



Out of Hiding

Mia Kerick

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After graduating from high school early, twenty-year-old Philippe Bergeron spent the past several years lost among the stars while fishing off the New England coast. A shoulder injury ends his dream of living reclusively on the water, and he finds himself lost among the bright lights of New York City. His older brother, Henri, has asked Philippe to chaperone his seventeen-year-old niece, Sophie, on her tours of the city's legendary dance programs.

Sophie meets with professional dancer and choreographer, Dario Pereira, to prepare a routine for her college auditions. Dario's cool perfection and immaculate style contrast with Philippe's awkward scruffiness, but it wakes desires Philippe thought he'd left behind. When the attraction is surprisingly returned, Dario's confidence won't let Philippe remain invisible. Unsure but curious, Philippe relaxes his rule of isolation, and as the summer progresses, his relationship with Dario leads him to a surprising discovery of his submissive sexual tendencies and a greater sense of self-awareness.

Tragedy threatens to destroy the connections Philippe has made and forces him to retreat into the shadows of his past, far from the radiance of Dario's love. Ultimately, he must decide if it is time to stop hiding and set himself free.

Out of Hiding Details

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From Reader Review Out of Hiding for online ebook

~☆~Dāni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

3.5 ***It's not you; it's me*** stars

Beautifully written and evocative with fully realized characters, *Out of Hiding* is a lovely book.

Philippe, chaperoning his niece Sophie in NYC for the summer, after running away and hiding on fishing boats so he wouldn't have to deal with the pain of his mother's death, finds himself falling for Sophie's private dance tutor, Dario, a poised and self-possessed but lonely young man trying to make it in the competitive dance world.

Because the book is narrated from Philippe's first-person POV, we see only glimpses of how others view Philippe. We realize that he is gentle, unpretentious, and kind, but also lost and scared. His insecurity and fear (of loving, of losing) consume him.

Dario is wonderful. He's not afraid to show Philippe that he cares for him. He takes charge and pushes Philippe to open up to him. He seems much older than his age, because he's been through so much, but he's not afraid to love and risk.

The secondary characters, including 17-year-old Sophie who badly wants to study dance; her dad and Philippe's older brother Henri (who's dealt with loss of his own); young Tommy, whom Philippe meets at the pool, and his mom Lauren (who becomes friends with Philippe), all feel genuine. The dialogue works. The writing flows. There were just a couple minor typos. Overall, this was a stellar effort.

So why the average rating?

This book just didn't fully click with ME. It read very, very young and overly innocent, very YA/NA. The MCs are 20 and 21; Sophie is 17. There was sex, yes, but very, very muted. There's nothing wrong with that; it just didn't jive for me.

The "running away from pain, scared to love" theme has been done over and over. It was done well here, but it was still much of the same.

Plus, while the cover is hot, it looks nothing like Philippe is described: a little unkempt with a shaggy, long beard and longish brown hair, lean from working on boats but not cut.

Incidentally, I wanted Phil to shave off that damn beard and cut his hair; what a symbolic way of literally slopping off old fears and metaphorically coming out of hiding. The beard was mentioned so often, I was sure it was going to happen, but, nope, there he is in the epilogue, beard going strong.

If you want a sweet, hopeful first-love story, you'll love this one. If you want more steam, a little angst, some push-pull tension, or an action-driven plot, you might be a little disappointed.

Elizabetta says

3.5 stars

It's clear from the get-go that Philippe Bergeron is hiding from something. He tells us so right at the beginning of the story. His long hair and full beard don't seem to go with his character, he's not really a bearish kind of guy. In fact, he is a quiet introvert bordering on painfully shy. Which doesn't mean that bearish men can't be introverts, but Philippe is using it as a cover.

And just what he's hiding from becomes the focal point in his story.

It's all about a young man used to protecting himself from deep hurt and fear learned at a very young age. He hides by covering his emotions and removing himself from any connection. He went as far as to remove himself to a lonely life on the sea with only the stars for company.

Things change for Philippe when, recuperating from an on-job injury, he agrees to chaperone his young niece, Sophie, for a summer in Manhattan. They are there to check out college conservatory programs for Sophie who is an aspiring dancer.

