



The Bare Bones

Layla Wolfe

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If you ain't living on the edge, you're taking up too much room.

The rose-colored illusion of Madison Shellmound's girlish crush on biker Ford Illuminati is stomped into smithereens by his crude, perverse father Cropper, Bare Bones club President. Fearing Ford will kill Cropper if he finds out, Madison flees town, becoming an upstanding cardiology nurse.

Madison and Ford have an ill-fated, star-crossed love that will last their lifetimes. Ford is a lifer in a different sort of enterprise, the gritty full-throttle club of guns, blood, and allegiance to his brothers.

Twelve years and several tours of SEAL duty later, Ford is thrust back into Madison's arms on the worst day of his life. Madison's prospect brother Speed has screwed up big-time and owes the club his life. She offers herself to Cropper as a sacrificial lamb to save Speed.

But how long until the fiery, full-on outlaw Ford discovers that the woman he loves was treated like a degraded slave by his own father? Well, meet the new boss. He's not the same as the old boss.

The Bare Bones Details

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From Reader Review The Bare Bones for online ebook

Shanyn says

The one who got away. Do we all have one of those? From sometime in our lives? That one person to whom your mind drifts when your current significant other has pissed you off or isn't paying attention to you in the way you'd like. Wondering where they are now. Wondering if they ever think about you the way you think about them. It's an awfully romantic notion that rarely actually works out. But when it does, it's brilliant.

Ford Illuminati is a born and bred MC member, patched in from the age of 17. He's been throwing down and doing business for his entire life, one way or another. Whether it's a rough neck kid fighting his way up the ladder or as a Navy SEAL - Ford is unbreakable, untouchable and built like a Roman God.

Madison Shellmound is a hot mess. She basically raised herself because her mother was too busy slinging whatever she could get her hands on to trade for more drugs. The only good thing she ever did was bringing Ford into Madison's life.

Ford and Madison discover each other as teenagers, becoming best friends with an unspoken love growing deeper by the day until one day Madison runs. She leaves to build a better life and Ford goes into the Navy. When they literally run into each other again, Madison is a cardiology nurse and Ford is home after being medically discharged from service. In that moment it's as if the past 12 years hadn't passed at all. They are back right where they left off except no one's holding back anymore.

This is a crazy, rip roaring rollercoaster of a book. Madison is made to withstand more than any human being should ever have to endure and Ford wants nothing but to keep her safe. The story moves full throttle from the very first chapter, never letting up in its pacing or relenting in the number of hurdles thrown into character's way.

Layla Wolfe has written an often hard to read, sometimes brutally endearing, always interesting book. I felt like I had been put through a meat grinder after having read this story. But the characters drew me in so close that I found myself thanking them for the opportunity to emerge the other side nothing but a loose tangle of my former self.

Jump in and let yourself get swept away on this rough and dirty ride. You won't regret it and you'll have the memory of the journey for a long time to come.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Donna's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

4 STARS

Review copy provided for an honest review

This is a new motorcycle club series so of course I'm interested, they are my favorite kind of bad boys!

Madison Shellmound had a rough life. Her father left when she was eight and her mother just gave up after that. She and her two younger siblings were left to fend for themselves. That is until mom hooks up with the president of the Bare Bones MC and he and his son, Ford move in. Now they have food and security, well almost.

Ford Illuminati has lived his whole life in the motorcycle club; he doesn't know any different kind of life. At seventeen he has earned his cut and a filthy few patch (killed someone). He's tough, rough and no one messes with him, well except for the ladies. Yes even at this young age, Ford has earned the label player.

Can two damaged kids heal each other? This book is the story of how they try. I must say that I really enjoyed how the author wrote this book. It is from both characters points of view which I love. I think it's great to see inside each of their minds. But I also like the way Madison's parts were written. She is writing her story and every now and then she talks directly to the reader, I enjoyed that.

