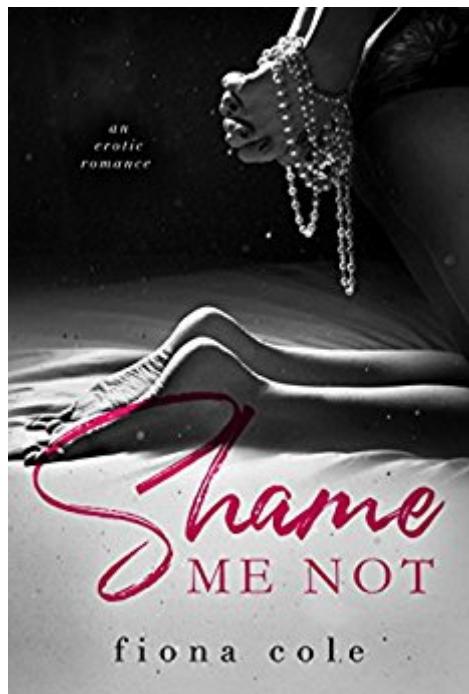


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# Shame Me Not



## Synopsis

Shame. Panic. Desire. Dominance. Disgust. All feelings that I was familiar with from the age of sixteen. That's when I met Ana. The girl next door who became so much more. Until her, I was alone in the dark desires that I didn't understand, that I couldn't reconcile. My best friend, she accepted me. Helped me see that there was no shame in the things that we both craved. Her submission was a drug, my dominance over her a high that I'd never experienced. When we were together, I was at peace for the first time in my life. But it was too good to last. Our own guilt over our feelings, of our appetite for pain and pleasure, destroyed us. I was convinced that all I needed was a chance, just one more chance to overcome my shame, and Ana would be able to trust me again. If only it were that easy. \*WARNING: This book is an erotic romance and does contain consensual sexual situations between characters under eighteen that include submission and domination.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Well I'm certainly impressed. This was a new to me author and I'll definitely be following Cole from here on out. This story follows Kevin and Ana. Best friends turn young lovers that both have desires

to explore the kinkier side of sex, however there is deep rooted guilt over their sexual tastes be it from religious or societal norms. While the sex in the book bordered on darker tendencies there was always talks about trusting each other and complete consent before hand. This is important to me as a reader. This was also dual perspective, and while I liked both characters a lot, I found myself connecting more to Ana. She was sweet likable and had a quiet confidence when she was younger that was written very well. She embraced her desires a little faster than Kevin, and was constantly reassuring him that what they felt wasn't wrong. Kevin was a great character as well, he was in his own head a lot during their younger years but I really loved how the book explores aspects of self shame and desire. So that never felt over done. The two face some challenges when Kevin denies what and who he is and as most young couples do, end up parting ways. There are big time jumps in the book, but it totally works for the story. Not every couple stays together from the time they meet so I liked that they reconnected. The dynamic completely changed as the characters grew. I found this to be really interesting. Kevin embraced what he liked, while Ana pulled away from her true self. It was clear they were unhappy while apart and the connection between them makes it easy to root for their happiness. There was a lot of depth and character growth throughout the book which always makes me happy because it's becoming harder to find that now days. This book would truly be enjoyed by anyone who has ever felt like they shouldn't embrace what turns them on. As long as something is safe, legal and consensual then explore it. That's what the book boils down to. Like I said before I'm really impressed with this book and Cole has made an insta fan out of me.

Shame Me Not is the first book I have ever read by Fiona Cole and it will definitely not be my last. I stayed up late last night to finish reading it and I am still taking it all in. It is unlike anything I have ever read and I have to admit that at times it shocked me and I mean SHOCKED me. Going into it, I had a feeling it was going to be an intense novel, but nothing could have prepared me for what I read. It was dark, gritty and completely out of my comfort zone, but no matter how much it tested what I thought was right and wrong, I could not put it down. I was enthralled with Kevin and Ana. They are unlike any characters I have ever come across. Ana moves in next door to Kevin and from the very first day they meet, their friendship blossoms and they become the best of friends. Their relationship starts as your typical sweet friends to lover romance novel where they are the best of friends who do everything together and understand each other like no one else does, but the moment Ana discovers Kevin's deepest, darkest desires, everything changes between them. They both learn that they want the same things. Kevin is a sadist and Ana is a masochist. Kevin is into humiliation and dealing out pain. Ana is into receiving it. Ana is independent but she wants someone

