Gideon says he will talk to Magdalene.

They eat lunch and discuss hitting the gym together after work. Gideon gives her a business card with his home and cell number on it. He asks for her cell. She says she has to get a new one because her mom was tracking her with the one she had. He says they'll stop to get her a new one on the way to the gym because he wants to be able to call her whenever he wants.

Gideon kisses Eva in the lobby while waiting for the elevator. When she returns from lunch, Mark asks to speak with her. He warns her about Gideon and says he doesn't want her to get hurt or to quit because her ex owns the building. Eva assures him that she is a big girl. Gideon takes Eva to his car after work. He says they can work out at her gym or his gym. She chooses his gym, which is one in a chain that he owns.

Chapter 8 Analysis

Eva's drastic mood swings when it comes to her relationship with Gideon is not a good sign. She's dragging and somewhat depressed when she arrives at work and then has to force herself to break up with Gideon. Once she and Gideon discuss their relationship and moving it to the next level, Eva is exuberant and happy once again. It suggests that Eva allows men to control her emotions too much and that her jealousy could reach an unhealthy level—one where she acts irrationally.



Chapter 9

Chapter 9 Summary

Eva and Gideon stop at the cell phone store to buy her a new phone first. They argue over who is going to pay for the phone and the account, but Eva wins. They continue on to the gym, running on the treadmill together and then breaking off for their own workouts. Gideon, however, always keeps Eva in his sight. While Eva is working out, a personal trainer comes to try to sell Eva on the gym. Gideon interrupts, telling the trainer that Eva is his girlfriend.

Eva is so turned on by the time they return to the locker rooms that she tells Gideon she wants him before he takes a shower. He takes her to a hotel around the corner. He performs oral sex on her twice and then they have mind blowing sex. Eva tells Gideon to let her collect herself and then she'll join him in the shower. This is when Eva realizes that there is a drawer full of condoms beside the bed, which is where Gideon pulled one from prior to them having sex. She gets up and finds clothes and sex toys in the wardrobe and drawers.

She thinks about how her therapist would tell her to think about what her partner did to upset her and then walk her through it. Eva feels used because it is obvious to her that this is Gideon's personal room at the hotel. She gets dressed in some clean clothes from Gideon's closet, throws all of the sex toys and condoms on the bed, picks up her gym bag and leaves Gideon behind.

Chapter 9 Analysis

Gideon is very possessive of Eva. He continues to try to control Eva and control their relationship. Ironically, Eva is very turned on by demeanor, even though she was controlled when her stepbrother was sexually abusing her. Gideon is sending conflicting messages because he is trying to possess Eva as if she is an object, but Eva also senses the emotions he feels for her when she looks into his eyes.

Eva's sexual abuse, and possibly other events that she has not yet revealed, is something that adversely affecting her emotionally. Eva went through therapy, but it is obvious that she is still not over the trauma that the abuse caused her. For one, the abuse has left her very insecure. She jumps to conclusions, thinking that Gideon has brought her to a hotel room where he brings all of the women he sleeps with. While this might be true to some extent, Gideon has been open and honest about his past relationships and how he wants his relationship to be different with Eva. Again, Eva is having drastic mood swings, where she is high one minute and low the next.



Chapter 10

Chapter 10 Summary

Eva wanders out of the hotel and into a restaurant, where she orders a pizza. She pulls out her phone because she decides to take her therapist up on his offer for video sessions until she finds a new therapist. She sees twenty-one missed calls and messages from Gideon. He texts her saying that he messed up again and begs her not to break up with him and to please talk to him. She answers when Gideon calls again. He finds the restaurant where she is and tells her that he would have gone crazy too if she had taken him to a place where she had sex with other men. He begs her to come home with him and assures her that the only women he's ever had in his house is his mother and the housekeeper.

They spend the evening watching TV and cuddling together. Eva calls Cary to fill him in on the turn of events. When they fall asleep, Gideon has a bad nightmare where he's yelling in his sleep. He's yelling for a man not to touch him and calling him sick. Gideon also says that whatever the man is doing to him hurts. Eva wakes Gideon up and they have sex without a condom because Gideon doesn't have any condoms in the house. The next morning, Gideon takes Eva home to change for work.

When they pull up in his car to the office, Eva gives him a framed picture of her. Gideon takes it into work with him. Since Gideon has a business lunch, when Cary calls to say he landed a new modeling gig, Eva tells him to come celebrate with her for lunch. While she's waiting for Cary to arrive, she reads a Google alert she set up Gideon and finds a picture of Gideon kissing her on the sidewalk in front of his gym with a small snippet saying they are an item now.

Chapter 10 Analysis

Gideon's nightmare suggests that he was molested and raped. Since he previously warned Eva to stay away from his stepbrother, it could be Christopher Vidal that was raping and molesting Gideon. It could also be Gideon's stepfather and Christopher's father that is responsible for the assaults.

If Gideon has been sexually abused too, then he and Eva have a lot more in common than they originally thought. This could deepen the affection they feel for each other. Additionally, the fact that Eva and Gideon are starting to have sex without using condoms foreshadows Eva getting pregnant. A pregnancy could bring Eva and Gideon even closer together or it could be what ultimately ends up tearing them apart.



Chapter 11

Chapter 11 Summary

As Eva thinks about the picture of her and Gideon in the paper, she also thinks that she has been careless in exposing herself. She has remained anonymous and now she has blown it. On her way to meet Cary for lunch, she runs into Gideon and his lunch guests in the lobby. He asks her what's wrong. She mentions the picture. He hints that he knows about it because he is the one that had it placed in the paper so that he could announce to everyone that they are together and to get their status correct.