This book is definitely not a fluffy romance that just happens to take place around a motorcycle club. This story is raw, bloody and at times shivers evoking. There are scenes that are not easy to read, but necessary for the story line. And there is sex, steamy sex. I truly enjoyed this book and look forward to more in this series. I give this book 4 stars and 3 hands down the pants.

Kaylyn says

I finished this book and didn't know exactly how I felt about it. So I decided to wait a day or two to get over my book hangover. Once I mulled it all over I realized I couldn't wait to see what happens next. The Bare Bones is brutal and NOT for the faint at heart. If you can't handle violence then I wouldn't recommend it at all, however if you don't mind the darks reads then it just might be the book for you. I read quite a lot of biker books and there were some parts of this book that made me squeamish and grossed out. That being said I still really enjoyed the book. The plot was very good and kept me guessing. All of the characters were well developed and had depth. *WARNING: Contain triggers!! There is abuse, sexual abuse and child abuse. Also some extremely taboo kinks.

Madison had a really crappy childhood but eventually she did overcome it. At first she is a struggling 15 year old, who endures more than most adults could handle. Then she escapes and becomes a nurse who has turned her life around. Once Ford walks back into her life she realizes that he is the one and only for her. While she loves Ford, she struggles with some of the club members and what they do. I did feel she was a bit naive and that she should have just told Ford what Cropper was doing. I did love how strong of a woman she was when she asserted herself.

Ford is the ultimate bad boy with a good heart. Sure his club isn't full of angels but he doesn't go around beating up people for no reason. I liked how much he cared for Maddy. He knew she was his from the get go. I just wish he would have looked out for his club more. With some of the monsters they had in the club I was really surprised that most of the members fully supported him being the President.

This is an extremely emotional read and like I said very brutal. It does contain some really FUCKED up shit sexually that I had trouble stomaching and I wasn't always thrilled with what was going on but I could not put it down. I lost sleep for this book and that doesn't happen often. I am looking forward to what Layla Wolfe writes next.

Alysha says

Well oh m gee!!!! Seriously Layla Wolfe didn't let any stone go unturned in her new book, The Bare Bones. A story of a bikers club, Bare Bones consists of many shady events. When she said this book is more 18 and older she definitely meant it. Madison didn't have a great childhood at all, but she thought that would all change the moment she laid eyes on Ford. Ford, the son of the president, Cropper came to live with Madison and her family when Cropper started shacking up with her mom. Madison and Ford started to get very close and fall in love, once this happened Cropper made it all go down hill. Cropper liked to "watch" as he put it, and he told Ford it's not like they never shared before. The only thing was Cropper never told Ford how he touched, and watched Madison. So once she was able to leave she ran. A fateful event ended up bringing Ford and Madison together at the hospital she worked at, but Madison couldn't learn to love the club. Even though she loved the man. "Love the man, learn to love the club." So when Madison showed up to support her brighter speed at the club's rally Ford and Madison knew they weren't going to be able to stay away from each other. Things seemed like they would work out until Cropper said Madison had a debt to pay. So he sent Ford away on business to get what he wanted as club president. These events were never supposed to come to light, but when they did all hell broke loose. Madison ended up running again, only this time she wanted Ford to find her because he loved her, not out of obligation of the tourtière she sent through. She also needed to make sure her one biggest secret was safe from the club. This was an intense book, and I loved every minute of it. And I can honestly say I think you will as well.

Books2fashion says

****Arc provided for honest review****

If you cant handle the hardcore life of MC biker then this isnt one for you. It is a true hardcroe biker book. about 2 kids that met thru their sick abusive parents.

Maddie was was eight when her father left her mother and her and 2 siblings. Her mother was a drug induced bitch and a typical slut. She becaem violent as Maddie aged. Ingrid (Maddies mother) moved a biker prez in one day and from there Maddies life got a bit better because of Ford. The prez's son.

