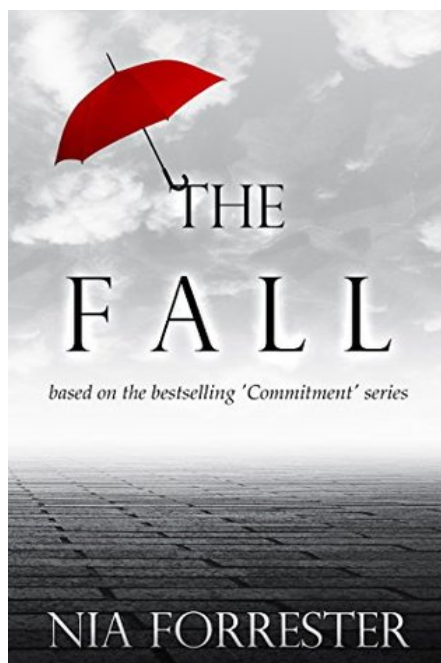




## The Fall

*Nia Forrester*

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# The Fall

*Nia Forrester*

## **The Fall** Nia Forrester

In the summer of her fifteenth year as a professor at Gilchrist College, Lorna Terry is at a crossroads and, she fears, also on the downswing of her career as the “sole remaining radical feminist in academia.” Having built her life on a theory of non-attachment, she is disturbed to find herself becoming very much attached to the somewhat younger, Malcolm T. Mitchell. A writer-on-the rise, and her college’s newest wunderkind, Malcolm is about to challenge everything she thought she ever knew about her life, her loves, and her work.

But her growing feelings for Malcolm may well be the least of Lorna’s worries. For some in her academic community, she has risen too far, and too fast. And for others, she is much too smug in her accomplishments, enjoys adulation she doesn’t deserve, and is much too proud. And you know what they say about pride ...

It cometh before the fall.

## **The Fall Details**

Date : Published April 19th 2016 by Stiletto Press, LLC

ISBN :

Author : Nia Forrester

Format : Kindle Edition 468 pages

Genre : Romance, African American Romance, Academic, College

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## From Reader Review The Fall for online ebook

### Deena says

I've been trying to write this review for the past 5 days, but I'm struggling to find the words to say just how excellent this book is. And it is EXCELLENT!!!

After meeting Lorna in Commitment and really liking her, I was totally unprepared for my reaction to her in this book. I didn't like her. To be perfectly honest, I couldn't stand her. Lorna was a mess: rude, dismissive, arrogant, and all about Lorna. The smartest person wherever she was. She kept my nerves on edge. I kept screaming 'Get out of your head', whenever she was dealing with Malcom, and either 'Listen!' or 'Let them finish talking!' when she was interacting with Fallon or that nut job grad student. Prior to reading this book, I thought she was a force to be reckoned with, and this was true, but not in a good way.

I initially thought it was amazing that Riley turned out so well, because Lorna put very little effort into raising her, but it became clear that her father's genes kicked in, because he seemed to be a genuinely great guy. Shame on you, Lorna, for that whole f'd up situation. I don't want to give anything away, so I'll just say that I'm really glad that things were addressed and resolved, and in the most wonderful way.

Interestingly, Lorna's fall from grace career-wise, and her reaction to it, is what changed my opinion of her. I won't say that she deserved what happened, or needed to be humbled, but I think it took something drastic to get her attention, in order to help her get her mind and her focus right, so that she could begin to get clarity about her life, her career, and her choices. Fallon's(interesting name choice!) deceitfulness, which was discovered at the same time and was especially difficult, was probably what drove the point home.

But Lorna's fall for Malcolm, when she finally allowed it to happen, was just what she needed after denying herself love for so long. Malcolm T. Mitchell just may be my favorite out of all Nia's men. Loved how he could be demanding, hard, and rough, but gentle, patient and determined to get his woman. He had me swooning! That Charlotte, though, was a trip! I absolutely loved Malcolm's relationship with his girls, and that Lorna was able to easily establish a good relationship with them. She's going to learn a lot from them.

If you haven't read this book, I strongly encourage you to do so. It's a great read. Thanks, Nia Forrester, for sharing your gift with us!

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### Jacinta Howard says

Nia Forrester is a writer's writer, and she continues to showcase why with "The Fall." As usual, her command for language is readily apparent throughout the novel, but it's her incredible character development that's always the real draw.

Here, she offers a character study on a flawed but dynamic woman, Lorna Terry. And while the elements of romance are vivid, especially with the introduction of the charmingly irresistible Malcolm T. Mitchell, who finds himself drawn to Lorna in spite of his own internal warnings, "The Fall" is really about Lorna's growth as a woman, mother and lover. It's about how a woman who on the surface appears unbreakable, begins to heal internally, and come to terms with her past, present, and what she hopes will be her future.

