



## Once Loved

*Cecy Robson*

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## Once Loved Cecy Robson

**He's the campus golden boy. She's picking up the pieces of her broken past. But in Cecy Robson's scorching novel of second chances—perfect for readers of Monica Murphy and J. Lynn—their differences only make their connection more explosive.**

Every memory Lety Tres Santos has from her childhood comes with a scar—some emotional, some physical. Her father is an abusive drug addict, and her mother enables his destructive behavior. College offers Lety a fresh start . . . until her father finds a way to ruin that, too. Now, after losing her scholarship to kick off junior year, Lety must somehow stay in school, pay tuition, and turn a deaf ear to the whispers that follow her. And she intends to do it all without Brody Quaid's help.

Brody is a lacrosse star, a 4.0 student—and as a freshman, he fell hard for the beautiful and spirited Lety. But their relationship crashed and burned because he couldn't break through the walls she's put up around her heart. With Lety hurting more than ever, Brody strives to win her back and make her believe in real love and true partnership. That will mean opening up secrets locked away in his own past—and trusting someone more than he's ever dared.

Lety knows how painful it can be to depend on the wrong man. She also knows how much Brody wants to do this the right way. But it takes more than sizzling desire to move on and build a future together.

## Once Loved Details

Date : Published January 20th 2015 by Loveswept

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Author : Cecy Robson

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## From Reader Review Once Loved for online ebook

### Izy says

*rating~ 4 stars*

**Lety Tres Santos** had a difficult childhood, a victim of physical and emotional abuse by her father and a mother who refused to get any help. Which is why she grew up to be independent, a bit cynical and insecure about her worth as a human being and as a woman deserving of love.

**Brody Quaid** is an engineering student and the lacrosse team's co-captain. He is the golden boy in the campus, smart, handsome and extremely rich. But he not unlike Lety, also has family problems and a difficult relationship with his family.

**Lety Tres and Brody Quaid** met in freshman year, quickly become friends and by the time the next semester rolled around they were a couple and inseparable but Lety broke up with Brody because she thought he deserved better. Now a year later Brody has finally convinced Lety to give them another shot when her abusive father returns turning her life upside down once again.

I liked them together. They were good people, who had a difficult time yet instead of acting out they were trying to make something of themselves. They both supported each other and their romance was sweet and even though they went through some pretty big stuff they came out the other end strong and happy.

**Quibbles:** I wanted to know more about them Lety and Brody than about their families or friends etc, I wanted some attention to them as people (what they liked or disliked etc) and a couple which I felt we didn't get as much, it was about Lety's family then Brody's and then again in that circle. Other minor issues include; at times I felt like it had some extra drama or angst that wasn't precisely needed and the ending felt slightly rushed *View Spoiler »*

The book had some light hearted moments, emotional moments, some sweet and tender parts that made this book entertaining and worthwhile reading. The book is the second in the series but can be read as a standalone, I hadn't read the first one but that didn't affect my enjoyment or the understanding of this book.

**Overall**, it was pretty good. I quite enjoyed it which is a pleasant surprise since NA genre for me seems to be a hit or a miss, this was a hit! I liked the way that the story flowed and for once I didn't think that it was only written from one protagonist (Lety's) POV and gave insights to only her thoughts and feelings. *Happy Reading!*

*ARC generously provided by the publisher via netgalley in exchange for an honest review.*

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### Angela Carr (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

4.5 Stars

Coming from different sides of the track, Lety Tres Santos and Brody are opposites as can be. Lety is from a very abusive family with ongoing issues. She barely makes ends meet and to boot; she's about to lose her

scholarship. She is tired, jaded and feels unworthy to be with Brody, but she should know not to judge a book by its cover. Brody may be from the upper east side as they call it; he is rich and from a close knit family. He is smart, sporty with plenty of friends and girls at his beck and call but little did she know that they are similar in more ways than one.

