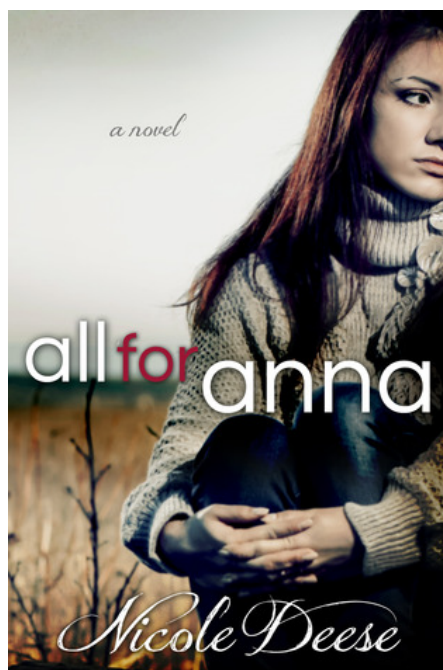




All for Anna

Nicole Deese

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If guilt is a prison; Victoria Sales has given herself a life sentence. Held captive by regret, 23 year-old trauma RN, Tori Sales, has seen the reality of many nightmares. But there is one nightmare she will never wake from—her last memory of Anna. Her efforts to save the little girl were not enough; she was not enough. After a year of living alone, Tori is forced to return home—a place where heartache, loss, and broken relationships lurk around every corner. Isolation is her only solace; running is her only escape. But she cannot outrun the truth forever. When a handsome, compassionate stranger enters her world, Tori is inspired to deal with her past and focus on the future—one she never believed possible. But before her quest for closure is complete, a new revelation surfaces, tainting her world yet again. Will she accept the recovery she so desperately needs? Or will she choose the escape she knows best...

All for Anna Details

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From Reader Review All for Anna for online ebook

Kimberly says

The level of emotions I felt while reading this book moved me to want to live my life differently. I connected to the characters in this story much more than just a book to read. I cried with them, laughed and celebrated with them. Nicole Deese writes well beyond entertainment value. She writes with a purpose! What an awesome story to add to my collection. This is a stand out book that everyone owes it to themselves to read

Timd says

A moving story! I was completely hooked at the first paragraph and couldn't put it down. Highly recommended!

Kirsty says

All for Anna was a really great debut novel.

Victoria 'Toria' Sales is living a life full of regret, guilt and loneliness. A wonderful trauma nurse with a haunting past. 18 months ago she was involved in a car accident that resulted in the death of a little girl, despite everybody telling her otherwise, she has forever blamed herself. Living with this guilt has caused major changes for Toria - she moved away to start a new job in a new town away from anybody that knows her and has closed off to any promise of a friendship or relationship. All she sees herself as is the girl who ruined somebody else's life with absolutely no way out of the mess and hurt that is now her life.

"Give it up, Stace. You'll never figure me out. I can't even do that."

All for Anna is a story about forgiveness, learning to lose the guilt and finding Faith again. I found the story a little heavy on the religion side which I hadn't expected at all. Toria's family are largely in to their faith and going to church, as is her love interest - Kai. Along the way, since the accident, Toria has lost her faith and can't believe in her God anymore. How could such tragic things happen in the hands of Him? Toria really isn't sure anymore.

A year in to her new life, Toria finds herself travelling back home to live with her pregnant sister. How will she cope coming face to face with the life that has haunted her memories for so long now? Will she overcome it or finally break? A welcome home party thrown by her overbearing parents starts that recovery journey, she comes face to face with a man who will come to mean more to her than she ever thought possible - Kai.

"Victoria, right?" he asked, with a voice that was as rich and smooth as decadent chocolate.

Kai was a lovely character. I am all for the bad boy, tattooed rockers but sometimes a change is needed and that is exactly what Kai was. He was nice, honest, compassionate and just exactly what Toria needed in her life. From the moment he met Toria he knew there was something about her, he just had to know her and

have her in his life.

Toria's journey of rebuilding her life was so wonderful to read about, she thought she was broken beyond repair but from that first meeting with Kai she could finally see a different life for herself.

"If the walls in my mind had been built up, then I would have to tear them down, piece by piece. If isolation and withdrawal had cemented my stubborn will of self-reliance then I'd slowly have to open up my circle of influence."