Before Cropper moved in Maddie would stay out welcomes with friends and her sister seemed to find friends that would be more friendly to her. Her brother would jsut shut himself down and keep to his room. But once Maddies welcomes ran out she would stay under the cottonwoods at a nearby creek. One day she came home and found a nice hot looking young man in her backyard. From there she spent the next her time with Ford. Taking her to school and becoming very fond of him. Til she couldnt take no more of Cropper and his weird fetish's. A man that no one could stand and had his hand in so many different illegal practices. One day Cropper did something that Maddie just couldnt handle anymore and she left to make a new life away from it all. Away from Ford.

Ford being his fathers protege. He had his career set for him and he only knew MC business and that was it. He became fond of Maddie during her time there and why she would leave without telling anyone where or why he couldnt figure it out.

Nearly 10 years later they run into each other accidently. Maddie knew she still loved him and was sexually attracted to him like no other man she has been with. Sparks ignited once again between them but Maddie had a new life and wasnt sure if she should leave this nice perfect life she had and respectable man she was with. But there was that feeling, spark or attraction that she just could never get over with from Ford.

The book was hot and had a really good story to it. It was hard and intense at times and other times it was sexual as hell. But there is some abuse in it so be prepared. As with any biker book there is going to be that

dark intense part of it. I got to the point in reading this that I couldn't put it down. I had to find out what was going to happen next. It has some good hot sex in it and some not so nice sex in it but it was a good book. It has a great HEA. But it was a hard road to get there.

B.E.Love says

As you can see from my 1 star rating and my title I didn't like this book at ALL. Read this review with caution. I have HUGE spoilers but they are tagged spoilers before I delve in. I am not pulling any punches here. I hated this book, it was a train wreck of epic proportions and in fact may be the worst book I have ever read. It was all around HORRIBLE. I didn't like the H or the h the H's father was the worst person in the whole wide world. It was nothing I thought it would be. I didn't connect with the H or the h and just didn't care about them at all. I wouldn't say it was a romance at all. I didn't like the writing it didn't flow. If you like MC books I highly recommend that you stay far far away from this book. I love MC books but this one was just bad bad bad. The only good thing about this book was the cover. Please please don't read any further if you don't want this book spoiled and when I say spoiled I mean almost everything about this book.

SPOILERS

(view spoiler)

I could go on and on with this book it was a mess from beginning to end. As you can see (from my review)my brain is all jumbled from this book. I know that MC books are popular and I don't claim to know everything but I wish authors would research what they are writing before they just pick a few things and say ok I know enough and that's what this book felt like. I know others liked this book and I don't just hand out 1 star reviews, and I almost didn't review this book but I can't not review this book.

Janice says

Just finished reading this book and OMG!!! I loved it. It's dark, gritty, and edgy. The characters were well developed. The flow of the plot made it hard to put down. When I wasn't reading the book, I was thinking about it and wanted to get back to it soon. For me that is a great book. As someone whose life hasn't been all roses, it's good to read about characters that you would be glad to call friends.

As a reader I look for books that stretch my imagination. The Bare Bones did exactly that. Madison and Ford are truly soul mates that go through a lot of bumps to get to their HEA.

Madison and Ford didn't have the best of childhoods, but they were strong and survived. At times you just wanted to slap the hell out of both of them for the choices they made, but that was what made them real.

The secondary characters were fascinating to read about. Some you hated with a passion (Cropper), some you just loved and wanted to know more about (Turk), and some were crazy and comical (Slushy). I so want to know more about Turk. I also think there is more to Slushy, than we know so far.

I so did not want this book to end and I'm glad it is a series. I'm very much looking forward to seeing

more of Madison and Ford in future books.

I have a wide range of different types of romances I like, but it's great to find a story and writer that stretches my imagination as a reader. I felt the emotions of the characters while reading this book. This story will stay with me for a while.

I highly recommend this book!! It may not be everyone's cup of tea, but it is well written and if you are looking for a story that is dark and edgy, give it a try.

Layla Wolfe is an author I will be following in the future.

T.L. Reeve says

I have to say, I'm a little perplexed by this book.

I liked it...a lot. I could hardly put it down to say the least, but I felt a little ambiguous about it? Maybe?