At lunch, Eva expresses her concerns to Cary about reporters finding out the truth about her. Cary assures Eva that Stanton had all of that buried. He also suggests that she and Gideon go through couples counseling. When she returns from lunch, she gets a text from Gideon saying he has fifteen minutes. She goes to his office and performs oral sex on him. He tries to return the favor, but she says she isn't keeping score.

Eva tells him to come over when he is done with his business dinner and she is done with pizza and movie night with Trey and Cary. He agrees. When Eva arrives home, she changes. She checks the voice mail of her old cell phone, realizing she hasn't given her mother her new number yet. She calls her mother and they talk about Gideon and the appointment Eva and Monica have with Dr. Petersen.

Eva, Trey and Cary have a good time together. Before going to sleep, Eva changes into a black lace baby doll. Sometime in the middle of the night, Gideon wakes her up by kissing and caressing her and they have sex.

Chapter 11 Analysis

Eva is hiding from her rapist or molester. She is also protecting Gideon from the truth about her sexual abuse. She's afraid that once people figure out who she is that her past will come back to haunt her and then embarrass Gideon. In a way, the relationship Eva and Gideon have is toxic for both of them. She is allowing him to possess her, which is contrary to how she feels after being forced to have sex with her stepbrother. It is not healthy for Gideon to be the possessor either, since it seems that he too was once a possession of his abuser.



Chapter 12

Chapter 12 Summary

The next morning, Gideon joins Eva in the shower. She performs oral sex on him again. She thinks that the sexual therapy must be working for Gideon because he didn't have any nightmares the night before. When he tells her he wants to take her to dinner and back to his place tonight, she resists a little. He encourages her to trust him and agrees.

At work, a Google alert comes in revealing a picture of Gideon dining with Magdalene the night before and pictures of Cary and Eva at lunch the previous day. The captions indicate that Eva might be cheating on Gideon because she lives with Cary and that Gideon might be paying her back for it. Eva tries to push it out of her mind because she remembers what Gideon said about them having to trust one another.

Mark invites Eva to lunch with him and Steve. She receives an interoffice note from Gideon beckoning her to his office, but she replies saying that she has plans. The security guards call Gideon when Eva is leaving with Mark and Gideon assures Mark that he'll get Eva to the restaurant where they are dining. Gideon asks Eva if Cary is in love with her and if she's had sex with Cary. Eva tells him no. As they arrive at the restaurant in Gideon's car, Eva goes in but Gideon goes in behind her and grabs her by the waist. She tells him he's making a scene.

He admits that he ran into Maggie, but that the look on his face the picture captures is him talking about Eva to Maggie. Eva says they need to talk tonight. She says they either need to keep their relationship private or end it, either of which is good for Gideon. Gideon refuses and says they will work it out, whatever the problem is. Gideon kisses Eva full on the mouth and says to let that go viral. When she meets up with Mark and Steven, she apologizes and thanks Mark for not firing her.

Steven says Mark can't afford to lose Eva. Mark says Steven can't afford to lose Eva because he is a soap opera addict and he would miss out on updates of Eva's love life. Eva tells him her mother got pregnant with her, which destroyed her debutant status and got her ostracized from her wealthy family. She says her mom went on to marry a millionaire, who had a son two years older than Eva. She says her stepfather traveled a lot and her mother raised his son and spent her husband's money. When she tells Gideon that she was ten the first time Nathan raped her, Gideon breaks the wine glass in his hand, goes into the kitchen and comes back with something stronger in a glass.

She says when she got close to telling her mom, Nathan broke her cat's neck and left it on her bed. Eva says the servants knew what was happening but that they were so scared of Nathan that they didn't say anything either. She says when she was fourteen, she was bleeding badly, so her mother took her to the emergency room. The doctors told her mother Eva had miscarried and that she had vaginal and anal trauma and scarring. They reported the abuse to child protective services.



Gideon threatens to find and kill Nathan. Eva says he's not worth it. she says she wants Gideon to know because of what a reporter might dig up and print. Gideon says if anyone writes that story that he'll destroy them. Eva goes on to say that her mother left the marriage with two million dollars and Eva left it with five million dollars. She says Stanton worked to seal the public records when he married her mother and that he manages the account Eva dumped the money into because she refuses to touch it.

When Eva looks into Gideon's eyes, she sees what she feared she would. He tells her to stop talking.

Chapter 12 Analysis

Eva has concerns about them being seen together in public because she is afraid it is going to be a scandal when the media finds out about the past she has been hiding. Tonight, Eva plans to tell Gideon about what happened to her. It foreshadows Gideon reciprocating, confessing that he too was sexually abused.

Eva also has apprehension about telling Gideon the truth because in reality she doesn't want it to ruin their relationship. When they arrive at Gideon's house that night, he's laid out a gown and robe he bought for Eva on his bed. She showers and meets him in the living room, where he's changed into silk pajama bottoms and set up candles and a bucket with wine. Eva snuggles up to Gideon and he tells her whatever she has to say to say it so that he can tell her it's going to be okay.



Chapter 13

Chapter 13 Summary

Eva says she's going to go home so he can digest everything. He tells her they can do that together. She says she can see in his eyes that he pities her and doesn't want her anymore. He reveals his erection to her and they have sex. He says he always wants her and that now they need to have sex again so she can show him that she still wants him after losing control on their first round of sex. They have sex again.

