



## Resurrecting Phoenix

*Isabel Lucero*

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## Resurrecting Phoenix Isabel Lucero

Anniversaries are usually occasions worth celebrating, but when your fourth wedding anniversary is also the first anniversary of your husband's death, you'll only want to drink your sorrows away. And that's exactly what Phoenix Nightingale does.

In the small town of Breckshire Wyoming, everybody knows everybody, so when Evan Tyler walks into the same bar she's drowning her grief in, Phoenix knows that he's new in town. What she doesn't know is that he's just moved in a few houses down from her and is about to try his hardest to break through the wall she's had up for a year.

Phoenix has experienced a tragedy that nobody ever wants to experience. In the year following her husband's death, she's had what her parent's considered embarrassing public meltdowns, and lost some friends along with her career. Just as she feels she's at her very lowest, Evan barges into her life, forcing her to get out of the house and look at life a little differently.

He vows to help her, encouraging her to rise from the ashes and live once again. Evan doesn't know that just by being in her life, he's bound to send her into a tailspin, because both of them are keeping things from each other, and Phoenix may not be strong enough to handle what she finds out.

Will she pull him into the dark with her, or will he be able to resurrect Phoenix, freeing her from the depths of her depression, and show her that surviving isn't the same as living?

## Resurrecting Phoenix Details

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Author : Isabel Lucero

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Genre : Romance, Drama

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## **From Reader Review Resurrecting Phoenix for online ebook**

### **Silvia says**

#### **Beautiful**

Resurrecting Phoenix is a story of loss and healing that's told in a beautifully straight forward way.

After her husband is murdered, Phoenix's life spirals out of control. She turns to alcohol to dull her pain and loneliness. She closes herself off from friends and family. She remains in self imposed isolation until she meets her new neighbor who knows nothing about her or her past. Thus begins her healing, her resurrection.

I've never read anything by this author but if this book is an indicator of other books she's written, count me in as one of her newest fans! I loved Resurrecting Phoenix and I'm giving it 5 stars!

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### **Kirsten Bass says**

5 heart bursting?????

In our hearts we all know that death is a part of life - losing someone we love can be traumatic - Thru the words beautifully written by Isabel Lucero - a new author to me, We ride thru and experience the pain of grief-adjusting to a life without that loved one. overwhelming sadness, destructive behavior, pure devastation before hitting rock bottom. An emotional journey with Phoenix, bringing her together with an unexpected stranger. Two people with different past battling heartbreak issues, finding friendship, hope, strength, happiness, love and a reason to LIVE.

The connection I felt with these characters was so real.

You can feel the pain and the hardships, her loss of life, the everyday struggles to go on without her husband. Those struggles felt real, the break downs the tears - that heartbroken ache could be felt deep inside.

Evan the beautiful neighbor with a huge heart, patience and a way with words makes it hard to not fall in love with him right from the beginning

I laughed and I cried. . all emotions going thru me.

We all experience some kind of pain in this life and this was just a beautiful story of second chances, showcasing that life continues to go on no matter what we go thru but we can find the rainbow after the storm if we really want it

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### **Darlene Avery says**

ARC received for honest review

Resurrecting Phoenix by Isabel Lucero

My review: 5 stars !!!

Resurrecting Phoenix is one of the most outstanding reads of the year.

Isabel Lucero simply outdoes herself, by tackling sensitive and heartbreaking issues with such depth and care, that it will literally take your breath away.

Lucero has created amazing and phenomenal characters that you will immediately connect with from the beginning of the book. They may not be perfect, but they are real and working towards surviving tragedies that life has thrown their way.

I absolutely love the raw emotions the heroine, Phoenix, displays throughout the whole book. She teaches each of us what it means to survive, even when you want to give up.

And Evan, is the breath of reason and determination that keeps the story moving forward. You find yourself wanting to peel the layers of his character open and devour every bit that is inside.

Lucero has crafted an amazing story, that will leave you willing Phoenix to rise "rise from the ashes."

" Love will find you again, and it will be a great love, because love that finds you isn't sought after, is true love."

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### **Eye Candy Bookstore says**

Sometimes there are books that you read, you enjoy, but after some time and many other books, you forget... sometimes there are books you read, you are impressed, but still, after time, you forget those too. Isabel Lucero writes her books with a passion that not every author has. It is this fire you can feel behind her words, she holds you captive till the very last sentence and you feel every emotion she tries to invoke. I have read books by many authors, and of course like many of you, I do have my favorites. Isabel will always be one of my favorites; I have loved her writing from the very first book I read by her (The Secrets That We Keep, which is still one of my favorites – and one of my very first reviews – pre blog life). If you have not read an Isabel Lucero book, I am telling you as a reader, you are missing out.