When Philippe meets Dario, a dancer and teacher hired to get Sophie in shape for the rigorous school auditions, we begin to see the layers peel off of him.

The story is very much from Philippe's (first person) POV so Dario remains a bit of an enigma himself. We know he's beautiful, a gorgeous dancer and seemingly supremely self confident. But we find out that Dario is more than he seems on surface. He's also a keen observer and he recognizes something in Philippe -- despite all the shy hiding away -- that ignites them both. And we get to see Philippe through Dario's eyes.

That this story takes place with New York City as the backdrop makes it all the more interesting. It's certainly a place you can hide in plain sight while surrounded by millions of people. And that has a certain appeal for Philippe. I love this dichotomy in him -- the loner who can feel comfort in the big city, even as I puzzle over it. For such a young guy (he and Dario are only twenty and twenty-one) he has built up a mass of complexity.

Seventeen year old Sophie, is really more like a sister to him, and despite her own issues, much more steady. She's fiercely determined in her art and we see that she's also protective of Philippe as they become closer during the summer. She's a great character that makes the glue in the story without hindering the unfolding romance.

The story starts off strong, I'm really pulled to Philippe and how he has quickly gotten to this very lonely place. And I like Dario, a tough, street-wise, no-nonsense guy who, despite his great youth, is already looking for an anchor. I'd really like more of his backstory -- what made him who he is. He seems to fall pretty hard and fast for Philippe but it is in keeping with his character as someone who goes after what he wants.

But things veer off about three-quarters of the way in when Philippe reacts to an event that sends him into a tail-spin. At this point, for me, the story takes a more melodramatic and slightly disappointing turn. There always has to be some big conflict before the end -- a confirming of lessons to be learned -- but this one seems a bit manufactured. Philippe's reaction is in keeping with his very young age... but it also reminds me how very young these guys are and it all doesn't quite jibe.

This is, at heart, a very romantic love story. It falls into fantasy-land, really, in that it wraps up very (a bit too?) neatly. The language is just different enough to make it intriguing and... charming in it's own way. I have to admit the cover drew me in, but it is misleading; while I can believe that Philippe is just as hot as the guy depicted there, this is about so much more than beefcake, and this is just not the Philippe I read in the

story. It's a gradually unfolding, sweet romance with a very shy, troubled guy at its center. The star rating system fails me here. My 3.5 rating means that there are enough issues to keep it from a solid 4, but this is really more than an average read.

For this review and much more:

Mare SLiTsRead Reviews says

I love me a good tortured man. Seriously.

This book started out like a slow dance. A sonnet. It was written as poetry. Seriously. Mia Kerick wrote poetry.

"People and places, they come and go in your life like the wind through the laundry hanging on a line. Right now they are here...but soon enough all is still. You find yourself alone... and not by your choice."

I loved Philippe. I loved his vulnerability, his fears, the way he hid. I loved every single solitary random thought that he had in his head. I loved him. I loved how insignificant he thought he was, he was anything BUT insignificant. Philippe had a wealth of love stored up in him that he was so SCARED to let come out. I sympathized with him, I rooted for him from beginning to end. I waited patiently for him to figure it out. I let out a breath of relief when self discovery was made. He's so sad and broken really. It always takes that special someone to help mold us again. For Phil it was a series of wonderful people that helped him, but it was his love for Dario that made him view things differently. Dario was an enigma to me. I wish we had something more from his POV. I had more questions than answers when it came to Dario. My only problem with this wonderful read was that I wished I felt more of a connection between P & D.

The supporting characters. I loved. The story flowed as a well played out play. I had butterflies between 49% and 70% cause I knew that the "other shoe" was going to drop. I knew it was. Was I scared? Yes for 5 long seconds. I was. But I felt that the events that unfolded need to happen for my Philippe. He needed to learn that:

'Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.

Alfred Lord Tennyson

This book was more than just a romance. It was about self discovery, finding yourself, learning about your family. Strengths and weaknesses and asking for help and communication go a long way to having you "come out of hiding"

Broken people just need that special someone to put them back together again. Not the same, no you'll never be the same. But you will come out of it as a new person.