Gideon says Eva is brave and a miracle. She says it took a lot of therapy and that there are still triggers that set her off. He says he could have ended them before they began with the way he came onto her. He begs her not to let him ruin what they have. She says she wants him to tell her his secrets. She says once a day he has to tell her something about himself.

They shower together and get ready for dinner. He reveals to Eva that she has three drawers in his room and two in the bathroom. He has filled one of the drawers with lingerie in her size. He asks if she has ever lived with a man, besides Cary, and she says no. Gideon says that they have to do whatever it takes to make her feel secure. She asks him to attend couples' counseling with her. After a moment, he agrees to do it.

They have a romantic dinner. He asks how she met Cary. She admits it was in group therapy for troubled teens. Gideon asks about her choosing a college that was close to her father, revealing more information he dug up about her. He asks if she ever told her dad about Nathan, but she admits no.

That night, Gideon has one of his nightmares. Eva turns on the light to find Gideon masturbating in his sleep. She is able to wake him up and he asks her what's wrong. She tells him he was having a nightmare and repeatedly asks him what it was about. He keeps insisting that he doesn't remember. She accuses him of lying and leaves.

When Eva gets into the elevator of her building, there is a blonde girl wearing one of Cary's t-shirts exiting the elevator. Cary greets Eva with open arms at the door. He says Gideon called to say he has Eva's keys and to make sure Cary was home to let her in. When Eva asks who the girl was, he says just another model. Eva tells Cary she confessed everything to Gideon and that he agreed to couples' counseling. She says when Gideon had another nightmare, he wouldn't tell her anything and looked at her as if she was crazy.

She ignores the ringing phones and text messages from Gideon. She sends him a text saying she made it home safely and that she hopes he sleeps well the rest of the night.



Chapter 13 Analysis

Ironically, Gideon is still shielding himself from revealing his own trauma to Eva. It could be that Gideon has repressed what happened to him, so that when he tells Eva he doesn't remember his dream, he is telling the truth. While the trauma is in his subconscious, consciously he might not remember what happened. Even though Cary is bisexual, Eva has concerns that Cary is trying to sabotage his love and happiness for Trey by sleeping around with women.



Chapter 14

Chapter 14 Summary

The next day at work, Eva doesn't hear from Gideon. She thinks it might be because he is meeting with Mark to go over the RFP for the vodka account. The receptionists calls Eva to tell her that Magdalene Perez is in the lobby for her. Eva calls Gideon's office and gets Scott.

Scott says it's a standing order to interrupt Gideon if Eva calls, or take care of whatever Eva needs. Eva asks Scott to come escort Magdalene up to Gideon's office because whatever Magdalene has to say to Eva should really be directed at Gideon. On her way to lunch, Christopher Vidal greets Eva outside. He offers to go to lunch with her and invites her to a party his parents are throwing. He says it should be good for Cary to network.

Christopher also mentions that Gideon didn't mention the party to her because he never goes. Christopher says his parents are looking forward to meeting Eva. Eva and Christopher have lunch together in the deli and Eva returns to work.

Mark goes upstairs for his meeting with Gideon. He returns with the account and an envelope with her keys from Gideon. Eva goes to the gym after work and phones her mother to have her car pick her up for their therapy appointment together. Her mother is in the car upset with Eva for telling Gideon about what happened to her. Monica says Gideon called Monica and that he went to talk to Stanton today.

Monica and Eva attend the therapy session with Dr. Petersen. When Eva gets home, she crawls into bed and Cary crawls in with her. She tells him Gideon dumped her via a note card. He assures her that Gideon is just pushing her away because of his own past and that one of them has to end up with a happily ever after.

Chapter 14 Analysis

Gideon feels as if he is damaged goods. This is why he is pushing Eva away. The ironic part is that Gideon shouldn't be making decisions for Eva on whether or not she wants to be with Gideon. Instead, he is making the decision for her. While Eva perceives Gideon's note to her to be a brush off, in reality, Gideon is not breaking up with her. He just has to find a way to come to terms with his own problems so that he can share them with Eva.



Chapter 15

Chapter 15 Summary

Friday morning, Trey, Cary and Eva have breakfast together after Trey sleeps over. Eva is pleased to see the glances the two men exchange. Friday night, while watching a movie, Cary gets called to a modeling shoot so Eva stays home alone in her pajamas. She still hasn't heard from Gideon.

Cary wakes Eva up on Saturday morning so they can go shopping for outfits for the garden party for Vidal records. Two girls ask for Cary's autograph because they recognize him from the gossip blogs of being spotted with Eva as her possible live-in "lover." Eva calls her dad and he asks if she's dating one of the richest men in America because all of the guys keep insisting they saw her on some gossip show. She assures him no, but he has to run to do something for work.

Sunday is the fourth day without Gideon. Eva borrows one of Stanton's cars for the drive to the Vidal estate. Cary asks Eva if she's nervous, but she says she's not because Gideon won't be there. Cary confesses that he's a little nervous because Trey didn't call him yesterday.

When Cary and Eva arrive, they are greeted by the Vidal family. Mrs. Vidal and Gideon's sister, Ireland, both remark on how Eva is a blonde. Cary and Eva are having a good time at the party. Eva sees Magdalene Perez show up Cary and Eva dance. When they finish, there is applause, and Gideon is standing there. Gideon drags Eva away and tells her that he doesn't want her there.