to take care of her and make most of her choices because all she's ever done is take care of her mom, so she just wants someone to take the reigns in her life, because she's tired of being in charge and taking care of others. She just wants someone to ease her burden, and Kevin is just the person for the job, because all he wants is to take care of her. They are perfect for each other in every sense of the word, they just don't see it. They ultimately give into their desires and when they do, they are filled with feelings of guilt, shame and disgust. Kevin has a hard time coming to terms with what he desires and feels it's wrong and is disgusted with himself. Ana eventually starts hating what she desires too and wishes she were normal and tries to be someone she's not, but it all proves to be useless because she can't stop wanting what she desires. It's a part of her she can't deny forever. Reading Kevin and Ana's story not only taught me new things I didn't realize people were into, but it also has taught me to be more understanding, because I know that if someone had told me they were into what Kevin and Ana liked before I read *Shame Me Not* I would have thought they were crazy, but after reading their story, I have realized just how difficult it is for someone to come to terms with what they enjoy sexually because they always have to worry about what others are going to think. Just seeing how much Kevin and Ana struggled to accept themselves honestly broke my heart and that is the last thing I expected to feel when I read this novel, but it honestly really hurt me to see how they were ashamed of what they felt when it was something that just came natural to them. They vied with that side of themselves and because of it they hurt each other time and time again, which frustrated me to no end, but at the same time I was glad they made the choices they did because it helped them grow as people. And if there is one thing I really appreciate about *Shame Me Not* it is that Kevin and Ana's desires do not stem from a hard past, abuse or trauma, which I feel is starting to be a recurring theme in dark romance novels, and the fact that Fiona Cole did not take that approach was refreshing, because Kevin and Ana don't desire what they do to cope with a difficult upbringing or past. They do it out of pure desire and I like that because it doesn't feel like some excuse for the things they are into. They are simply into what they desire because it comes naturally to them and I appreciate that as a reader, because it helps me understand that there are people out there who have the same desires as Kevin and Ana, and through their story I have learned to be more open minded and to not be so quick to judge others when it comes to what they like sexually. If anything I need to be more understanding, because it's not easy for people to accept what they like, and after seeing both Kevin and Ana's internal struggles I truly sympathize with people who are going

through what Kevin and Ana went through and will take what I learned from their story and just try to be more understanding. Overall, I enjoyed reading *Shame Me Not*, which I did not expect at all since I am not into the BDSM genre or a big fan of dark romance novels, but Fiona Cole did the impossible and created a story that not only changed my perspective but also taught me so much. I give *Shame Me Not* 5 out of 5 stars and recommend it to all fans of BDSM and dark romance novels out there. You will enjoy it. I have no doubt about it.

This book was super hyped up with in reader groups on Facebook. So I decided I needed to see what the fuss was about. I was not disappointed! This is a story of 2 people, Ana and Kevin, as they struggle to deal with their sexual preferences. They are neighbors. They find, as friends (both 16), that they see something in each other and become best friends because they can completely be themselves. Eventually it progresses into experimenting with each other. After some time they ended up having a falling out and went their separate ways. She comes back home toward the end of college and they end up being best friends again and then again progress to lovers. This book has so much more than just a lot of hot sex. They have a real friendship. They have relationships with other people. They have other real life problems. And along with it all is the constant fear that someone will find out what kind of kinky things they are up to in the bedroom. I loved that they took turns feeling the severe insecurity of it all. I love that no matter how much Ana runs from him, Kevin is always there for her. I cried so many times. My stomach was constantly in knots. I laughed at their banter. At times my heart was racing, and stayed that way for 15-20 minutes after I put the book down! And I did not want to put it down. I was sad to see it end because I would have loved to have spent more time with Kevin and Ana!

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