



The Ex Factor

R.J. Scott

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When Bodyguard, Ben Collins, finds Daniel Lincoln in a room, hiding and hurt, he doesn't immediately think Daniel is the victim of abuse. Daniel is good at pretending and being a finalist in a TV singing competition he seems like he has it made.

But something about Daniel calls to Ben's need to protect and he hands Daniel a card to contact him if ever Daniel needed help. Abruptly, after one frightened phone call from Daniel, Ben is racing to Daniel's aid and what he finds is a horror he can't imagine.

Daniel is trapped in a relationship where anger and controlling hate are the only emotions he is given. When his boyfriend crosses the line and leaves Daniel vulnerable and broken there is only one man that he wants to call.

The sexy bodyguard who promised he could help him.

The Ex Factor Details

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Author : R.J. Scott

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From Reader Review The Ex Factor for online ebook

Kimberley says

Don't let how short it is fool you!!

It packs a punch and worth everyyyy penny!!!!!!

I LOVE m/m genre, and this author sealed it in less than 200 pages.

WOW!

We have become so greedy with the page count of a book and not giving the shorter stories a fair shot. I am one of those people. I have passed up too many good stories because I thought the author couldn't possibly feed my emotional needs that I get from a longer written book!

This story. This amazing journey between Ben and Daniel held more emotions, more intensity, more love, more intimacy than some books that are 300plus pages. And, it wasn't filled with bs page-filler. No unnecessary angst. No page wasting just to prolong a story. I was hooked from page 1. I smiled. I cringed. I cried. I smiled again and then my heart was full. I didn't feel like more was needed. RJ Scott gave me everything I needed in this short, beautiful journey (yes, a journey, not just a book).

Tears and Smiles.

Well done RJ Scott. You have made a fan!!

Gigi says

Excellent addition to the Bodyguards Inc. series, The Ex Factor had plenty of hurt/healing/comfort to make me a happy camper. MC Daniel Lincoln is the victim of domestic abuse and big, burly Bodyguards Inc. employee MC Ben Collins is his own personal hero, swooping in to save the day in the best possible way.

Recommended for fans of the series and can be read as a stand-alone without a problem. I'm excited for the next one!

Kelly H. (Maybedog) says

4.5 stars rounded up

Instead of a review, I'm just going to spew out random thoughts.

Good if predictable plot and book was the right length.

Excellent pacing. I couldn't put the book down.

Perfect hurt/comfort/abuse/angst for me. Love this stuff.

A house was referred to as being built in the late 1900's. Um that's only a couple of decades. Who says that about a house that's recent? Don't you usually say something like, "The house was built twenty years ago"?

I love that Muse, my favorite band (right now), is mentioned several times.

The sex scenes were hot.

I loved how co-dependence issues and rescuer syndrome were discussed, including whether Daniel wanted Ben for the right reasons.

The characters were interesting. Both MCs were wonderful. And although pretty much all the characters (except the bad guy) were likeable enough, there was strife between a couple of them, so they weren't all perfect. I loved that Daniel wasn't the very best at what he does just extremely good.

What is with people thinking 5'10" is short? It's the average for most industrialized countries. It's actually half an inch above the average height for a male in his age group in England where the book takes place.

At one point a short woman was referred to as a "spitfire." That drives me up the wall. I also wished there was another action scene at the end but that's just me.

It was cool that Daniel was encouraged to get counseling and to shop around for the right counselor. So often in hurt/comfort books therapists are seen as negative, even evil, and/or the MC goes to the first one they can find.

This was another example of why R.J. Scott is one of my favorite authors. The books may not be fine literature, but they're fun, entertaining, and always work for me.

Lauren says

This was a great read! I've been waiting patiently (or maybe not so patiently, if I'm honest) for this release for quite a while, and IT FELT LIKE A LIFETIME I TELL YOU! But good things really do come to those who wait, and *The Ex Factor* certainly didn't disappoint. As many people know, I am a massive fan of RJ's writing. She always delivers my absolute favourite things in every one of her books - cute couples and sweet romances with an entertaining and emotional story, as well as wonderful writing and, above all else, a happy ending. I've got to have my HEA and no-one writes them quite like RJ does.

The Ex Factor was a truly lovely book. Book 1 in the *Bodyguards Inc.* series holds a very special place in my heart. If I remember correctly, I rated it 4 or 4.5 stars, but thoroughly enjoyed it. I read it on holiday with my Grandad not long after it had been released, and so I link that holiday and that book together in my head, and it makes me smile when I think about it. I was intrigued by the secondary characters in that book, and was very excited to read more about the other bodyguards at BI. This book... well, I was *so* excited to finally be able to download it. I was slightly apprehensive to start, because I always get so worried that I've hyped a book up too much in my head and that I'll be left disappointed. But I really *really* was not disappointed here

at all. The story had me hooked from the start, and as is true for all of RJ's books, I fell head over heels in love with the MCs almost instantly.