The book was emotional and I did find myself in tears at points, the author had a really great way of making you feel. There were a few twists and turns along the way to keep it interesting, I did guess them but it didn't make it any less exciting when I found out the truth.

I recommend this read, it wasn't too much on the heavy side but there certainly was a lot of emotion. Congratulations Nicole on your first novel.

Florence Trapp says

I think there is a very specific need for Christian fiction. Lots of people want to read romance without the smut, cursing, vices, etc. I am so on board with that. However, I have a problem with reading a sample of a book, liking what I see, purchasing the book, and then a few chapters later, finding out that the book is a Christian romance.

In the same way that a Christian wouldn't want to read an erotica novel advertised as romance (which is why most book descriptions now carry age/content disclaimers), an agnostic/atheist/believer of another faith would be pretty peeved to be tricked into buying a Christian book. It isn't false advertising, but it is very disingenuous to not put that label in the book synopsis.

Anyway, let's move on to Tori Sales, Kai, and the story that is "All For Anna." The book is about a young trauma nurse, an accident that changed her life, and her recovery from that event. She is supported by a cast of family members and friends, along with her love interest, a handsome Samoan EMT named Kai. Being Samoan myself, I was very excited to see a Polynesian man cast as something other than a wrestler (The Rock) or a football player (Manti Te'o). Kai is sensitive, patient, and reserved, traits that are usually not associated with Samoan men. TONS of kudos to Mrs. Deese for her nuanced portrayal of Kai.

The rest of the good stuff: Tori is a brave, smart, strong, capable woman, the Dallas and ER settings are written with great clarity and authenticity, the therapy sessions are convincing and enlightening, and the interpersonal conflicts are realistic. There's a lot of blame and anger associated with PTSD, and it was handled in a respectful manner throughout the book.

The not so good: Way too many improbable accidents. There were at least four major dramatic incidents that resulted in injuries and life-saving procedures. The fact that the two main characters are trained medical professionals was far too convenient. We could have done without being reminded constantly that our hero and heroine are both super emergency responders.

My biggest complaint: The random moments of God talking directly to Tori. I was seriously starting to refer to her as Joan of Arc. Also, I thought it was incredibly immature to imply that an adult woman sleeping in her boyfriend's tent while camping was something to be ashamed of and embarrassed about. There was

something very Moral Police shame-y about that entire section, and it came off as preachy and judgmental.

This is a solid book that will do better when it is marketed to the correct audience.

Erica says

So I read the summary, it seemed good. I downloaded the ebook and it seemed like a good start. But!! and there's always a but...I find myself hating the family members, and the friends, this is first impression, considering that I didn't finish it, I just kept wishing she'd tell Dr. Crane to piss off, tell stacie to mind her OWN business, and move back to Phoenix. I think the story would have been better if she were alone. Stacie is really annoying though.....I think I'm being mean....because this has happened twice, I give Decent books bad ratings.....I really don't like stacie, or kai, or the mom....*sigh....* this book was annoying.

Kandy says

This story had me laughing, crying, and falling in love with each and every character. The ultimate portrait of redemption. I could hardly put it down and finished it in just 3 readings. This story was real, honest, heartfelt, funny, romantic, and above all else rang with a truth everyone needs to hear. So many times I had to pinch myself to realize that this was written by a dear friend and not just some unknown author. I will definately be sharing this with as many people as possible. Love, love, loved it!!

Rebekah says

I was given this book to preview. I love to read and I love all kinds of books. All for Anna is much more than entertainment. Its real, its funny at times, and it speaks to your soul. I usually do not shed tears in books. This book was among some of my crying exceptions. When I closed the last page I felt like I had read something that was meaningful. It wasn't just about escape or entertainment. Deese is full of courage, humor and talent. She expresses all of these in her book. I would recommend this book to lovers of all genres.

Lara says

This was such a gift to read. The story is full of emotions that pull you in, and make you not want to stop reading! All for Anna is a compelling and wonderful journey. Deese is smart, witty, and she is able to be pretty hilarious at times, even with a story that has many hardships. She knows how to create characters that stick in your head all day. I highly recommend this and can't wait for book two!

Jen Westerman says

This book is a very refreshing book in a time when the highly sexualized books are so popular. It really makes a point about actually developing a relationship with the people around the character. It follows this woman that has PTSD on her journey to healing and recovery. It shows how one incident has affected the

relationships all around her.