Gideon declares how much he's missed Eva and how much of a mess he has been without her. He thinks Eva doesn't want him because she saw him masturbating. They talk and realize that they were both under the wrong impression. Gideon says he's even arranged to start seeing Dr. Petersen on his own and a couple, if she wants to.

They start having sex and Eva sees Magdalene walk in on them out of the corner of Eva's eye. When Eva looks again, Magdalene is gone. They continue to have sex over and over again in the library of Gideon's parents' house.

Chapter 15 Analysis

Eva assumes Mrs. Vidal and Ireland comment on her being a blonde because Gideon is known for his weakness for brunettes. Eva mistakes Gideon saying he doesn't want her there as a declaration that he doesn't want her around him. In reality, Gideon doesn't want Eva at his parents' house because of the evil that Gideon thinks his childhood home represents.



Chapter 16

Chapter 16 Summary

Gideon tells Eva it's not that he doesn't want her here. He says that he can't be here. He says that what is in his dreams is this house. As Gideon and Eva continue to fool around with each other, she tries to goad him into having anal sex with her. He says he doesn't do anal. She confesses that she doesn't either, but she wants him to do it to her to erase what Nathan did to her. Gideon asks if Eva has a safe word. He gets her to give him a safe word and performs anal sex on her with his finger. They continue to have sex when they hear someone coming.

Eva tells Gideon Magdalene was in there earlier. Gideon tells her that her skirt covers everything as he stays inside of her and his finger stays inside of her anus. Christopher comes into the room to make sure that everything is okay and to say their mother is looking for Gideon. Eva reaches orgasm again before Christopher leaves the room but has to try to hide it. Eva realizes that Gideon came to the Vidal estate to save her from a place he despises. Gideon warns Eva again to stay away from Christopher.

When Eva and Gideon rejoin the party, Elizabeth Vidal is thrilled to see her son. Eva wonders if she loves Gideon too much.

Chapter 16 Analysis

Gideon is telling Eva that something horrible happened to him while he was living in the Vidal home. Gideon says he doesn't do anal sex because he's saying that he was raped. Gideon asking Eva if she has a safe word suggests to Eva that Gideon is into dominatrix sex. Eva is wondering if Elizabeth Vidal loves Gideon too much; is Eva thinking that Elizabeth might have been forcing Gideon to have sex with her. Gideon has indirectly been telling Eva, however, that it is Christopher Vidal that was raping him.

When they leave the party, Gideon is driving his own car. He drives him and Eva back to his place. They take a shower together and Gideon tells Eva to order dinner. After she does, she finds Gideon in his office, where she also sees a collage of pictures of them together in frames on his wall. He gives her a framed collage of pictures of them for her to take to work.

He starts to tell Eva he thinks he knows what their problem is with their relationship. What he says makes Eva think that he wants to be a dominant while she is a submissive.



Chapter 17

Chapter 17 Summary

Gideon goes on to explain that their relationship works when she allows him to control her. He leads Eva to a room in his house that he has recreated to look just like her room in her own apartment. He tells her that when she feels the need to be alone she can come to this room, so that she'll never leave him again.

Eva tries to dominate Gideon to disprove his point. Then they go out to eat dinner delivery. He gives Eva a ring as a gift. She tells him she loves the ring and thinks about how much she loves Gideon. They talk about Dr. Petersen. Gideon says he'll see him alone on Tuesdays and Thursdays they can see him as a couple.

In the middle of the night, Eva wakes up aroused. She starts to caress Gideon. They have sex. Gideon orders her not to climax. Then, he tells her when to climax. When they are done, he orders her to go to sleep.

Chapter 17 Analysis

Eva and Gideon are both very troubled people. The two of them trying to analyze each other can be a dangerous mix. It is good that they are seeking the help of a psychological professional. It seems obsessive that Gideon creates a room that looks identical to Eva's room. While he tells her it is for her to feel safe, it is simply one more way that Gideon is trying to control Eva.



Chapter 18

Chapter 18 Summary

The next morning, Eva and Gideon are riding to work. She's wearing the clothes and shoes he bought for her to wear she stays at his house. He also managed to fill her bathroom drawers at his house with a duplicate of her makeup from her own home. On the ride to work, Eva receives a text and video from Cary.

The video shows Christopher Vidal having sex with Magdalene in some bushes at the Vidal estate. They are talking about Gideon and how Magdalene thinks that he really loves Eva. Gideon says that Christopher always wants what he has. Eva starts to feel sorry for Gideon, that he wasn't loved when growing up. She tells Gideon she loves him. He grabs a hold of her so that she can't move, but he doesn't say anything. At work, Eva sends a few sets of flowers with notes over the course of a few hours to "celebrate" some of the occasions in their relationship. Gideon responds with interoffice notes in response.

Eva goes out and buys a ring for Gideon and schedules a time slot in Gideon's schedule to give it to him at the office. Gideon loves it. He tells Eva to be ready to have sex on the car ride home. Gideon and Eva have sex in the limo and then Eva goes home for her stepfather's driver to pick her up for Krav Maga class.

After a tough workout in class, Eva is home soaking in a tub when Gideon comes in to join her. They talk and the topic of Gideon's father comes up. Gideon says he doesn't remember much about his father and that his dad worked a lot. The conversation turns to it taking Gideon to a dark place when he even thinks of another man being with Eva.

Chapter 18 Analysis

Eva chooses to look at Gideon's acts as part of his attentiveness, so she doesn't freak out. Because if she analyzes the situation, it is quite creepy that Gideon knows so much about her to the point he replicates all of her makeup so that she has a set at his house. Gideon is definitely struggling with an evil side or dark side that lurks inside of him.

