



Succumbing

Mary E. Palmerin

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Lyla Harper is sure she will be alone for the rest of her life. After she leaves Kansas for college in Chicago, she hopes she will never have to face her dark secrets again. Four years later, Lyla lands an internship at a prestigious firm, hoping to plant her roots and close the door to her past forever. Unfortunately, Lyla is about to learn that the past has a way of finding her, no matter how well she hides.

After she is assigned to assist a marketing millionaire and notorious jerk, Lyla attempts to overcome her pessimistic view of the world and move on with her life. But after she lays eyes on her drop-dead gorgeous neighbor, Everett Brown, her secrets begin to resurface, prompting her to regress into her old coping ways. Led by curiosity and an undeniable attraction, Lyla pursues a passionate relationship with Everett and slowly begins to feel like a woman again. Now all she has to do is decide whether to tell him the truth.

In this contemporary romance, only time will tell if a young woman's new lover will be able to save her from herself as her past emerges from the darkness to confront her once and for all.

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Succumbing Details

Date : Published August 21st 2013 (first published August 20th 2013)

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Author : Mary E. Palmerin

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Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance

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From Reader Review Succumbing for online ebook

Obee says

What A Beautiful Book.

At the moment I read the summary I wanted to read the entire book, something just told me that I wasn't going to regret buying it, I instantly knew that I was going to love it. And I did.

Lyla is a young shattered girl because of her "problem". She made sure to keep it a secret from everyone even her family, especially her family. She left Kansas to have a chance to put everything in the past and try to live a normal life and focus on work but her secret is just too intense and constantly present to leave her have a quiet life. Meeting Everett will be the best and worst thing that ever happens to her. It will bring out at the surface her secret and scars but he will help her to cope with them and try his damndest to heal her.

What I loved the most is that we instantly get into the story, we don't have to wait a hundred pages to finally read that the two characters kiss each other! And this book has a story, it isn't just about their love but Lyla's secret and the way she will live with it, if she will be able to accept Everett's feelings for her because of her past. This book made me hold my breath until the very last page and it's because of the way the author has written it. Along the story I have been able to put myself on Lyla's shoes and understand the feelings and emotions she was going through. I could perfectly see that this book was written with passion and hasn't been botched. Each scene was complete, the intrigue is incredible, it marked me.

The end of it made me crazy and I can't wait for the sequel.

I highly recommend this book.

Celene Campbell says

WOW!! What can I say about this book without giving anything away except to say, this is not your Grandma's Harlequin novel! This book captured everything the title stated, succumbing, sorrow and scars, it describes the main character Lyla completely! Her strength and endurance for such experiences really make you fight for her! Her relationship with Everett Brown and love for him surprised even her as well as the reader, this loves Lyla beyond her pain! Looking forward to the next book in this series! Mary really captures the reader with a very different love story, a MUST read, but note, it's an intense read, grab that box of Kleenex, you gonna need it!

Edward Stanbridge says

First and foremost, I have to say that once I was able to give that novel my full attention, I really got caught into the story. This book is definitely not a typical romance novel and the faint of heart should be warned about the sensitive subjects around which the story is developed. The novel is labeled as contemporary erotic romance, but is also at the crossroad of psychological drama and thriller. It leaves a strong impression and stays with you even after you have finished reading it, which is, in my opinion, a very good thing.

The story has a good flow, likeable protagonists and detestable antagonists. The character's emotions and reactions to events make sense regarding their past. The majority of the scenes, mainly the most intense ones, are particularly well written and we feel that plenty of attention was accorded to them. This is the first novel of this very promising author and I'm positive that she will offer her readers many other great stories in the future.

Lyla, the main female character, has had a rough life. When we first meet her, she has no hope of ever finding happiness and plans to give her career her full attention for the rest of her life. Little did she know that she will soon meet Mr. Perfect (tall, dark, intelligent and rich). The two instantly fall head over heels in love. I first had the impression that the love story was rushed, but I soon understood that their meeting and attraction was not going to be the main plot of the book as it is often the case for a typical romance novel. Of course there are steamy sex scenes and the chemistry between the two is scorching, but those scenes also convey darker and more complex emotions for Lyla who learns to deal with her self-image issues and the demons of her past.

