



Pretty When You Cry

Skye Warren

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A new dark romance novel from the New York Times bestselling author of *Wanderlust* and *Prisoner...*

I came from a place of dirt floors and holy scriptures. They told me the world outside was full of sin, and the first night I escape, I find out it's true. Ivan saves me, but he does more than that. He takes me. He makes me his own girl.

My conditioning runs too deep. Ivan sees what I am.

That's the thing about showing a mouse to a cat. He wants to play. And it's terrifying, even for me. Because the only thing darker than my past is his.

Pretty When You Cry Details

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Author : Skye Warren

Format : 249 pages

Genre : Dark, Romance, Erotica, Bdsm, Adult Fiction, Contemporary Romance



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From Reader Review Pretty When You Cry for online ebook

Rejane says

No “daddy” I will not read this. Ewww
feeling sick ??

warhawke says

Genre: Dark Erotic Romance

Type: Standalone Book 3 of Stripped series

POV: First Person - Female

Rating:

Candace grew up in a life bound by perverse religious teachings where rewards and punishments were determined by how much one sinned. She escaped their clutches and ran as far as she could with the limited resources she had and ended up in front of the Grand.

Ivan was the reclusive owner of the Grand, a strip club and meeting place for all other underground dealings. He took Candace under his wings where she turned her life around as Candy, the most popular stripper of the Grand. But a new life doesn't mean she could run away from her past, when the past never really let her go.

I never really liked Candy in previous books, but I've always been intrigued by Ivan and their somewhat volatile connections, so I was excited to finally get the story behind it.

“This is what makes you special, little one. Countless people have tried to hurt me, to kill me. You were the one to slay me.”

I was attracted to Ivan, not by his physical appearance, but by the power he yielded. I love how untouchable he was and how responsible he was towards the people under his care. He wasn't a hero you swooned at, rather a hero you respected.

I certainly saw Candy in a new light. I never thought she had that kind of background since she was the flirtest one. It's amazing to see how she transformed from a scared timid young girl to who she was today, but behind that persona she was still the girl she left behind – obedient and in need of a “protector”.

He doesn't make the pain go away. He makes me want more.

This book was certainly the darkest one in the series, in term of both of their backgrounds and their current needs. They had a certain proclivity when it comes to their sexual needs – the daddy/little girl dynamics. I've read such filthy kinky books, but I felt a little weird about it in this one. Probably because I've never read it in "serious" setting lol!

There were a lot of spanking, but I wish there were more of the actual sex. There was a reason for the lack of it, but I was hoping when it happened it'd be hotter. I also wish there was more to Ivan's past. There were some indications that could be elaborated but left unexplored.

Pretty When You Cry is a story of a woman's escape from captivity and reinventing herself while still haunted by the past with added darkness and kinkiness.

Standalone books in the series:

For more reviews/reveals/giveaways visit:

Michelle says

ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review

"The scars are faded, but they'll never go away."

An irresistible twisted dark erotic romance!!! Pretty When You Cry by Skye Warren is one of those reads that hooks readers instantly as she introduces a young heroine, who has been brainwashed by a religious cult leader that she is a sinner and that she belongs to his flock. For years, Candace has been ingrained with scriptures and teachings from her cult leader. When Candace finally escapes the religious compound and heads to the city, she finds herself in the streets looking for shelter and luckily she meets a man who saves her from danger. Alone, scared and with only \$20 in her pockets, Candace, who happens to be 16 years old at the time finds housing with Ivan, an owner of The Grand, a seedy strip club. Ivan takes it upon himself to house the young girl providing education, clothing, shelter, and a job for Candace. When she turned 19, Candace who now goes by Candy decided that she wants to earn her keep and become a stripper at The Grand. Ivan never wanted her to strip but Candy insisted that this is something she wanted to do. The relationship of Candy and Ivan is a complex one. Both of them, craves and needs each other emotionally and

physically. Candy needs the mixture of pleasure and pain and Ivan needs the control. As much as Candy wants to leave Ivan and be free, she couldn't because there is this tangible bond between them. From an outsiders perspective, we may not understand their relationship dynamic but what we should understand that both of them are broken and share a painful past of abuse. They may have physical scars but the emotional scars that they have runs deep. Their push and pull relationship gets tested when the cult that Candy tried to escape comes back looking for her sending her a message that the flock must return home. Can Candy finally be set free? Or will she retreat back to the young fearful girl? Can Ivan be the home and salvation that Candy needs?