Once Loved by Cecy Robson was intense and emotional. They go through so much both physically and emotionally. Their relationship takes a beating, and they will fight right back for their love. It was very sweet and romantic. Somehow, they stayed strong enough to hold on to each other when the whole world is against them.

Hearing Lety's side of the Tres Santos' family story is even harder than Teo's POV. I think being that she is a woman in this culture makes it even worse. I'm just glad she is strong enough to do something more for herself. Though she had Teo and Brody for support, she is determined to do things her way. I wish she was comfortable enough to ask but with her background, I can't blame her for wanting to stand up on her own. I do applaud her for having the balls to do so.

I think this book, Once Loved is more New Adult than Contemporary compared to the first installment, Once Perfect. Being that Lety and Brody are both in college, and a bit more angst their story that is making it so. I can't say, I love this couple less than the previous couple but they certainly didn't top their story. I still love Teo more. =)

I love seeing Teo and Evelyn. It's always nice to see that even after HEA, their lives continue and in this case still a very big part of the current characters of the series. Teo is just so dreamy. We also get a peek of what's going on with Sophia and Killian, and there is definitely something going on with the. I'm very excited to see Sophia come out of her shell and with a big panda like Killian helping her out.

Cecy tackles not only abusive familial issues but cultural as well. I know for a fact that these issues are very real and still happening in this day in age. Infidelity, drug abuse, child abuse, battered women...the list goes on. Per Cecy's note: Don't lose sight of your future because of the hardships of present or your past...there is help. I couldn't agree with her more.

\*ARC provided by publisher

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## Sarah says

4.5 stars

**Once Loved** is the second book in **Cecy Robson's** new adult Shattered Past series and it's a real emotional roller coaster of a story. The series is just getting better and better and I absolutely loved both of these characters, Lety and Brody have been through so much but they're survivors who refuse to let their pasts define them.

If you've read **Once Perfect** you'll already have met both characters, Lety is Mateo's sister so we've already seen some of her horrific family history. Her father is a drunk and a bully who regularly beats on his wife and his children. Lety has suffered verbal and physical abuse for the majority of her life and even though she's now moved out of the family home to go to college she still can't quite escape from her father's clutches. It's heartbreaking to see everything that Lety goes through but I was so proud of her for the way she

copes with everything that happens. She is brave enough to make a stand even when her mother won't and I was cheering her along from the sidelines. Lety has worked hard to get her scholarship to study nursing but she also works as a carer to earn enough money to pay her bills. You have to admire her determination to make something of her life and the way she tries so hard to stand on her own two feet.

On the surface Brody's life looks perfect, he's the son of a wealthy family so he has plenty of money and the freedom to do whatever he wants and he's also one of the popular guys at the college. What most people don't see is that he is still damaged from a major event in his childhood. He keeps his emotional scars well hidden but they're definitely there and Lety is the only person who he feels understands him. I think what I loved most about Brody is that he's such a great guy, he's sweet, kind and doesn't have a mean bone in his body. I've started to get a little bored of the bad boys and players so coming across a guy like Brody makes a really nice change. Lety and Brody were a couple when we first met them but after an incident with her father Lety pushed Brody away to protect him. Brody cares deeply for Lety though, he knows they had something special and he is determined to win her back and show her that together they can survive anything.

I don't want to say too much more about the plot but I have to tell you what an adorable couple they are. I loved seeing the two of them together, they have a great relationship and they're both surrounded by supportive friends which was great. I liked how protective they are of each other and I was glad that their relationship is so solid with very little angst between the two of them. Both of their family situations were heartbreaking but there were some really sweet moments both with Brody's family and with Lety's siblings. We get to see some incredibly sweet moments between Mateo and Evelyn which made me smile and we are given a further glimpse at the next couple Sophia and Killian. **Once Loved** is a fantastic story and I'm already desperate to get my hands on the final book **Once Pure**, I've had a feeling from the beginning that Sophia and Killian will be my favourite couple but it's going to be hard for them to knock Lety and Brody off the top spot.

