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## Fifty shades of darker book review

© 1996-2014, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates Not a lot of time has passed since the first instalment of Ana's adventures with the man she calls Fifty Shades. Perhaps unusually for a follow up it's not months or years later, in fact just a few days have gone by. Lots of things have changed, though. Successful businessman Christian is still our tortured hero and Ana, now in her first proper job, remains our befuddled heroine but they're not Christian-and-Ana any more having parted ways at the end of book one. At the same time, a lot has stayed the same. They're not having quite as much dirty sex as they were but the tensions are still there. He's still incapable of letting her get on with things without interfering (you've got to love a guy who buys the company you work at, just to keep an eye on things). And he still has, let's say, particular preferences when it comes to his bedroom antics. So, it seems, does Ana. With what were increasingly becoming her regular nocturnal activities now off limits, she's started craving them. Craving things she didn't know were possible a month or so ago. Craving things she's aware nice girls wouldn't... unless it's all one big unspoken secret in the sisterhood. Craving things that, let's be honest, a massive number of readers probably quite fancy themselves after the literary foreplay that was book 1. With a title like this, you might be expecting this second book to be a, well, darker version of the first one and in some ways it is. But for a series that started with a book already quite dark, some readers may feel reassured by the knowledge that it's not much 'worse' than the first one. It's perhaps deeper emotionally, but the physical stuff is really just more of the same plus or minus a few butt plugs, anal beads and nipple clamps. The sex doesn't seem quite so outrageous this time around, either because Ana seems to be a more willing participant by this point, or simply because overexposure has limited the shock factor. It's still seriously hot and steamy and the sort you might not want to get stuck into in a public place where people can look over your shoulder, but for such a dark book, it's also unbelievably adorable. Christian is like an excitable puppy that you just want to hug (outside the lipstick line of course). If ever there were a couple to root for, this would be it. I'd be quite willing to take care of Mrs Robinson and Jose and Ethan and Leila myself if it meant I could live happily ever after with Christian and Ana. This is book 2 in a trilogy and the first chapter reads more like a follow on than the start of a whole new story. In fact in some ways the whole thing is like the next 22 chapters in the story rather than a book in its own right. If you've not read its predecessor (and by this point, how has anyone not?) then you might miss a few subtleties in Fifty Shades Darker but it's not entirely unreadable as a stand alone. Good on its own, better in a pair (or with the 3rd part, in a threesome perhaps). Just like Christian and Ana. As with the first, I was glad when it came to the end that I knew there was more to come - the cliffhanger in this second book is more pronounced so it's about the continuation of the story as well as the chance to spend a bit more time with the characters. I read the blurb on the back in such a way that it didn't really marry up with the story that unfolded before me, and in a way I kept waiting for it to arrive without realizing that it was already around me. My recommendation therefore would be to ignore the publisher's attempt at summarizing the story and just get stuck in instead, and it's something I'll be keeping in mind for book 3. I loved this book because I'm hooked on Christian and Ana, but for critique's sake, I'd say I loved it a smidgeon less than the original. This is the sort of book where you think more time has passed than really has - it's only the repeated references to 'little foil packets' that remind you a lot of this happens in the same 7 days while waiting for her Depo to kick in. And while I appreciate the need to practice safe sex I can understand why a lot of erotic fiction skims over it, because condoms interrupt the story just as much as they would a bit of real life rumpy pump. Would it really have made that much difference to the story if she'd just continued taking her Pill like a good girl? All it did for me was make me wonder (a) if he had shares in Durex, because if so he'd be keeping them afloat single handedly, pardon the pun and (b) what he did with them afterwards when they were somewhere like, oh, a lift, where disposal would surely not be as easy. That's not the sort of thing you should be thinking in a book like this, but it's what came to mind because of the