"He hurts me and he soothes me, but never enough. Back and forth. Never enough pain or pleasure. He always leaves me needing more."

Pretty When You Cry is not your typical romance with hearts and flowers. There is no prince charming and white knight but there is a hero, who is broken, flawed, imperfect and domineering. Ivan may not be your ideal hero but he is indeed a hero in his own sense. He saved Candy and in turn she saves him too. He may show a different way of his affection and love with his control but it's love nonetheless. So if you are looking for a book where the author perfectly weaves a love story in the backdrop of abuse, sex, control, and suspense then I would definitely recommend Pretty When You Cry. Ms. Warren will remind us all beauty and hope can be found in the ugly. And in this case, it's about finding beauty in life's scars.

Review can also be found on Four Chicks Flipping Pages: <http://fourchicksflippingpages.weebly...Skye Warren>

Olga therebelreader says

4.5~5 'WE WERE MADE TO DREAM' STARS

Loved this dark, raw, powerful and gut wrenching story of Ivan & Candace from the beginning to the middle and to the end, though at the end I just wanted more of the story. It's so dark and twisted and yet it felt so new and refreshing.

It tells a disturbing story of a girl named Candace (or Candy) who managed to escape from an abusive, conservative religious cult, the leader of which is responsible for the severe brainwashing, abuse, mind control, fear and complete isolation of its believers.

Her meandering led her to Ivan, a dark man, owner of an underground strip club. He took care of her, enabled her to reject the cult's beliefs and "liberated" her. He thinks she's a little girl, *his* little girl! His fantasies for her are twisted, deep dark and gritty. He's over-protective and dominating over obedient Candy, and Candy becomes the willing victim to a daddy/little girl sexual role play with him. When Candy feels hemmed in by the heavy shadow of Ivan's obsession of her, she resists his control over her.

"He hasn't done anything but be himself. Dominant and remote and just the right touch of humiliating. I

find everything about him sexy, but nothing about him warm." - Candy

When her life is once again in danger, Ivan takes control and fights for her to keep her safe. They hit many obstacles and resistance during their journey. Will the time of separation do to the fine balance of their relationship?

"I corrupted you by giving you pain without the pleasure, by punishing you but never rewarding you. I thought it could keep you safe from my desires, but in the end it only made it worse." - Ivan

This is a book for those who like dark erotic books and can handle it. I love the idea of the story and the story itself and how it was written. If you like it on the darker side, exciting and sexy, you will love this.....

ARC provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Allison ♥?Will Never Conquer Her TBR♥? says

DNF at 52%

One question for Ms. Warren about this book---

Gah. I couldn't wait for Ivan and Candace to get their story and she throws in THIS!?

I simply cannot stomach the Daddy and "little one" references/role play during sex. I like taboo but this just really rubs me the wrong way. I started out loving this book but I can stomach "Daddy" no more. *Daddy* is referenced in this book 25 times (and NOT to a dad). This is said and acted out between two lovers, Candace and Ivan.

His cock flexes in my hand and I jerk back, letting him go with a sound of surprise.

"I'm sorry," I whimper. "It scared me."

"You're doing great, little one," he says soothingly. "You did exactly what I asked you to. Daddy will never get mad at you for that."

Yah...No. And this happens repeatedly throughout their sexual encounters...added with a little spanking for being a bad girl. I understand it's related to her upbringing within a religious cult and feeling still so much like a little girl. It's her coping strategy I guess or Ivan's way of dealing with a sexually suppressed lover. I dunno. The story outside of it I loved but this just was overly distracting and left a bad taste in my mouth.

I've devoured the Stripped Series until now and have rated each book (aside from the novella) 5 solid stars. This was seriously my most anticipated book in the series as Ivan has always been such an enigma but the dynamics of their sexual relationship are just too unhealthy and f*cked up for my taste. She needs therapy and not a man to make her think he's her *Daddy* in the bedroom. This, however, will not prevent me from reading the next book in the series. I'm hoping it's West- and his heroine doesn't have "Daddy fantasies."

Advanced copy received by author in exchange for an honest review.