"That night, Dario made love to me over and over again. At first, his loving did nothing short of own me-

there was no other way to describe how he took my body as what was rightfully his. As the night wore on, he used his lovemaking like a tool to take me apart, piece-by-piece. Without any mercy, Dario dragged my heart from where it cowered in my chest, and then tore my soul from its hiding place, deep inside my heart. When he did those things, he changed me; he changed who I was... what I was made of. And when he fit my pieces back together again, I was a different man."

^^^ see poetry ^^^

4 stars

Mare-Slitsread

Christy says

"Feeling as minute as one single star in an infinite night sky had helped me feel lost, the thing I'd always wanted most. Being lost....I smiled as I delighted in the sound of those two sweet words. Being lost, completely buried in the chaos of life, had long been my truest goal. Because when I was 'lost' out there on the ocean, I'd fit in. And I'd fit in because I almost disappeared."

It has been a very long time since I connected so strongly, right off the bat, with a character written by an author who is totally new to me. 'Out of Hiding' is my very first Mia Kerick...I guess you could say I was a Mia Kerick virgin up until now. There was something about her writing, and about Philippe in particular, that just reached out and grabbed me in the most astonishingly visceral manner. I almost felt as if I'd been punched in the gut, and for someone who reads as much as I do, it was a very pleasurable change of pace.

Philippe is introverted, shy, vulnerable, scared, simple in his tastes, loyal, a free-spirited hippie, loving, smart, and completely adrift in his life with absolutely no idea who he is or what he wants. A shoulder injury has sidelined Philippe's job as a commercial fisherman, and it is that, along with love for his brother and his niece, Sophie, that has him chaperoning her around New York City for a summer. His brother cannot do it because of his business, so he is footing all the costs so that Sophie can get the most out of her summer of dance before applying to one of the dance schools. It is here that Philippe meets Dario, Sophie's private dance tutor, and Philippe is intrigued by the very focused and determined man. Philippe figures Dario thinks of him as a dirty hippie with no plans to go anywhere in his life, and as far as Philippe is concerned, he'd be right.

It's a surprise to Philippe when Dario indicates the attraction goes both ways. The summer progresses and much to Philippe's consternation, Dario understands him without words, and seems to accept the real Philippe. Dario doesn't let Philippe get away with not being 100 percent honest when it comes to his feelings and his thoughts. It's hard for Philippe to talk about these things because so much revolves around the death of his mother when he was in the fifth grade. Dario doesn't always let Philippe hide and he tries to bring Philippe out of his shell, a little at a time, while at the same time Dario is making a place inside the shell for himself.

*"It doesn't hurt to be invisible, Dario. But it hurts me to be stared at...and it hurts the most to be left alone, even if it is exactly what a certain part of me wants. So if you're **really** looking at me, as in, closely, and you don't like what you see, then I get both things I try so hard to avoid. I get exposed... and maybe deserted."*
"Maybe you should look at it this way, if you never take a risk by putting yourself out there, you'll keep on getting what you've always gotten. But if you do take a chance on something, or on someone-like me, for

example-that is when amazing things can happen."

Some people can fall in love easily, quickly, and they are lucky enough to have someone love them, too. They can go their entire lives without a single moment of drama or angst to test that love. I wouldn't call that lucky, myself. But, then again, in the words of Garth Brooks, "Life is not tried, it is merely survived if you're standing outside the fire". Dario and Philippe fell in love, not easily, and when the chips were down and they needed to lay their cards on the table, and the true test of their love occurred, and believe me when I say it was a huge test for Philippe, he stumbled a little. Philippe had to reassess himself and his life because he'd stayed away from people so nothing could ever hurt him as much as when his mother died when he was ten. So watching him face his fears and his emotions tore me up right alongside him.

And then, he risked it all and jumped straight into the fire.

I was overwhelmed when I finished this book. I have found a new author to follow as I hope her other works move me just as much. Even if their levels of emotion are less, I have fallen in love with her writing style and I will be reading more of it. I fell in love with both Dario and Philippe, and their journey into love. Almost as important, to me, the author wrote intensely strong secondary characters whom I grew to love just as much. So, for my very first Mia Kerick I can only say, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

NOTE: This book was provided by Dreamspinner Press for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

Sheri says

MNY....yup, this was probably a **Me Not You** connection or lack there of.
I had a really **really** hard time with *Out of Hiding*.
Mainly, everything felt off.

