



Fighting Words

Emily Eck

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This is a standalone novel.

Sara has lived most of her life in silence, her only outlet being family BBQs where she sings like an angel. When her wild, guitar playing cousin talks her into singing at a club, her world is turned upside down. She is forced to face a world she has spent most of her life avoiding and is crippled with fear.

One set of dark, brooding eyes at a show in Cincinnati changes everything. Gio breaks Sara so he can rebuild her. He makes her feel alive in a way she's never experienced. Unfortunately, he's not what he seems and Sara isn't sure she can forgive him. Though his intentions are good, she knows a relationship cannot be built on lies so she retreats back to her silent world.

When Hollywood comes knocking on Sara's door, he's the only one who stands a chance at convincing her to leave her silent life and move to LA. Gio is determined to make Sara trust and love him, but Sara is stubborn and scared, a combination that no one is sure she can overcome.

Warning This book contains sex, backstage debauchery, and a good amount of barf bags. Recommended for readers over 18.

Fighting Words Details

Date : Published December 15th 2014 (first published December 14th 2014)

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Author : Emily Eck

Format : ebook 319 pages

Genre : New Adult, Disability, Romance

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From Reader Review Fighting Words for online ebook

Kim Sutton says

I received an ARC of this book for my honest review (Sweet n Sassy Book a Holics).

I absolutely loved this story! Emily Eck has written about something real, that she herself has personal experience of! I loved that we saw how truly cruel some people can be especially when they don't understand the problem! It's real life there are mean people out there that will laugh at you and call you names!

I loved Sara's character she is so strong, even though she doesn't believe she is! Gio the heartthrob who shows Sara no matter what happens he'll always be there to catch her! Lia who is Sara's cousin and another very strong female in this story! I enjoyed every part of this story! I had quite a few laughs and there was a lot of emotional parts I definitely shed a tear or two toward the end of the book. A great band is born and a beautiful relationship fights for life I found it so heartwarming!

I thoroughly enjoyed reading Fighting For Words, and will definitely be looking out for more work by this author! Five stars!

ByoBook Club says

★★★★ Our 3 1/2 Star Review ★★★★

This book is about a girl who stutters and how, as an adult, this speech disorder affects her. She struggles with it and hides from the world, finds her outlet through singing with a band, but still finds a way to hide. Her family is an awesome support system and, eventually, so is her boyfriend. I found it very informative and inspirational to see how she struggled and overcome. You never know someone else's battles until you have fought the battle yourself.

While, I realize it was necessary to understand the struggle and pain this disorder caused Sara, it seems like the first half of the book could have been condensed into about a 20% and it still would have had the same effect. I was reading the same things over and over again; she and her mother would talk, cry, she would do a show, decide she didn't want to do anymore, get mad at her cousin, cry, and do it all over again. The story didn't really pick up until almost 50% in. There was plenty of unneeded details throughout the book that didn't really contribute anything to the story.

It was a good read after you got passed the slow moving beginning, away from the constant mother daughter chats and weeping. Gio was swoon-worthy, but honestly, I found myself more interested in EZ and Lila's story.

This is a great story, it just seemed to have so much filler that was not needed and it really caused the story to drag on and made it hard to finish at times.

~Jennifer

Rosa Sharon (iScream Books Blog) says

Fly high, I'll catch you...

I'm a music lover and I'm drawn to books with a musical theme. I had never heard of this author before but I was intrigued after reading the synopsis and decided to give it a chance. I'm so glad that I did. It was a very emotional read that moved me from sad to laughter to anger to tears to giggle-snorting to blushing and back to tears. I enjoyed the beautiful heartfelt lyrics and the details of a struggling band trying to make it in the music industry. I especially enjoyed the strong family support, especially the close relationship between Sara and her cousin Lila where they could communicate without words. However; I wouldn't have wanted to miss their words cuz they were pretty funny sometimes. I also got a few giggles from Sara's inner dialogue as she is a fellow smut-lover and mentioned several of my favorite authors and books she was reading...and some scenes she wanted to try herself (wink-wink). I confess that I would love to crash the weekly family BBQ for some ribs, special sauce, a can of beer, Grandma's wisdom, and one of Aunt Cece's winks. And did I mention Gio? He started out as Mr. Mysterious, owner of the intense chocolate stare that watched her on stage and wouldn't let her look away. However; it was his a\$\$ that caught Grandma's attention when she met him. It wasn't all giggles and tears, it was an eye-opening education as well. Thank you Emily Eck for sharing a part of yourself with your readers.