I would have liked to know the main male character, Everett Brown, better. He somewhat seems too perfect and many things remain untold about him and about Lyla. This is to be expected since the book is the first of a series of four. The next book being from his point of view will certainly give the reader a better insight about who he is and the emotions that he went through during the dramatic events that happened to his beloved.

Overall, I highly recommend reading this novel and its sequels.

P.J. Bayliss says

I didn't know what to expect from this book from the start right through to the end. It certainly held many twists and turns that I couldn't foresee, but still retained a sense of order and of realistic capability.

The storyline is simply fabulous and had me hanging on towards the end. The final chapter's are really something; Mary drops the reader into the midst of her character's anguish & pain without any remorse. While this involves a few jumps from scene to scene within the book, yet still holds it together.

Many of these scenes are steamy, hot, and at times memorizing. Nothing too kinky to speak of, but I won't spoil anything here for you either. The love between Lyla & Everett is plainly obvious throughout the tone.

While I'm cautious about giving 5-stars to anything I read, I'm taken back by this with the understanding that it is Mary's debut novel. An outstanding effort as such, and something of a benchmark I'd hope remains for her more recent work.

Jenna Schmitt says

A true love story. You can't help but adore Lyla and how strong she is and see her at her highest high and her

lowest lows. Everett is the perfect guy and more so for Lyla. Its got a lot of taboo topics no one wants to talk about, that is what is perfect about it. You see the good and bad and ups and downs of life. So raw and real making you want more. Can not wait to read more of their story.

Tara Dawn (Colourful WordWench) says

Succumbing picks up about four years down the road from Secrets of a Broken Girl.

Layla Harper is starting an internship at a huge firm in Chicago and is excited to get her career started. She had worked hard to get where she is at this moment in her life. She escaped from an abusive past, one where she was not only abused by others but by herself as well. Unfortunately for her, it seems that jerkwads have a radar for damaged girls like her. Her new boss is a complete douchebag who immediately looks as though he is preying for her weakness. Along the way, she meets a man who can only be described as her soul mate. Not looking for love, but needing it after not allowing herself to have any, Everett shatters the walls she had built around her heart making her believe that there is someone who was meant for her. Thinking nothing could be better than her life is now, Lyla is thrown a curveball when she is faced with a situation straight from her past. She finally opens up to Everett and decides that going home and facing her demons is the best way to overcome it all. She realizes when she gets home that everything she was running from is sitting right there waiting for her. She endures a trauma so horrific while she is there that it shakes everyone to their very core and makes them rethink life as they know it.

I really enjoyed this book. I felt like it lacked that certain something that Secrets had. I love the poetic flow of Mary's writing. I don't think Succumbing held nearly as much soul deep writing as Secrets. That is what it was lacking.

Lyla is coming into her own by this time and knows what does and doesn't trigger her to revert back to her old ways of dealing. She meets the hawt Everett and immediately sparks are a flying. That whole love at first sight....she knows and it scares the shit out of her. Everett is ever the patient knight in shining armor. He seems so perfect, too perfect. You realize as the story goes on that he is all about her opening up to him. You think he just doesn't have anything to say. That maybe he led a simple, boring life. But good little Everett, you aren't fooling anyone. I think he has a hero complex. Swooping in to save the day, to save Lyla, are you trying to save yourself in the process? What secrets are you keeping from us? Lyla...tisk, tisk. Have you not learned your lesson?! I so badly want to write about a certain scene in the book, but if I do it's a spoiler so I won't! I will say this....**HOLY CRAP BALLS MARY!** That scene...dear lord. I swear I was there and felt it. It wasn't right on all kinds of levels and you were meant to write stories like this! Amazing what words can form into....Mary knows how to shape them into the most beautiful sentences.

I can't wait to read Shadows book 2. I want to knooooooooooooooooooooow! I MUST KNOW DANG IT! You have hooked me Mary. Everyone else, pick up these damn books! You will not regret it!

Blia says

Succumbing to Scars and Sorrow: Book One of the Sorrow Series

Mary E Palmerin

For me, I was immediately drawn to Lyla after reading the synopsis. I wanted to know why she has these

dark secrets. What was the cause to these dark secrets? What had lead her to living a life with no hopes for a happily ever after?