ZARIA (Sheldon Cooper lover) says

DNF

I HAVE FUCKING HAD IT!!!!!!! 0 stars would have been more appropriate for this trash! This whole book was horrible.....Pure nauseating.

"What did you do next?" His voice is low, the grate of stone on stone. "Daddy needs to see."

"I'll be good, Daddy. I'm so sorry. I'll be your good girl now."

I push my hips into his touch, but he squeezes my wrist and lets it go. "No," he says gently. "You need to be a good girl now."

My mouth forms the words without making a sound. "Yes, Daddy."

I squirm against his touch, trying to get myself off. "Does it feel good?" he murmurs.

Of course he knows the answer, and even more so when I pant, "Yes, Daddy. Please."

"You'll get there, little one. I'm going to help you."

And then the loss of her virginity....there were words such as IMPALED

CUTS AND TEARS (in her vagina i guess from impaling)

Long-term torture

I almost wish I could black out, so I wouldn't have to feel this. He could fuck my limp body until the end of

time, and I wouldn't feel a thing.

Then he stalks from the room, leaving me behind in a puddle of my own arousal and blood.

What arousal???.....that was probably her pis, because i can't imagine that someone could get aroused by that!!!...

Candace says

I thought that the earlier books in this series were fantastic, so I was a little disappointed that I didn't fall in love with this book. I had been looking forward to learning more about the enigmatic and dangerous owner of the strip club where all of the heroines have worked. The relationship between Ivan and Candy had been alluded to and built up in earlier books and I was dying to get my hands on their story.

Unfortunately, while I liked their story, I didn't love it. The relationship dynamics between Ivan and Candy were too bizarre for me. Also, any time the word "Daddy" is used in a sexual context it's off-putting to me. Since Ivan insisted that Candy refer to him as her "Daddy" during their sexual encounters, I spent a lot of time feeling uneasy.

Aside from that, I have to admit that even though I didn't sense the same intimacy and connection with these main characters, I could tell that they cared for one another. The two were just so damaged that I never felt "let in" enough to feel any connection to Candy, and especially Ivan. They were completely closed off, to each other and to readers. As much as I wanted to feel something for them, any sentiments were superficial, at best.

Oh, and there was a lot of spanking! If you have a spanking fetish, this book is like striking spanking gold! Every time I flipped the page, it seemed like poor little Candy was getting spanked for being naughty. It got old...Really old. Again, just not my thing.

All in all, it was an "okay" story for me. It wasn't everything that I'd hoped for, but I'm sure it's somebody's dream come true. Each of the books in this series, to this point, could be read as standalone novels. This is the first one that has been a miss for me, so I'll certainly continue the series.

I'm looking forward to the next book, which is set to be released next year. Finally, we'll get the story that we've wanted and take it back to where this all started, with Giovanni and Clara's story. I definitely don't want to miss that!

Stephanie (Bookfever) says

Pretty When You Cry is my new favorite book by Skye Warren and in this series. I was very excited to read Candy and Ivan's story but I honestly hadn't expected to love this book as much as I did. I even finished the story in one day because I couldn't and wouldn't stop reading.

The thing with this series for me is that I usually don't like the female main characters all the much but with this one I actually liked Candy a lot, which came as a surprise to me. But yeah, she was really intriguing because of her unusual background.

Ivan was a character that I never really could figure out when he appeared in the previous books so I was glad to finally read more about him and I gotta say that I absolutely love him. He's acutally still a bit of a mystery to me but that's what makes him so great to me.

The story takes us back when Candy first arrived at the Grand and met Ivan. The weird thing is, I'm usually not much of a fan of books that first take place a few years before the actual story is supposed to take place but it was actually really interesting to read about because I really wanted to know how Candy ended up stripping.

Like the previous books, this one is also a dark book and to me it feels like the darkest book so far. I absolutely loved that of course. Candy and Ivan certainly have a unique relationship but their connection really can't be denied.

