



## Sweet Seduction Serenade

*Nicola Claire*

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*"One night eight years ago and you ran, angel. One night now and you're gone again. I won't let you run this time without giving chase."*

Eight years ago Evangeline Rowe met her ice-blue eyed, perfect cowboy, but she was running from a past he would have kept her trapped within. One night of unbelievable passion, a lost and consequently broken heart, and only memories that haunted her dreams and made all subsequent liaisons fall short. By the time she is called back to Auckland to tend her dying father, she has only just managed to vanquish the ghosts of her past enough to settle down. Her time as a cowgirl-in-the-rodeo-ring is coming to an end - and then she sees him. Standing across the crowd at Sweet Seduction, listening to her sing. With his arm wrapped around his fiancée. Try as she might to refuse him access to her heart again, Nick Anscombe has never forgotten that night eight years ago either. And sets out to prove to Eva, his angel, that their hearts are indeed meant to be one.

Old grudges, disgruntled relatives, and a past that haunts as much as hurts, chases Eva down. Gunshots, attempted kidnappings, hostage situations, hot investigators and just as hot police detectives, everything comes to a head when Eva faces her past and accepts who she is inside. And who she is began that day eight years ago - but was it truly the same for her ice-blue eyed cowboy? And can she still be the cowgirl-in-the-rodeo-ring she desires and let him back inside her battered heart?

**Love at first sight has never been so dangerous and so very delicious at the same time.**

## Sweet Seduction Serenade Details

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## From Reader Review Sweet Seduction Serenade for online ebook

### **Eyvette Abreu says**

Sweet #2; Sigh!!

2.5\*

I think I may need to add a conflicted/confused about my feelings shelf. Kinda like the H, but no real feelings for the h.

This book is about Nick (who is the brother of the book 1 hero) and Eva. This is a second chance love story. Nick and Eva met eight years prior and had a ONS. Eva leaves in the morning with not a word to Nick and flees to TN where she was going anyway to get away from her family. She has been strumming a guitar and singing country music for a long time so TN it is. I understand it was a ONS, but why the early morning sneak out? I never get that about these situations when I read about them. Why is someone always just leaving without a word to the other person? I mean at least thank you, it was great, see you around, whatever. Anyway.....

Eight years later is back because her dad, who is one of the people she had decided to leave behind, is dying. She has been back for three months and you can tell he really isn't a nice guy. She will be a guest singer at Sweet Seduction (Yep! Genevieve's shop. Remember her? The one who would do ANYTHING to save her shop) This is where she sees Nick again after eight years. For some reason she assumes he is Gen's fiance.

Nick spots her as well, but of course there are hard feelings because she just left eight years ago. He is head of ASI (Anscombe Security Investigations). It turns out Eva will be needing his assistance because her cousins (there are five of them) have been bullying her since she was a child, and now that she is back they have taken up where they left off.

Nick went from hot alpha, to sweet guy and I liked him, but not as much as I liked his brother Dominic. (view spoiler).

All in all I am sticking to 2.5 to 3 stars on this one. Even with my question about Nick, I still liked him more than I did Eva. I thought the whole thing with her family was to OTT. The sexy parts were hot, so there is that. There is no OW drama. We know he's been with other women because in one part of the book he tells Eva no one ever compared to her. She has also been with other men and there is a bit of OM drama. Her last casual fling Derek shows up. He thought they were more than what Eva thought they were and there is conflict with him and Nick.

I was at 3 stars until something happens that makes Eva run back to TN and in her sadness over having to leave Nick, her sick dad, and the place she was once again considering to be home again (view spoiler)

They get their HEA

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### **Lady Heather says**

I really enjoyed this book better than the first.

Eva didn't *annoy* like Gen was beginning to by the end of the first book.  
Eva was strong, sassy, and she 'pulled up her big girl pants' when she had to.

Nick was amazing!

.. and I LOVED the Epilogue!

Now off to read Ben's book (YAY!)