Both Phil and Dario felt off.

I had a hard time properly visualizing them in my head. At first we are unaware of Phil's age. I would have NEVER guessed he was only twenty years old. Not in a million years. I also pegged Dario as much older too.

Characters weren't clearly developed either. I counted at least three separate characters that said '*Yours truly*' in conversation. I don't know about you, but I don't say that. I don't know anyone that does say that. I find it hard to believe that Phil, Dario and Sophie all frequent that saying. It was as if the author's voice was TOO STRONG and bleed through into the characters.

The sex was off. I didn't care much for it. I didn't feel the dom/sub bedroom emotions were genuine. Some authors have a knack for BDSM and others don't. It didn't work for me. It felt contrived and forced.

The plot seemed off. I found it extremely unlikely that many of the scenes would have actually happened. I simply didn't buy it.

I liked the dancing. I liked the NYC setting. But I was eager to finish and not in the good *hurry up* way.

2.5 off-off-off stars

Karen says

I really loved this book at the beginning, but sadly the last 25 - 30% just didn't do it for me. Dario is a dancer hired by Sophie's father/Philippe's brother to coach her and choreograph her routine for her college admissions. Philippe has been convinced to spend the summer in New York with her since the demands of his brother's business doesn't allow for him to be away from his company for prolonged periods of time. This is how and why our MCs meet.

Philippe is damaged he's lost people he loves and cares about in his life. Starting with his mother when he was very young. His coping mechanism is to hide, but Dario sees Philippe and he likes what he sees. He's confident enough to pursue Philippe, he believes that they belong together. What I loved was how he did this. He wasn't pushy and forceful but kind, gentle and persistent. He showed Philippe friendship and love and patience. Watching their relationship develop was so incredibly sweet. I adored these two men together. Now add to this Sophie. Philippe's niece who happens to be closer to Philippe's age than her father is (there's a bit of an age difference between these two brothers). Sophie is cute, driven and has a bit of a snarky side that sneaks out whenever she's calling 'bullshit'. Then Philippe meets Lauren and her son, Tommy at the hotel pool and a friendship develops. Suddenly Philippe who doesn't want to be seen who doesn't want to care about people finds himself surrounded by people that he realizes he cares about too much.

This is all shaping up to be a wonderfully sweet and heartbreaking story, right? Well, I thought so, until I started to feel like I was getting the bums rush and things just got tied up real quick and a bow got slapped on it and they all lived happily ever after, the end.

For me the ending was just too quick easy and painless. I wasn't necessarily looking for more angst because to be honest there was already enough of that, mind you it necessary. To tell a story like this and have a character as emotionally damaged as Philippe with no angst for me...just not plausible. I'm not even sure exactly why the ending didn't work for me, it just didn't. Had the ending worked better for me this easily would have been a 4 star read. I will say that the first part of the book was definitely 4 stars, it was warm and fuzzy and adorable and I totally enjoyed it and quite possibly the ending would work for someone else...just not me. (view spoiler)

Having said all this I definitely plan on checking out more by this author because the potential for me to enjoy other books by her is definitely strong and worth looking into.

Trisha Harrington says

4.5 awesome stars!

I am becoming a huge fan of this author. She is really talented and her characters always seem to worm their way into my heart. She can take some serious issues and deal with them properly and she always leaves me with a happy feeling in the end.

Out of Hiding is amazing! The characters Philippe and Dario were an awesome couple and they seemed perfect together. I think, personally, the timing really works for this couple. They have their issues to face, but they don't really stop the couple from falling in love. I also love the family aspect, the dance aspect (which was different for me, but I did like it).

There are a couple of times in this I could really feel Philippe's emotions. He goes through a lot in the book

and he makes it out the other side, stronger. I am so glad the author actually dealt with his issues instead of giving a fake HEA. Dario had every right to know about Philippe's past.

For fans of something maybe a bit different or those who enjoy dance, this will work for you. If you want a really lovely romance that develops nicely, or an MC with issues, then I suggest you give this a go.

Stephani Rozier says

In the "About the Author" at the end of the book it reads:

Mia focuses her stories on the emotional growth of troubled men and their relationships, and she believes that sex has a place in a love story, but not until it is firmly established as a love story.