Spunky N Sassy says

Sweet N Sassy Book A Holics Rating: 4.33

~~~Zarah's ★★★★ Review~~~

"Sorry you got a broken kid"

I received this title courtesy of Sweet and Sassy Book-Aholics for an honest review

Wow. What can I say. I lost count of the number of times this story broke me. Then I read the Author's bio and was broken again. This book is not your usual heartbreak, you will feel every bit of Sara's fear. The nastiness of some people angered me no end and made me want to jump in and defend Sara myself.

It's obvious early on that Sara is hiding from something and it is quite a way into her story that the reason for her silence around people other than her family is made clear. Surrounded by a large and noisy family she is able to hide her impediment from the world as she is loved and protected in her safe zone. The problem is she has an amazing gift, one that needs to be shared with the world. Sara works through her fears and we watch her shine as she puts herself out there for the love of her family.

One also can not imagine the pain of a parent watching their child suffer as Sara does - her mother is an absolute legend, the lengths she goes to for her daughter and making sure people understand her condition while not allowing Sara to use it as a crutch to hold her back.

Along comes Gio, and what a man! His unconditional and unwavering support of his little songbird has her believing anything is possible, but, he has a secret of his own and it might just break our Sara. I did find it a little strange though that after being in a relationship for a year that Sara wouldn't have been more aware of Gio's family and life. I can understand him being a little gun shy to share everything with her after her reaction to what he does for a job.

It was a joy to watch Sara overcome her issues and Emily Eck did Sara and her story absolute justice. Well

done Emily and the fact that this is so personal to you really showed.

~~~Sharlene's ★★★ Review~~~

Fighting Words is written in one POV of the heroine, Sara. Sara and Gio along with the secondary characters in this book are all very likable. The storyline was mostly narrative - very little conversation (as you would probably guess from the synopsis). I did find the synopsis was a little misleading. My impression was that other than singing, the main character, Sara, was mute. But this is not the case. She does speak and does have conversations with people just not a lot. The storyline was repetitive IMO. Just following the characters around while they basically do the same thing over and over. That being said, it was on a new subject. Not your typical romance. The author actually taught me some things on speech impediments.

I would not classify this as erotica but more a contemporary romance with a little bit of hot sex scenes. This story does have a HEA and is a stand alone.

~~~Michelle's ★★★★ Review~~~

Nothing is better than a book that grips your heartstrings and doesn't let go. "Fighting Words" is truly a one in million book that has real issues that real people deal with every day. Sara's story is heart wrenching – she struggles with a disability, hides herself away from the world until her cousin convinces her to sing in a band. Even though she has a secret she gets up on stage and sings with the most beautiful voice with her family behind her for support. Her story is intriguing and it keeps you glued to it until the very last word.

Emily Eck does an astounding job in captivating you with her words while bringing Sara's story to life – This is one of those books that brings out every emotion you have - I cried, laughed and even got angry. There are secrets and some steamy romance..... You want to hate Gio, but than again you don't. The story is charismatic and I highly recommend it to anyone looking for an awesome read.

Well done Emily Eck – you truly are an amazing author!

~~~~~Kims ★★★★★ Review~~~~~

I received an ARC of this book for my honest review.

I absolutely loved this story! Emily Eck has written about something real, that she herself has personal experience of! I loved that we saw how truly cruel some people can be especially when they don't understand the problem! It's real life there are mean people out there that will laugh at you and call you names!