On the outside, Gideon is always well put together and acts as a professional, shrewd business man. On the inside, however, Gideon is constantly fighting off demons. The rapes he experienced as a child is something he has been bottling up now for so long that they are fighting to get out. This is why when Gideon is sleeping, when he is most vulnerable, he erupts into fitful rages.



Chapter 19

Chapter 19 Summary

They order Chinese and Cary joins them in the living room. Eva notes how well Cary and Gideon get along. The same blonde model from the other night shows up, and she and Cary go back to his bedroom. Gideon unpacks his toiletries and items while he and Eva get ready for bed. She asks about his sex life in college, and he assures her that the only place he ever had consensual sex was in the hotel room.

That night, they make passionate love and fall asleep. In the middle of the night, Eva thinks she's being attacked by Nathan again. Then, she realizes it is Gideon. Cary rushes into the room and pushes Gideon so hard that he breaks the drywall on impact. Eva tells Cary that Gideon is dreaming.

In the living room, Cary tells Eva that she needs to decide if she is in over her head. When Eva returns to her bedroom, she can see that all of the life has drained from Gideon's eyes. He's packing his duffel to leave. Gideon talks about how messed up he is and Eva says she is the same way.

Gideon can tell Eva is still scared of him. She admits to herself that she is a little scared. She tells Gideon that she loves him and that they can get through this. He tries to have sex with her to reassure himself that everything is okay, but she encourages him to just hold her. Later, she wakes up and starts caressing Gideon to arouse him and then they have sex. Eva thinks that it is the sex they need to have to forget what happened.

After work, Trey shows up to drop some stuff off. The front desk is telling him Cary isn't home when Eva walks in, so Eva lets Trey into the apartment. Eva hears screaming as Trey arrives at Cary's room and sees the blonde model run out buttoning her blouse. Trey and Cary argue and they have makeup sex. As Trey leaves, Eva gives Cary a dirty look and tells him what he is doing is unhealthy. Cary points out that her relationship isn't healthy either.

Chapter 19 Analysis

Gideon is indirectly admitting to Eva that he was raped. This is why he says the only consensual sex he had was in the hotel room. A sign that Gideon can kill himself is how lifeless he looks. Additionally, he is the child of a parent that committed suicide so the odds are in favor of Gideon going out the same way.

The fact that both Gideon and Eva have so many emotional problems makes them a bad couple for each other. While they can understand each other better, having been through the same traumas, neither is equipped to deal with their own problems, let alone take on someone else's problems.



There seems to be an unhealthy need for each other between Gideon and Eva. Eva thinking that there is always something hidden, just waiting to pop up and ruin everything is foreshadowing of the impending doom in her own life.



Chapter 20

Chapter 20 Summary

After his first session with Dr. Petersen, Gideon arrives at Eva's apartment. Eva senses the tension and wariness between them. Gideon mentions not knowing how they'll ever fall asleep beside each other again and that they have a lot of baggage between them. He also asks if Nathan has ever tried to contact Eva. Eva says no but it's also one of her fears.

Over dinner, Gideon tells Eva Magdalene had lunch in his office with him yesterday. Gideon says he showed Magdalene the video, which he admits to taking off of Eva's phone. This enrages Eva and she tells him that they have to have boundaries. She asks how Magdalene took it and Gideon says she was hurt when she saw the look on Christopher's face because then she knew she was being used. They talk about Gideon's session. Gideon says the doctor prescribed medicine for him to take before bed. This seems to help with others that have similar issues while they are sleeping. Eva thanks him for everything he's doing because she knows it's hard to take drugs when you've avoided facing a problem for so long.

The medicine seems to work because they have a night of uninterrupted sleep. The next night, they attend a charity gala together. At the benefit, Eva finds out that Corrine, Gideon's ex-fiancé is back in town. Gideon introduces them before Eva knows who she is. Magdalene fills Eva in on the details when Corrine takes Gideon away to introduce him to someone.

When Corrine returns, they talk it out. Corrine says that she and Gideon speak everyday and that Gideon has told her so much about Eva. During the course of the conversation, Corrine tells Eva something that makes Eva realize that Gideon left Eva at the charity event the first night they had sex to go to Corrine.

Chapter 20 Analysis

Gideon asking about Nathan contacting Eva and Eva fearing he might one day foreshadows Nathan popping up in their lives. Once again, another hitch, Corrine enters the relationship between Gideon and Eva. Eva is going to go half-cocked with jealousy because she assumes Gideon still loves Corrine. This is false, of course. He's madly in love with Eva, but Eva's insecurities are going to creep up once again.



Chapters 21 and 22

Chapters 21 and 22 Summary

Eva excuses herself from the table to find Gideon at the bar. Eva tells Gideon she's leaving and he has the option to go with her. He says she needs sex and that he shouldn't have made her wait until after the event. He takes her to the limo where Gideon makes Eva submit to him and have sex.

For the rest of the event, Gideon doesn't leave Eva's side. He even eats left handed so he can hold her hand all night with his right hand. Gideon does spend the majority of the evening still talking to Corrine, so Eva strikes up a conversation with the doctor seated beside her at the table. When Gideon realizes who it is, Eva sees animosity lingering between the two men. Eva uses their safe word, Crossfire, so that Gideon releases her hand and she excuses herself from the table. Eva texts Gideon that she isn't running, but she is leaving.

