



Wasted Heart

Nicole Reed

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“Who are you?”

The image in the mirror staring back at me feigns disinterest.

Rock star? Recovering addict? Murderer?

How can you explain to someone what it’s like not to care? Not about yourself or the person standing next to you. I’ve lost that, the ability to feel and show affection. I do, however, have a heart. Sometimes, when I chase the dragon, it thunders through my head like a drum, reminding me it still beats. It’s still there.

Hollow.? Empty.? Wasted.

My agent says I have one more shot. A single, solitary chance to stay in the music biz, but there is one massive problem. HER.

***This is a stand-alone book. It is a spin-off from the Ruining Series; however, you do not have to read the series to read Rhye's story.

Wasted Heart Details

Date : Published October 22nd 2013 (first published October 20th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Nicole Reed

Format : Kindle Edition 210 pages

Genre : New Adult, Romance, Music, Contemporary, Young Adult

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From Reader Review Wasted Heart for online ebook

Arabella ~?AB?~ says

I almost gave this a 3.5 star rating due to the cheesiness that was Syd, but I have always loved Rhye and overall I really enjoyed reading his story and so I went for a solid 4 stars.

I would however, like it if Nicole Reed could perhaps write a novella as I'm not sure if I am entirely content that this is the end for Rhye and Syd. Definitely more could be added to their story.

LZ says

5 BEAUTIFULLY TORTURED STARS

Nicole Reed truly delivers in this story!!! IMO, her writing gets better with every book and this one is no different. *Wasted Heart* shows maturity in the writing and is filled with so many well written phrases. For anyone that is a fan of her *Ruining Series*, this is a **MUST READ!!!**

We met Rhye Clark in *Ruining Me* but, a lot has happened since then. The Rhye in *Wasted Heart* is a jaded and tortured man. Life as a rock star hasn't worked out so well and we find him at rock bottom.

"Death is my reality, and it beckons me. She sings sweetly in my ear and plays the perfect strains of music in my head..."

He is one of the most beautifully broken characters I've read in a long time. I LOVE him...the demons, battles, flaws, vulnerability, **EVERYTHING**. He's certainly not all bad, in fact there are some heart melting moments that won me over but, this book is not called *Wasted Heart* for nothing. And, while Nicole Reed has showed us that she could do angst like no other, this isn't all angst. It couldn't be, not with a MC like Syn. I must admit that I was unsure about Syn for the first 20% of the book. She was soooooo wholesome and navite.

She's the epitome of the lovable dorky girl... so endearingly silly and sweet that I couldn't resist her. By the end of the story, I not only liked Syn, I wanted to beat Rhye FOR her. I realized that she needed to be the light to Rhye's dark in order to be strong enough for him...FOR THEM. Rhye does not make it easy to love him, he's cruel, resisting and hard but, Syn can't help it, even at a cost to herself.

And believes it she does. Syn's love for Rhye had me frustrated more times than I could count. I honestly believe most people would of been out the door in the first five minutes. I kept thinking "Oh hell no! Get out of there! Why put up with this?" He put her through so much crap that I think her sweetness was the only way she could endure it.

"There were good times, stolen moments when my world opened up to the possibilities of becoming a

woman. Seconds when I would have given him anything he asked for because I thought that what I held in my arms was the most precious thing in my life."

I found myself laughing, crying and screaming several times throughout their relationship but, I understood by the end. These two had to be so different in order to work. IMO the ending was perfect, realistic, honest and true to these characters.

Rhye and Syn.....

Chris- Bookaddict says

Full review now Posted

Absolutely Rock Star Awesome. Nicole Wrote Rhye's Story beautifully...

Rhye... we first met him in The Ruining Series. I loved him in that series. I am so happy that Nicole gave him his own book!!!! I would suggest to FULLY understand this book read the first two in the Ruining series first. That way you can completely understand Rhye and why he is the way he is.