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### **Sheryl says**

**\*4.5 stars\***

**LOVED IT, but the subject matter was so hard to read about..**

**That said, I ABSOLUTELY CAN'T WAIT for Killian and Sofia's story next!!!**

*\*ARC courtesy of Netgalley and Random House Publishing\**

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### **Alice says**

**3.5 stars**

I originally rated it 3 stars, but I thought about it these days and decided to change my rating. I'm only giving it 3.5 stars because **I really liked this book, but I did not love it.** I read this one after a re-read of one of my favorite books ever so this may be the reason.

**This is book two in the "Shattered Past" series, but it can be read as a standalone.**

I haven't read Once Perfect, but I will most likely read it in the future.

If you have read "Once Perfect", you already know about Lety and Brody.

Lety's life has never been easy. Her father is a drug addicted and a violent man and her mother has never cared about her and her siblings.

Lety and Brody have been in a relationship for a while in the past, but because of her fucked up family, Lety has some issues and she believes that Brody is better off without her.

On the surface, Brody's life seems perfect; he's the campus golden boy, he's wealthy and he's definitely hot. **Little did she know that Brody has some secrets too and that his life may not be all this perfect..**

I really liked both characters. And Brody was so **sweet!!** . He was determined to have her in his life and I loved the way he treated her.

**This was really an enjoyable read and I definitely recommend it.**

Hope that book three is about Sophia and Killian!! Can't wait to read about them!

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*Arc kindly provided by Loveswept via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **Mandy says**

I really enjoyed this book. Lety comes from a bad home life. Her dad is an awful human being who hits his wife and children. He's evil and Lety has had to work really hard to overcome her past. Brody is in love with Lety and has been from the first moment he met her but a year ago, Lety broke up with him because of her dad. Brody is so patient with Lety and he knows what he wants. This book had a couple surprises, especially regarding Brody. I loved the connection between these characters and I really loved Brody. He is a really good book boyfriend. I really enjoyed the little update on Evie and Teo from the first book in this series. This book was slightly angst, steamy, suspenseful and sweet all rolled into one really enjoyable story. I really enjoy this authors writing and I can't wait for Sophie's story next!

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**\*\*ARC provided in exchange for an honest review\*\***

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### **Vivian Jane ★ says**

**\*\*ARC provided by Netgalley for an honest review!\*\***

*\*Quotes may differ upon publication\**

#### 4.5 "Pequeña" Stars!

*Someone like Brody was never supposed to fall for someone like me. I was a minority from the wrong side of town. He was the popular athlete who came from wealth and who all the pretty, drama-free girls swarmed, waiting for their chance to pounce.*

A perfect wealthy white boy.

And a Cuban girl with a fucked up family.

Good couple? I think not.

But what if the *perfect* boy was just as broken as the girl? Would the similarities bring them together or would it tear them apart?

Lety and Brody--a couple with a past. They were happy and everything was perfect until Lety's past intervenes. A year has passed and they are both miserable without each other.

*New school year. New opportunities. Fresh start. I smiled again, thinking about our talk the previous night. Maybe he was right. Maybe there was hope for us yet.*

Brody wants to return to what they were, but with Carlos causing chaos in her life once again, she is hesitant on allowing herself to love. Her family has taught her that love is something dangerous and will always result in pain and suffering. Denying love when it comes knocking at your door seems to be the best way to go for Lety...

*"Brody, your past can't hurt you if you don't let it. My past can, because it remains part of my present."*

*"That doesn't change how I feel about you."*

*"It should. This is my life, my problem. Don't let it be yours."*

Lety's past will not affect Brody's decision to be with her anymore, unlike last time when her family caused their separation. With some scheming on Brody's part, he gets another chance to start over with Lety.

*In goodbyes, are the creation of new beginnings.*

Their relationship is rocky, but as dark secrets are revealed, their bond is stronger than ever. Brody reveals the pain he hides under his normal cheerful, happy facade and just when everything is going well, the constant nightmare of Lety's life appears once again.