She nails this. Emotional but not too angsty. The chemistry between the MCs was spot on. While the guy on the cover is very nice to look at, it isn't Phillippe at all. He's a little too nicely put together for Phillippe IMO. I loved all of the secondary characters as well. I felt they all had their roles in the story and they were necessary. Definitely recommended.

Vivian says

Sweet, caring, and a bit mushy.

I loved the set up of story. Phillippe escorting and caring for his slightly junior niece while she shops around dance programs in NYC was refreshing. He's caring, sensitive and also emotionally retarded due to serious repercussions from a childhood event. Add in his natural introversion and submissiveness and it's not hard to see how Phil got lost in himself and hid.

So if you're really looking at me, as in, closely, and you don't like what you see, then I get both things I always try so hard to avoid. I get exposed... and maybe deserted."

Dario with his confidence and take charge attitude is a force Phil can't resist. Dario is equally well developed, strong and caring.

"Maybe it doesn't matter what we did before we met each other. Because maybe all that matters is what happens between us now."

The central conflict is internal and makes for an introspective read. Not slow, but transitional as it plays and replays to resolution.

All the characters were kind and generous of heart and spirit. There are some brief exchanges with other characters who exemplify the opposite. So, this is a feel good book at the end of the day even though there are painful emotional issues. A plus or minus depending on how you feel about dance, but you'll have a good understanding of modern/contemporary dance by the end of it. I personally enjoyed it, but some may find it

yawn time. We spend A LOT of time learning about all the programs Sophie's trying out.

Recommended to those who are looking for an emotional, loving read that leaves one with a smile.

Favorite quote:

"You are my sun... and my moon... not a tiny star, lost in the heavens."

~~~A copy was provided to me for a No Glitter Blown review~~~

~~~Reviewed for Hearts On Fire Reviews~~~

Aj says

I have been waiting for this book to come out by Mia Kerick. I love all of her books. This one is a book I can relate to as I am a student and I just went through the whole college exploration thing which is the reason that the main character is even in NYC at all. I even visited one of the colleges in this book. Plus I love The Big Apple so much- I visited there this summer, so I recognized some of the places mentioned. SO there also is a component to this book, where you are introduced to a lot of kinds of dance, but I really liked that. It made this book feel like it had more subject matter, if you know what I'm saying. I learned a lot about how hard dancers must work to meet their goals. But, of course the best part of Out of Hiding was the romance, because that is Mia Kerick's thing. In this story it was between Phil- a very lost soul who was a fisherman until he got hurt- and this guy who is a perfect dancer named Dario. It started slowly between them because Dario didn't have much use for Phil. To Dario, Phil was just his student, Sophie's adult chaperone in the city, that's all. But once Dario noticed Phil was alive- the romance got pretty intense. This story had more sexual parts than most of Mia Kerick's other novels, but it was sex because of love so I really liked it.

Mia Kerick has a young sounding voice as an author that I can really relate to, The characters are often my own age. And this book again dealt with a serious topic of depression and dealing with death and fear and I think Mia Kerick did a very good job of showing how those kinds of things really feel. I would definitely recommend this book to older teenagers like me and adults too.

Anu Vaarama says

Nice to read, not very strong surprises or dramatics, but lots of love. Well written.

Jenni says

I call a mandatory moment of staring and silence for the cover of *Out of Hiding*. And can I get a slow clap?

Whew! Thanks for humoring me.

I've wanted to read something by Mia Kerick for a while now, and like I said: COVER. I love the plot here, too. Lonely young, gay (bearded, YES!) fisherman takes equally young niece to NYC for dance training and meets young, gay dance instructor. What's not to like? Well...lots.

To begin, we spend a lot of time in the head of Philippe. He's wrecked over a pretty serious loss in his life, I'll give him that. The thing is, it happened many years prior, and he's still haunted, and extremely insecure to boot. At age 20, he's not able to have a meaningful romantic relationship, and is a timid and inexperienced virgin. That's right...a virgin. Ah, SO much potential!

I found the character of Sophie, Phil's niece, to come off as much younger and more immature than the 17-year-old she's supposed to be. She and Phil are very close in age, but she acts a lot like my 10-year-old niece: pouty, whiny and looking for her next slumber party.