references again and again to the 'telltale rip of foil' that quickly got old. I'm really hoping that book 3 takes place over a period of less than 3 months so the now administered Depo lasts and we don't need to go through all this again. While the story moved on, some of the scenarios seemed to repeat themselves too frequently: the fights, the misunderstandings, his fear that she would leave, her reassurances that she wouldn't. I was surprised she didn't feel more suffocated by him, because though she expressed her irritation at times, she almost always backed down and agreed to his requests on everything from who was going to drive to whether or not she'd leave the office for lunch. Equally, Ana goes out of her way to provoke him at times. She begs for permission for things she knows he won't be happy with, when any normal person would just do without asking and perhaps suffer the consequences later. It's almost like she's angling for an argument, winding him up as if she wants a punishment, which would be right up Christian's sexual street after all. The detail entered into was minute and while I didn't feel it at the time, on reflection it did seem to drag things out a bit when there were other issues that could have made for a more interesting discussion. There's no doubt in my mind that this is a worthy follow up to Fifty Shades Of Grey. They compliment each other well, with this one having more plot development outside the bedroom/playroom/boathouse while maintaining the sexual tension that built up in the first book. So just as hot but with more of a plot - what's not to love? Thanks go to the publishers for supplying this book and putting way too many ideas in my head for my next date. We also have a review of the final part of the trilogy. Christian may be rich, but Ana's far from a hooker. Callgirl by Jenny Angell features one, though, for comparison while My Horizontal Life by Chelsea Handler is officially autobiographical which may make you like its kinkiness more or less than a piece of great fiction. Please share on: Facebook, Twitter and Instagram You can read more book reviews or buy Fifty Shades Darker by EL James at Amazon.co.uk Amazon currently charges £2.99 for standard delivery for orders under £20, over which delivery is free. You can read more book reviews or buy Fifty Shades Darker by EL James at Amazon.com. Like to comment on this review? Just send us an email and we'll put the best up on the site. Round two - here be spoilers.I personally found Fifty Shades Darker a lot harder to get through. I read the first one in two days because it was so, so very bad, but it was also incredibly cheesy, boring, and uneventful. If I had to choose between Fifty Shades and My Immortal, I'd pick the second one, over and over again.The story begins three days after they've broken up. Ana, of course, is completely gutted, because she loves Christian. How could she not - they've been together for a whole three weeks. She doesn't eat for days. "[I am a] ravaged, war-torn land where nothing grows and the horizons are bleak." It's not like she actually has to go without him because, even though she told him to stay away, he still sends her flowers and e-mails and asks to see her. Then again, we know that he's never known the meaning of 'no'. After a week of endless agony, the two lovers meet up again. Christian's first words are so perfectly characteristic: "When did you last eat?" He also scowls when she waves at her boss, and makes it perfectly clear that "everything she does is his concern". He then blatantly ignores her protests and pulls her on his lap while they're in a moving car. He also calls her "baby" and makes remarks such as "I like seeing you in this harness", all while they're still broken up.Welcome back, ladies and gentlemen.We are immediately bombarded with an abundant amount of "Oh my", "Holy cow", and Icarus comparisons. This time around, we get them on several levels, like "oh fucking my" and "holy fucking cow". You know, because variety is the spice of life.We are also treated to another unhealthy dose of Christian's jealousy: "You've spoken to José - the man who, the last time I met him, was trying to push his tongue into your reluctant mouth while you were drunk and ill." Oh, you mean that time you kidnapped her, took off her clothes, and slept in the same bed as her? Yes, I remember.And another dose of his controlling: "Please, can we stay longer?" "No. Go. Now. Say good-bye." And a little more, in case you haven't had enough: "So help me God, Anastasia, if you don't eat, I will take you across my knee here in this restaurant, and it will have nothing to do with my sexual gratification. Eat!" It pisses me off that Christian still think he has the right to act like a massive asshat. He gets violently angry whenever Ana so much as talks to another man. So when she actually