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### **Heather andrews says**

When Nicky boy is pee-peed off he is pee-peed off, "I'm not the one acting like a spoilt child," Nick shot back. And then bizarrely added, "I don't sleep with someone and then leave without a word, a note, a backwards glance. Nothing for eight effing years. You're the child not me." Personally I think he has some abandonment issues. He really cares for his woman, "now that's sorted, can we go back to the heaven part of this morning. Eight years I've wanted you back in my arms, I intend to make good on the fantasies I've had." He's really sweet, says the right things, "we were young, Eva. You were twenty, stars in your eyes, the world at your feet. I was twenty-four, had no cash, had no prospects. I needed to get my s\*\*\* together before I could consider offering you a life." Nick makes me laugh my arse off, "we can start on your fantasies first, if you like. I'm an equal opportunity bed partner. I'll let you have the first say." He gets worked up a lot thanks to Eva (winks,) "Eff, angel," he rasped against my lips. "We're in the middle of a crowded bar. Do you want us to get arrested?"

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### **Tiffany says**

Another ARC from Nicola Claire and another job well done. There were a lot of repetitive actions, words, and moments that became a slight annoyance at times but at the same time expected and understood. I also was a little overwhelmed with the Tennessee drawl at first but that's just me when it comes to reading accents. They always sound worse in my head then they are meant to be. I became used to it pretty quickly and found myself enjoying Eva's, albeit stereotypical, cowgirl attitude. Tough as nails on the outside but sweet as sugar on the inside. Eva travels from Tennessee, where she fled to 8 years ago, back to NZ to take care of her dying, seemingly ungrateful, father. While there she runs into a one night stand she had before she fled that never left her heart. While battling her feelings and issues with her dying father and the guy that stole her heart 8 years ago, Eva is forced to deal with her aunt Jessie and her 5 (trailer trash in my opinion) sons who are trying to destroy Eva and take her dad's 'fortune' in the process.

A riveting story line and different than I expected. I loved that this book was linked through the previous book though still capable of reading without it. Seeing more of previous known characters though always makes it much more of an interesting read for me. All of the characters were very likable even the domineering one night stand, Nick. He wasn't the typical overbearing, take charge a-hole. He took Eva's feelings into consideration and allowed her to do what she had to while still doing what he had to to protect her.

A lot of singing, some sex, a bit of anger mixed with realizations, love, and bullets flying made this story well rounded and full of peaks and valleys. To see it end the way it did made my heart sing right along with

Eva.

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## **JadeShea says**

### **Review Copy**

This book starts out with Eva having to move back to NZ to help her dying father. They've never had a good relationship before, and Eva thinks its just as bad now. So in order to help her get through this she joins up with her old band, and plays at Sweet Seduction. Little did she know that being there she would meet Nick, the guy she gave her heart to one night eight years ago before she ran away.

Now Nick sees her and says he's never letting her get away again. But Eva isn't so sure that is a good idea. Now people seem to be getting hurt because her cousins are after her, and her aunt is helping matters.

With all of this Eva also has some people from Tennessee come visit that just make things even more complicated.

Overall I really enjoyed this book. It has romance, drama, and action. What's not to love? The only thing that bugged me at times was Eva. However, I did believe she caught on to the stuff Nick does very quickly so that made her raise a notch higher in my book. I can not wait to read the next one now.

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## **?Jamie? says**

Sweet Seduction Serenade is book two in the Sweet Seduction series, and takes us back to Auckland, New Zealand and the Sweet Seduction shop. This series has grabbed hold of me and continues to not let me down by generously letting me delve into love at first sight, explosive action, steamy sex scenes, and plenty of seriously fine alpha males. ;-)

### **Summary:**

Evangeline "Eva" Rowe hasn't had an easy life. Eight years ago, she fled the only home she ever knew and built a new life in Nashville, Tennessee. Fleeing was her only option if she wanted a chance at her dreams of becoming a country singer. With an absentee father and a mother too concerned with her love-life, Eva felt disconnected and forgotten in her family. Her growing up years were filled with torment from her five older boy cousins for no apparent reason other than they figured she thought herself too good for them. Eva didn't only leave behind her haunted past when she left Auckland. The night before she left, she gave her heart away to a true cowboy, and despite eight years, she's never felt the same way again. Now Eva has come home to tend her dying father, and her past is about to erupt and take over the person she's become. Music is Eva's lifeblood, especially Garth Brooks. It can soothe her and fills the gaps she pretends doesn't exist in her heart. Being home isn't anything like Eva thought it would be. Her father seems just as distant as he was in her youth, but every once in a while, she gets a glimpse of a softer man who cherishes her company instead of loathes it. With her brother in prison, she is responsible for her father's send of days, but she can't leave her music back in Nashville. Rounding up her old band, Eva arranges to play at Sweet Seduction for Gen, whom she went to high school with. The vibe she gets playing with familiar people gives her a thrill she won't soon forget, but coming face to face with the man she's loved for eight years after one night will be enough to stop