Eva walks into a porn video in her living room. Two women are having sex with each, while Cary is having sex with one of the women while a man is having sex with Cary. Eva yells for all of them to get out and warns Cary that it's not a good night. When Cary offers to make it better for her, Gideon bashes the other guy in the nose and pushes Cary.

Gideon follows Eva to her room while Eva steps into the shower. She urges him to go away. He realizes Eva needs for him to tell her he loves her so he does. She keeps telling him to go home, but he says he is home because he is with her. Gideon admits that he left Eva at the benefit the first night they were together to help Corrine. He also admits that she was his first consensual partner when he met her his first year at Columbia. When Eva says she's jealous, Gideon says that no matter how raw the sex is between him and Eva that it's always making love. She says she feels a little bit better.

He also reveals that Corrine was the one that proposed to him. Gideon says he said yes for all the wrong reasons, that he didn't love Corrine and that she never really knew him. He says when Corrine broke it off a year later he was relieved.

Gideon admits he feels guilty because Corrine still loves him and it ruined her marriage. Gideon says that he only feels as strongly as he does about Eva. He picks out clothes for Eva so they can stay at his house because he doesn't trust Cary and he'll be under the influence of his medication. Gideon escorts Eva to the limo and realizes he forget something. When she tries to give him her keys, he says he has a set and that she's had a copy of his house key since he returned her keys. Eva thinks that they have what it takes to make this work.

Chapters 21 and 22 Analysis

Gideon is self-conscious because Eva loves him in spite of the fact that she knows everything about him. While Gideon has had other women love him, they didn't know nearly as much about him as Eva does. In a way, Eva and Gideon live parallel lives. because of the pain they have suffered, they share a common bond that allows them understand each other better than someone who hasn't had their experiences can understand them. As crazy as their relationship is, Eva believes they have what it takes to make their relationship work.



Characters

Eva Tramell

Eva Tramell is the main character of the novel. She has just graduated from college and is starting her first job as an assistant to a junior account manager. Eva's parents were never married because her mother got pregnant out of wedlock. Her father is a police officer. Her mother is remarried to a wealthy man that is Eva's step-father.

Eva is a victim of sexual abuse. When she was ten years old, her step-brother, Nathan, starts raping her. When Eva is fourteen years old, her mother finds out about the rape because Eva is bleeding from a miscarriage. The emergency room staff tells Eva and her mother that Eva has trauma in her vagina and anus from the rapes.

Eva is a very jealous person. When she starts to see Gideon on a romantic basis, she warns Gideon of her jealous tendencies. Because of the trauma Eva has experienced, she tends to run away when there are problems rather than facing and dealing with the problems.

Cary Taylor

Cary Taylor is a model. He is tall, lean and attractive. He is also Eva's best friend and roommate. Cary is bisexual. During the novel, he starts to date a vet school student, Trey. Cary is also sleeping with a blonde woman model from one of his photo shoots.

In his past, Cary was a troubled teen as well. It seems he was doing drugs and cutting himself. Cary and Eva met in group therapy sessions. Cary tends to be very protective of Eva, so several times throughout the novel, Cary stands up to Gideon on Eva's behalf.

By the end of the novel, Cary seems to be slipping back into his old ways. When Eva comes home to find Cary having sex with two women and a man at the same time, Cary seems as if he is high on drugs. Cary even tries to get Eva to join in on the escapades.

Mark Garrity

Mark Garrity is a junior account executive at Waters Field & Leaman. He is also Eva's boss. Eva thinks that Mark is a very attractive man. On her second day, Eva learns that Mark is gay. His partner is Steven Ellison, and the two have been together since college.



Steven Ellison

Steven Ellison is Mark Garrity's life partner. The two have been together since college. Steve has red hair and blue eyes.

Monica Tramell Barker Mitchell Stanton

Monica Tramell Barker Mitchell Stanton is Eva's mother. She was a debutante when she was growing up and is now a socialite. She never marries Eva's father, which Eva presumes is because her father didn't have enough money to satisfy her mother's needs. Monica Tramell Barker Mitchell Stanton has been married several times. One of her marriages was to the father of Nathan, which is the boy that raped Eva.

Monica Tramell Barker Mitchell Stanton is very overprotective of Eva. She is also having Eva followed, tracking Eva using the GPS on Eva's phone and calling to check on Eva. Monica and Eva even attend a therapy session together to discuss Monica's overprotectiveness with a therapist.

Scott

Scott is Gideon's assistant. At first, Scott seems a bit wary of Eva. As Gideon and Eva continue to see each other, Scott seems to warm up to Eva. Scott even tells Eva that he has standing orders from Gideon to do whatever Eva asks of Scott. Eva asks Scott to escort Magdalene Perez from the lobby of Eva's office to Gideon when Magdalene comes to talk to Eva.

Magdalene Perez

Magdalene Perez is one of the women that Gideon is rumored to be involved with in a relationship. She is tall and thin with long dark hair and she is very stunning. Magdalene tells Eva that she and Gideon have never had sex because Gideon thinks of Magdalene as someone he wants to be with in a long-term relationship. Magdalene is also the one that walks in Gideon and Eva when they are having sex in the library of the Vidal home.

Magdalene is caught on video having sex with Gideon's half brother, Christopher Vidal. When Gideon shows Magdalene the video, she gets very upset because she realizes that Christopher is using her to get back at Gideon. When Magdalene realizes that Gideon loves Eva, she's being nicer to Eva.