I think it's safe to say that Skye Warren is my new favorite author in dark romance. Pretty When You Cry was dark, shocking and heartstopping all at once. I loved it! All I can say is; I WANT MORE!

cr?????α•●♥?????????♥●• says

“People act like love is a gift, but it’s not. It’s theft. It’s a goddamn tragedy.
Love is losing a vital organ to a man who will never give his in return.”
- Candy

* * *

“I discovered too late that it’s not the bars that make a jail, but the jailor.”
- Candy

* * *

“Together. That’s one word for what we were. Depraved. Toxic. And beautiful.”
- Candy

* * *

“Every love story is a knot, and ours is threaded with steel.”
- Candy

* * *

“We are made of the same thing, he and I. Of sin and hope, of power and pleasure.
We were made to dream.”
- Candy

Cristina says

“Ruffles and lace are my armor. Lipstick and glitter, my war paint.”

I'll be stuck with the word “Daddy” in my mind for a long time after reading this book...

This story was somehow creepy... I blame it on Leader Allen. But still I enjoyed it! I am curious about Sarah Elizabeth. What will happen with her?

Regarding the main characters from this book... let me say this: I got used to cruel men in Skye's books, but Ivan... he was a beast (in one particular moment, but that moment made him a jerk for my taste).

Candy was smart! I mean, reading the first books of the series, I had a completed different image about her. But now I saw that she actually had a dark past which shaped her. I loved what she did with the drinks!

Smart girl! ?

P. S. I loved reading tiny pieces of the book about West.

Lana ✶Dirty Girl Romance✶ says

3 Stars

I never wanted to be pretty. I never wanted to drive men to sin- until that was all I had left.

Let's talk dark erotic taboo. This depraved pervert can't get enough of it. Take a look at my read shelves and you'll see what I mean. I loves me some kink. But here's the thing, even my perviness has it's limit, and it doesn't matter who writes it or how amazing the book is, it is guaranteed to deflate my enjoyment quicker than whisky dick: The "Daddy/Little One" kink. Can I look past it to finish a book where I'm loving the story, as was the case here? Absolutely. Does it tickle my particular fancy?

True story.

Having not read the previous books in this series (yet), I had no issues at all reading this as a standalone even though it's book 4. I am planning on going back and rectifying this immediately though because I do Skye Warren's writing. The story is intense, captivating, deliciously depraved, and with Skye's signature grit added into the mix. As a matter of fact, I read the book cover to cover in one sitting. So that really goes to show you that the story alone is worth it.

Ivan wants to put me in a cage, but what I really want is to fly.

Now I would not classify this as dark romance, but really dark erotica with a touch of taboo. Why? While Ivan and Candy have one intense relationship, this is not a story where I felt their undying devotion to one another. It was a depraved relationship; one of mutual need and kinks. Ivan needs to control and dominate, while Candy may be more take-charge in her life but is completely subservient with Ivan.

That's how we are together- depraved and beautiful.

Candice met Ivan when she had nothing. Leaving behind everyone she knows and everything she has, she was running and desperate. Ivan fed on her need but not in a sexual way. At least not at first. After all, when they first meet she's only 16 years old. The sexual aspect of their relationship only comes into play three years later. I never did pick up on Ivan's age. Perhaps this was mentioned in the previous books, but I'm left to believe that he was considerably older and so the Daddy thing icked me out even more.

There's the added element of suspense that weaved into the plot flawlessly and I really enjoyed that aspect of it. Unfortunately as much as I loved Ivan and Candy individually, together they were just OK for me and I blame that entirely on the "daddy" thing.

Please, Ivan. Please...Daddy. I'm sorry I ran away. I won't do it again."

"Don't lie to me, little one."

"Please let me come. I...I need to. It hurts in my private place."

Hurts in your private place?

Honestly, between Candy's inexperience, Ivan's domineering personality and need to "take care" of her, the sexual aspect of this book did absolutely nothing for me. At all. I didn't find it hot or erotic. It just was.

What kept me turning the pages was the suspense element, and I was highly underwhelmed with how everything resolved. I got almost no answers for anything. Except for one minor resolution everything else was left hanging in the air. I'm not sure if this is something that will be addressed in the future books, but I was disappointed with it in this one. It felt like a very quick resolution to a slow build up.

Skye Warren's writing is captivating enough to carry the book for me even though the daddy thing fizzled it, so it wasn't a dislike. While I can't say I loved it, I can't tell you I hated it either. I'm definitely hooked enough to read the rest of the series; previous and future books. Hopefully there will be no more Daddys in the next ones for my ovaries' sake anyway.

ARC courtesy of author in exchange for an honest review

For more reviews visit

Di Covey says

ARC kindly provided in exchange for an honest review.

