



## Between a Rockstar and a Hard Place

*Portia MacIntosh*

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Portia MacIntosh

**Between a Rockstar and a Hard Place** Portia MacIntosh

**Behind the music...**

Being best friends with a mega-star has its perks and Nicole Wilde, music journalist, laps them up. But when said friend, Dylan King, gorgeous lead singer of The Burnouts, has zero sense of self-preservation – once a drop of alcohol hits his blood stream ? and an inability to keep ‘little Dylan’ in his pants, it also comes with responsibilities.

Now, Nicole has to track down Dylan in time to play a charity gig tomorrow. Half a dozen groupies, a haunted hotel, a tattoo parlour, a reality show runner-up and a crazy bed-hopping, sleepless night later – will she find him before the tour bus leaves town? And when she does, is it time to head home? Or to jump on the tour bus and go along for the ride!

*Between a Rockstar and a Hard Place is the fun and fabulous prequel to Portia MacIntosh’s Starstruck. Look out for it March 2014.*

## Between a Rockstar and a Hard Place Details

Date : Published November 27th 2012

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Author : Portia MacIntosh

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Genre : Music, Romance, New Adult



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## From Reader Review Between a Rockstar and a Hard Place for online ebook

### **Lisa Bentley says**

Before my quiet life of a book reviewer began I was a music reviewer. Music is probably my great love and when I was in my twenties and following bands around the country I often dreamed of the day that I would get to travel around with a band rather than just looking for my next gig hit.

Now, don't get me wrong, I love reviewing books and I know for a fact that my auto-immune riddled body would not be able to handle the rock and roll life anymore but if someone said to me today that I would be able to travel around with my favourite bands without feeling any physical pain or repercussions then hot diggity dog I would do it.

Sadly, I can't which is why I absolutely loved this little gem of a story. Between a Rockstar and a Hard Place by Portia Macintosh is based on Portia Macintosh's own experiences on the road with bands. It was witty, entertaining and everything I hoped that spending time with musicians would be like.

The fact that this short story is a precursor to a longer novel just makes it all the more fantastic.

Between a Rockstar and a Hard Place by Portia Macintosh is available now.

For more information regarding Portia Macintosh (@PortiaMacintosh) please visit [www.portiamacintoshbooks.wordpress.com](http://www.portiamacintoshbooks.wordpress.com).

For more information regarding Carina (@CarinaPress) please visit [www.carinapress.com](http://www.carinapress.com).

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### **Isabell says**

Originally posted on Dreaming With Open Eyes

Between a Rockstar and a Hard Place is a prequel to Portia Macintosh's novel How Not To Be Starstruck, released in March 2014.

In this novella we meet Nicole Wild, a twenty something music journalist. Nicole has been working in the music industry for a long time. Hanging around with musicians, attending gigs and write about them. She is attending a Radio Summer Road Show in a little town. She is best friends with Dylan King, best known for being lead singer of the The Burnouts, who is also playing at the Show. After the gig Dylan disappears and an adventurous goose chase for Nicole begins. She promised Dylan's tour manager to get him back in time before they head off to the next tour stop the next day, because Nicole is the only one who Dylan is listening to. Dylan King lives a typical Rockstar life: a lot of sex with groupies, drugs and rock'n'roll and has a mind of his own. During her chase you get introduced to more characters and locations. A long the way Nicole meets some insane groupies, also a pretty handsome guy who offers her to track down Dylan. Not everything is bad about that night, she gets her own fun too. Can she find Dylan in time to avoid a total disaster?

Between a Rockstar and a Hard Place is a great teaser for How Not To Be Starstruck. The music business is

something I very enjoy reading about. What happens behind the scenes of a rockstar's life? In this little novella you get a glimpse of an idea. The narrative voice, Nicole, is very real. That makes her believable and also likeable. That's why I liked her from the start. With the wittiness of the writing style I was flying through the pages. Troy is a character I hope we will hear more about in the full length novel.

Overall, a highly entertaining and fun read. A book that will seriously have you genuinely smile until it hurts.

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### **Rebecca says**

(Received from Net Galley in exchange for an honest review)

I absolutely loved reading Between a Rockstar and a Hard Place! It was fun, fast-paced and full of adventure, as well as a few gorgeous guys.

So the story begins at a festival that the main character, Nicole Wilde, is attending. When she attempts to find the lead-singer of Burnouts, Dylan King, everything goes tits up. From there on, Nicole is taken on a wild goose chase in search of the famous Mr King. Her little adventure includes a ton of hilarious situations, some a little creepy and some just plain insane. You get to meet a ton of different characters, including annoying groupies as well as a hot reality show runner-up, who decides to help Nicole in her never-ending hunt for Dylan King.