Resurrecting Phoenix is romance that deals with love, loss, and the rebuilding of life in the aftermath. It is a simple story about realistic people and a tragedy that can happen to anyone of us. I think the reason I felt so connected to this story is because the characters are so relatable, so real, and so very honest. Phoenix is a character that is weak, but very very strong. Her story is devastating and beautiful all at the same time. I don't want to give anything away about the story in my review because I feel like everyone should experience this book like I did, without any suspicions of what will come.

If you are ready to take an emotional ride with ups and downs that will give you hope in love, this is one for you. Isabel knocked it out of the park with this story, I thought she was a brilliant writer before, but she just proved, it's only going to get better; she is one to watch out for!

5 stars

Tonya Nichols @ Eye Candy Bookstore.

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## **Katja Novak says**

I was gifted an ARC for an honest review, and I'm being honest by saying that Resurrecting Phoenix has become my favorite book written by Isabel! Girl, you did it! You nailed it, I can't even find the words to describe this book without giving too much away. ;)

The tragedy that happened to Phoenix is something that no one wants to go through....ever. Losing loved ones is always hard, but to lose your husband on your wedding anniversary? I don't ever want to go through that. She was lucky that Evan came into her life. This beautiful, strong, loving man who found a way to her broken heart and helped her put the pieces back together.

This I think is a story that is so real, it could happen to anyone, it's about dark times that a lot of people experience and how one can come out on the bright side, with a little help from the people around.

I want to write so much more, but it would all be with spoilers, so I'll end it here and just say that you NEED TO read this book! It's awesome! :)

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## **Sara Miller says**

I received a ARC of this book in exchange for a honest review over on my blog -- Pretty Little Book Blog.

What do you do when the unthinkable happens? How do you continue with the day to day ripple effects of loss? Because it happens. No matter how much you wish that those who are brave enough to stand in the face of danger and say "Not on my watch" those protectors who keep us from harm sometimes don't make it home to their families. That's what this book is about. Phoenix is such a strong character (yes, we see her broken at the beginning) but even in her brokenness there is strength. I couldn't imagine what it would be like to live through events like this and I have major respect for the men and women who have had to live through this very thing.

Resurrecting Phoenix is very different from a lot of Isabel's books and I truly think it's her best yet. In Phoenix she gives us a character who is just trying to make it day by day and begin healing, it's a very truthful representation of beauty in tragedy and that healing from loss is an ongoing process and it's nothing that happens quickly. Sure life can change in an instant but rebounding from that change is not as instantaneous. This quote from early in the book is one that has stuck with me the most

"It's just interesting that both your names are a kind of bird. While your last name says you're sad and longing for something, your first name says you'll bounce back and rise again. Seems like no matter what happens to you, you'll be okay."

The symbolism is perfect for the story of rebuilding yourself after the darkest days. Gradually Phoenix begins to live again after some sage advice from Carol and spending time around people who don't pressure her to be who she was before and embrace the person she is now. I thought this was a heartbreakingly look into love, loss and finding yourself in the aftermath.

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**Allison ❤️?Will Never Conquer Her TBR❤️? says**

**4.25 'Rise from the ashes' Stars!**

I'd first fallen in love with Isabel Lucero's writing when she wrote my favorite erotic indulgence- escort books. This book is definitely more sexually tame on more on the emotional side but it's still a great Contemporary Romance!

**Phoenix Nightengale** lived her worst nightmare on her wedding anniversary. A day that was supposed to be filled with romantic celebration turned to utter despair with the tragic murder of her police officer husband, Gordon. It's now been a year and she still stumbles through life barely coping with the pain of losing her best friend. Nobody in her small town seems to understand her public meltdowns in hearing her wedding song in the grocery store...or frequent trips to the liquor store. Nobody understands loss I guess...until **Evan Winters** moved into her quiet little neighborhood. There was no pity in his eyes, just patient understanding.

I cannot imagine a more perfect specimen of man for a grieving widow than Evan. From day one, he looked past Phoenix's profound sorrow and found a woman desperately needing to be saved. Saved from the ghosts that prevent her from moving on...her guilt in attempting to be happy...her demons making her take comfort from the bottle (vodka).

**Resurrecting Phoenix** is a slightly (but could be more) angst tale of second chances at love. Had we had more time with Phoenix and Gordon, I think the emotional factor of the book would've been a bit more heart-wrenching. But the focus is more on the *recovery* after Gordon's death and Evan's **part** in that recovery.