Okay so, we have Ford who's this bad ass ex-SEAL who is the VP of Bare Bones. He's very much an anti-hero, but by the end I was rooting for him to get the girl, in a sick kind of twisted way.

Then there is Madison. Oy, where to begin with her? Okay so she doesn't have a moral compass to center her, yes, she knows the difference between right and wrong, but growing up in a broken home, she doesn't know stability, she doesn't really know her own self worth, so she's kind of floundering in the great big ocean of life. Or, that's how I see her.

I won't go into detail about the plot much other than to say, the book starts out when both Ford and Madison are kids. Both by the time they meet have had horrible lives and they gravitate to each other, which starts this whirlwind of one disastrous tale of woe after another.

Both are definitely in love and it's the kind of love that even if it's bad for you--which this love is completely totally wrong, you can't stop yourself from being in love with them. I should have stopped there, but ooooooh no Miss Layla, you had to suck me in and push us ahead twelve years.

Ford and Madison bump into each other at the hospital, she works there, he lost an important person (he just found them) in his life and is completely distraught. They talk, sparks fly and it begins this whole new completely out of control, completely unhealthy, twisted, mess of a relationship.

I don't even think I have the proper words to describe this book. Even though my sense of right and wrong was skewed the whole time, I wanted to root for Ford. The guys run drugs and munitions and try to be legit at the same time--which, again, I know is the cover for what they're doing. I found myself actually saying, it's okay. It's okay because Ford is the good guy. He's not though, he's really truly and honestly not. In the back of my head, I was screaming this is wrong, so very wrong. I shouldn't like Ford. I shouldn't like that he went from chick to chick having his fun, when he claimed to have always loved Madison.

I should have hated him for not knowing what his father and President of Bare Bones did and (was) currently doing to Madison. It made me sick how the women were so flippant (angry because she was taking the attention from them) about her plight and it made me sick that she endured it to help her brother out instead of saying, 'f**k it,' and walk away. I wanted to shake her and say what the hell is wrong with you?!

Like I said, I wanted to hate it. I wanted to throw it down and walk away from the book. I didn't like the detail that went into the last quarter of the book. It made me completely uncomfortable. It made my flesh crawl and it seriously made me sit back and say, "what the f**k?" But I continued on. ***Narrows eyes at Layla*** I had to remember this book isn't a fluffy tale. This is some hardcore stuff. This world...this lifestyle is hard. It's crazy. It's out of control and in your face. It's an awkward, and unhealthy to say the least HEA, but I was happy they finally got together-ish? LOL!

The writing in the beginning for Madison, up until the 3/4 mark was immature-ish, but she sucks you in and as she got older the writing matured with her. Ford was strongly written and honestly his sections of the book seemed to pull you through the story. He was the hook. I don't think without his input, the story would have worked. It's gritty. It's dirty. By the end I was left bewildered, slimy and reeling. But, it was one of the best damn stories I think I have read in a while.

Kudos Miss Layla.

Lindsay says

Actual rating: **3.75**

Have you ever found a book that you were just dying to read even before it was out? And as soon as you heard it was out, you went out and bought it? And devoured it in (almost) one sitting? And have you ever read a book that while you couldn't put it down, you weren't sure how you felt about it after it was over? Because that's the position I find myself in now.

On one hand, I really enjoyed the book. I couldn't put it down and I was hooked on Ford & Madison's story. But there were also things in the book I didn't like. So I'm going to start there and work my way to what I liked. And just because I had issues, didn't mean I didn't enjoy the book. I just need to...vent...about what bothered me.

First. There were a few parts that were Madison "speaking" to someone, telling them her story. And while they were few and far between, they were also disconcerting to me. I didn't like them. They seemed out of place. And even at the end, there was no explanation as to when Madison met the person and we never met the person she was telling her story too.