Anyone that know Nicole know that she LOVES angst, she thrives on it!!! She brings it out in her books amazingly with every word. She writes so amazingly that she has you feeling every emotion with her characters.

We all love a bad-boy rock star and with Rhye we get that and so much more.

"Who are you?"

The image in the mirror staring back at me feigns disinterest.

Rock star? Recovering addict? Murderer?

"Everyone I've ever cared about turned away, chose someone or something else."

Rhye, we pick up with him 4 yrs after he is a discovered Rock Star. He made it big, but now 4 years later he feels like a wasted space person, he is lost, a tortured soul broken, and he does not feel anything anymore. He does have a heart but he does not feel he has a right to use it or to show anyone his feelings. He has one chance left with his record company to bring himself out of the whole he is in and make something of his group. If he fails they will drop him at the record label.

"The music doesn't run through my veins like it used to. It doesn't lead me. It doesn't sing through my

blood and bleed out through my lyrics. It doesn't make me feel anything anymore."

Watching Rhye in the beginning and seeing the struggles he was going through with himself broke my heart. When he decided to take the deal from the record label for someone else and not for himself it reminded me once again how much I loved Rhye and his BIG heart.

Syd, I LOVED her. She uses her music as her own therapy. She has a grief filled past. She pours her heart and soul into her lyrics and music. She gets her big break with a record label where she has to record a duet with Rhye in Nashville. Rhye who in the beginning does not care about anyone or anything. We soon see what these two mean to each other. We see first hand how one person can help a person bring themselves out of the hole they are in. Syd loves with everything she has, she is passionate, she is caring 100% and she does everything in her power to help Rhye. In the process she falls in love with him completely.

Will Syd change Rhye? Will she be able to get him to open up and realize that his heart is not wasted after all?

Some of my other favorite quotes from the book :

"I suffer greatly for my sins. I've never needed a judge or jury because I crucify myself just fine."

"His voice. God that voice. The deep, raspy tone gives me chill bumps just thinking about it. It reaches down inside and tugs at every string you possess."

"If I take you, I can't say what you need to hear. Not because I wouldn't mean it, but because I don't know what it really means. Something is so fucking wrong inside of me that I don't know if I'll ever be able to be fixed. Even at this moment, if it was a choice between a hit of smack or you, I wish I could tell you, without another thought, that it would be you, but I can't,"

"After spending today with you, I know you could live here forever and be content, but even now, I'm becoming jittery, needing more than the silence and the peace. I can't fix me for you anymore than you could dirty yourself up enough for me. I don't want to sleep with you and tell you thanks for the fuck and walk away. I know that it would shatter something inside me that really would be unfixable."

Love.

A four letter word.

So beautiful in its spelling.

So simple in its arrangement.

So innocent in its meaning.

So fragile in its time.

So devastating in its aftermath.

I've fallen for him... into a million pieces. Separately, the pieces don't make a lick of sense, but

together, all my questions in the universe are answered. I feel this is where my life has been leading me. To him.

Got my ARC !!!!

I'm SOOOOOOOO

Melissa *BITCH, I'M READING!*** says**

omg I made it through a "Ruining" book without crying my face off! go me!!

I love this series, and these characters, I was excited to read this and happy that I got some answers to some questions I had from the last books.

love this authors writing style and can't wait to read more from her!

Jamie *Gypsy Smut-a-teer* says

Omg, I thought this series was complete!!! Makes me a little nervous where this could go....however, I'm stoked to get more of Rhye!!!!!!!!!! :)

***Nancy* says**

Took a while to really get good but once it did it REALLY got GOOD!!! I loved it! I recommend this trilogy :D

Duygu P?nar says

I want to read Rhye's story !

Kim Person says

WOW!!!! Amazing! Real! I wouldn't change a darn thing!!!! 5 HOLY Rhye stars!!!! You want angst well Nicole is going to give it to you in spades!!!!