One of the most beautiful parts of this book was how she came to terms with her relationship with her parents, especially her mom. Then how it took her to honestly admit what she was going through and to work her family problems out to then be able to have a healthy relationship with Kai.

Most importantly she is on her journey to work things out with God. After a traumatic incident one night she became lost and questioned her beliefs and her family. It's a book about healing, sacrifice, family, and about facing problems head on instead of running from them.

I highly recommend this book and I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

-Jen

Jenn says

Buddy read w/ Bethany and Jennifer

This was a wonderful and very clean read. I appreciated how clean it was, which is very rare these days.

Tori was a woman who needed to feel again in many aspects of her life. She needed to learn that she can rely on God, her family and friends once she figured out that running from everything wasn't going to solve her issues.

She blames herself for a traumatic tragedy she had no power over. She then leads a very isolated life and struggles to learn how to cope. What she doesn't realize is that she has PTSD. Once she learns how to deal with her PTSD, lets others in to her isolated world, things start opening up in a major way for her. Not just with her self, her family, and job but also in the dating department. This is where Kai comes in.

I really loved Kai, aka: Tree Man. One of my favorite parts is when they meet a "second" time and she looks up and says: "Tree Man?" He says a few things to her before he says: "Did you just call me Tree Man?" Ha! Loved it.

All For Anna flowed beautifully together. I appreciated how the author talked about God and wasn't ashamed to use it as a theme in her story line. Kai was a great believer in his faith and was never ashamed to put that out there. I appreciated how the author dealt with Tori's PTSD as well. I felt it was nicely done.

I loved how Kai and Tori built their relationship as well; starting as friends, dating and so on. I love how clean yet still sweet and special their private moments together were. Kai was a very sweet, nice, respectable guy who didn't compromise who he was or his standards.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who dares to step off their normal path to read something outside the box. :)

Jennifer says

This was an amazing read. This book was a love story but it was also so much more than that. It was a

journey of one woman to over come a tragic event from her past. Tori was a fabulous heroine, she didn't annoy me once in this book. Her journey to find love, friendship, and most of all forgiveness was very well written. This book touched on the subject of PTSD and showed the reader that it isn't just something veterans deal with but everyday people also. It showed the long and tiring journey one must go through to overcome PTSD. I truly enjoyed reading about Kai and Tori's relationship. It was a wonderful journey from friendship into love and forgiveness. I felt he was an amazing support for Tori. This book also showed how having a little **FAITH** can help you get through many things. I would definitely recommend this book to everyone who is looking for an outstanding story about love and forgiveness.

Genney Blass says

I gave it a 3.5 stars. My opinion of this book was more of a woman who was looking for her inner self; Trying to figure what life can give to her after a traumatic accident that occurred and placed her own self in a Cocoon. This is my first Christian book, it was interesting. But there were some chapters that I just wanted to WAKE HER UP! And for her to see her surrounding to see what the lord has given to give thanks. Like I said for me it just went Haywired. The letters to Anna, were very nice. But felt that at the end it still feel that she was still not fully recovered. I apologize to the Author, for my review. Thank you.

Christina Lyn says

I felt something good after reading this tonight. Something moved inside me and touched me to the deepest soul I have inside myself. For Tori whose been guilt after that incident, who is always running away from everything and she is seems to content living all by herself. It reaches to the moment she doesn't feel God's presence anymore. And for Kai he is truly God's amazing tool to help out Tori's life. Kai is everybody's dreamed guy. His faith is unbelievable and its truly amazing to witness that. He never gave up after a year and half he is still looking for Tori. AS for Tori's they really wonderful people. At the end I'm glad Tori's finally stop running away from the people loved her and finally moving forward without feeling the guilt over Ana's!

Thank you Nicole! I really loved reading this. You've touched me in so many ways. Words are not enough to describe how grateful I am reading this.

Sarah Monzon says

Just as good the second time around

Mary says

Ok another pet peeve that I've been trying to get over is reading the first quarter of a book, loving it, and then getting Christian romance thrown in your face. I'm not saying that these books books are terrible but I would like a heads up as to what I'm reading. Unfortunately, the book description didn't explain this and when I finally did get to the Christian parts it seemed very forced. The whole thing just aggregated me especially since I was really into the whole PTSD plot. From there it seemed to completely veer from the original plot.

However- I will say I did enjoy the character development as well as the mental health issues presented.