Can forgiveness be given to those who deserves it the least? Sometimes, that is all that's needed...

*"A bridge of silver wings stretches from the dead ashes of an unforgiving nightmare to the jeweled vision of a life started anew."*

? Aberjhani

HEA? (view spoiler)

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I knew I had to get my hands on Lety and Brody's book when I was introduced to them in Once Perfect. GAH!!!! THEY WERE AMAZING. I won't lie, I had high expectations, and THEY WERE MET!

(view spoiler)

Brody on the other hand, is PERFECT. GAH I LOVED HIM SO MUCH. He was HILARIOUS! I laughed so much at some of his "excuses" and tricks ;)))

*"I thought I dropped my keys down Lety's throat and I was trying to fish them out with my tongue."*

This book brings in emotional issues out on the table, and I'll be honest, I shed quite a few tears. The author didn't sugarcoat anything and it was written with raw emotion.

I CAN'T wait for Sophia and Killian!!!!!!! GAH!!!! I HAVE A FEELING THAT IT'S GOING TO BE GREAT...! Give me Kill.....

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### ♥? Dorsey aka Wrath Lover Reviews ♥? says

Review Posted at: <http://sweptawaybyromance.blogspot.com/>

#### **4 Emotional Stars!!!**

Well the one thing I can say about this series is your emotions definitely run the gauntlet!! One minute I'm smiling, then laughing, then almost in tears, and then madder than hell! And, the cycle starts all over again!!! **EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER!**

I absolutely LOVED Brody and Lety, both are college students. Brody is an engineering student who's the "big guy" on campus; he's wealthy, an athlete, popular, well liked and very charismatic. Lety is more of a loner, very driven to succeed, but has a couple of close, protective, and loyal friends.

As with Once Perfect both of these characters have baggage, especially Lety, she comes from one f'ed up family situation!! But, I have to say, I admired her backbone and her unbelievable courage. Yet, my heart broke for her, for everything she endured as a child and continues to deal with as she works hard to put that part of her life behind her.

When Lety loses her scholarship because of her vile father, she takes a position with a very wealthy family, caring for a disabled man and his young son. Because of her outgoing, wisecracking personality, she wins over the surly man and the young boy is instantly drawn to her. She becomes an integral part of the family, and has no idea how much they will come to mean to her especially after she finds out how they are

connected.

Lety desperately loves Brody, but because of her family life, and after seeing where he comes from, she attempts to distance herself, trying to spare him the shame she carries. Brody is not so easy to shake off, he loves Lety and refuses to let go. Brody has his own demons he must come to terms with, and when he reveals his family secret to Lety, he finds out soon after that nothing is as he believed. He must now deal with another family betrayal, and with Lety's help comes to terms with those revelations.

I have to mention that I *LOVED* the interaction between Lety and Edward Moore, the man she was hired to care for, and the bond they clearly created. It was heartwarming to see after all she'd been through with her own father.

There is also plenty of Teo and Evie from Once Perfect, and we learn what's going on with them (love Teo!)

Next up is Sophia and Killian's book, *Once Pure*. We know some of Sophia's background, just not the specifics, but just that she has endured some awful heartbreak events. I am hoping and praying that Killian doesn't have any deep dark secrets!! Selfishly I want him to concentrate on Sophia's healing and not on any issues he may have!!

*\*ARC kindly provided by Random House Publishing Group - Loveswept via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **Karla says**

#### **4 Stars! Loved Lety and Brody!**

A solid second installment in this series! Cecy Robson is a great storyteller and knows how to connect with the reader's emotions.

Reader beware, there are some harsh, brutal cultural issues and the acceptance of this is addressed in *Once Loved*, which can be hard to swallow at times. But, let's face it...no matter your heritage, there's trash to be had, and Carlos was the garbage at the bottom of the pile, while Lety rose above it all, and blossomed into beauty, strength and determination, with Brody and her siblings at her back! She didn't just break the chain, she shattered it!