Evan too has felt the pain of loss but seemed to heal most from helping the one person who needed healing even more than him. He was perfection. Understanding, non-judgmental in her indulging coping strategies, and just an all-around great guy. She needed that. I was AMAZED at the nastiness of the townspeople and her parents. You'd think she would receive an outpouring of support but she surely did not.

Since meeting Evan, Phoenix strives to fight the feelings she finds growing in her heart until she receives *the letter*. The letter from her late husband with strict instructions to wait a year after his death to read it... Can she rise up from the ashes and try again? And what would Gordon say about the life she's chosen the past year without him? Pity? Anger? Understanding?

Although the plotline seems quite heavy and angst, I found much more hope than pain in this journey with Phoenix and Evan. Their chemistry is palpable and when they finally stop fighting it- Phoenix fighting her guilt, and Evan wanting her to be ready- their connection was scorching. Isabel Lucero takes us on a journey of loss, grief, despair yet builds us back layer by layer with hope, love and healing for a beautiful happily ever after. An all around enjoyable standalone read.

*Advanced copy received by author in exchange for my honest review.*

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### **Kizzy says**

I've been trying to put into words the feelings I have about this book. This is by far Isabel's best work yet. Don't get me wrong, I loved all of her books, especially the Escort series, but with Resurrecting Phoenix, I was blown away. This is a book that's a must read!

From the Prologue, I was hooked from the first page. We are introduced to Phoenix and what happens in those first few pages is heartbreak. How do you move on after such tragedy? Can you move on with your life when you feel there's nothing left? As we see Phoenix spiraling out of control, enter Evan.

Evan comes into Phoenix's life (new to the neighborhood) at a time where she needs him...or better yet, they need each other. He is dealing with some issues as well and as you get to know him and the little simple things that he does, you will love everything about him. Their journey as friends was beautiful to watch. It makes you realize that sometimes people are brought into your life for a reason. He was the person to help her feel again. I just loved them! <3

Not giving anything away, but I experienced so many emotions reading this story. It's beautifully written and it goes to show you it's ok to love again. You may hit an all time low, but there will be someone there to help pick you up. If you are looking for a beautiful story about hope and finding love again you will love this book! Isabel is and will always be a favorite of mine.

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## **Amy says**

Resurrecting Phoenix

Isabel Lucero

5 stars

Holy wow .... You talk about a punch to the gut story that is so realistic. Resurrecting Phoenix is an incredible and emotional story of a woman who lost in the most horrific way you can imagine. Not only did she lose but her world collapsed on her anniversary.

Phoenix should be celebrating her fourth anniversary except she is drowning ... she is numbing the pain of what should be a beautiful day ... instead she is trying to drink the pain away of the first anniversary of her husbands murder. From tragedy Phoenix sinks deeper into a darkness filled with poisoning herself nightly with alcohol. She talks to no one except Carol. Max watches out for her but her parents; they moved away after her "embarrassing public melt downs that affect their social status." Phoenix has been brutal to her best friend Marissa. She still has her husband. Anthony was supposed to protect Gordon. He lived; her husband didn't.

Evan moves into town and is mysterious. He doesn't pressure Phoenix. Its almost like he is an angel sent from Gordon. This character is something else. Evan wants to be friends with Phoenix. He sees her pain but doesn't push, he shows her she can enjoy again even if it's the little things. The determination and the care all wrapped up in this man is just wow.

Lucero has created remarkable and unparalleled characters. They are REAL. I love that. These are not perfect people; you can feel their pain, their joy and we know as readers that connection is something we stand up and cheer for. Emotions are RAW in this story. The story flows easily yet painfully. Survival .... EXCELLENT READ! Grab this up friends. You will not regret it.

Review to post on Ramblings From Beneath The Sheets on release day. I received an ARC for an honest review. Thank you Isabel Lucero!

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## **Lindsey King says**

Oh my goodness!!! Isabel knocked it outta the park with this one. This definitely a must read book of the year in my opinion. I was gifted an ARC for an honest review so I will just be really really honest..... Read this book ASAP!

Phoenix is such an awesome woman. She's lost so much in life and is literally at rock bottom. The grief you feel for her will tear your heart out. I did cry a little bit. But that's just fine cause this book was worth every

single tear! She is seriously a strong woman and picked herself up with dignity and grace.

Evan is such a little cutie! He is new in town and has no family with him at all. It's like his heart just reaches out and tries to fix everything. Every woman needs an Evan in her life! So strong, dependable, loving, and has the patience of a saint. Heck, I think he is a saint!