Corrine Giroux

Corrine Giroux is the woman that Gideon was involved with his first year at Columbia. Corrine proposed to Gideon. They were engaged for a year, but Corrine broke the



engagement. She marries a wealthy French man and moves to France. When she divorces her husband, she returns to New York. This is when she finds out that Gideon is involved with Eva.

Richard Stanton

Richard Stanton is Eva's step-father and Monica's husband. He is a very wealthy and powerful man. Richard is responsible for burying the public record of Eva's rape case against Nathan. Richard also doesn't whatever it takes to make his wife happy. This is why Richard pays for the Krav Maga studio to have safety features installed when Eva wants to take classes there.

Christopher Vidal

Christopher Vidal is Gideon's half brother. According to Gideon, Christopher does everything he can to take things away from Gideon. Christopher is the one that invites Eva and Cary to attend the party at the Vidal estate. Additionally, Christopher is the one having sex with Magdalene on video.



Objects/Places

New York City

New York City is one of the primary settings in the novel. Specifically, Manhattan and Brooklyn are the two primary settings within New York City where the novel takes place. It is where the novel begins and where Eva lives.

The Crossfire Building

The Crossfire Building is the building where Eva and Gideon meet. It is the same building where both of their offices are located. When Eva discovers Gideon's true identity, she also finds out that The Crossfire Building is one of the many buildings that Gideon owns.

Limousine

One of Gideon's cars is a limousine. When Gideon picks Eva up for the charity benefit, he picks her up in the limousine. The backseat of the limousine is the first place that Eva and Gideon have sex. Throughout the novel, the limousine is the site of numerous sexual encounters between Eva and Gideon.

Krav Maga Studio

The Krav Maga studio is in Brooklyn, Eva goes there to observe a class before she decides to register for the class. When her mother and stepfather find out about Eva attending the classes, Richard Stanton pays to have the studio safeguarded.

Hotel

Another building that Gideon owns is the hotel around the corner from Gideon's gym. Gideon takes Eva to the hotel after they work out at the gym. Eva and Gideon have sex, but Eva realizes that the hotel room is Gideon's private room, where he brings women to have sex.

Flowers

Gideon sends Eva flowers the day following the charity benefit to apologize to her. throughout the novel, numerous bouquets of flowers go back and forth between Gideon and Eva. Eva even sends Gideon a couple bouquets of flowers toward the end of the novel with some notes to indicate what the flowers represent.



Rings

Gideon and Eva buy rings for each other. Gideon buys a ring for Eva first that looks like Xs and Os covered in diamonds. In response, Eva buys Gideon a masculine ring. The rings represent a reminder of the commitment the two of them have to each other when they wear them.

Keys

Eva leaves her keys at Gideon's apartment one night. When she leaves because they are fighting, Gideon returns the keys to Eva via an interoffice envelope. Later, Eva finds out that one of the keys is the key to Gideon's apartment, and that Gideon made copies of her apartment keys before returning the keys to Eva.

Sex Toys

Gideon has a drawer full of new sex toys, still in their packages, in one of the drawers at the hotel room. When Eva finds the sex toys, she gets angry. She dumps the sex toys on the hotel bed and leaves while Gideon is still in the shower.

Gideon's Office

Gideon's office is another location where Eva and Gideon have numerous sexual encounters. Gideon's office has remote control frosting on the windows to create privacy. When Gideon brings lunch in for him and Eva, they eat in Gideon's office.



Themes

Relationships

Friendships and relationships are the primary themes that run throughout the novel. Eva Tramell and Gideon Cross enter into a sexual relationship. As the relationship continues, Eva and Gideon end up falling in love with each other. With the baggage, issues and problems that each of them bring into the relationship, Eva and Gideon have to learn how to overcome adversity in order to make their relationship work.

Eva and Cary are best friends and roommates. Their relationship is unique in that they are a lot like brother and sister. The troubled past that Eva and Cary have cements the foundation of their friendship. After Eva meets Gideon and Cary starts to slip back into his old destructive ways, a wedge occurs in Eva and Cary's friendship.

Good versus Evil

Another plot throughout the entire novel is that of good versus evil. Sex in the novel is represented as both a good act and an evil act. When the sexual act is between two consenting adults, it is represented as good in the novel. On the other hand, when someone is abusing someone else with a sexual act, then sex is shown as evil in the novel.

Even the sex between Gideon and Eva fluctuates between good and evil. Gideon says that every time they have sex it is making love because he and Eva love each other. On the contrary, however, when Gideon suggests that he dominate Eva and that she succumb to him sexually, Eva starts to see their sexual encounters on more of the evil side than on the good side. Some of Eva's perception, however, is tainted by the sexual abuse she experienced in the past.

Mental States

Another primary theme in the novel is the mind or mental state of human beings. Primarily, the focus falls on the sanity, or insanity, of Eva, Gideon and at times Cary. Gideon seems to be very obsessive, dominating and controlling. Some of the things Gideon does seem a bit on the mentally unstable side, such as taking pictures of Eva while she sleeps, running background checks on Eva and making copies of her apartment keys without Eva knowing.

Eva's own mental state also comes into question. She is insanely jealous of any woman that talks to Gideon. This is even prior to them concluding that their relationship is going to be exclusive. Eva also has very low self-esteem. She thinks that Gideon can have any woman he wants and therefore doesn't understand why he would want her.



Cary seems to be losing control of his mental well being. He is scared of how intense his feelings are for Trey. This seems to be propelling Cary to cheat on Trey. Additionally, it seems to be pushing Cary back into doing drugs.