Firstly, I just want to express how much I LOVE the cover for Between a Rockstar and a Hard Place. I think it depicts the story perfectly, whilst still keeping that little feminine spark that we love, with the attractive font and colours.

The story itself was made a very entertaining and amusing read. It made me giggle non-stop and I really got a glimpse of what it's like to work for a rock star. For me, the story was a quick-read. It's not a huge book but I think it's the perfect size for what is involved. I read the book in less than a day and loved the comedy that the author added into it.

The characters really were awesome. I loved Nicole Wilde, the main character. I really do feel sorry for her, having to run around trying to find Dylan. But it's full of mischief and fun so I get the impression that she really doesn't mind that much. She even sacrifices one of her favourite dresses just so she can grab a little information for where Dylan was last seen.

Well, you don't really see much of Dylan King in the story itself, seeing as Nicole is chasing him around for the majority of it. But you hear a lot about him from the other characters that you meet in the story instead. He likes to sleep around. ALOT. Nicole chases after him like a dog chasing its own tail and just ends up going round and round in circles.

Basically, I really enjoyed this book! The characters, the story, the pace, everything was brilliant! I'm going to rate Between a Rockstar and a Hard Place with a wonderful 4 out of five stars! I loved it! It kept me turning the pages and I think I read most of it with an amused grin on my face. It's brilliant!

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## **Emma says**

Seriously I was sold on this book at the word ROCKSTAR. Top that with Portia MacIntosh's real life experience working in the music industry I knew this was going to be my kind of book :)

I don't usually get girl crushes but I totally wannabe Nicole or at least her BFF. Music, festivals all the elements the crazy rock 'n' roll lifestyle topped off with a cutting edge humour.

This novella sets the background for Starstruck brilliantly, giving a glimpse of the characters and their lifestyle. All the way through I kept wondering who the characters could be based on :)

The story shows both the glamorous and downright nasty elements of life on the road, music festivals and groupies. As well as a hyper-active, self-destructive yet totally loveable rock star. For all his faults and bad behaviour Dylan is truly adorable and I can't wait to get to know him and Nicole better in Starstruck.

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## **Clare Tasker says**

Rating more like 2.5)

This mini novel introduces us to Portia Macintosh's main character Nicola Wilde and the rockstar in question Dylan King. We're told that the author has enjoyed a similar rock n roll lifestyle to Nicola, after she fell in with a bunch of 'rockstars' at 15 years old and then "landed a job in the music industry". We're told Portia now wants to "spill the beans" and "share her secrets" through writing novels based on these events, and Nicola is obviously a semi autobiographical character (and is Portia a pen-name?) as a music journo hanging out 'with the band'.

Now, if this was any other sphere, I'd probably be uninterested in this kiss and not quite tell style, but as a massive music fan, I was quite intrigued, and as Portia very kindly offered me this, and her full length novel featuring the same characters 'How Not to be Starstruck', as free e-books I thought I'd give it a go and provide a balanced and honest review (one of the first I've ever written!)

'Rock Star' takes us on a whirlwind tour of various locations, focussing on a hotel, following Nicola and her handsome celebrity mate Troy Reeves trying to find her naughty rock star best bud Dylan King so he doesn't miss a charity gig. On the way, there's a tattoo parlour, a hippy shop, a haunted hotel floor and a red light district, and a growing number of Dylan's conquests.

Nicola starts off on her quest on her own and seems totally focussed on finding Dylan, but during the journey she gets reminded that she deserves a little fun herself. The story is a quick paced fantasy: living the party life style without too much thought about the consequences, what people think or every day, mundane responsibilities. This element did appeal to me, as I do like a few bevvies, live bands and music festivals, it's just a shame I've got to go back to the office job afterwards!

There was some good humour featured (a bit of Bart Simpson style punnery for example) and lots of modern cultural references that will make it quite accessible for people who want an easy read, want a holiday read or a bit of fun escapism without having to tax their brains too much.

The thing that irritated me a bit was the lead character was a bit down on her fellow woman, and especially

when they were a bit different or alternative. The character didn't appreciate being labelled as a "festival person" but she was ok to put labels on other people, eg "goth" and "hippy". Although Nicola comes over as a party animal she got a bit squeamish and/or judgemental over tattoo parlours and drugs. Nicola described herself as a "girly girl" and as taking on 'typical female' roles when going on tour with the band which I felt was a bit disappointing, although this is balanced with enough bad behaviour of her own to still be entertaining.