I loved Sara's character she is so strong, even though she doesn't believe she is! Gio the heartthrob who shows Sara no matter what happens he'll always be there to catch her! Lia who is Sara's cousin and another very strong female in this story! I enjoyed every part of this story! I had quite a few laughs and there was a lot of emotional parts I definitely shed a tear or two toward the end of the book. A great band is born and a beautiful relationship fights for life I found it so heartwarming!

I thoroughly enjoyed reading Fighting For Words, and will definitely be looking out for more work by this author! Five stars!

~~~~~Sara's ★★★★★ Review~~~~~

I was given an ARC for my honest opinion.

Let me say first get your box of tissues before picking this book up. I felt everything from Sara's fear to her frustrations. Sara uses the strength of her love for her family at first to push her through getting on stage. When she sings it is so memorizing and she doesn't stutter. I absolutely loved this book because it was real. It wasn't just another pretty girl who is shy and the Jock comes then they fall in love and have hot sex. Nope this is real and everything that Sara is going through is what real people with this situation go through such as the author herself. Then she places a Guy who doesn't care and is determined to prove his love. I stand and applaud Emily Eck. 5 stars!

~~~~Dee's ★★★★★ Review~~~~

Ms. Eck has done a superb job of presenting the struggles and challenges as experienced by one who stutters. The story, based on fact, is told by Sara...entirely from her POV. Her thoughts and reactions to encounters in life, clearly illustrate the frustrations, anger, uncertainties, doubts and fears she feels daily. There is even a little humor laced within. One of my favorites was the afternoon Gio was introduced to Grandma. Hilarious!

Sara chooses to hide from the world like a turtle; safe in the arms of only her family and mute to outsiders. This reclusive way of life dramatically changes when she meets Gio. His love for her and her incredible singing voice infuses new life into her world. Gio has two secrets that will break Sara apart and on both occasions, he puts her back together again, stronger than ever. Her lifestyle evolves from the reclusive, hiding from the world, to the all inclusive experience of being a rising singing star giving personal, solo interviews. The reading experience was educational as well as interesting and enjoyable. I was given this book in exchange for an honest review.

NMmomof4 says

2 Stars

Overall Opinion: This was an interesting read about someone overcoming their fears and living with a stutter. It was touching at times because of how she hid from a potential life because of her struggles. I thought that the topic was interesting and the author confessed her own struggles with a stutter, so it makes me feel like a jerk to criticize. So I'll apologize now to Ms. Eck...I often felt bored, didn't feel the connection, and also skimmed through a lot of it towards the end especially. BUT...I thought that the message that was relayed about not judging and just to be nice to people (especially when they have struggles like a stutter) is a great one! I have a son with Asperger's Syndrome that is kinda what we like to call "quirky", he is often isolated from potential friends because they just tell him he's "weird". As a mother, this breaks my heart -- so I really connected with this message from the author. Thanks for that Ms. Eck!

Storyline: This is Sara and Gio's story. Sara has a stutter and she hides from everyone except her family at their weekly bbqs where she sings with her cousin. Her cousin talks her into performing at a bar in a town outside of theirs, and after some major anxiety it turns into a success. They continue to do shows and expand their territory to other big cities in the Midwest. At one show, Sara sees Gio and concentrates on him throughout her set which calms her nerves. A couple shows later they see each other again, and meet outside the bar where Sara is hiding out after the show. Sara is shocked to find out that even though she is wildly attracted to Gio she is not so nervous that she stutters that much. They end up dating and falling in love. Through some growing pains in the band, some family drama, and some poor communication...the couple

find their HFN.

POV: This was in Sara's POV.

Overall Pace of Story: Poor. I felt like it took forever for the h and H to even meet. They fell in love after not that many substantial encounters -- making it the worst kind of instalove IMO.

H rating: 3 stars. Gio. He was patient and respected her when she said he needed space at times, but otherwise just ok.

h rating: 2 stars. Sara. I wanted her to be stronger. I know that might be really insensitive of me, but I felt like she always was crying and I didn't connect with her enough to root for her because of it.