There was an aspect of hurt/comfort here, which is a theme I really enjoy reading. One of the MCs was also a musician - yet another thing I love! The book ticked so many boxes for me. The story progressed well - it didn't feel rushed or stilted, but moved along at just the right pace to see Ben and Daniel's relationship grow into something beautiful. Ben was wonderful and such a nice, genuine man. I really loved Daniel, flaws and all, and my heart broke that he couldn't see how much he was worth. He kept putting himself down, settling for things, not seeing how talented and strong he was. Cam... don't even get me started on that a-hole. I wanted to kick him up and down the M1, the bloody bastard. I was glad to see that he got exactly what he deserved in the end.

I wouldn't hesitate to recommend this to fans of the genre, or fans of romance in general. In fact, I'd recommend ALL of RJ's books. Especially if you're a hopeless romantic like me who has to have their happy ending.

Oh, and that cover... it's gorgeous! Again, that's something I always say about RJ's books. Gorgeous writing, gorgeous characters, and gorgeous covers. Just perfect :)

And... I NEED A ROSS AND KYLE BOOK IN MY LIFE. I think waiting for that could possibly destroy me. But I just know it'll be worth it. So long as they get their much deserved HEA, anyway ;)

Anke says

3.5 stars

You know what you get with one of R.J. Scott's stories and this was a good example for that. Nice, easy, a bit of drama, but not too much, on the other hand not many surprises. I liked it, but I think it won't stay with me for long.

Cadiva says

I liked this one even more than book one. It touches on a serious issue - that of domestic abuse - but treats it with empathy and understanding.

Lincoln needed Ben, not to do things for him, but to give him an anchor from which he could test his strengths and courage after leaving his abusive ex.

I liked the setting, an X-Factor alike TV show and there was still the same hallmark quiet humour found in RJ Scott's books.

So far this series is shaping up to be a highly enjoyable romp.

#ARC kindly received from the author in return for an unbiased review.

Ndulgent Bloggers says

Oh this author is good at tugging on my heartstrings. It didn't take me long before I wanted to protect Daniel as much as Ben. I appreciate when authors include family and friends in books not just people that might be the next couple, I feel it gives the book more depth and brings more realism to the story. Daniels family was so great once they knew what was going on.

Daniel's emotions are so very real especially his shame at what he sees as being less than a man. Ben is great at showing Daniel support but allowing him to stand on his own. It had to be very hard for Ben to step back once you find out about his past. The slow build to the relationship in this story was so needed and really gave you time to fall in love with the characters on their own and then together.

The teasers we get every time that Ross and Kyle are on the pages are fabulous. I know I am not the only one looking forward to their book and getting the story behind Bodyguards, Inc.

If you love to read about strong, protective men, then this is a series that should be on your TBR list!

Trisha Harrington says

sigh I really loved this book. It was everything I wanted it to be and more. I'll even go as far as to say, I loved this more than I loved the first book, and I really loved the first book!

When I started this, the fact Daniel had a boyfriend, albeit an abusive one, had me worried about him and Ben getting together. But I shouldn't have worried because the boyfriend became an ex, and he was definitely an asshole. And I think that's putting it mildly. But anyway, that worry was put to bed after he became an ex and he stayed an ex, which was something I did like.

The relationship between Daniel and Ben was one that took time. Daniel had to get past what his ex and done to him and the emotions he left him with. And Ben stepped up to help him with those emotions, and that scene really stood out to me. Well, there were a few scenes that stood out, but that was one that really proved how much Ben cared, in my mind at least. It was because of what Ben did, or allowed Daniel to do, that Daniel saw he needed to talk to someone about what had happened to him.

Daniel's parents were another part of the story I loved. Supportive parents are always a bonus for me, especially when the reaction is like Daniel's father (**pouts** which we didn't actually see, we were just told about it). I also liked their anger when they found out what happened. It was more proof that they loved their son.

We heard a little bit about Adam and Logan, the couple from the first book, and a couple that haven't had their book yet, but really need to get their act together. Yes, people who've read either of these books will know who I'm talking about. But I'm also excited to read book 3 and to meet the new guys in that book.

Susan65 says

I don't normally watch reality TV shows, but The Ex Factor, and especially the behind the scenes aspects of this fictional talent show, really grabbed my attention and pulled me in. Don't expect that I will be watching TV any more than usual, but if I happen to flip through the channels and see a reality musical talent show, I am sure I will be thinking of Daniel and his sad story.

Daniel is musically gifted and is one of three remaining talents on The Ex Factor when he meets Ben, a bodyguard assigned to the show. Ben finds Daniel to be an exceptional artist and very cute, but steers clear because he knows he is in a committed relationship. What he doesn't realize immediately is that that relationship is abusive and extremely toxic. So much so that Daniel has to hide his bruises by wearing concealing clothing and doing his own make-up. He comes off as a diva when, in reality, he can barely move because of his injuries.

I was never happier to see an ex-boyfriend get the boot as much as I was in this case. Daniel was so mentally and physically abused that I didn't think he had it in him, but he did it, and for a while, he is fine. Sadly, he is too trusting and easily falls back into his ex's clutches. This is where Ben comes to his rescue. Ben suspected all wasn't well during the show and passed his card on to Daniel in case he ever needed his help. When he never called, Ben assumed that Daniel was fine.