Second. I hated Cropper. I knew going in that he was going to be the bad guy. That was a given based on the blurb. And the incident that happened when Madison was 17/18...while I didn't like it, and wasn't really ok with it, I was accepting of it because it's what pushed the rest of the story on. But there was more from Cropper later. And when Madison and Cropper made their deal, I knew it was going to be bad. And I was right. When he went back on his side of the deal, I wanted to read with my eyes covered. I had to put my kindle down and walk away for a little bit (hence the "almost one sitting" reading). Cropper just turned my stomach. I've read quite a few MC books, so I expect gritty and horrible and a lot of bad behavior. I even expect bad stuff to happen to the heroines of these books. But Cropper was one of the worst. He could have been even worse than he was, and I thank the author for not making him worse. I don't think I could have handled it. And this leads me into the next item...

...Ford felt like something was wrong. But he kept denying it and ignoring his instincts. If I were him, I would have wrapped thing up quickly and made a fast trip home. But he didn't do that and he even believed the lies that Cropper fed him. He knew what Cropper was like. He warned Madison years before. Yet, he

ignored his instincts and consequently, Madison suffered for it.

And speaking of Madison suffering, she turned to one of the other old ladies at the club for advice (Dominique) she was basically told to suck it up, endure and it was her earning her "property of" patch. And that didn't sit right with me. At. All. Now, in most of the other MC books I've read, the members respect the old ladies. Once they're claimed, they're family and they're protected. But Cropper and some of his cronies didn't see it that way. Madison was claimed by Ford, but that didn't stop them from treating her like trash. Treating her worse than their club whores. And that seriously bothered me.

So, while there were things I enjoyed, there were also issues I had with it.

Kellie Maddox-Ward says

I wasn't going to say anything about this.
But as a reviewer it's all about being honest. and not everyone can like the same books.

I just couldn't do it...
I love MC books. I love Dirty talk. I love Dark books.
This just didn't work for me.

I read the whole thing thinking it would get better. For me. It didn't.

I did not like the H or the h, or the secondary characters.
and although some dark shit happened in this book.
Molestation - drug abuse - rape. I still didn't find myself liking anyone.

The scene changes are a bit choppy and there was a lot of errors. Which I can normally overlook as I'm not the best speller or grammar expert in the world. But I know other people are picky about it.

and the sexy time scenes?
They kinda had me giggling.

Some of the reasons why

Ford was carved like a turkey, his body a sublimely sculptured work of art. I wanted to watch his glutes contract as he swiveled his hips into me. His tattoo's would undulate with each pump of his pelvis"

"I look forward to putting my dick, hands, and face where my son's dick, hands, and face were. It's a family thing you know."

"When I kissed you in that pool I just wanted to throw you down and fuck you till jism seeped out your eyeballs."

So yeah. I'm sorry Layla I wish you the best of luck for the future but your book just wasn't for me.

Mandi Schreiner says

[A kiss full of love, with his juicy, fat dick humping up against my pussy mound." (hide spoiler)]

Leia says

I consider myself a very open minded reader.

I have ready my fair share of whirlwind romances, dark gritty stories and various paranormals.

But occasionally, I run across a book that's subject matter even I find.....overly taboo.

Bearing that in mind, that is why my rating is the way it is. Some readers may not mind the content in this novel, and will no doubt enjoy the story immensely.

This is the story of Madison and Ford. It isn't your traditional love story. It is dark and dirty and filled with obstacles.

Neither Madison or Ford have easy childhoods, they both have a lot to overcome and they do that in their own ways. After any idea of an easy "hearts and flowers romance" is crushed by Ford's *ahem* scum of the earth father, Cropper – Madison and Ford head in different life directions.

Then, through a series of.....unexplainable....events, Ford and Madison are brought together again. But through this, emotions are strung high, and allegiances are tested. It's a rocky road to a happily ever after – will Madison and Ford make it?

Now, why did I give this book only 3 stars?? – There are some scenes in this book that will no doubt make you cringe. The things that Cropper does are downright disgusting and hard to stomach. And there were times that I thought I might not be able to make it through. So, this story is not for the faint of heart (and obviously I fall into that category this time). Also, there were some editing issues - and if you know me, you know I normally DO NOT point these out - *but* there were some areas where the story got a little confusing because of the lack of editing. It wasn't often, but it did happen.