Saying that I read the book and have started the next follow on, full length novel, to see what else Nicola gets up to.

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### **Emma Star Crossed Reviews says**

This review was originally posted on Star Crossed Reviews I received this book for free from the Author in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review. Firstly thank you to Portia for sending me a copy of this book for review.

This was a fun and hilarious read.

As cool as it sounds to be best friends with a Rockstar Dylan seems like a pain in the backside. He acted a little selfishly and I felt sorry for Nicole having to run around after him.

Nicole seemed like a fun girl. She clearly enjoys her job and being part of the music scene. I'm not sure I could have been as loyal as she was to Dylan. I think I would have given up looking for him.

Dylan seemed to be having a great time all over this tiny little town. Apart from having to look for him I think being his friend would most definitely be interesting. I'm sure there would never be a dull day.

Troy seems nice. He also pretty hot. He clearly enjoyed tagging along on Nicole's little adventure. I hope we see more of him in Starstruck.

This book is a quick, fun read that sets you up for the follow up, Starstruck. It brings you in and makes you need to know more about each character. I feel like I'm going to be getting my own backstage pass to life on tour. I can't wait!

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### **Simona says**

\*Book provided by author in exchange of an honest review\*

Let's talk about the cover for a second. I think it's really gorgeous and catchy. The writing is beautiful and there are little details on it, which make the cover even more interesting. The colours add the right spark to it.

First of all, I'd like to say that I'm always very curious to read stories, which include music or musicians. Having a passion for music myself makes it really special to have an insight into this world.

This book is such a fun, adventurous and enjoyable read.

Nicole is such a lovely character and I really liked her energy. The way things happened with Troy were funny and romantic in one way, but a bit unrealistic and fast in the other way. I'm already really curious what's going to happen next between them in Starstruck.

Nicole and later also Troy are trying to find Gavin, her best friend and the gorgeous musician, the whole day, night and then day again. They meet a lot of crazy and interesting people and it's a whole adventure ride. There was happening something all the time and I kept moving the pages on and on, to find out more. That's one thing I look for in a book. When it's a total page turner, I'm hooked and that was definitely the case with this novella.

We didn't get to read much about Gavin, but let's say he's THE typical musician. Having fun, partying and well sleeping around a lot. I loved how Gavin and Nicole were together and that they have their special tradition. I really hope to read more about him and also their friendship in the next book.

This is the perfect start to the next story. There were some unrealistic things happening from time to time and I felt it was over before it began, that's why I can only give 4 coffee cups and not 5. That doesn't mean I didn't love it, there was just something missing. Portia style of writing is catchy, gripping and very enjoyable, can't wait for more.

You can find the review here: <http://skysbookcorner.blogspot.ch/201...>

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### **Alisha Tarran says**

Nicole Wiled has been best friends with mega-star Dylan King, since she was just starting out as a music journalist, and he tried to seduce her. There's plenty of perks, but when said rockstar, gorgeous lead singer of the Burnouts, has zero sense of self preservation, things are tricky. Once he's got a drop of alcohol in his system, Dylan only thinks about Little Dylan in his pants, and seeing as he's perpetually drunk, minding him is a full time job.

Nicole is at a day festival reporting on the bands performing, one of which being The Burnouts. Dylan left the stage in a hurry, drunk, and has been missing ever since. Dylan's tour manager Claire, has had enough, and insists that he's Nicole's problem, as she's the only one he listens to. Nicole has until 6pm the next day to track Dylan down, and get him on the tour bus so they can make the charity gig they're scheduled to perform.

Luckily for Nicole, she bumps in to Troy, a reality TV star who was also performing at the festival, and who decides to tag along and help her for an adventure. Together they have to face an abundance of groupies, a haunted hotel, a very dodgy tattoo parlor, an angry prostitute, a mellow hippy, and follow Dylan's activities of the night which appear to have involved a lot of bed hopping and no sleep. Not to mention a Transvestite. Will she be able to find him in time? Will she get to have some fun with Troy? When she completes her mission does she go home? Or should she hop on the tour bus for more fun?

Between a Rockstar and a Hard Place is a prequel to the upcoming novel Starstruck, and after reading the prequel, I need to get hold of a copy of Starstruck! I loved the prequel! It's not a short novella type prequel, it's a fair few pages long, and took me about an hour to read according to my kindle!

We join the story right in the midst of the action, and from there it's fast paced and well written, and a total wild ride. We get an insight in to the lives of Rockstars, and I'm fairly sure this is pretty standard behavior for most!