Sadness level: Low-Moderate. It's a tough issue, so I can see where someone might be emotional reading it. Personally, I didn't need any tissues. (I know -- I'm an insensitive jerk!)

Heat level: Low-Moderate. I was kind of bored by the sex scenes in this one. It might also be because I didn't really feel the connection between the h and the H in general, so transferring that connection into sexual chemistry just didn't happen for me.

Descriptive sex: Yes.

Sex scene with OW or OM: (view spoiler)

Cheating: (view spoiler)

Possible Triggers: (view spoiler)

Closure: This was a HFN. I would say it was a not so great ending because I felt like we didn't get much closure...but I had skimmed most of the end because I was kind of over it and still not feeling the connection to be honest.(view spoiler)

S. says

I was given an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

This was a gut wrenching, heart warming and extremely emotional story.

Sara has had a crap lot in life. There really isn't any other way to say that. Her struggles are very real and described in great detail. The way she has remained strong is truly remarkable.

Gio is everything you could ever want in a man. He loves Sara unconditionally and shows her what love and life should be.

But everyone has secrets. Is Sara really as strong as we think she is?

For more reviews please check out https://www.goodreads.com/Sweet_N_Sas...

Elena says

What can I possibly tell you about Fighting Words? Well how bout I tell you about the magic Emily has?

The ability to write a strong heroine is not often come by. The reading world is full of women that **need** men. Women that are broken. Kristen Ashley was my first experience at a strong heronie. I've always believed that there is a difference between needing a man, and wanting him.

Emily has the ability to write a woman that wants a man, but sure as hell doesn't need him. I am envious of those women.

Sara is not broken -though she thinks she is- and she is living her life. Living, but not *living*. Cue sexy man that she **WANTS** in her life to help her out of her shell. If you pay close attention, Sara was already on that journey on her own. Gio just made that journey full of orgasms. Who wouldn't want that?

Things I loved about Fighting Words:

1. Isn't grandma adorable?
2. The mystery surrounding Gio. My mind was racing! Italian mob? (view spoiler) The double twist, effin A!!!
3. The music
4. The crinkle in the corner of Gio's eyes (sigh)
5. FLAT TOP!!

Things I didn't like about Fighting Words

1. Why did my cousin never take me any of the cool places in this book? I went to the **WRONG** parts of Fort Wayne!
2. Flat Top!! Why is this only a midwest thing?
3. Did you really think this would be a real list?

I don't like to summarize the books -isn't that what the teasers are for?- but I can tell you, I know the author personally. If you are crazy and didn't like the L&J series, give this a try. Emily is a complex woman with many faces. Don't judge. Get the book and read it. It's completely different. The only question will be, what will drive you more crazy? J's eyebrows, or Gio's crinkle?

Renee at Book Happiness says

I received this for an honest review. I have to say that this book was a good book. It has an enjoyable storyline and a different one at that. Sara stutters and it pretty much takes over her whole life... She only really speaks to her family because of the comfort level, but when she sings she has the voice of an angel and no problems. Then she meets Gio who throws her way out of her comfort zone...

This was a very interesting story. I felt like it kinda started off a little slow but I stuck with and I am glad I did.. Such a good read. I have to say that I learned a bit while reading which is always nice. This is the first book for me from this author and it wont be my last...

The Book Fairy Reviews says

Inspiring and enlightening are two words that come to mind when I describe this book to my friends. Yes it was passionate. Yes it was sexy as all hell cuz Gio, just jumps out of the page and into your libido. But more than just romantic it was an inspiring book that taught me something as well. It taught to take a look at myself. These are the books that mean the most to me the books that make me think hard about myself and make me change the way I see things. Yes, it is a romance novel that is incredibly sexy and passionate with the romance that blossoms between Sara and Gio, but most of all is a story of courage and strength and loving yourself enough to try harder to let everyone see that you are as special and as beautiful even as you fight you words.

Emily you rocked this book! I am so proud to have read it!