her heart. Nick Anscombe is Eva's ice-blue eyed, perfect cowboy and he's never forgotten the passion filled night they shared. Terrified of being pulled back into the past she has fought to escape, Eva tries to deny him access to her heart, but Nick still holds a piece of it, and he's determined to show Eva that they are destined to be as one. Unfortunately, Eva's trailer trash family are determined to seek revenge on what they perceive as Eva's "hoity toity" behavior, and endeavor to claim the small amount of money Eva's father has saved, when he passes. It's also more. A wrong Eva committed unknowingly against her oldest cousin Levi, and he's finally prepared to make her pay for. Through attempted kidnappings, hostage situations, international plane flights, gunfights, and life altering epiphanies, Nick and Eva will have to trust in the strength they possess as a couple and the love that's always been between them in order to overcome an enemy gone feral with the need for revenge and attention. If they survive, Eva might just learn that true love means never having to pigeon-hole yourself into others' expectations, but finding a partner that not only recognizes your uniqueness, but also nourishes and encourages your dreams and life goals while loving you unconditionally and passionately.

Eva was a riot. I loved how much she embraced country music and that way of life, although sometimes her cowgirl persona seemed a bit overdone for me. I applaud her for taking care of a parent that she swore never benefitted her childhood. It couldn't have been easy before her eyes were opened to some harsh truths. When Nick first made his appearance, I was sure I'd hate him with his cool demeanor and scathing conversation, but he was so much more. He was protecting himself, too, and when he decided to lay claim, watch out! His very real need to physically claim Eva was sexy as hell (bathroom scene? Yes please). I couldn't for the life of me see him as a cowboy, though. I just couldn't visualize it. Lol. To me, he needed black cargo pants kitted out with badass necessities, skintight black tee, and black motorcycle boots. Still, cowboys can be badass, so if pressed, I could probably make myself see him that way. I do wish we got to see what happened eight years ago. They referred to it a lot, but we didn't know how they met, where, and no sexy details. I think a short flashback prologue could have made this story even better, but even so, with all the action and lovin' going on, it didn't detract too much from my enjoyment of the story unfolding. Eva's family was bat-shit crazy and not a little bit creepy, but other supporting cast was amazing. I fell in love with the stalker, Adam. Lol. A fantastic, sweet, funny, sexy guy, I cant wait for his book. I'm looking forward to Ben's story next, although I will miss the inner workings of the Anscombe clan (like when they are all together), but I'm really impatient for Jason and Katie's book. There's something about them and I just know it's gonna be great! Wonderful job by Ms. Claire and every one definitely keeps me coming back. <3

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### **Jen says**

This is the second story in this series, and it was for sure an entertainng read. The main problem I had with this book was that I found the heroine to be quite irritating most of the time. Both the main characters ( Nick and Eva) were often contradictory in their behavious. With Nick, he was portayed as a hard core alpha male, but he would one minute "Bossy," then all of a sudden he would be soft and gentle. Eva was a force to be reckoned with, and could be super aggressive and take no crap from anyone; then she would all of a sudden become this meek, vulnerable woman. It became confusing with them starting of one way and then ending up another. There was also a lot of repetition with certain words or phrases that after hearing them so much were extremely over used. Eva constantly referred to herself as a "cowgirl" and stated several times how "cowgirls don't cry." Her referring to herself that way so many times made me see her as very immature. Also her idolizing Garth Brooks all of the time, and constantly either singing his songs or quoting them, is something that teens do when they obsess about their favorite rock band.

The story line was enjoyable and had lots of eventful things happen to keep it interesting. Nick and Eva have some history between the two. Eight years ago, they had a one night stand that ended with Eva taking off for

Nashville to pursue her dream of becoming a country singer.

Once the eight years comes and goes, and Eva is called back to New Zealand to care for her dying father, she also comes across Nick again and finds the attraction is still a strong as it once was-if not even more. As she fights the attraction, other conflicts arise and Nick steps in to protect Eva. Will he be able to keep her safe?