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### **Sarah Robinson says**

Cecy weaves an ethnically diverse beautiful love story that centers around coming to grips with who you are, and where you came from, in order to move forward with the one you love. I hadn't even realized until I started reading this how few books I've read with latina heroines, and this was a refreshing change. I'm definitely eager to read more about this family, or from Cecy. The writing is beautiful, and so is the plot. It's a definite 5 story read!

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## **Lisa Filipe says**

Well....Cecy Robson does it again...she sucks me in, makes me feel and spits me out...but always leave me feeling truly happy inside...ONCE LOVED is a WIN in my book!

ONCE LOVED centers on Lety, who we meet in ONCE PERFECT as one of Teo's younger sisters. ONCE LOVED begins about a year after ONCE PERFECT, and is almost a reunion story between Lety and her ex-boyfriend Brody, whom she broke up with after a horrible experience involving her highly abusive father, Carlos (let's just say I have no love lost for Carlos).

ONCE LOVED is a true romance, which means it is NOT easy for these two to finally have their happily ever after. Lety is a truly broken young lady, maybe not so much on the outside but on the inside and she doesn't want to drag Brody from his world of privilege into her world of abuse and violence that lingers and follows her with each step she takes.

Cecy gets down to the nitty gritty with ONCE LOVED, she writes the truth that many of us would like to sweep under the rug, but this is some peoples reality and she brings that to light. I love Lety (I loved her from ONCE PERFECT). She has spunk and sass and is just trying to make a better life for herself without the help of a man. And my love Brody, he just wants to take care of her, and I love him all the more for it. (and Brody is DEFINITELY up there for Book Boyfriend status)

Let me sum this up by saying that ONCE LOVED is a story of strength and justice, and a truly wonderful addition to the series. I am SOOO looking forward to Sofia and Killian's book.

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## **Sarah says**

• *I received an ARC via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!* •

**4 stars!**

**Once Loved** is the second book in the **Shattered Past** series but it can be read as a standalone.

I didn't know that this was a series until just before I started reading this book but I saw in a review or two that this could be read as a standalone and I'm glad I read it.

I really liked this one! I liked the relationship between Brody and Lety. They'd both been through so so much and I felt sorry for both of them.

I never liked Brody's mom at all. Sure, it was good that she finally spent more time at home with Brody's father and little brother Tommy but I still couldn't get rid of the "I-don't-like-you" feeling I had with Dionna.

And Lety's dad?? Oh my god I absolutely hate him. What a horrible person. That's really all I can say about him.

A few of my favorite quotes:

(view spoiler)

I will definitely read the first book in this series!

Thanks again for the arc! :)

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### **Bev says**

So, after a bit of a shaky start - my pet peeve, aka push and pull, hit me upside the head virtually straight out the starting blocks. Then started the teetering on TSTL, however in this instance I got why she wanted to do things for herself. After the childhood she survived (I think it was way more than endured) she had serious trust issues and I absolutely adored how Brody managed to get in there.

Brody, Brody, Brody - sigh .... he's gone straight on my hero is perfection shelf. Seriously, this lad is the total package. Also haunted by events in his childhood he blames himself for, and carried a huge burden, he managed to put on a brave face, be the life and soul of the party and keep on keeping on. Despite this he was so there for Lety - I love how he encouraged, supported, cared for, protected and loved her.

This did have a bit more steam than the first book but not much and for me it worked. It's light in steam but rich in story, and I loved it.

Another sweet, pull at your heartstrings book from CR.

4.5 stars

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## **Lover of Romance says**

This review was originally posted on Addicted To Romance *Summary*

Lety let the damage of her past come between her and the man she met and fell in love with. But this time Brody isn't going to let her go without a fight. Brody fell in love with Lety but he knows that she is hurting and he refuses to let it continue to happen. But Lety has to do some damage control from what her father has done. She is at risk at losing her funding for school, and so she is going to have to work overtime to make it work. Her new job is aiding in a father and son who both have physical disabilities due to a accident. She never imagined that this torn family would be Brody's family and tensions are high between them. Lety soon realizes how different of an upbringing Brody had compared to her. And even though she knows that she isn't good for him she isn't ready to let him go yet but Brody is determined to show her how right they are together...