Paula Phillips says

When I saw the cover of this book , I was intrigued but thought that it would be another one of those New Adult Romance and then as I started reading my mind flicked to the idea of another music band novel , but as soon as I discovered that there was something different about the main female character I was intrigued. From the first band moment where Sara is vomiting before their big debut - the reader gets the feeling that maybe it's just nerves but then we are faced with her home life and Sara's tears start to pour as the truth is that she has a nasty stutter that only seems to disappear when she is doing the thing she loves most - singing otherwise she is simply "Fighting Words" and in her everyday life prefers people to think of her as a mute as she tries to avoid talking. In Fighting Words we read the affect that her stuttering has on not only her life but those around her. While singing one night, Sara's eyes connect to an Italian/Jewish stranger named Gio Goldstein , he makes Sara forget about her stutter and when she is around him - she feels safe and to her surprise she hardly ever stutters around him. As their relationship deepens Sara falls for him , but what will happen when Sara discovers that his profession is as a Speech therapist and she feels betrayed by him. Can Sara ever fully open up and trust him or will the thought of her stutter and his job make her back away and close herself down once again from the "real world"?

Fighting Words was a really good read and one that made you empathise what Sara was going through. Fighting Words also readers does contain alot and when I say alot , I mean alot of tears - so be warned.

Barbara says

Ok I was given this Book as an ARC ... So to speak... I did love it!! The story underneath the story is a real one stuttering, for a small time I had a stutter form a head injury all be it was a short amount of time , I was frustrated & the people who have to deal with this everyday are amazing..... So this being said was an Amazing Story for that alone ! All the Cast in this book I found I Loved each & Everyone of Them even Ana

as i said in the progress report of this book.... Loved how Ana even her mum & dad , sister were the running Gag of the story, as we all have family members of our own that are behind the others back that deep down they Know theyare... There stuck up & don't give a shit being just that.... If your a family that's open you know them at just that... Lila ,Sara's cousin who grew up like sisters is Sara's as is her whole family is her personal support system is one straight up & funny let it out there , shine on the stage character that I love ... EZ the Drummer, the man that Lila has always had a thing for but can't get it together or can he ... The Self Confessed Man Whore.... Just fits in . The Story of Sara a Stutterer that Sings like a Song Bird who meets Gio(my new BBF) the Tall Dark Handsome Italian/Jewish Hunk that takes one look at Sara & knows she is the One! He keeps a few secrets about what he is & what his family does for a living ... Which blows back to burn him & with one thing leading to another it's the last thing that Sara can handle & runs ,with a family tragedity Sara finds it hard to come back... She just crawls deeper into herself & doesn't seam like coming back ... With her mum , aunts & cousin worried they call the one person that might bring her back..... So with that said the book was Fantasic ... Hot Sex... Hot Romance.... Hot Words... Hot Guys....Unbelievable word wriiten for songs.... Is there a HEA ? Well your just gonna have to purchase the book to find out... It's a Goodin People... Don't let the slow start put you off it picks up & picks up fast... Happy Reading People .. I Enjoyed it Throughly .. :-)

Lustful Literature says

**** JOSIE'S 5 STAR REVIEW ****

Fight Words by Emily Eck is such an amazing read. After I read the synopsis I just couldn't get my hands on this book fast enough. The author writes a beautiful touching story that tugged at my heart, and literally bough tears to my eyes several times while reading this book. The topic the author writes about is not fictional but a fact. That is what makes this read special. This is about accepting your limitations in life, living in fear but also fighting to be accepted.

Sara's character is special, unique, amazing and strong. She has a speech impediment (stuttering) and throughout the years she has had to learn to live with the disorder and now as an adult trying to hide it from others. She comes from a large family and is able to hide her problem very well. Sara comes from a loving, supportive and protective family. Sara can sing, that is her outlet, she sings in band. She does not stutter when she performs and these are the times where she feels normal.

At one of her shows in Cincinnati, Sara meets a man named Gio. He is gorgeous, caring, loyal, and offers unwavering support for Sara, his song bird. Sara is talented, and has a talent for writing lyrics that suck the crowd in. She immediately feels comfortable with Gio and does not stutter when around him. You can see the attraction and beauty of their relationship throughout the story. He supports her and will do anything to help her shine.