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### **Margreet Asselbergs says**

Eva left to make her dream life as a country singer in Nashville years ago, but when her father is dying from cancer and her brother is in jail, she has no choice but to return home to Auckland and look after him his remaining days. She has no real good memories growing up, her family always lacking for money and affection. Music has always been her salvation, and is again now. Even as she spends her days mucking through her father's years of hoarding and keeping him cleaned and fed, she finds solace in singing her heart out at night with her old band mates at her friend's coffee house, Sweet Seduction.

That is where she first sees Nick again. Eight years ago he spoiled her for every other guy who came after, with only one night together. But he has his arm around her friend Gen, so he must be her new fiancé.

Nick knew eight years ago that his Angel was special, but she needed to fly first. Hearing her voice again after all these years was like a punch to the gut. But Eva gives Nick the cold shoulder, not wanting to let on how much it hurts to see him engaged to someone else.

Nick now owns and operates Anscombe Security and Investigations and has built himself a good life, and when he finds out Eva is back in town, he immediately adds her to the list of people his company keeps safe. And she needs safekeeping.....her four cousins are proving to be even more of a threat than they were when they were young.

Needless to say that when her past is catching up, a jilted lover comes calling, her favourite guitar is destroyed, her dad kidnapped and the love of her life is shot, Eva is running back to Nashville as fast as she can, that is.....if Nick will let her get away!

Oh how. I love this series!!!! I wish there already were 10 books written, I'd devour them all!

Eva may be damaged, but not helpless or completely broken.....there is a steel core there and she is mostly afraid of her heart being broken (who isn't??). She's a scrapper and I can identify with that.

Nick is just.....delicious. Not infallible, but protective (swoon) and he knows what he wants and goes for it! Maybe I should move to NZ???

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<https://www.amazon.ca/gp/cdp/member-r...>

### **Sara McBride says**

I hoped this would be better than the first, but come on...I'd rather read about Stella and Mace. Even Eva's band mates had similar names to Stella's. At least try some originality. I am going to read them all...just to compare...because hey...why not. Its a bit fun.

This chick was not quite as stupid as Gen. But there were still some ridiculous things to make this lacking...again. The one time I could have seen the perfect fight, the perfect girl fit that made perfect, logical, human, sense....the author didn't run with it. (view spoiler)

And the contradictions in this book made my head spin. The biggest..in my opinion were all the fights between Lee, oops, I mean Nick, and Derek, the ex. Just a few examples...(view spoiler)

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Wow..just wow..I can't believe how many little things set me off about this book. I could go on forever.

### **B.E.Love says**

I loved book one in this series and wanted to pick up book 2 for some time now but got too busy and seemed

to have forgotten about this series. Thank goodness my brain started working for me. Nicola Claire's writing voice is infectious and addicting, she not only does a great job pulling you into the hero and heroines story but their friends as well so much so that you need to read the next book in the series to see what happens. I had heard a lot about this book and let me first say that I am not a country fan and at times the cowboy/country thing was just too much but forgetting about that this was a great story and a great continuation of a series that excites me and makes me want to keep reading.

Eight years ago Eva and Nick had an incredible night together but when Eva woke up she left for America and for her dream of being a country singer. When Eva finds out her father who she has never been close with is dying she drops everything to come home. Nick never forgot Eva no one else has ever come close to her so when he sees her back in New Zealand he sets out to finally make her his. Now that they have both had time to grow up he knows nothing will stop him.

The more time Eva spends home the more she realizes that what she thought about home, family, friends, and Nick couldn't be anymore wrong, but fear of what will happen to her heart if she and Nick don't last makes her hold back from the only man she has ever loved. When Eva's dad and Nick are put in danger Eva will have to decide what matters most and what she is willing to do to keep those she loves safe. But Nick has other plans and he will stop at nothing to keep Eva by his side.

This was a great story I find myself sucked into these books so easily and then frustrated when real life intrudes and I have to put the book down. These stories are just fun to read and all the characters are very likable and quickly claim your attention and focus. Nicola has done a great job at continuing this series this book never dragged and though you can read each as a stand alone reading them in order and as a series just adds more to the story and is a great way to follow up on past characters that you quickly grow to love.