This little Rockstar lover is over the moon!!!!!! Full Review will be posted for blog tour stop!!!!!! I'm buying this baby the minute it comes out ~ Another BRILLIANT Read from the ever talented Nicole Reed!!!!!! I want to be her when I grow up!!!!

Jennifer Kyle says

3.75 I'll Save You Stars

*"Can he even have a heart?
Is it even possible?
His tiny, shriveled, and withered heart.
Isn't that what it is? Unused.
Squandered. A wasted heart?"*

Readers knew Rhye was broken from the events that happen in the Ruining Series, but our singer truly was **CRUSHED**. He truly loved Jay. Although he is famous and his band is doing well, certain events have dragged Rhye deeper into the depths of despair. He has been in and out of rehab centers and the record company is giving him one last shot.

"Everyone I've ever cared about turned away, chose someone or something else."

Cue in Syn Landry, she is a naive nineteen year old country music singer who falls "hopelessly" in love with Rhye from the moment she sets eyes on him. They are to record a duet together in Nashville. **INSTANT LOVE ALERT** She sees the pain in his eyes, she wants to fix him and love him forever from their first encounter.

"I fell in love with a broken boy."

Honestly, she didn't even give him a chance to develop true feelings for her. I felt like she was all up in his face from the start. I have to hand it to Syn she really does help Rhye. She shows him love and support when he's down and helps him confront his past.

Speaking of past, Jay and Kane make an appearance!!!

Sadly, addiction doesn't have an overnight fix and what the future holds for these two **for me**, it's pretty much up in the air.

"The women, the drugs, and the partying. If I could make a pill that would make the desire for each of those things to disappear, I would be the first in line to take it."

Please support Rhye so Nicole Reed will be persuaded to give us more. I want him to have a nice big HEA with or without Syn!

ARC provided by the author **Nicole Reed in exchange for an honest review.**

Christy says

4 Stars!!!

"I fell in love with a broken boy."

I loved Rhye Clark from the first two 'Ruining' books. Even though I knew he wasn't really for Jay, I rooted for this guy! I was so sad to see the place Rhye was at five years down the line... Rhye made it big in the music industry. But his life is far from perfect. The guilt he carries, things he did that he felt were a catalyst in two friends deaths weighs him down. He turns to drugs, alcohol and women to help numb his life.

"Who are you?" Rock star? Soon-to-be-washed-up-musician would be a more apt description. Recovering addict? Well, fuck. That went out the window last night. Murderer? Yeah, that holds true.

Rhye Clarke has one chance. Just one more chance from his record company to get clean, and come out with another great record. His record company sends him to Nashville to work on writing for the new album. He is to be paired up with a young, famous country star to do a duet. Rhye isn't thrilled at this, but he doesn't have much of a choice in the matter.

Syn Landry is a sweet, innocent country girl. She is strong, independent, and knows exactly what she wants in life. Even though she is only nineteen, she seems older in some ways. Being from the same record company as Rhye, she is paired up with him for a duet. Syn is a fan of Rhye's. She's heard his albums, and knows how talented he is, but seeing him for the first time- hearing him, she is floored.

I gape into Rhye Clark's dark abyss. An empty, soulless cavity. An uncontrollable full-body shiver shakes me to my core, and my world changes. Instantly. Irrevocably.

Syn has a bit of insta-love towards Rhye, but with their connection, it isn't completely unbelievable. She sees the struggle he's facing and wants to be there for him.

My body naturally reacts to his, but it's my emotions that I don't understand. I want to protect

him, shelter him, right every wrong; however, the most confusing aspect is not only do I want to fix him, but I want to fix myself. I want to be perfect for him, to be what he needs.

The two of them have an interesting relationship to begin with. Rhye feels something different with Syn, but he doesn't want to. He doesn't want to know her. He knows someone like him would never deserve someone like her. The more time Rhye spends with Syn and feels her love, the more he starts to want her too.