This is definitely among Nia's best works. The writing is engaging and thought-provoking, so much so that

these characters will likely linger with you long after you've finished reading.

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## **KBeautiful1 says**

Dr. Lorna "Motherf\*cking Terry came all the way through in headlining her own story which I know for myself and many others have been waiting for since book 1 which is aptly called "Commitment" which features her daughter Riley and her husband Shawn.

Lorna is 46 years old now and finds herself restless and beginning to panic, she has accomplished more in her career than most people only dream of, she is at the top of her game, the Creme DE La Creme and yet she is unchallenged, exhausted and wondering if this is it and has she hit the glass ceiling?

Malcolm T. Mitchell a former attorney, turned number one selling author and now adding to his resume a professor at the esteemed Gilchrist College, he is sexy, smart and an amazing man. His personal life, finds him divorced and a father to two young girls but he is not angry, he feels free and excited to be pursuing his dreams. And at a faculty mixer and surrounded by women professor, in comes the infamous Dr. Lorna Terry, to the chagrin of the women vying for his attention and to his delight.

Lorna has done many things in her life and has always been quick to anticipate each one but nothing and no one could have prepared her for the Tsunami that is Malcolm. Lorna finds herself in a quandary where a part of her wants to flee and another part of her want to stay in his arms forever but what others don't know about Lorna (not even her own daughter) are the demons she has successfully kept at bay for so many years are now threatening to come spilling out of her heavily padded closet and the one person who has the key and want to unlock them all is Malcolm. But what Malcolm doesn't realize is, Lorna is not going down without a fight and will fight him till the last breath leaves her body.

Malcolm has never met a woman so vivacious, smart, funny and so heavily layered with battle armor. He can't get enough of Lorna but at the same time she is emotionally exhausting to deal with and this is not what he signed up for, but the thought of leaving Lorna kills him inside and he has even fallen in love with her. Lorna's demons and her refusal to come out of her shell is driving him crazy and it may be just enough to drive him away. Malcolm has never been a quitter, he is a fighter and will fight for Lorna but the real question is, does Lorna want anyone to fight for her especially now that her secrets are starting to come out.

I knew Lorna's story was going to be amazing, I just wasn't prepared for how truly mind blowing it would be for me. Lorna Terry is a woman that many of us can relate to, we have fought wars that people don't even know about, we have the scars that people don't see. We have through the years created our own heavily armored battle gear, to slay the darkness that threatens to overwhelm us and although we believe we have lived to fight another day because we have won countless battles. The truth of the matter is, we are exhausted and tired and we long for that special man that was created just for us to come along to fight side by side with us. But because we have fought alone for so long, we have become accustomed to being alone and now that the man want to share our space, we find ourselves fighting against him, so the push and pull begins. I am hear to tell you that it is OK to drop your battle gear at your feet and all of your artillery and it is OK to allow that special man to love you. He will not only love you, he will fight beside you and slay your dragons for you.

Author Nia Forrester really hit this story out of the park, this book is a definite re-read and also recommended her story specifically the "Commitment Series" as a must have.

Well Until My Next Review...Ciao Bellas!

## Ladyamelia says

I'm speechless. This book was so beautifully written, so very well developed, that I literally did not want it to end. And Lorna - I absolutely loved her! She was such a fascinating character - the most complex heroine I've read in quite some time. She definitely put Malcolm through the wringer, but if anyone could handle Lorna, it was Malcolm T. Mitchell (LOVE that name, by the way!).

Ms. Forrester, please consider writing a follow up to this story, I'd love to read more about these characters!

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## Jody Andrews says

Well, this book was..... exhausting. I don't mean that in a bad way. I meant, Lorna Terry was exhausting. Lorna gave me plenty of reasons not to like her, but I decided before I started reading that I already liked her because she was Riley's mom. As the story went along, I was second guessing my decision to like her. She was a handful to say the least. It took someone with great patience to understand her and love her as the person she was. That's where Malcolm T. Mitchell comes in to the rescue. Even then, I was beginning to lose hope that he could get the job done. After a while, I was actually hoping that Malcolm would move on from Lorna because even I was getting frustrated with her resisting and fighting him at every turn. For a while, things would be great and then out of no where, she would push him away. I did feel empathy for Lorna after learning more about her past. She had lived most of her life not feeling anything for the men she was "attached" in her past and she really didn't know how to deal with these unfamiliar feelings she started having for Malcolm. In true Nia Forrester fashion, she kept you waiting until the very end to know what was really going on.