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### **Pamela(AllHoney) says**

The second book in the *Sweet Seduction* series by Nicola Claire. Evangeline Rowe is back in Auckland, New Zealand, after being gone for 8 years. Her father is dying and she wants to do what she can to make his last days as comfortable as possible. She is friends with Gen of Sweet Seduction and her and her band play there some nights. There she sees Nick Anscombe, a man she shared a night with 8 years before. Thinking he is Gen's fiancé, Eva does her best to keep her distance. But Nick has other plans. Then Eva's aunt and cousins put together a plan to encourage her to go back to Nashville and leave New Zealand forever.

I had to grab this one after the first book. I'm happy to report that Eva was not as TSTL as Gen was. That's not to say she doesn't have her moments towards the end. Surprisingly, I think I liked it a tad more. I'm not real big on the reunion theme but this book worked for me. I will continue the series and yes, I do recommend it to Contemporary Romance fans who like a little action.

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### **Rachel says**

I would say 3 high stars. It just wasn't as good as the first one. The men are hot in this series though.

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## Naksed says

I gave this author a second chance after I DNF the first volume in this Sweet Seduction series, about a year ago. One reason being that everyone deserves a second chance. The other that it was a free read on Kindle Unlimited. I definitely made it farther this time but ultimately, history repeated itself. DNF again.

I don't want to bash this author or book because I think she has good writing skills, albeit a bit too reminiscent of Kristen Ashley. As with the initial book in the series, the first few chapters drew me in. The characterization of the heroine, a country singer who returns home to New Zealand to care for her terminally ill father, was at first effective. The author's love for country music or at least the love that her fictional character has for music was the most plausible and emotionally relatable thing about Eva. The male character Nick was that right mix of dominant, sexy and possessive without going overboard, at first that is. Unfortunately, a promising premise took a nose dive.

Eva's character turned into a shrieking, childish unhinged woman while Nick's efforts to woo her became increasingly creepy. (view spoiler)

The whole thing turned into a circus where a bevy of men were literally fighting over her and she was freaking out while secretly loving it. Ugh, way too high school. These people acted nowhere near their age or so I would hope from professional, savvy people in their late twenties and thirties.

There were some really disturbing lines such as the heroine thinking to herself WHILE she is finally having sex with loverboy that she is tight but regrettably not from underuse? WTF? She is slut shaming herself WHILE having sex with the guy she supposedly loves and has been pining for almost a decade. There were other instances where she expressed how regretful she was about having a number of relationships, over eight freaking years mind you, and that her one night stand with the hero of the piece basically ruined her for every subsequent relationship she had with other men because none of them could compare. With a one night stand. From eight years ago. That's healthy.

Speaking of, that was the most absurd premise ever. That these two people had a one night stand eight years ago and they both fell in love with each other but did nothing about it for EIGHT whole years. I kept hoping for more of a backstory, like maybe they had been friends or known each other as kids leading up to the one night stand but no. On several occasions, the characters confirmed it was just that, one night together, and boom. Instant love.

Are these people for real? Do they even know what love is? I mean I get it, how romantic it could be to have that thunderbolt and fall instantly in love. That movie Before Sunrise, by Richard Linklater, for example, was one of the few instances where the characters plausibly have a one night stand AND fall in love, not because they had great sex but because they talked and got to know each other for that entire night. Or some of those classics like Romeo and Juliet or La Princesse de Cleves can successfully idealize that romantic love that hits you like fireworks.

I am not saying light contemporary romances should uphold the standards of literary classics however at least, they need to give us something, anything, to justify the instant love. Seven orgasms in one night or whatever it was is not it. I did not buy it at all. Sorry, I guess I did end up bashing the book. I just got progressively angrier as I wrote this review. This had the potential to be so good. I do think this author is talented. There were good ideas there, good characterizations, as I said. She needs to write from her heart instead of emulating Kristen Ashley.

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**Nikki says**

And again, **absolutly AWESOMSAUCE!!!!!!** I was planning on writing my review for book one before reading this but I couldn't wait. Now I'm in love with both Anscombe brothers! There are no words! Nicola Claire has just blown me away with her talent! I have the biggest, dumbest grin on my face too! The epilogue alone is worth 5 stars! **LOVED IT!!!**

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**Victoria Cavill says**

**3.5 Cowboy Stars....!!!**

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