hugs another guy, he feels the need to stalk up to them in a predatory way, claim his territory, and then get all possessive. "You. Are. Mine." Remember, they're technically still broken up, but he's never been a boundaries kind of guy, has he? And Ana laps it up like the lap dog she is. It is sickening that this behaviour is viewed as romantic by millions of women. There is nothing romantic about an aggressive douche-cane who might as well piss on you to claim you as his. So after he decides how long they're staying at José's photo show, he also decides that they're going to a restaurant, which restaurant they're going to, and exactly what they're going to eat. When Ana protests, he tells her to stop acting like a child. Instead of rambling on forever, here's another list of reasons why Christian Grey needs to be raped by a cactus.\* His controlling behaviour is so disconcerting. He buys the company Ana works for, just because he can.\* He still doesn't give a damn about what Ana thinks. "If I leave and find another job, will you buy that company, too?" "You're not thinking of leaving, are you?" "Possibly. I'm not sure you've given me a great deal of choice." "Yes, I will buy that company, too."\* "Hmm, well, this is one way to ensure you eat - force-feed you. I could get used to this."\* From the moment they're back together, he buys her a car again.\* When she refuses the car, he deposits 24,000 dollars into her back account. "How do you know my bank account number?" "I know everything about you, Anastasia." Do I need to remind anyone that they've known each other for a month? \* "You are coming back to my apartment if I have to drag you there by your hair." Wow. Just wow.\* When she still refuses to come back to his apartment, he picks her up and throws her over his shoulder, like a fucking child.\* He's so clingy this time around. Because she had the brain to leave him once before, he's constantly begging her not to leave him again. Ever. As if I needed another reason to find him repugnant.\* He has a fucking manila folder with all her information. He has her middle name, her birth certificate, her social security number, her employment records, yadda, yadda, NUTJOB.\* "It's true that you are the only fucked-up, mercurial, control freak that I know."\* How long will he want to do this without wanting to beat the crap out of me because I cross some arbitrary line? Luckily, his sister Mia warns Ana: "I hope Christian wins you, though... We don't want a brawl." "Brawl?" I answer horrified, "Oh yes. He was younger." \* He pays to have a doctor "come sort her out", contraception-wise. Without her permission. "It's my body," I mutter, annoyed that he hasn't asked me, "It's mine, too," he whispers. No. No. No, it's really not.\* "My natural inclination is to beat it out of you." \* "Don't be friendly with the staff or flirt with them. I don't like it." Don't be such a douche. I don't like it. You've got so many people working for you, you balldag, you'd think a little appreciation here and there wouldn't go amiss.\* Christian tells her that she can't go to work. "Do you think I am going to stay here twiddling my thumbs while you're off being Master of the Universe?" "Frankly... yes."\* When she does eventually go to work (albeit with a bodyguard), she mentions that she's going on a business meeting to New York with an overnight flight. They argue over e-mail, because of course Christian tells her she can't go. Then, when she books the flight anyway, he makes it so that all trips have to be approved by the senior board first. You remember when Christian bought her company, so he could be even more of a controlling fuckside than he already is. The trip to New York is off. "Please don't be mad at me. I have your best interests at heart."\* Then, when she goes out to get lunch for her boss, he calls her up and yells at her for going out when he told her not to, even if it was just 15 minutes. He's got people watching her when he can't watch her himself. It's fucking sick.\* He asks her to move in with her after five weeks. Probably so the jackass has full control over everything she does.\* He asks her to marry him after six. And suggests they have kids. \* "This is my revenge, Ana. Argue with me and I am going to take it out on your body somehow."\* "Why, Miss Steele, I believe you're making my palm twitch." Because God forbid a woman actually makes decisions on her own. If you want someone to cater to your every whim, get a fucking blow-up doll.\* "I'm a sadist, Ana. I like to whip little brown-haired girls like you because you all look like the crack whore - my birth mother." Ladies and gentlemen, our pièce de résistance. Our cherry on top. I knew about this, but it's still disgusting.\* When he dumps that bucket of shit on her head and tells her that he gave his ex-sub a bath that morning, she gets all emotional and yells at him to leave her alone. Naturally, he doesn't.