### ***The Hero***

Brody's life may seem like he has everything going for him. Good grade, socially accepted, financially set for life but his life is not what it really seems. He has his own past trauma to deal with, and is still in love with the woman who broke him. Brody can't fully understand the reasons behind Lety and why she hurt him, but he recognizes the same pain in her eyes that he feels. Brody was such a wonderful and sweet hero. I love how supportive he is of Lety and never judges her or her past. He makes his own mistakes and has his own inner demons that he battles with, but I enjoyed the way that he treat Lety. He is charming, protective and has a gentle but firm presence that you just want to see more of. And he is so playful and loves to tease her. Definitely a character you don't want to miss out on

**"If we're not sleeping, then what will we do?"**

**"I'm not discussing what happens when we're alone, Brody."**

**"Will we kiss?"**

**"Brody"**

**"Will we touch?"**

**"Brody."**

**"Letz, we're adults"**

**"Then behave like one. I'm working"**

### ***The Heroine***

Lety grew up in a home where abuse was commonplace. Her father was extremely controlling and abusive and paid no consequences. Her mother just let it happen and blamed her own children if they fought against their father. Lety is now in college, and with her brother Mateo having gone against their father, she assumed that her life could get better and she wouldn't have to fear her own father. But he is coming back into her life

in destructive ways and she fears what it will do with her relationship with Brody. Lety is strong willed, courageous and hardworking. I love how much she is willing to sacrifice to make a better life for herself.

#### ***Plot and Story Line***

Once Perfect was a outstanding story and I just fell in love with these characters and seeing more of the Tres Santos family. Lety is next in age, and is Mateo's younger sister (Mateo was our hero in book one) and boy I loved her strength of character. I love her inner strength especially when you know the type of home that she has grown up in and it was pleasant. She struggles with trust and affection except from her siblings. She can be very prideful at times, she doesn't want anyone to do anything for her or help or. I understand why, considering how she was raised, but she also learns that its okay to accept help from those that care. The real changing point of the story is Brody. He is the steady rock in the relationship and I loved that. He never gives up on Lety even when she tries to push him away. Their story is full of drama and suspense and growth. We see slow positive changes happen with these characters and I love seeing the character growth that defines this story. Cecy Robson kept me fascinated and captivated by their story.

#### ***The Cover***

I just love the way they did this cover...it reflects the story so very well. I like the stance of his pose and the way the light and shadows reflect the tone of the book.

#### ***Overall View***

Once Loved is a heart winning romance that captivates the reader with powerful emotion, pure talent of writing, a story that will pack a punch!!

#### ***Click To Buy On Amazon***

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#### ***Jonetta says***

Lety Tres Santos can't seem to escape her abusive father's reach. He was responsible for her break up with her boyfriend Brody Quaid and now threatens her college scholarship. Despite her reluctance, Brody won't give up on their relationship as they resume it and try to live some semblance of a normal life.

I fell in love with these characters, especially Lety. Her family circumstances were horrible, unfortunately not unusual. Her resilience, spirit and drive were beyond admirable while staying in the authentic zone. Brody wasn't the stereotypical wealthy and entitled college frat boy on a Lacrosse Team and once his backstory is revealed, you get a sense of his true values.

It's not an exciting story though there are some harrowing moments. But, it's an uplifting one where you just want these two people to succeed in life and with each other. There are some strong themes here that resonate in high volume. As with the first book in the series, the cultural aspects are realistically presented and not in a gratuitous way. The narrator was almost pitch perfect and she WAS Lety. I'm really looking forward to the final story in this trilogy, which was deftly teed up in this one.

(I received a copy from the publisher in exchange for an unbiased review)

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