This story is full of twists and turns and LOTS of drama, and I know that some people out there are going to love the hell out of it, but this one just wasn't for me.

Indigo Sin says

I loved this book so much, I don't even know where to start with my review. It was dark, gritty, and gut wrenching at times...yet the the character development was great, and the story flowed at an easy pace which made it *very* difficult to put down. It's not your typical MC book, and I think that's part of what made it so enjoyable.

Madison: My heart ached for Madison. The way she grew up was so sad, but she remained strong through it all, fighting to overcome the obstacles in her path. Let's face it, no one's life is perfect, and we all make mistakes. Madison is no exception. A few times throughout the book I wanted to shake her and say, "What

the hell is wrong with you?" But her reasons for doing the things she does (don't want to give too much away) give her a genuine quality. She was very real, relatable. Most of us would do anything for family, especially if it was the only real family we had left. The things that happen to her will leave you reeling, and aren't for the faint of heart. When a book can make me cringe, the author has done an amazing job.

Ford: Wowza. Ford is intense. He's bad to the bone, yet has a soft gooey center which he only bares to Madison. He becomes a different man around her, and it speaks to their connection. Ford's past is anything but squeaky clean, being the VP for the Bare Bones. With his father, Cropper, as the President, the club is all he's ever known, so when he's faced with the possibility of settling down with one woman, his loyalties to the club are tested. And his father, oh mah gawd, what a freaking DIRT BAG. I hated him, and wished numerous times for the ability to kick him right in the nuts while reading. But that's what Miss Wolfe's writing does...she pulls emotions out of you, making you FEEL the story right along with the characters.

The subject matter is definitely taboo, and like I said, the things that happen in the book will make you squirm in one way or another, but it's so well written, that you get lost in it. Underneath the grit and the heartache is a genuine love story. It's not a conventional love story by any means, but not all love is the same, right? Miss Wolfe has a winner here. Give it a shot, you won't be disappointed.

*kawehi.reviews says

1.5-2 stars!!

I'm sorry guys but this one just did not work for me. I felt like there was no point to it and spent 98% of the book battling through grammar issues, choppy ideas, and trying to figure out where the heck this read was even going.

sighs with downcast eyes

Again, I apologise but this book this book just did not click for me and needed more editing to be done.

Best of luck to the rest of you! I'm out!!

Christy says

I actually find it really hard to pull my thoughts on this one together coherently. In the end, I liked the story, but I would not recommend it to anyone or read it again, for so many reasons. First, I felt like it developed really slowly. All the opening info was necessary, but I kept thinking, "and then . . ." The second half of the book developed faster but didn't flow from POV to POV well. Second, while darker books aren't my favorite, I can usually get past the taboo or difficult stuff to enjoy the story and appreciate that bad things really do happen. There was some dark stuff in this book, but the emphasis felt off. Some things that were glossed over seemed particularly violent and offensive compared to other instances that were emphasized as turning points for Maddy. I just didn't get it. I know that victims interpret events and process them individually, but reading the story I kept thinking that I was missing something. While I get that rape and molestation are part of the "membership" process for some groups in the real world, I didn't understand how Ford never suspected the same thing would happen to Maddy and how he could be so outraged and yet be at the very center of the group that condoned the behavior. Even if he wasn't okay with it, he had to have known Maddy would be treated the same. It just didn't make sense. Maddy's friend

Sabrina's reaction was likewise confusing from the opposite side of the fence. And the end was just too clean and happy considering everything else.

Finally, the prose was terrible. It vacillated from poetic and educated to vulgar to ridiculous. What people talk like that? I like dirty talk, really like it, but this was not it. This had me laughing out loud when I don't think that was the intent.

I don't feel like I wasted my time reading it, but I wish I hadn't bought it.