Syn absolutely brought out the very best in Rhye. She loved him and supported him no matter what, but did it in a way that she didn't enable him or let him walk all over her. For the first time in his life, Rhye has someone who genuinely cares, loves him for him and gives him a real reason to try to stay sober and move forward from the past.

'Don't give up easily and remember that anyone who is worth your love is worth waiting for.'

Rhye doesn't make it easy on Syn. It's difficult for him. To be sober. To stay sober. But he tries... and she is patient with him.

?I can't pass up a book about a rock star or a tortured soul, and the fact that this was about a character I already loved from a series... well you know I had to jump right in! I'm so glad I did. I truly enjoy Nicole Reed's writing. The way it flows, the emotions she evokes, every book of hers makes me feel in some way or another. The only big issue I have with this book is I felt it ended abruptly. I truly felt for Rhye and Syn, and I really hope to get more from these two in a future book or novella!

Ginger Ale says

Insta-love - not my fave.

Kirsten P says

I don't even know how to begin to tell you what an awesome punch this book packed. Admittedly, I love the bad-boy rock star. Who doesn't? When Nicole Reed said she was writing Rhye's story (you all certainly remember him from her Ruining Series), you can only imagine how excited I was.

We pick up four years after Rhye is discovered at the music showcase, and Rhye, well, he's different. My heart seriously breaks for him as we become acquainted with what has gone on in his life these past four years. Yes, he's made it big, but at what price? He seems lost, broken, worn-out, a shell of what he once was. His record label is ready to drop him, and they are giving him one opportunity to make this right, to get his act together. Rhye doesn't take the deal from the label for himself because he is past caring what happens to him; he does it for someone else, and I am quickly reminded of what a huge heart Rhye has and why I loved him as much as I did in the Ruining Series.

“The music doesn’t run through my veins like it used to. It doesn’t lead me. It doesn’t sing through my blood and bleed out through my lyrics. It doesn’t make me feel anything anymore.”

Enter Syd. Our female lead here has her own difficult, grief-filled past, and she uses her music as a means of almost therapy. She writes songs and plays music to help her release that agony she felt in her younger years. Syd is my kind of heroine, strong, fiercely loyal, and not afraid to tell you what is on her mind. When she does anything, she doesn’t do it halfway; she loves wholly, and this includes her relationship with Rhye. As many times as I wanted to slap some sense into him, Syd understands him; she gets him. Syd is so invested in him, and it is probably the first time in his life that Rhye has had someone so passionate about him.

“Sometimes we meet people and have this instant connection. I’m sure, in some cases, it can turn into love, but that’s after getting to know someone so intimately that you’re willing to take on their internal struggles as your own.”

What follows is a fantastic story about a love, loss, addiction, helplessness, and hope. Unfortunately, Rhye is a tortured soul, and there are many instances where it seems like he is fighting a losing battle to survive. He’s struggling to find himself, to stay above water, to be a man worthy of someone’s love and compassion, not knowing if he can truly be what Syd needs. Rhye fights to see the good in himself; he’s lost his ability to love and to care, and he truly is "hollow, empty, wasted," but does that mean he always will be? Rhye has tough choices to make here, and the journey along the road of recovery is certainly never easy. It is something he will struggle with for a lifetime.

“I’m lost trying to find my way. Inside your wasted heart.”

I won’t tell you much more about this one; it needs to be experienced. As always, Ms. Reed has her characters dealing with real-life situations in real-life ways. There are no quick fixes; there is no magic wand to bring these characters their respective HEA’s. Once again, Ms. Reed has improved upon her writing, and I feel privileged to be able to bear witness to it.

Ailene♥ says

A damaged rock star that was given by his record label one last chance... A wholesome country singer at the top of her career... The two met for a collaboration. I had high hopes for this one because I did like the progression at first. It was told in dual POV and the characters were introduced well. I could say that I got connected with them individually. But the moment they met, there's just no chemistry at all. There were very few interactions. It focused mainly on the making of music, what to write, what's next, people to deal with and all the technicalities. I kept on saying there might be more to come. But there's none... Nothing happened. I was curious regarding the hero's past and what lead him to what he was. I thought there would be some climactic scenes or something like that. But all that happened was instant resolution.