\* That night, he tries to have sex with her. She says, "Christian... Stop. I can't do this." Naturally, he doesn't stop. It doesn't end up with rape, because of course she cannot resist him. Lucky him.\* He has to hear from her every goddamn hour or he becomes worried.\* Ana nearly gets raped at work, and instead of being a supportive boyfriend, Christian yells at her and calls her stupid for not using her Blackberry to e-mail him.It's not like Anastasia is any better, either. That woman is dumb as dirt. Every time she has the brain to get mad at him for his outrageous behaviour, he just shushes her with sex. And she lets him, because she loves him, and because she's just as sexed up as he is. You bloody daft cow. After everything they've been through, all the threats, all the mood swings, she still calls him "the most compassionate man she knows". I am getting sick and tired of her not knowing how good-looking she is, as well as how special she is. She's got five men wanting her. And then there's this charity auction where they auction off first dances with the women, and the first three get four to five thousand, and of course Ana is auctioned off for one hundred thousand dollars. Give me a fucking break.And still she tries to portray how clever she is, and her Icarus references, and her Fifty Shades puns. Yet she knows how fucked up Christian is (Oh, Christian, what do I have to do to make you realize how I feel? Let him beat you, my subconscious sneers at me), yet she stays with him. The inner goddess chroniclesMy inner goddess is doing a triple axel dismount off the uneven bars. I hope you fall.My inner goddess does three back flips over the gym floor.My inner goddess grabs a rose between her teeth and starts to tango.My inner goddess is draped in a pink feather boa and diamonds, strutting her stuff in fuck-me shoes. There is absolutely zero plot in this book. Christian and Ana get back together, have sex, go to a charity auction, have sex, there's an ex-sub with a gun on the loose, have sex, take a boat ride, have sex, have sex on the piano, have sex, argue about whether Ana can or cannot go to work, have sex, at least three scenes where they just have breakfast together, have sex, force a proposal on her, have sex. And when she is away from him and goes to work, she e-mails him constantly. And this goes on and on for over 500 pages. It's enough to drive anyone mental, especially with the horrid writing. Everything is so repetitive and all the characters use the same words and the same expressions.The reason they broke up at the end of the last book is because Christian gave Ana the beating of a lifetime and she discovered that BDSM wasn't her thing. So when they get back together, they decide to do the vanilla sex. They have vanilla sex for three quarters of the book. They have sex every morning and every night, making every scene the same as the last, turning the book into one big two-person orgy with scenes that all sound the same, and, frankly, quite boring. I often sighed and went, "Again?" Ana finally has what she wants; Christian who knows how to behave himself a bit. Only when he mentions that he doesn't feel the need to go all BDSM on her ass, she is disappointed. MAKE UP YOUR MIND, WOMAN.Ana's best friend, Kate, is conveniently on vacation with Christian's brother, which removes the only person to actually have common sense when it comes to Christian.The subplot with the volatile ex-sub is highly anticlimactic (I thought we hadn't reached Breaking Dawn yet?) and, frankly, she disappointed me by not shooting Ana or Christian.We have several scenes of them confessing their eternal love for one another, usually with Ana crying, and it's just too much to bear. This book should've been called Fifty Cheeses Darker.There's also the fact that Ana is dating Christian, Kate is dating Christian's brother Elliot, and Kate's brother Ethan and Christian's sister Mia are on the verge of dating. This has the potential of turning into one big incestuous gangbang.This book is so messed up. They keep throwing accusations at one another and become irrationally jealous because they're both so afraid that the other will leave. How about some goddamn trust in the one you want to marry? You know, even if you've only known them for about three minutes. Don't even get me started on the proposal after six weeks. They don't know anything about each other. They've already vowed their eternal love for one another, but they don't know how the other prefers their coffee or tea in the morning. That is because, up until then, all they preferred in the morning was sex.I am beyond done with this book. This has no redeeming qualities. It just sucks.Christian and Ana, this one's for you. ....more





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