Also, it was great to read about the relationship between Lorna and Riley. Their relationship was....unconventional. Not your usual mother/daughter kind of relationship. But I already knew that going in. Riley loves her mother and how close they are, but I think she needed more. And Lorna, I'm not sure she knew how to give her more. I think the guilt of what she had done has always been in the back of her mind and she always wanted Riley to "like" as a friend more than a mother. Once Lorna did the right thing and corrected her bad judgement, you can see their relationship be more of a mother/daughter relationship. Not that Riley ever came off as an unhappy person in the past, but I could tell that by the end, she was now her momma's baby girl and not her friend. Lorna said that Riley was her first true love and I for one, couldn't tell by her actions. I wasn't convinced. By the end though, I think I was most happy about her and Riley finally getting on the same page.

Thank you, Nia Forrester for always coming through and making me, as a reader, think about things in my own life that I can correct and make better decisions on the relationships I have with the people in my life. As always, this was a GREAT story!

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## Jan says

Reread October 2017. Yep, still four stars. Enjoyed reading it the second time just as much as the first. Great characters, interesting and original storyline.

Review 21 March 2017 - This ended up being a surprisingly good read. Surprising because it's not my

favourite trope - older woman/younger man. But in this book, it worked!

Lorna is the mother of Riley, from *Commitment*. She had Riley when quite young, but still, she's in her forties and now has a grandson. But she is young for her age, both in mind and body. I really liked Lorna. She is strong, feisty and independent. A high-profile professor of Women's Studies, and has published lots of articles and essays. But in her personal life, Lorna has made lots of mistakes. She enjoys sex, but it's usually a one night stand, and she finds it very difficult to let a man into her personal life for longer than a brief fling.

Enter Malcolm Mitchell. In his late thirties, so he's younger, which usually I don't like. But as we get to know the characters, and they get to know each other, it becomes completely irrelevant and by the end of the book I didn't even notice the age gap. Malcolm is the newest academic staff member at the college where Lorna works. He has also recently written a highly successful book. Malcolm is recently divorced - his wife had an affair so they split. He has two pre-teen daughters who mostly live with his ex-wife.

Malcolm and Lorna are attracted to each other and have Lorna's typical fling. But Malcolm is attracted to Lorna's mind as much as her body (even though the sex is sizzling hot too). And he wants more. He pushes and pursues Lorna, and they start to see more of each other. Eventually it develops into a real relationship, even though relationships aren't Lorna's thing.

There are issues and problems they have to face along the way e.g. with Malcolm's ex and his older daughter, with Lorna's daughter Riley wanting to meet her birth father (whom she never knew) and also some college drama and politics. But through it all, Lorna and Malcolm keep coming back to each other, until finally Lorna admits she is all in and she is able to face some of her past issues that have always held her back.

These are complex and interesting characters and I loved their story. It did take me a while to read this one, mainly cos I'm terrible at reading anything angsty, and with each little problem that cropped up for Lorna and Malcolm I would think 'Oh no!' and put the book away for a few days before being brave enough to read on. I guess that just means I was invested in the characters.

I liked being back in the fascinating world of the 'Commitment' series, even peripherally as this one was. We did get to see a bit of Riley and her family though, which was nice. Overall, another great book from Nia Forrester.

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## Tammy says

Absolutely and without a doubt the BEST book I've read this year! Nia Forrester is certainly one of the best contemporary writers of this generation.

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## Mel says

Lorna Terry...well...I hated her. I just wanted to slap her. She was so selfish and there were times that I wanted Malcolm to cut his losses and run like the wind. But...in true Nia Forrester fashion...she slowly peels away the layers to give the reader insight into the why the character's flaws *are* their flaws. Through Forrester's elegant storytelling, we are also able to witness the evolution of Lorna.

This book took me right back to *Commitment* and why Nia Forrester is one of my favorite authors.

## Deloris says

5+ stars !

APB Perspective Review ! The book was much more than I expected !!

To be honest I never thought Lorna needed a story, I was happy with the moments she appeared in the other books within the Commitment Series. I thought she would possibly fade away within this book with an older man who could handle her, and in my mind she looked kind of like a young Whoopi Goldberg , who wears birkenstocks and jeans . Boy was I wrong! Lorna is a beautiful sexy women ,and why shouldn't she be , she is Riley's mother!? Lorna is so beautiful that she captures the eye Malcom, and in this book we read their journey . I did not like Lorna at first while reading this book , I especially did not like her for Malcom , I actually rolled my eyes at her a few times . Through Malcom's patience, we get to see a side of Lorna that I ended up understanding and rooting for by the end of this story . Lorna's story was deeper than I ever expected, and it took a man like Malcom to help her, show us who she really is and why. It's funny that the ultimate feminist met a man ,that helped her open up to more than she ever thought she would be. I have read every book Nia Forrester has written and this book is one, that I can see her growth as an author . With every book she catches me by surprise with her unpredictable writing style. If you want something different read her work, and if you want to be surprised , read Lorna's story.