The author focused on “what she thinks, what he thinks” only to realize that they were suddenly hooking up. There was never a build up. I also have to mention the heroine. Her virginity/innocence was written in a way that it was too damn special. She seemed too proud of it. I could even feel that she's been itching to tell it to him. I thought there was more to her. But I found her shallow and overdramatic. To be honest, there came a time that I really hated her pov. And what's up with her ex? The ex was also a famous musician who had a problem moving on and kept writing songs about her. Of course, any reader would think there would be conflicts about that. But nothing came up. So, what the heck were those very long flashbacks for?

Then, along came the hero who was a manwhore (again)... and an addict. He even hooked up with 3 girls. There might be a resolution about his past at the end of the story. But there was NO character development. I couldn't really see him capable of handling a long-term relationship. And why do they always have to be a manwhore? It doesn't even represent reality because I believe that most men aren't like that. Most men still look for a deeply nourishing relationship with women, right?

I think this story had its potential. But maybe due to pressure with deadlines, the author decided to rush it. I just realized that it's nearing its end and saying to myself "Hey! But they just met!"... Yes, it definitely felt that way and to think that this book is a normal length novel.

I'd like to rate it with 2 stars since I have no problem with the writing style. But the hero getting a blow job from another woman, then, having a threesome some other night was a BIG deal breaker for me. Yes, technically he wasn't cheating. But whatever, the reader felt cheated nonetheless...

Becky says

ARC provided by author for an honest review

For additional reviews please visit <http://realitybites-letsgetlost.blogs...>

I, like many, fell head over heels for Rhye when I first met him in Ruining Me. He was the perfectly imperfect bad boy. And though my heart wanted him to get his HEA with Jay, my head knew it wasn't meant to be. So, when I found out he was getting his own book, I was over the moon happy! If anybody deserved to find some happiness (besides Jay, of course) it was Rhye. There was just one little thing I didn't think about in that moment of joy.

That Rhye's story would be so damn heartbreaking.

To get to any happy ending for someone so lost, it is going to be hard. Rhye is fighting against some serious demons that he chooses to bury under a haze of drugs and sex. It has cost him everything, even his love for music. I believe he thought he would never connect with it again and that only propelled the drug usage and sex binges even more. His mentality was "what's the point of being sober when you have nothing left and no one gives a damn?".

"We all have a weakness. Something that unleashes our eternal demons to gnaw away at our morality until it is picked clean from the bone. Sometimes, it leaves us with nothing. Numb from all emotion. Blind from what is right in front of you. What happens then? What's left?"

Syn comes into his live when he needs someone the most, but would never admit it. She is the innocent to his bad, the pure to his dirty. If there ever was a couple that were worlds apart, it would Rhye and Syn. But that is the very thing that made them perfect for one another. She sees something in him that he no longer can see

in himself. She believes enough for the both of them that there is a light at the end of the tunnel, even if there will be moments of darkness getting there.

"Syn doesn't offer me empty words, broken promises, or careless caresses. It's something I've never known: giving without getting back a single damn thing. I don't understand it, and I'm afraid I never will."

I loved that the darker side of Rhye's drug use was not glossed over. It was very much a real part of who he is and deserved to be present in his story. There is no magical fix and there are good days as well as bad. As someone who has seen the daily struggles addiction can bring to a loved one's life, I felt Nicole did a great job of making you really understand how tough it can be. I also commend her for how she ended things. As much I love my fairy tale endings, it is nice to have them be realistic sometimes too.

Wasted Heart holds true to the angst type storyline from both Ruining Me and Ruining You. It may not be as heart wrenching, but it is still tough, especially if you already love Rhye. And even though it is part of the Ruining Series, it could be read as a stand-alone, although I would say it would be easier to understand Rhye's struggles if you read the other two books. It is mild on the steam, but for me at least, that was fine because that is the way the story was meant to be told. Overall, just an amazing read from start to finish!

