



Critical Condition

Nicki Edwards

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Liam O'Connor wants a wife. Problem is, the type of woman he's looking for doesn't exist.

After years working as a paramedic in Sydney and living the bachelor life, Liam has had enough. He's convinced himself, and everyone else, that he's moved home to Birrangulla for a slower pace of life, but what he's really looking for is the woman of his dreams.

From the outside, emergency nurse Poppy McDonald lives a charmed life. Unfortunately, when she moved to the other side of the world to escape her family, all she did was swap one controlling environment for another. After Poppy's father dies, she returns to Australia to face her past. And her mother. But she has no intention of staying, and definitely not in Birrangulla.

When Liam and Poppy meet, there's an instant spark. Liam knows Poppy is the one even though she's carrying more than her share of baggage. But can he gain her trust and get her to look beyond her past? Or will the man Poppy left in the US return and ruin everything?

A sweet medical rural-romance for fans of Fiona McArthur, Melanie Milburne, Candace Calvert.

Critical Condition Details

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Author : Nicki Edwards

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Elizabeth says

Another great story by Nicki introducing us to a new character - Liam O'connor. Liam Leaves Sydney and moves back to his home town of Birrangulla.

Here he works as a paramedic and when his friend and work colleague tragically takes her life - Liam is devastated.

However, he meets new nurse Poppy McDonald and there follows the story of how these unlikely people come together. Woven through the story are characters from the previous Escape to the Country novels and Nicki writes with her usual wonderful style of life, living and loving.

Great book! Highly recommend.

Melissa says

I have been waiting for Liam's story since reading Life Support, and it didn't disappoint.

Liam has decided he really does want a wife, the right woman hasn't come into his life just yet. Poppy McDonald has been living in New York for 5 years and an unexpected death in the family brings her to Birungulla.

I enjoyed getting to know Poppy and seeing the relationship with Liam develop. There are a lot of twists and turns in the story that will keep readers guessing, as well as some interesting stories of life in the ER and Liam's work as a paramedic. One of these scenes was based on my Rubik's Cube solving son, that had to be one of my favourite scenes (I'm trying not to be biased....).

Critical Condition can be read as a stand alone novel, though it was great to catch up with characters from the other Escape to the Country books.

Talking Books says

Review copy received from Pan Macmillan Australia/Momentum Books for an honest rating

Brenda says

Poppy McDonald had lived in New York for the past five years – she had fled Australia from the clutches of her manic mother but drifted almost immediately into another situation she wasn't sure she wanted to be in. So when Poppy received a phone call to say her father had died, she headed home to Birrangulla in New South Wales for the funeral. Her past was a bitter one and though she didn't want to, she knew she would have to see her mother before she returned to New York.

Poppy's arrival at the small airport in Birrangulla saw her meet Liam O'Connor, a handsome Irishman who

was nothing but charming. But she was leaving in two days – she couldn't even form a friendship in that time, could she? But she couldn't deny there was a spark of attraction for Liam...

Liam worked as a paramedic in Birrangulla after living and working in Sydney. The fast pace and stress of the city wasn't for him – moving back to Birrangulla where his family was felt like the right move. And so it proved to be – except everyone was trying to find him a wife. He'd been hurt in the past and was wary of commitment. But when Liam saw Poppy he knew he would try everything in his power to get her to stay.

Would their pasts stop Liam and Poppy having a future together?

Critical Condition is the 4th in the Escape to the Country series by Aussie author Nicki Edwards and a light, entertaining medical rural romance which I enjoyed (though I felt the need to shake Poppy on occasion!) It felt good to catch up with the cast from the previous books in the series – but I certainly advise them being read in order of publication. Recommended.

With thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for this copy to read in exchange for my honest review.

Josephine-Anne Griffiths says

I absolutely love “Critical Condition”!

Having read “Intensive Care”, the first book in this series, then reading “The Peppercorn Project”, a standalone novel, I was pleasantly surprised to realise that Critical Condition could also be read as a standalone, even though it is the fourth and final book in this lovely series. I am currently reading the second book “Emergency Response”, which I shall follow up with the third treasure, “Life Support”.

The way Ms Edwards’ books flow, make it possible to read them out of order, which is lucky for me as I am always doing things in the wrong order. With beautifully constructed descriptions, one can imagine being right there in the orchard. Ms Edwards gradually introduces the characters from her previous books, until eventually, we have a wonderful picture of who’s who, and where they fit in the scheme things.