The relationship between Ben and Daniel was really sweet. Ben is a big ol' lug who is tired of people only wanting to sleep with him because he is a large man but could care less about him as a person. He doesn't have that with Daniel, and the two of them slowly form a relationship based on mutual attraction and genuine caring. Ben is super protective, although he doesn't baby him but allows Daniel to regain his dignity and become the man he was meant to be.

It is never easy to read about domestic violence, and I'm sure that it's extremely hard for an author to write about it. But in this case, RJ Scott did a great job of bringing this sad situation to life with respect and emotion. I love reading about difficult life issues and watching the hero lovingly bring the victim back to life. In this case, Ben was the perfect hero for Daniel. He was the man Daniel needed to help him break out of his shell and show the world he had it what it takes to be successful.

The Blogger Girls

Nerea says

What a surprise!!!!

A bodyguard in Xfactor tvshow?? I thought this book would be light and a bit superficial ~ BUT has been just THE OPPOSITE!

This story is heartwarming, cute, super romantic and speaks about hard issues like the physical and psychological abuse of one partner to another in a relationship.

Ben is a gentle giant ex army bodyguard working at xfactor tvshow watching after one of the jury members and meets Daniel, one of the contestants, just discovering that the man have bruises with a lot pain and he clearly is scared of something. Ben finally suspects about Daniel's boyfriend, but the man is in denial and refuses any help.

Months later, Ben received a strange message asking for his help ... ♥

Susan says

DNF at 58%

Great premise, but I felt absolutely nothing for the characters. Especially Ben, who was just an empty shell. He hardly even said a word.

Serena Yates says

Bodyguards have all kinds of different assignments, I guess, and the one in this book definitely sounded like a more unusual one. Ben is a former soldier and has worked for Bodyguards Inc. for a few years when he happens to work at a televised talent show and runs into Daniel. Daniel is a rock singer and ends up in third place, but there is something about him that has Ben not just drawn to him but worried about his safety. But Daniel is not willing to open up, and Ben withdraws, leaving his number. Months later he gets a call, and this time he will not take no for an answer, especially because Daniel is finally ready to acknowledge the truth of his situation: he has been in an abusive relationship for years but is now ready to get out.

What follows is a touching story about Daniel dealing with his shame and guilt as he gains back control over his life. Ben's protective instincts come to the fore, but he remains professional when needed, even as he slowly admits to more than professional interest in Daniel.

I you like heartbreaking stories about men who pick themselves up and go on despite what they have suffered, and if you're looking for a read that deals with the real issue of abuse, yet manages to be a touching and sweet love story, then you will probably like this novel

NOTE: This book was provided by the author for the purpose of a review.

Amanda says

Pretty neat for a short read. A story about Daniel, a guy in an abusive relationship for six long years. I found

out that for such a character, I can't analyze too much on his state of mind and why did he stayed with his abusive piece of shit boyfriend for so long, because there isn't a straight answer to that. I definitely sympathize with his predicament and I'm glad he finally realize how unhealthy it is and decided to seek help. The help comes in the form of sexy bodyguard, Ben Collins.

Oh Ben... who wouldn't love this man who is so patient, protective and giving. He basically can stand between Daniel and his troubles and say 'over my dead body'. Readers who love the whole knight in shining armor saving damsel in distress, in this case, the damsel is a sexy little rocker, this might be the book for you.

Jaime says

In Progress

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(,~ (,~*ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review. Reviewed by Jaime from Alpha Book Club and Gay Book Reviews

Didi says

The question that hovered when I first reading this series was whether Bodyguard Inc. made up of gay staffers. Let's see: Kyle, the boss owner's unrequited love to his OCD PA/office manager, Ross; then the bodyguards appeared so far - Adam from Bodyguard To A Sex God, Benjamin the hero of this story, and their colleague Michael - none of them straight. Yet, so far there's no mentioning if this was the case. It could be interesting to have a book of how this agency first established - in following books, perhaps?

As for The Ex-Factor... I like this book. I think. The timespan, from when Ben first met Daniel to the moment the story picked up was longer, as in months - not days.

There's some loopholes in details, which I'm not sure it's Daniel's unclear account due to being under influenced or editing-related... /shrugs/

I don't have much patience with weak/victimized character, but for once I sympathized with Daniel for what he'd been through. And I got why Ben "*done an Adam*" (yep, what Kyle said when a bodyguard got emotionally attached to his charge) because... This book wouldn't exist otherwise, right!?

The plot was pretty predictable, the bad ex found to be much more evil, finally got arrested and sentenced to jail. Our MCs lived happily ever after with the support of loving family and friends. Nothing extraordinary there, but entertaining enough.

The "stapler war" between Ross and Adam that carried forward to this book is hilarious though. I hope Ms. Scott would wrote story about Kyle and Ross in the future.

In the mean time I shall move on to the next book in the series...