Kirsty says

"She fell in love with a broken boy."

Nicole Reed blows me away with her writing again and again and Wasted Heart was absolutely no exception to that. I don't really know how she does it, but every book I read by her is always better than the last.

We are all familiar with Rhye Clark from Nicole's Ruining Series and whilst I did always love him in that book, I was never on Team Rhye.. it was always Kane for me. Having said that, I did love his character and as soon as I heard that Nicole was writing another book all about Rhye I couldn't have been more disappointed. He's the type of guy we all love, even when we shouldn't. The rock star, the bad boy, the one in to all the wrong things.. drugs, drink and women. But the biggest shocker of all? Rhye has a heart of gold.

"Who wants to live this life sober when the alternative makes you feel abso-fucking-lutely nothing?"

Rhye is skating on thin ice. His record label have just about had enough of him, and they give him one last chance to get his crap together and sort his life out. Easier said than done for a guy so buried deep in grief and heartache that he can't find a way out. He agrees to stay in Nashville, recording a new album and staying on the straight and narrow.. meaning 11pm curfew's, regular drug tests and creating a duet with one of the countries leading country singers, Syn Landry.

I **LOVED** Syn's character. She may only be 19, but she too has lived a life full of grief and heartbreak, only she came out the other side a stronger person. She pours her whole heart and soul in to her music and is always so ready and willing to help out someone in need.. Rhye included. For someone treated so like crap (from Rhye) she never gave up on him. She knew what she wanted.. him.. and she went for it, even during the times when I'm sure anyone else would have told him exactly where to go. She quickly became one of my favourite heroines to read about.

"I gape into Rhye Clark's dark abyss. An empty, soulless cavity. An uncontrollable full-body shiver shakes me to my core, and my world changes. Instantly. Irrevocably."

Not only did I love these characters alone, but I loved them together. They brought out the best qualities in each other, and they showed time and time again that they were so good for each other. Nicole has created characters here who, could not be more different, but at the same time be so perfect for each other. ***"We are not only polar opposites, we are from different worlds entirely."*** Syn is the light, whilst Rhye is the dark. Syn is the happy, whilst Rhye is the deeply sad. Rhye is the addict, Syn is the girl who doesn't drink, let alone touch a drug. They really couldn't be any more different but that just makes them work. They complimented each other in the best of ways.

"His voice. God that voice. The deep, raspy tone gives me chill bumps just thinking about it. It reaches down inside and tugs at every string you possess."

I've already briefly mentioned Nicole's writing, but I can't do this book justice without properly going in to detail about it. I don't know how she manages it, but every book she churns out is just better and better and it is so damn obvious that she works so hard to improve every time. Whether it be this series, or Cake, Nicole brings out all the emotions and has you feeling everything. Wasted Heart is told in both Syn and Rhye's POV, and obviously I must be a real Rhye fan, because his chapters were my favourite. Witnessing first hand his struggles when it came to his drug addiction were so realistic. It was so plain to me that Nicole knew what she was talking about here and I appreciated that so much when reading his chapters. The times he would beat himself up over feeling inadequate and not worthy of life, let alone love, were so painfully beautiful.

"I suffer greatly for my sins. I've never needed a judge or jury because I crucify myself just fine."

I could easily have highlighted and quoted the whole freaking book but something tells me Nicole would have been less impressed so I tried hard to refrain. That just shows me that this book was all kinds of incredible. And I think for anybody who is a fan of The Ruining Series then there is no way you won't love this. Whether you were Team Kane, JT or Rhye, Nicole brings you the same level of emotion and angst here, as well as an imperfect HAE. My favourite kind.

***? "And I don't know how you revived this ceaseless beating.
And made it restart.
I want you to stay,
inside this once wasted heart." ?***

ARC provided by Nicole Reed in turn for an honest review.