As soon as I read the first page, I was drawn in. This sweet and engaging story begins at the orchard of Lexton Downs, through the eyes of Liam and Kate who are attending an engagement party, which turns out to be a surprise wedding, “under the banner of blue skies and glorious autumn sunshine”. It was, a gorgeous day, and the bride, Liam’s little sister looked absolutely stunning. Liam was pleased to see Emily happily married, but inside his own heart, he yearned to find that elusive one, that perfect woman, that angel he could spend the rest of his life with. “But, if Liam was honest, the green-eyed monster was attacking him”.

Then along comes Poppy, a seemingly confident young woman with the world at her feet. Originally fleeing life in Australia, and building a new one in New York, she was now living the dream. Or was she? How well did she really know that handsome boyfriend of hers? Was everything as it seemed?

Her father’s untimely death makes a return trip to Australia necessary. A trip which will bring with it many surprises, but an equal amount of angst as she tries to come to terms with her past life, and even her current one. Behind Poppy’s mask of high self-esteem and devil may care attitude, is an extremely troubled young girl.

Both Liam and Poppy are searching for something … someone … maybe.

Poppy is far from Liam's idea of perfect. Or is she? She has enough baggage to fill up every bag carousel at an international airport! But maybe some things are just meant to be. Will they be able to smooth over any rough edges, and form a lifelong partnership? Both of their lives, but especially Poppy's are complicated.

Nicki Edwards has such a beautiful, natural writing style. You are able to visualise people and their surroundings so well, that it's almost as if you were there. I would go as far as to say 'you are a part of the story'. The characters have become like family.

If you love good, clean romance, with oodles of suspense, just the right amount of conflict, and of course a beautiful, happy ending, then this is the book for you.

Thank you Nicki Edwards, for nailing it again. You are the queen of rural, medical romance.

Pre-release copy kindly provided by Pan Macmillan Australia/Momentum Books through NetGallery, in return for an honest review.

Book Gannet says

3.5 stars.

I've been waiting for Liam's story this whole series, and I'm pleased to say it's probably my favourite. If you're new, though, don't worry you can still escape to the country without too much prior knowledge of what's gone before.

I like Liam a lot. He may have spent most of his life avoiding commitment, but he has his reasons and he's not a user. He may date a lot, but he's not a man-whore and he cares deeply for those he's close to. I loved seeing a bit more of his life and the way he is with Poppy is adorable.

Ah, Poppy. I can't decide if she was plain clueless when it came to her life in New York, or willfully naive. Her obliviousness to the red flags of her relationship were almost as irritating as her ability to run and hide from her problems, but away from that she's a decent character who is good at her job and struggles to cope with her mother. I don't blame her in the least for falling for Liam, because he really is irresistible.

There were a few niggles, though. Firstly, everything to do with Liam's work partner, while undeniably tragic, felt utterly out of place. It gets glossed over far too quickly and because of the big time leap afterwards doesn't seem to affect Liam at all. This left a nasty gratuitous feeling about it all, when in truth it could have had so much more important things to say. Likewise, I would have liked to have had some follow up to the medical case Poppy flagged when she was in New York – and maybe more about her mother too. This series does have a habit of introducing interesting medical cases and never following up on them, and I was sad to see it continue in this book.

On the whole, though, this is an easy medical romance that bobbles along at a steady place, ventures into some emotional areas and is never afraid of confronting tricky issues, even if doesn't always give them the follow up they might deserve. Throw in a lovely hero like Liam, add a sprinkling of interesting and fun characters (many returning from previous books) and it all adds up to an enjoyable read.

(I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.)

Lyn says

Nicki Edwards's has delivered another spectacular story in her latest installment of Escape to the Country series. This is the fourth book in your fabulous series.

Critical Condition is the story of Liam and Poppy.

Liam, what can I say? Liam is a paramedic and has returned to his home town. He has been avoiding commitment for some time, but feels now is the time he wants to settle down. He might be known in town as the a bit of a ladies man, but he tries not to lead any of the women along.

Poppy is a nurse living in New York. She has been unhappy with her life and is looking for signs to help her make the decision to return to Australia. When she receives the news regarding her father, she immediately returns. On arrival she meets Liam. She is certainly not looking for love and wants to meet her new family, have a short holiday in Queensland before returning to New York.

Liam knows Poppy is the girl for him. He just needs to convince her not to leave.

I love how the roles are reversed, with the male looking for a committed relationship. Also, catching up with previous characters and finding out what has been happening in their lives. The writing is beautiful, I honestly felt I was feeling very emotion same as the character throughout the story. During the story, you will found yourself smiling, laughing, crying and angry through the journey.