Sometimes in life misfortune events happens. Some aren't as severe as others. For Lyla, life isn't always rainbows and unicorns. Losing her dad to suicide at such a young age caused her to turn to drugs during her adolescent years. It was a way to cope with her emotions. On the day before her 18th birthday, a tragic event happened to her. To overcome this matter, she started self mutilating to cope with the problem. Once she graduated high school she decided to closed the door to her life in her little town of Rigdon, Kansas.

"I was fucked up, and no one could fix me. I could not even repair myself, though I'm not sure how much I tried. Deep down I was ready for something spectacular to happen. But I was used to only seeing that in movies and reading it in romance novels and was sure there was never going to be a happily ever after for me."

After feeling a sense of self worthlessness, Lyla ends meeting a gorgeous guy (Everett) who happens to live in the same building as her. They instantly fall in love and through him she was slowly beginning to heal BUT bad karma met up with her again. This time she decided she'd confront the problem once in for all. It was the only way she'll be able to move on.

I love that Everett remained faithful and supportive through the tragic events in Lyla's life. He was her constant. Her stability. Her partner in crime :) BUT like Lyla, I'm sensing Everett has some issues of his own which he's hiding inside.

"Honesty is the best policy, at least that's what I thought was important for a relationship to grow through good times and bad. He wasn't giving that to me."

I knew this book would contain romance between Lyla and Everett, some angst and of course what's a book without the steamy sex but I wasn't expecting a touch of thriller. I say that because there are a couple of chapters that had me cringing reading through it. So be sure to grab a box of tissue and a security blanket cause you'll need it.

The ending however, left me feeling incomplete. I felt that there were unresolved issues left unaddressed. I know there is a companion book to this book so I'll wait and see.

Well done Mary. You know I love this book and I look forward to the next book.

TheWriter says

I received this book in exchange for a honest review so here ya go! :) The author did a very good job in getting the story across about Lyla, although her story is not all peaches and cream. She pulls you in and makes you feel like you are part of the story. She goes into detail but also lets you as the reader come up with assumptions of what happened, looks of places, people, etc. This is not a story for the light hearted, or under 18. The only qualm I had with the story was the relationship between Lyla and Everett. In my opinion something was missing, I think Everett's character just needed something more. I'm not sure, like I said I can't put my finger on it. I'll admit the story broke me, lmao. Had me crying, it really was a damn good story. I can't wait to read the next one! Thxs for the great read!

Taryn Lee says

Find this Review at Taryn Lee's Book Blog

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

This is another beautiful story in Mary E. Palmerin's emotional Sorrow Series. I'm not sure how I can describe the beauty of the pain that is **Lyla Harper**, but I'm going to try. Lyla, who we met in the novella *Secrets of a Broken Girl*. Lyla has finally escaped her small town life. Fresh out of college, she is ready to take this city by storm and she's going to do it even though her weasel of a boss is a full on dirtbag who gives off some really creepy vibes. It's like waiting for a car crash you know is coming. But can we all just give a huge high five to **Everett Brown**.

"I wanted Everett to love me so badly that I realized what I had to overcome. It wasn't my past events; those were just bumps in the road. I had to overcome my insecurities. I had to love myself, and I did." -Lyla

Lyla truly believes she doesn't deserve love, but then Everett appears in her life and he shows her what makes her special. He loves her for her. And I love him for that! Oh god this book. *This Book*. It's crazy but Mary E. Palmerin just gets straight up into my tear ducts and forces those droplets out! There is a particular scene that just tore my heart out... So thanks for that Mary.

Overall, I'm giving this book **4.5 STARS out of 5 STARS**. It's so emotional, so real. Mary knows how to write reality. And I think that scares me a bit because how many girls are out there in the world who deal with abuse daily and self deprecating feelings? It really makes you think not just about Lyla and Everett and the supporting characters, but of our lives and how we pass by people everyday and we never see the grief, the sadness, nor do we see the pain. It's a lot of food for thought.