4.5 - 5 Stars!

Skye Warren drove the bus to taboo, parked in the dark alley, and made me watch the depravity. I held my hand over my eyes, but I had to look.

"That's how we are together —depraved and beautiful."

Pretty When You Cry is the fourth book in The Stripped Series, but it can be read as a standalone. The series revolves around different people that work at the Grand.

This is Ivan and Candy's story.

I'm at a loss for words. I originally rated 4 Stars, but I can't and probably won't ever get these characters out of my mind. She said, it's her darkest of the year. She said, it's taboo. I thought, okay, I'm a dark queen, bring it. Skye Warren managed to knock me off my twisted pedestal, I was blushing like a girl in high school. If you can make me feel the least bit uncomfortable, slightly disturbed, you won. With that being said, enter at your own risk. Not that this story was pitch black, no it's not. But it managed to make me a bit uneasy, I felt like I shouldn't like it, I felt like a bad girl, I felt like I had my hand in the cookie jar. There was one thing that made me not want to give 5 Stars, and that ended being the reason why I did.

"That's what monsters do to pretty little girls. And pretty little girls are expected to fight."

The characters were beautifully written, they jumped from the pages, leaving a lasting impression. Skye Warren eloquently writes the darkness in her characters, her words are profound, descriptive, and utterly addictive. I bow, Skye Warren.

"Love can survive in the darkest, coldest places."

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

b>ARC kindly provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Amanda says

3.75 stars

First off, I found out about the whole **Daddy/Little things talk** from Allison, so I was mentally prepared myself when I started on this. Okay, it weird me out and I'm the opposite of aroused. But thank God the heroine didn't outright said '**Fuck me, Daddy.**' She mostly just said '**Please, Daddy**'.

Okay, rant over. Back to the story itself,

When I met **Candy** previously, I never thought she is so young. The story started off when she was 16 and meeting Ivan for the first time after she runaway from some kind of religious cult. Present time, she is just nineteen. I used to assumed she's older because she's with Ivan, the boss.

Ivan, the owner of the stripper club all the previous heroines work at. There is non of his POV and I had no fucking clue what is in the man's head. I don't even know how old is he. He is stoic and emotionless most of the time. There is a rare moment when he open up about his past, but I don't even get the full picture. And why did he like being call '**Daddy**'?

Candy and Ivan had a fucked up relationship for years, without the actual fucking. He likes to treat her like his little girl and spanked her, but not fucked her. On the other hand, Candy is totally in love with him and wanted him to see him as a woman. They are one messed up duo.

Meanwhile, there are threats aiming at Candy at the club. She is convince is someone from her past, wanting her back. Ivan being totally protective of her, is having non of it and no matter how Candy try to run away, he will always be there to catch her back.

Pretty When You Cry is not a flower and roses romance. Ivan and Candy relationship is plain weird and uniquely them. But most of the time, I'm intrigue by what length will Ivan take to keep her with him and his total devotion to her. The cult where Candy comes from adds a layer from danger and suspense to the story.

From the epilogue and the message from Skye at the end of the book, I'm pretty confident Clara and Gio's story is up next. Is about damn time!

Jacqueline says

3.5 uncomfortable daddy kink stars

Dear me I read some dodgy shit. But I knew going into this one it was a dark read, with a 'daddy' kink. She's an adult but but he calls her his little one and punishes by spanking her or sending her to sit in the corner. I cannot lie, it was weird as fuck, but I only have myself to blame.

The story is actually filled with suspense and tension, it's not just about the sex, it's more a story about becoming an individual and making your own destiny. She's escaping from a religious cult as a frightened and naive 16 year old, he takes her in and looks after her, and protects her. He doesn't touch her sexually until she's 19, but he controls her life in every other way. It's really not your regular romance, but then he's had a crap upbringing too, ruthlessly intimidating people to become a kind of powerful mob boss, so there are some parallels there and he's devoted to her, which is kind of sweet.

I was a little surprised when the story finished at 50% and a different story began, but I should probably pay more attention to blurbs. Anyways, it read well and it held my interest but I was expecting more story than I got I suppose. Overall I enjoyed it, but I'm still not sure how I feel about the whole daddy kink thing. Complete - albeit short- story, I see this is the fourth in this series but I haven't read the others.