The plot was fairly simple, find the Rockstar, but it was written so well and with so much character and fun that you can't stop reading, and you're sitting with a smile on your face the whole time.

I loved the character of Nicole, she's fabulous, she's honest about the perks she gets with her friendship, and she's pretty much a regular girl, with some extraordinary friends and an awesome job. Trading an Alexander McQueen dress for a signed shirt, her whole reaction to that was exactly how I would have been!

For a prequel, the characters were quite fleshed out, they were enjoyable to read and came to life right in front of you. The world was unlike anything us mere mortals would be allowed in, but was created vividly, so it's almost like we were there ourselves!

I really enjoyed this book, it wasn't what I was expecting. It had me laughing the whole way through, and re-reading sentences thinking "no I must have read that wrong..he wouldn't have!", there's also a little bit of romance between Troy and Nicole, which is always great!

Between a Rockstar and a Hard Place is an excellent foundation for the upcoming full length novel. We meet Nicole, we love her, and when you finish the book, you instantly want to read more! I'm hoping Starstruck will pop up on NetGalley so I get the pleasure of reviewing it!

According to Goodreads, Starstruck is out March 2014! Keep your eyes peeled, and prepare for fun!

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### **Jessica Knox says**

A nice short read and lighthearted.

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### **Laura says**

This novella has totally got me ready to read the longer novel and I am so looking forward to seeing where these characters end up.

Bad boy Dylan is an infamous rockstar and takes his star status for granted. Sleeping with fans, partying into the morning and drinking too much champagne means he's often late for everything. His tour manager Claire is exasperated by his immature behaviour and so hands the reins over to Nicole: the only person who can keep Dylan under control.

Dylan has to be on the tour bus to play a charity gig in less than twenty four hours but with no one knowing where he is, Nicole begins a huge wild goose chase to try and track him down and it turns out Dylan isn't staying still for one moment. Can she find him and get him on the tour bus before she loses her job and Dylan ends up disappointing a whole host of people?

This novella was the perfect little teaser for Portia's main novel, Starstruck. We get to know all of the main characters and learn a little about their backgrounds and their motivations. Dylan is a really exciting character and I am looking forward to learning more about him and seeing if he has it in him to change his bad boy ways. Nicola is very admirable and I felt a little in awe of her and her ability to work in the job that she did without much of a hatred for it. I know I wouldn't be able to do her job!

Portia's writing is perfect for the genre and has a really great level of wittiness to it. The narrative voice is believable which made me warm to the characters instantly. The plot never felt unbelievable; I can imagine the world of a rockstar is a crazy one and would involve a lot of chasing unruly men around the bedrooms of fan girls! I am really looking forward to reading Starstuck now!

A sweet novella about one woman, one rockstar and a whole heap of trouble!

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### **Sandra says**

The author provided me with a link to netgalley!

This was such a fun and quick read. I just couldn't leave it be. I didn't exactly know what I was expecting, but I was mesmerized by the stunning covers and the word 'rockstar' in the title. This was a novella, it had less than 100 pages and I read it in an hour or something. It was a really cool read. I would definitely recommend it, if you're also planning to go read the full novel, which I definitely am going to do soon.

This was cute. It was such a cute little novella. Nicole Wilde is a music journalist, but also friends with a band, The Burnouts. Nicole keeps frontman, Dylan King, under control. But Dylan disappears one night, drunk. Nicole has to track down Dylan from a haunted hotel, to a tattoo parlor and a lot of crazy bed-hopping. Dylan is a crazy guy. I'm just. I wonder how he does it all.

My sister's name is actually Nicole, so I thought it was really funny to read, because well I kept thinking Nicole Wilde was my sister. And she is a big, big Dylan O'Brien fan. So that was pretty funny. But that aside.

I thought this was cute. I didn't know what to expect. I was glad to read a New Adult-y book that was nice and not filled with detailed descriptions of sex. And I'm hoping the full novel is also something that I will enjoy. I enjoyed Portia Macintosh's writing a lot, she writes in a way like you're one of Nicole's friends, trying to find Dylan as well.

I highly recommend this novella if you enjoy band stories, and fun and quick reads. It was super fluffy and there was even a hint of romance and I hope this romance is developed in the full novel. I have heard that this is kind of a prequel. Have you heard of this novella? If you have read it, did you enjoy it?