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## Tamara says

This book was.... Different. But in a totally unexpectedly good way. Instead of being like a Girl's trip to Miami with nonstop fun, it was more like a trip to a lake house- getting to sleep in the most comfortable bed at night and spending your days relaxing in the best rocking chair enjoying the sounds and sight of nature!

Whereas, Riley and Shawn's relationship was like that Miami trip; Lorna and Malcolm's story was the lake house.

We've seen and heard a lot from Lorna over the course of the Commitment Series exerting herself and her thoughts into her daughter's and son in laws relationship, so I was pleasantly surprised that the feminist theorists is actually just a woman with womanly needs and insecurities. And what she didn't want is someone like Malcolm to not only discover her insecurities, but to call her out on them and make her confront them. She's so used to scaring men away with her strong personality, but this one wouldn't budge!

And who wouldn't or couldn't love a man named, Malcolm T. Mitchell? He was as strong, manly and protective as his name appears to be. What he wanted from Lorna seemed simple enough - ***Monogamy, Communication, Co-Habitation, Partnership and Friendship.***

But to Lorna, that sounded like a reason to run, because after all "it's what she knows how to do"

Malcolm gave Lorna a reason to heal and Lorna gave Malcolm the power to fight; and they were so great together! What I loved the most is Riley finally expressing herself to her Mom and not going easy on her. Lorna not only needed that, but she deserved it!

I loved this story!

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## **L.S. Bergman says**

Reading *The Fall*, I couldn't help reflecting upon the maturity and sheer talent in the self-publishing vaults these days. Nia Forrester's latest release is a shining example of unapologetic self-publishing class!

Nia Forrester is a brilliant and natural writer, who has a good character one liner in the novel that pertains to the flawed boundaries of women's fiction. It reads...

"No one has ever explained to my satisfaction the difference between popular and literary fiction. Seems to me it's a distinction meant only to belittle the people who outsell you."  
(*The Fall*, Nia Forrester)

Enough said. OK, off the soapbox, and down to the review, because this novel is a class act.

In *The Fall*, the author tells the story of Professor Lorna Terry, a feminist academic, the mother of Riley (for those Commitment Series fans). Lorna is a woman with many 'perceived' flaws. She is an individual who has lived her life, for better or for worse, on her terms. She's made her fair share of mistakes both in the relationship and mothering department, but for me she remains a heroic figure for reasons only fully fleshed out towards the end. No spoilers.

Lorna is a complex, but trickily endearing mother, with her fair share of concomitant intentional and unintentional bad calls over the years. *The Fall* serves up, in a full-length novel, Lorna's past and present days of reckoning.

But Lorna Terry is a survivor. And, her means of survival has involved her having erected an impenetrable wall around her innermost feelings. She is capable of deep love, but these truths are rarely demonstrated, often thwarted by unfortunate circumstances and entrenched fears, which she carries around with her like ghosts. Any man who has ever come close to winning Lorna's heart has usually been repelled as easily as they were allowed in.

As a feminist firebrand, Lorna has risen to the intellectual pinnacle at the lofty Gilchrist College defending her version of female liberation to the hilt. Her reputation preceeds her at every turn. It has become her cloak, helping her keep the reins of her life firmly in hand, to orchestrate things her way, and, in doing so, keep the lid on a deep sense of vulnerability.

Enter Malcolm T. Mitchell...

Malcolm is a rising academic star and new addition to the Collegiate staff. He is a best-selling author and is nearly 10 years Lorna Terry's junior. Malcolm is a gorgeous, strong, warmhearted man, Lorna's intellectual equal, who, recently divorced, is in search of loyalty in love. The sexy attraction which ensues between the two is both immediate and unstoppable.

Given Lorna's academic standing, her wobbly emotional track-record, the romance which develops between Malcolm and Lorna is one that encourages much thought.

Lorna has built a career upon a feminism which represents the freedom to be 'all' woman without the pressures of gender role playing. Except, times are a-changing, as every aspect of her personal and professional life comes under scrutiny. Nia Forrester gives the reader a rich deconstruction of some of the interesting sticking points in feminist theory, through Lorna's own conflictual circumstances.