“We can talk about whatever you want, or not talk about whatever you don’t want. WE can talk about the show or the weather for all I care; I just want to be here, with you. That’s it. You and me.”

“Thanks. It’s easy being with you and that’s not normal for me. I’m usually not this-comfortable with people, at least not people I just met. There’s something about you that makes me want to tell you everything and I don’t do that.”

With the support of her family, Gio and friends Sara slowly begins to overcome her fear and slowly starts to come out of her shell. Only problem is, Gio is hiding a secret. One that might just set Sara back. He loves his Songbird and his reluctance to reveal his secret was for fear of losing her.

“Where did you come from?”

“My mom.”

“No, my darling songbird. I mean why did it take so long for me to find you? Where have you been hiding?”

>

I truly enjoyed the plot, it was refreshingly different and enjoyable. I loved reading and watching Sara overcome her impediment and face her fears. As I mentioned, I did cry at first but the more I read the more I sat up straighter and had a sense of overwhelming pride when it came to Sara. Everyone needs to pick this book up. It is not your usual rise to stardom read. It is better, deeper and has more meaning to it. You will appreciate and look at things in a different light.

“What if I fall?”

“I’ll catch you.”

“Really?”

“Of course. How could you think and different? I’ll always catch you, even when you don’t know you’re falling.”

Jamie Zishka says

Fighting Words was a story about communication barriers and how they can turn your life into turmoil, but

also how you pick up and move on and find love and balance in your life no matter the barriers. I would give this book 3.5 stars. I would recommend this book to others. This is the first book I have read by this author and I will continue to follow her in the future. This was a good book not a wow steal my heart kind of book but I did enjoy the story line and the characters.

Sara is the quiet type and mostly locks herself in her room and blocks out the rest of the world, she has a secret that she doesn't share with most people out of fear. When her cousin comes up with a crazy idea of starting a band and Sara being the singer life will change drastically. Everyone in her family knows her secret and even though she is quiet she sings at her family BBQ's and she is really good. Her life will tailspin once she agrees to the band ... but will she still be able to hide her secret that threatens to eat her alive inside everyday? Or will she finally learn to let go and be free when she meets a stranger that will steal her heart Gio.

Gio has his past demons he fights on a daily basis with his family, but one day he will see Sara singing and it peaks his curiosity because he can tell something is different about her.. something she is hiding. But when they start to get close and her secret is revealed he realizes he has to tell her the secret he has been keeping because it can make or break their newly formed relationship. Only he doesn't just have one huge secret... he has two and he knows the biggest one he is keeping will destroy them.. but will fate have a way of stepping in and deciding things for him?

Go pick up this book, you will enjoy and it does have some sexy scenes and some very sensitive subjects. Thanks for a good book! Look forward to more!

Sharlene says

I received a copy of this title in exchange for an honest review.

Fighting Words is written in one POV of the heroine, Sara. Sara and Gio along with the secondary characters in this book are all very likable. The storyline was mostly narrative - very little conversation (as you would probably guess from the synopsis). I did find the synopsis was a little misleading. My impression was that other than singing, the main character, Sara, was mute. But this is not the case. She does speak and does have conversations with people just not a lot. The storyline was repetitive IMO. Just following the characters around while they basically do the same thing over and over. That being said, it was on a new subject. Not your typical romance. The author actually taught me some things on speech impediments.

I would not classify this as erotica but more a contemporary romance with a little bit of hot sex scenes. This story does have a HEA and is a stand alone.

Carol (StarAngel's Reviews) Allen says

A few months ago I was lucky enough to read the first few chapters of this book...and every day I anticipated the chance to read more!!

Now I have the WHOLE manuscript in my hands and can't wait to read and edit the rest...

(I'm not saying this only because Emily is a dear friend)....this book SPEAKS VOLUMES!!

My full review can be found

here