If you are a fan of Rachel Johns, Amy Andrews or Meredith Appleyard or looking for a fabulous romance/medical series, this is the author/book for you.

Sarah says

Poppy seems to be living the life she always wanted, well maybe she's doing what she loves but something just doesn't seem right with her boyfriend she just can not put her finger on it. When she gets a call that she's need in Australia she wonders if this is the third sign she needs to just move home for good or if she should stay in New York. When she returns to home to face her past she never expected to meet someone like Liam, will she be able to keep him at arms length or will everything come to a head and now she needs to finds to make it all work? Liam is look for the love of his life, it just doesn't seem to be in the card for him. When he looses someone close to him he wonders if its time for a break. When he helps his dads best friends Daughter Poppy he starts to wonder if maybe he just found the love of his life and wonders if he can convince her before it to late. Will they both be able to put the past behind them or will it be to late?

I really love this series of books. This author writes this series of good clean romance and this book is the same way. In this book Poppy seemed to deal with some tough things in her life and the author doesn't hold back with each of those subjects. I loved how in this book and her others you really connect with the Characters and you truly feel like your catching up with friends. I felt like in this book it dragged a little but over all the book was amazing and I found it hard to put down once I was drawn in. You really can not go wrong with this book.

Erin Dwyer says

Great book as always.

Five book for sure. Another hit book. Once you pick it up you won't want to put it down. Glad Liam got his happily ever after.

Renee says

An engaging, sweet medical rural romance.

I loved the latest installment of the Escape to the Country series. I enjoyed catching up with some of my friends from the earlier books and getting to know Poppy, the new girl in town.

It was refreshing to see a man on the cover and to have the hero looking for love. I've devoured everything Nicki's written and I'm looking forward to the next one.

I received this book free from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Iola says

At Last!

I've been waiting to read Liam's story since the release of *Life Support*, and was more than disappointed when I discovered Nicki's last release, *The Peppercorn Project*, was a new series. I was waiting to find out if Liam would meet his perfect match, thank you very much.

Well, Liam's story was worth waiting for. It took a while for him and Poppy to get together, but it was definitely worth the wait. I was left with a soppy smile on my face, so the romance definitely hit the right spot.

There wasn't so much medical stuff in *Critical Condition* as in *Life Support*, which is great for those of us who get a little queasy at the sight or mention of blood. For those who enjoy medical romances—don't worry. There should still be enough medical content to keep you interested, drawing on Nicki's own experiences as an ED nurse. Just not as much blood.

Liam will need no introduction for those who have read the earlier books in this series. If you haven't, don't worry, as this is a standalone novel (although we are reintroduced to the lead characters from the earlier novels).

But Poppy was the standout character for me. She's likeable and intelligent and beautiful ... but the outward perfection hides a woman who is paranoid she'll develop bipolar disorder and turn into her basket case of a mother. *Critical Condition* did an excellent job of portraying the difficulties of growing up with someone with an unmanaged mental health condition—a sad state of affairs, and one too many children grow up in.

Recommended for those who enjoy a good general market medical romance. Thanks to Momentum Books and NetGalley for providing a free ebook for review.

Anne says

Another terrific medical rural romance book

It wasn't that I should have gone to sleep three hours earlier, it was more worrying that the battery on my phone would go flat before I finished the book. Nicki Edwards has the knack of making the characters in her book feel like people you care about and you want to know how their lives work out. I had tears on three occasions while reading this book.

Judy says

I loved Critical Condition! I like both romance and medical dramas so this was near perfection for me. It was clever that the book begins with a man looking for a relationship, rather than a woman. I really connected with the characters. I have to admit that I don't always understand the Australian terminology/slang, but I found a website that helps.

Well done, Ms. Edwards!

I received an ARC from the publisher through NetGalley.

Ann Cooper says

I love books set in the outback and, having lived in Sydney, I also love Australians - and their slang!

This is a lovely romance featuring really nice characters - Liam is hysterically funny. I always enjoy it when the romantic interests start off by sparring. It makes for a funny and lively book.

I always enjoy Nicki's books and this was no exception!

Thank you for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Samantha says

I received this as advance reader's copy from Netgalley.com - Nicki's Escape to the Country Series, This is the series of books that I have got from Nicki that I have read within hours of starting, I love how easy her books are to read, I love how Nicki develops her characters and story lines, I hope there are more to this series or other series to come from Nicki.