Enter Dario, Sophie's 22-year-old dance instructor. Sadly, Dario is written so stiffly I had a mental picture of him as a 60-year-old British butler, decked out in cravat and coattails. In addition to his stuffiness, he's just plain snotty to Phil, and then BOOM, the two of them are going on dates and proclaiming love and devotion. How did this happen? I never felt any chemistry between Phil and Dario! I loved the way Dario wanted to nurture and take care of Phil, but I just didn't buy into their connection.

As can be expected, things go wrong between our MCs--things that could have been dealt with by way of some good old fashioned heart-to-heart conversation.

Color me frustrated.

There's a little side story in the book about a divorcee named Lauren. She has a four-year-old son who forms an insta-bond with Phil. This part of the story was awkward, too. It felt planted, insincere and unnecessary to the plot.

I give Kerick props for her writing. Minus my feelings about the book and the stiff way Dario comes off, I liked her style and her concept. *Out of Hiding* may work for others, so my 2.5 stars are MNY.

Lisa says

I am a little on the fence about this book.

I think I wanted more. I know Phillippe was traumatized by his mother's death but it wore a little thin.

He had great support of friends and family and yet when the going got tough he ran. The friends and family were too easily forgiving for me.

Loved Sophie, Lauren and little Tommy. If I read MF, I wouldn't mind a story for Lauren and Henri.

Riina Y.T. says

This one is quite difficult to *review & rate*. Overall I liked it, but not enough to really *love* it. I did have some issues with Phillip and his *issues*, as well as the lack of chemistry and connection between him and Dario.

There were a few very nice scenes and things I liked about this book, but also a lot of talk about dance, dance school and stuff I don't really associate with much. While personally some things kinda bored me, I didn't really feel the need to skip anything, it was well written and still somewhat engaging.

I liked Dario. He worked hard to get where he is and is still doing his best to achieve his dreams despite his

shyness and difficult background. I sort of admire him. And I enjoyed the way he thought and felt about and toward Phillip. It was indeed very sweet.

I think I sort of understand Phillips need to hide and be invisible and not wanting any sort of relationship because it hurts the most letting people in, especially when they leave but also when they stick around. Some people just don't care while others find it difficult to engage with strangers or people in general. Letting your guard down can be the hardest thing... I'm very familiar with that.

Once they got together it wasn't too long until the bomb dropped and Phillip had to face his biggest fears yet again. The book isn't really all about romance or finding Sophie her perfect dance school, it's mainly about strengths and weaknesses and learning to face who you really want to be. Still I think Sophie and her schools take up a whole lot of pages and pages and pages...

Sadly I just didn't connect with Phillip like I wanted and the book somewhat lacked a few things here and there, which I can't really explain... I just didn't *feel it*, therefore only 3 stars :(

btw. Is it just me or does this cover absolutely not fit the story? Oo"
IMO; There should have been a ship, the ocean, maybe at night with stars... :)

Tina says

3,5 stars.

"You are my sun... and my moon... not a tiny star, lost in the heavens."

Mia Kerick is a new author for me and after seeing the cover and reading the premise I wanted to know more...

Quiet, introvert Philippe tells us right at the beginning that he is hiding from something. Protecting himself from deep hurt and fear learned at a very young age, he uses his long hair and full beard as a cover. We get to know him when he escorts his niece Sophie on a tour of New York's dance programs, where Sophie meets with dancer and choreographer Dario to prepare a routine for her college auditions.

Dario wakes desires Philippe thought he had left behind and when the attraction is surprisingly returned, Philippe relaxes his rule of isolation. Then something happens that forces Philippe back into the shadows of his past. He must decide if it's time to stop hiding...

Philippe is so sad and so broken, I just loved his vulnerability and the great deal of love stored up in him. Gorgeous and self confident Dario remains a bit of an enigma. In the course of the story we find out that he is more than just beautiful. He is a tough, no-nonsense guy who recognizes something in Philippe...

Out of Hiding is a nice, charming romance with a lovely story setting, a sweet, hopeful story about self discovery and finding yourself. Philippe and Dario are a cute couple and the secondary characters are likeable. The dialogues work quite well, the writing flows nicely. Recommended to those who want a sweet, hopeful first-love story.