Even Monica Stanton's mental state comes into question during the novel. She is trying to be extremely overprotective of Eva. Monica thinks it is normal to have her daughter followed and to track Eva with her with the GPS on Eva's cell phone. Monica believes this is normal behavior so she defends herself against complaints from Eva, and even against the advice of her therapist.



Style

Point of View

"Bared to You" is written in the third person point of view, from the perspective of author. The novel swings back and forth between the present and the past. The present represents the time after Eva moves to New York. The past represents the time leading up to Eva moving to New York.

The point of view of this novel is intimate, allowing a reader to connect closely with the main characters, primarily Eva Tramell. The book written in this manner allows the reader to get inside the head, thoughts and inner struggles of Eva as it pertains to the plot. The reader cares what happens to Eva and to Gideon. The point of view also allows the author to inject her own opinions into the narration and to expand on the events taking place around the other characters and the occurrences taking place.

Setting

The novel is set primarily in New York City. The novel covers the first few months of the relationship between Eva and Gideon. The main characters are involved in the relationship as it starts and evolves.

The setting of this novel works well with the plot. At first, the reader is not aware that Eva and Gideon are going to fall in love with each other. However, as events unfold, the romantic relationship is a constant part of the plot, the lives of the characters and even the outcome of the novel.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is relatively simple and easy to read. The language is from the 21st century, which is when the novel is set. The language is descriptive enough that it helps to explain the situations and is detailed enough for the reader to truly understand.

Structure

"Bared to You" is divided into 22 chapters. The length of each chapter ranges from two pages to 15 pages long. The chapters tell the story primarily in exposition and with some dialogue. The narrator injects her own voice and thoughts throughout the book, providing her opinions and feelings of the events unfolding in the novel.

The novel contains one main plot and several subplots. The main plot is friendships and romantic relationships. One subplot is the struggle between good and evil. Another subplot is the mental states of the characters in the novel.



Quotes

"We should head to a bar and celebrate."
Chap. 1, p. 16

"No. Usually they'd wait until we had the RFP finished before meeting with us, but Cross Industries recently acquired Kingsman and C.I. has dozens of subsidiaries.
Chap. 2, p. 33

"We've established some talking points: We have an intense sexual attraction and neither of us wants to date."
Chap.3, p. 49

"We need to be friendly, Gideon. Not best buds or confidantes, but two people who know more about each other than their anatomy."
Chap. 4, p. 69

"I'm going to tell you all the ways I want you to please me, Eva, and you're going to do it all...take it all, and we're going to have explosive, primal, no-holds-barred sex"
Chap. 5, p. 77

"Well...she's mom. Beautiful, charming, and obsessive-compulsive."
Chap. 6, p. 80

"And I don't want to either, because he can't commit. He's young, gorgeous, rich, and he's enjoying it"
Chap. 7, p. 99

"Just...be careful with Cross, okay?"
Chap. 8, p. 114

"I don't think I'll ever have enough."
Chap. 9, p. 123

"Don't touch me. Get your hands off me. You sick bastard. Christ...It hurts."
Chap. 10, p. 132



"Eva, you're unraveling me."
Chap. 11, p. 145

"You're mine."
Chap. 12, p. 156

"I need to know that losing control doesn't mean I lost you."
Chap. 13, p. 165

"Thank you, Eva. For everything. Yours, G."
Chap. 14, p. 180

"I'm losing my mind without you."
Chap. 15, p. 196

"Because I believe your touch can erase Nathan's"
Chap. 16, p. 203

"You want me to have total control."
Chap. 17, p. 216

"He's different with her. I—I think he loves her."
Chap. 18, p. 227

"The only place I've had consensual sex before you."
Chap. 19, p. 238

"She and Gideon were engaged, for over a year."
Chap. 20, p. 263

"As raw as you and I fuck, it's still making love."
Chap. 21, p. 276

"I had copies made before I gave them back to you."
Chap. 22, p. 281

Topics for Discussion

Who is the true Eva Tramell? Do you think she is over her sexual abuse? Why do you think she has not sought a therapist since arriving in New York? Do you think Eva really loves Gideon, or is she obsessed with him? Do you think Eva and Gideon remain in a relationship?

Who is the true Gideon Cross? Do you think he is over his sexual abuse? Who do you think was sexually abusing Gideon? Why do you think he never sought therapy in the past? Do you think Gideon really loves Eva, or is he obsessed with her? Do you think Eva and Gideon remain in a relationship?

Who is the true Cary? Why do you think he is cheating on Trey? Do you think Cary is doing drugs? What do you think happens to the relationship between Cary and Eva? Do you think Eva and Gideon remain friends and roommates?

Discuss the relationship between Eva and Gideon. Are they friends, lovers, in love, or something else? Why does Gideon feel the need to protect Eva? How does Gideon feel about Eva? How does Eva feel about Gideon? How do Gideon's feelings change over the course of the relationship? What does he do about it? What happens to Gideon?

Who is Monica Stanton? Why does she feel the need to be so protective of Eva? Why do you think Monica gets upset when she finds out Eva tells Gideon about the abuse? What role does Monica play in Eva and Gideon getting together?

Why does Gideon become a playboy? Do you think he is mentally unstable? Why do you think he never comes out and says who he is abuser was?

Discuss the sexual abuse Gideon and Eva experience. What impact does it have on the characters of the novel? How does it motivate them and how does it derail their lives?