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### **Katey Lovell says**

The Blurb-

Being best friends with a mega-star has its perks and Nicole Wilde, music journalist, laps them up. But when said friend, Dylan King, gorgeous lead singer of The Burnouts, has zero sense of self-preservation – once a drop of alcohol hits his blood stream ? and an inability to keep 'little Dylan' in his pants, it also comes with responsibilities.

Now, Nicole has to track down Dylan in time to play a charity gig tomorrow. Half a dozen groupies, a

haunted hotel, a tattoo parlour, a reality show runner-up and a crazy bed-hopping, sleepless night later – will she find him before the tour bus leaves town? And when she does, is it time to head home? Or to jump on the tour bus and go along for the ride!

#### The Review-

Regular readers of my blog will be full aware that I am the ultimate fangirl. I'm not that fussy- actors, footballers, but most especially boybands-if they are in my vicinity I will tune into my inner fifteen year old, bat my eyelids and drool before pouncing on them for a photo, hug, kiss, or whatever else I can get.

Portia MacIntosh has herself spent a lot of time around bands, and it shows. I could totally relate to this book- the craziness, the unpredictability, the absolute mayhem of being near stars that are on tour-I loved it. I laughed out loud at so many parts of this book, as whilst it is humorous I have seen things like this going on when I have been in hotels with bands-hilarious! Whilst this is a fiction book and could be enjoyed by anyone who likes a farce/comedy/romance, I do think it is a particularly perfect read for fangirls everywhere.

Portia writes in a colloquial fashion which makes this a really easy book to read- unfortunately I finished it in about an hour and found myself with a chronic book hangover which was hard to cure.

So would I recommend it? Absolutely. This would be great holiday reading or entertaining light relief for when you need a giggle. Perfecto.

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#### **Lindsey says**

Amazon freebie 3/28/13

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#### **Leah says**

When Portia MacIntosh emailed me and asked me if I would like to review her novella Between A Rock Star and a Hard Place, it was a no brainer. I love books set in the music world, I love books where people are best friends with rock stars and I love it even more when there's no agenda there (ie. them sleeping together). It's nice to read a book about a rock star and his best friend and there be no shenanigans – although I can't think it's too hard for Nicole considering the sheer amount of people Dylan managed to get through in such a short novella!

I thoroughly enjoyed Between A Rock Star and a Hard Place, Portia has a fantastic writing style which made me feel like Nicole was a friend, rather than someone I had only just met and I rather liked her devotion to trying

to find Dylan before it was too late – anyone else would have simply left him to their own devices and no one would have been all that bothered, let's be honest, but I like that Nicole was there for her friend, despite his actions, and despite the fact she was sent on what was a wild goose chase, from pillar to post and back again.

I cannot wait for the first full-length novel *Starstruck*. I already love Nicole, so I can't wait to tag along with her as she goes on the ride to wherever she's going (presumably on tour with Dylan's band The Burnouts?). I REALLY hope we'll see more of the delectable Troy, and that he's not just a one-novella wonder, because I looooved him and I think he and Nicole got on really well and one thing I definitely don't want is Dylan and Nicole to happen. They're friends, and Dylan's a skank and Nicole deserves way better and Troy could be that way better! I can't wait for more from these guys, they're ace!

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### **Stacey says**

Review from Fairy Tale Ending Book Reviews

Copy received as part of the Gosling Girls Book Tour

Brief synopsis: Behind the music...

Being best friends with Dylan King, gorgeous lead singer of The Burnouts, can be hard work - once the alcohol hits his blood stream, 'little Dylan' takes control!

Now, Nicole has to track down Dylan in time to play a charity gig tomorrow. Half a dozen groupies, a haunted hotel, a tattoo parlour, a reality show runner-up and a crazy bed-hopping, sleepless night later – will she find him before the tour bus leaves town? And when she does, is it time to head home? Or to jump on the tour bus and go along for the ride!

*Between a Rockstar and a Hard Place* is the fun and fabulous prequel to Portia MacIntosh's *Starstruck* due out March 2014.

What I thought: This is a short but fun prequel giving the reader a snippet of Dylan's rockstar lifestyle.

The story is told from Nicole's point of view. Nicole is a fun character and it was really easy to like her. I often felt sympathy for her as Dylan's antics leave his best friend filling the manager role, chasing him all over town.

Dylan is just how I would imagine your stereotypical rockstar - a handful to control and easily distracted, especially when it comes to the ladies!

This book definitely does what it is supposed to... leaves you wanting to read more!

Favourite quote:

"It's not because he's homeless that I don't want him tagging along, it's because he could be anyone - a murderer, a psycho, a Steps fan - it's just too much of a risk."

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