Malcolm is effectively present to witness Lorna's undoing. But, he also manages to shine a light within,



helping Lorna to come to terms with her personal journey.

With Malcolm at her side, Lorna faces her past of sometimes poor judgment, prideful ambition, and reckless urges, and offers her the final challenge as it were. To truly open her heart. Face her fears, and realize she's still standing.

I can understand how Lorna's character would not be to everyone's taste. However, as I grow older, I can more than appreciate that life is rarely straight-forward, and perhaps a well-lived rich life is not conducive to keeping things always neat and tidy. Strong characters like Lorna are representative of those who opt to 'live' life, warts and all. Perhaps this may be interpreted as selfish and immature, but in Lorna's case it is certainly not without tender reason and an appreciation of consequence.

The Fall is filled with a rich cast of characters, some old, some new, who, similar to a Franzen novel are well-fleshed out and bear complications, hopes and dreams all of their own. Nia Forrester does not shy away from such character complexities, and there is something for everyone here. The author does a brilliant job in illustrating so many of the beautiful fickle nuances of love.

Final word, check-out The Fall. If you haven't already done so...what the heck are you waiting for? This is a 5 star read!!!

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## Kim says

Some books are so beautifully written that you do not want them to end. That's how I felt while reading Nia Forrester's The Fall. This is pure, character-driven fiction at its best. For The Fall, the seventh book in the Commitment series, we follow Dr. Lorna Terry, feminist and Women's Studies professor at the prestigious Gilchrist College, as she comes to a crossroads in her life. A shining star at the college whose intelligence and charisma attract students to her like bees to honey--which leads to jealousy among some of her colleagues.

When Lorna meets critically acclaimed author Malcolm T. Mitchell, the latest instructor to join the Gilchrist fold, the chemistry between them is electric. And what she thinks will only be a fling becomes so much more. For Lorna, their burgeoning relationship gives her sustenance and disturbs her--she is not used to craving someone as she craves Malcolm. But Lorna has a hard time letting him in and her past mistakes begin affecting the present. When a scandal erupts and puts Lorna's career in jeopardy, she is forced to question her beliefs and her own actions.

What I loved about The Fall? That's easy--everything. The characterisation is so detailed and deftly handled - every character, especially Lorna and Malcolm--rings true. I believed completely in their relationship and their backstory. Lorna's difficulty in revealing more of herself to Malcolm, the secrets she keeps from him and her daughter Riley... the one-night stand that comes back to haunt her--yes, the conflicts in The Fall are skilfully handled and keep you fully invested in Lorna's story.

The Fall is not a story for you if you want a quick read. This is a novel you will want to savour and the more you learn about Lorna and Malcolm, the more you want to know. I loved reading The Fall. I loved how rich the language was and how fulfilling every page felt. This is not a romance--it's beautifully written literary fiction that speaks to readers of women's fiction. It's compelling, it makes you think and I am loath to read another book too soon because I want to hold on a little longer to Lorna and Malcolm's story.

A definite five-star read. Highly recommended!

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**--karen Green-berry says**

**Intriguing!!!!**

I have been reading rave reviews of Lorna and Malcolm's story and they are well deserved. I was introduced to Lorna in previous books as Riley's mother. She has always been a strong character that marches to the beat of her own drum. Fiercely independent and liberating, she is not concerned about what others think.

Mitchell had just come off a divorce with a cheating wife. He was intrigued with Lorna from the beginning. He was not deterred by her harsh, sarcastic personality. He made it known that he was not a pushover; surprisingly she allowed it.

I enjoyed how the characters developed throughout the book. The storyline was engaging and heartwarming.

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**Kim says**

Going into this book I didn't know what to expect. I knew the heroine was the mother of a character that I loved so I wasn't sure if I'd be able to relate to her story, but boy was I wrong. Lorna and Malcolm had me hooked from the start. Their witty and playful banter had me smiling quite often. There was so much depth with both of their characters. I felt like I was reading about real people and oftentimes someone that I knew personally. I think this is some of Nia's best work.

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**Shan says**

Nia Forrester is one of my favorite authors. I have read all of her books. I really enjoyed The Fall. It had so many layers to it. I love that Nia focuses on relationships and the ups and downs of them. The Fall is one of those stories that you read slowly and think about. I purposely took my time reading this story between other stories.

This story was good from the first page to the last. I love Riley and would love to read another story about her and Shawn. I'm probably the only one, but I absolutely loved Charlotte. She needs her own story!

Highly recommended to all Nia Forrester fans and readers who simply just want to read a good book with quiet drama and colorful characters. Wish I could give it more stars.

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