As always Isabel is amazing. This story is written beautifully and you will get every single emotion and then some. I was hooked from the beginning and couldn't stop until I finished the last sentence. Enjoy this read people! Savor it! You will NOT regret it at all. Thank you Isabel for writing amazing books. I will read anything you write!

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### **Mandie Foxylutely says**

*\*ARC provided by the author in exchange for an honest review*

This book was one of those little gems that come along once in a while that draw you in completely. For me it is one of the most outstanding reads of this year. It was different to what I was expecting but absolutely pleasantly so.

Phoenix Nightingale has been through hell, the most impossible time that few could bare but surprisingly she has survived but not without losing part of who she used to be. The person she is now is somebody she would never have envisioned she could ever be. Three years ago she lost her husband. On their third anniversary. They were so happy with their bright future clearly laid out for them to see until one horrific night he was taken so violently from her. But she has survived even though she has lost her friends and family she has found her coping mechanism at the bottom of the vodka bottle, so yes she is surviving but barely so. Then Evan Tyler comes to live in her town, on her street. Her new neighbour sees her struggling and recognising some of the pain she is in, he attempts to break down the brick wall she has so cleverly erected around herself.

This was a beautifully written story of loss, betrayal and such desolate despair. The journey that Phoenix goes through starts off so hauntingly sad that you instantly feel for this beautiful young woman. I loved how the despair gradually turns to recognition of her loss, her attempt to claw her way back and finally hope for the future. But all this is down to Evan being there for her, constantly drawing her out of her emotional prison. The way that the story evolves to one of romance was so cleverly interwoven that the flow was so natural to become invested in.

Evan was like a breath of fresh air, so devilishly handsome with his washboard abs and his captivating smile and easy manner, he was so easy to fall for. Everybody should have an Evan. He was funny too, had me cracking up with some of his subtle smutty one liners. The way he eventually got Phoenix to smile again and then finally to laugh along with him was perfect.

So although this story starts off with a heart wrenching prologue this evolves into one of the most romantic love stories I have read. This was more of an emotional love story than an erotic one but don't get me wrong there were still some passionate times between the sheets or on the couch. Evan knew how to turn a woman on!

What I also liked was how Evan was so supportive and understanding about Phoenix feelings towards

Gordon, her late husband. He didn't let Gordon become a subject to be avoided, he actively encouraged Phoenix to remember her love for him. Yes she could love again and once she let that guilt go she was relieved of the burden she was unnecessarily carrying.

If you have gone through loss then this story will resonate with you. The journey of that loss and grief and how this transcends into acceptance and moving on to a new path in life. A really beautiful read with a wonderfully happy ever after. Five stars.

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### **Three Chicks says**

Review by Lisa Kane

**Phoenix birds represent resurrection. Rising from the ashes, bouncing back from adversity, life after death.**

Phoenix Nightingale is a shattered mess. Her husband Gordon, was killed while working his shift as a cop. On their anniversary. It's a year later and she fills her day with vodka. And tears. And memories. She can not seem to be able to pull herself together. She has alienated most of her friends. She's lost her job as a teacher. Her parents moved out of town and were less than supportive. They are more than a little obsessed with their image as successful realtors and Phoenix suffered one too many public breakdowns for them to show anything but contempt. But at least they paid off her house before leaving or she would probably be out in the street. Now she works part time at a dead end job at a travel agency. There is little or no contact with other people and the dead drags. But she keeps a flask of vodka next to her desk for those times the memories become too much.

**I don't hang out outside and chat with the neighbors. I don't attend BBQ's or parties. I stay home and watch others as life passes me by.**

But Phoenix is about to have her life shaken up. There is a new neighbor, Evan Tyler who has just moved in down the street. He's friendly, gorgeous and seems to like to stop by and talk with her. She can't imagine why. but he engages her in small ways; can she help give him advice on how to decorate his house? How about coming over for dinner? Want to help me pick out curtains? Small steps, but mighty big ones for someone who rarely leaves her house. But she still resists him...

"I'll help you." His voice is low and soft.

"Why?" I scoff. "What can you do?" I know I sound bitter.

"I like helping people" he answers. " I can just be here for you, so you're not alone. I'll listen to you rant and vent, or we can do stuff to help take your mind off of ...things."

But Phoenix doesn't want to lose Gordon or her memories, so she is trapped somewhere between the land of the living and the land of the lost. Drinking is her salvation, her means to forget.