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Read by Taryn Lee on February 18, 2014

Reviewed by Taryn Lee on February 26, 2014

Taryn Lee's Book Blog on Facebook

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## Drue DePompei-Hoffman says

HOLY FRIGGING MOLY - The title of this series says it all, "The Sorrow Series" Lyla Harper is one of the most amazing characters I have read in recent years. All of the Sorrow she has endured over her lifetime hasn't broken her, she is still a wonderfully loving person. And Everett Brown ahhhhhhh Everett Brown we definitely need more men like him in the world. The way he loves Lyla is just dreamy.

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## **Rebecca Sherwin says**

Anyone ready to read this story should be prepared that it is controversial and definitely pushes the boundaries. Having said that, it gets 5 stars from me because of the way the author approached such a taboo subject. I find that in a lot of writing with a similar story line, the writer often skims over the details, leaving a lot of assumption to the reader. Succumbing to Scars and Sorrow did not do that. Details were not omitted through fear of offence and I think Mary was brave to reveal so much of Lyla Harper's past. She wrote it with sensitivity and respect and it contributed to the reader being able to relate to Lyla. I felt her pain because I had a vivid picture in my head of the suffering she had endured.

We see Lyla at her lowest, struggling to deal with the past and coping the way many of us do - by pretending that everything is okay. It brings Lyla to life - she is not a typical stick thin character with no flaws and a perfect life. She is an every woman figure, with a past that affects so many every day. Her display of low self-esteem and lack of confidence made me want to shake her and tell her she was beautiful and strong. Which is exactly what Everett Brown did. He stormed in, turned her world upside down and taught her to love herself. Love at first sight in a novel is refreshing, without the to-ing and fro-ing, will they won't they? And the fact that the story is more than just a boy-meets girl love story, but a thrilling tale of suspense adds to the appeal incredibly.

The only criticism I would give is that Everett was a little too mysterious and I was left with unanswered questions and what feels like an age to wait to discover more about him from his perspective, although for more patient readers, that may not be a criticism.

I would highly recommend this book, and look forward to the rest of the Sorrow Series.

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## **Tara Dawn (Colourful WordWench) says**

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I can't wait to read Shadows book 2. I want to knooooooooooooooooooooow! I MUST KNOW DAMN IT!  
You have hooked me Mary. Everyone else, pick up these damn books! You will not regret it!

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## **Rustys says**

Lyla Harper has a secret she's been keeping for years. One so hideous and dark she copes by shutting herself off from the world.

Minimal contact with her family, no real friends to speak of, at least none she is willing to open up to. She self medicates

via a bottle of wine to dull the pain and one more thing...

Out for the evening Lyla noticed an attractive man six foot, well built, brown hair and emerald green eyes. Everett Brown noticed Lyla too and a shared cab ride turns into a hot and heavy affair.

I wasn't prepared for Lyla's story; she's suffered so much pain in her teen/adult years and like most victims blamed herself. Prepare

yourself for self destructive behavior that will make you cringe.

At times, I found myself breathing deep to get through it.

She never saw the good in herself, she was scarred physically and emotionally.

Everett was like a shining light that helped to shield her from the nightmares that haunted her. He gave her hope, self-confidence, and the best damn sex ever.

I liked Everett, attorney, single, handsome and knows how to please a woman

but there is something about him I find troubling; he's too perfect, too secretive about his past.

Bad karma seems to follow Lyla and there were times when I wanted to

slap her for the decisions she made. Decisions that put her in danger, and could undo all the progress she's making in starting to love herself.

I wasn't expecting the ending...What the heck?

So now maybe book two will have the answers I'm looking for...

What is Everett hiding and why?

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## **Mandi says**

5 stars

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

I have a terrible time reviewing books like this one because you never really know how much of it is truth and how much is fiction. I think this book was fantastically written and left us, the readers, longing for more of the story.

Lyla has a pretty horrific past and thinks that she won't be able to please anyone again. Enter Everett. Everett comes into her life and proves her otherwise. Similar situations arise at Lyla's workplace and all hell breaks loose.

Lyla decides to confront her past along with the help of Everett, although Everett seems to be hiding something of his own.

I am very eager to read the next book, and highly recommend this one.

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## **Shurnn says**

**\*\*\*I won a copy of this book from Taryn Lee's Book Blog during the Valentines day giveaway 2014. Thank you to Mary E. Palmerin for generously donating this prize.\*\*\***

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