**"You're still alive, Phoenix. Even if you don't want to be, you are, and you have to live."**

It's amazing how little things can lead to big changes. Going out for a walk in the park, going to the mall and buying a new dress, sharing a meal with a new friend. Slowly these things all have a domino effect and

Phoenix drinks less and laughs more. She isn't any less in love with Gordon as she is starting to become her old self. The one who was confidant and loved life and laughed at so many things. And Evan-he is the reason for these changes. He's told her about his sister, and how he has moved from California to be here. She knows he is taking classes but hasn't really asked him what he is studying or why he moved from California.

But all this good must come with some bad right? When those questions are answered Phoenix is knocked to the ground. Shattered. How can they ever work through these things?

But just as the Phoenix rises from the ashes, this woman has overcome so much. Can she move past these things and make a new life with Evan?

**Love will find you again, and it will be a great love, because love that finds you and isn't sought after, is true love.**

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### **Jackie Wright says**

#### **5 Star Review**

I was given this book for a honest review.

I'm ashamed to say this is my first Isabel Lucero book but what a book to be my first .....

I was hooked from page one.

Phoenix is a woman who has lost so much and has sunk as far as she can "Rock Bottom". She is dealing with grief, anger, guilt and addiction but she is strong and when she realizes there can be life after death she proves just how strong she can be.

Evan is everybody's ideal man he is cute, caring, supportive and always there when you need him. Will Phoenix let him help her and what way will she jump when she finds out what he does for a living..

I did cry just a bit throughout this book but it was well worth every tear I shed.

Isabel has written an amazing love story that shows that "Life Does Go On" if we let it and memories don't have to be sad memories we can remember and laugh.

I will definitely be looking at more books from Isabel Lucero

Reviewed for MI Bookshelf

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### **1-Click Addict Support Group says**

I don't think there could have been a more perfect title for this book!

**"It's just interesting that both your names are a kind of bird. While your last name says you're sad and longing for something, your first name says you'll bounce back and rise again."**

Phoenix Nightingale lost her husband. She is grieving and having a hard time dealing with life in general. She is angry, sad, and alone. Drinking is what helps her get through the day. She has abandoned her friends, family, and job.

Evan is new in town. He has his own secrets, but he realizes how much Phoenix needs a friend and he is the one who begins her resurrection, by bringing her back to life—back to the Phoenix she was before.

**“You say things that make me feel so good, like I’m bringing so much positivity into your life, but you have to know that I feel the same way about you. You brought meaning into my life again.”**

This story was such a sweet, emotional journey. It showed how to move on, live life, and be happy even when something tragic happens. I really enjoyed how it showed the darkness, the sadness, the guilt, and the anguish as well as the joy, love, and happiness. This story showed that it will not ever be easy, but it is okay to move on. Evan couldn't have been more perfect for Phoenix.

I have been a huge fan on Ms. Lucero's since the *Escort* series. Her ability to cross genres and keep my interest all things she writes is amazing. She is so talented and I look forward to many more books by her. ~  
Tiffany, 4 stars

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### **Luisa Rivas says**

The author very kindly sent me an eArc in exchange for an honest review. This was a straightforward book about a woman who suffers a horrific loss. She lost her husband on their third anniversary date. Furthermore, he was a cop and died while on duty, doing what should have been a normal house call due to a noise complaint. So now for the rest of her life, she will remember her anniversary date and calculate how many years her husband has been dead versus how many years she could have been married. With such a significant loss, she lost her marbles, she had several public displays of grief and her life went to the gutter. At the beginning of the book, I didn't like the main character, Phoenix. I thought she was a lush. I imagined that if she got so bad from the loss of her husband, she wasn't equipped to deal with life's many trials. But the author was brilliant and made Phoenix rise from the ashes and make a spectacular come back. Seems all she needed was a non-judgemental person to accept her and bring her out of the grief bubble she was living in. Evan Tyler moved several houses down the street from her. He met her in a bar where she was drinking, then later at her house. He asked for help in decorating his house, which she reluctantly accepted to give. Thus starts her road to recovery and to love. I was impressed by Phoenix, her acceptance of her problems, her clarity at self appraisal, and how she sought forgiveness from her husband's partner and wife. Her parents weren't supportive when she needed them, and there was a phone call scene where she very elegantly and lovingly called them up on their lack, very effective. A psychiatrist would say that her actions were very therapeutic; I would say they came from a person who has a great sense of justice and honour.

Ethan was a sweetheart, no other word can describe him. He was very accepting, a great sport, but he was also a little pushy, which Phoenix needed. A push with a gentle hand. This was a very therapeutic book, about the correct way to handle loss once you overcome the bottomless grief and are ready to deal with the aftermath. It was very enjoyable, even though there were many sad moments. I totally recommend!

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