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# Die For You



## Synopsis

Not everything is as perfect as it seems in this dark romance by A Matter of Heart author, Amy Dominy. *Theirs* was the perfect love story. After Emma Lorde's parents' divorce forces her to move halfway across the state of Arizona to live with her father, Emma must face her senior year in a new school knowing absolutely no one.

Then she meets Dillon Hobbs and something just clicks. Dillon introduces Emma to friends she can call her own. He provides a refuge from the chaos of her past and the security of a commitment that he promises will last forever. And because circumstances of her messy life forced Emma to put aside her dream of pursuing archaeology, Dillon creates a blueprint for a future together. He saves her, over and over, by loving her more than she thought anyone ever would. But just when everything seems picture-perfect, Emma is offered an opportunity that will upend the future they've planned. Uncertainty grows, and fear spirals into something darker. Now Dillon is the one who needs saving. But how much do you sacrifice for the one you love? What if saving Dillon means losing herself? "In this delicate, tense exploration of teenage relationship abuse, both the slow progression of Dillon's illness and Emma's refusal to see the signs until it is nearly too late ring true. The violence is handled sensitively, and readers are left hopeful for Emma's recovery. A perceptive portrait of relationship abuse."--Kirkus Reviews "This taut thriller unrolls hidden messages of abusive relationships with a sharp edge and well-drawn gray areas, leaving readers on the edge of their seats."--Booklist "With a fresh voice, Dominy adeptly depicts how love can grow dark and that abuse isn't always physical."--SLJ

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 10 Up *Â* *Â* •Arizona teen Emma Lorde has a complicated home life. Her parents have divorced, and she's furious with her mother, whose infidelity was a factor in the marriage's dissolution. Emma moved across the state to live with her dad, whose binge drinking has become a big liability. But she believes she has found salvation in her boyfriend, Dillon, who provides her with a safe place and shared friends at school and has made a commitment to be with her forever. Dillon's life is also difficult, though, and when Emma receives a dream opportunity for a study abroad program, his surprising negative reaction begins the downward spiral of their relationship. As he starts to question Emma's devotion to him, love turns into manipulation and abuse. With a fresh voice, Dominy adeptly depicts how love can grow dark and that abuse isn't always physical. Never gratuitous, the strong language and sexual situations add to the authenticity of the narrative. VERDICT Teens looking for stories of romance gone wrong will enjoy this quick read. A good purchase for most YA collections. *Â* *Â* •Elaine Baran Black, Georgia Public Library Service, Atlanta

"This taut thriller unrolls hidden messages of abusive *Â* relationships with a sharp edge and well-drawn gray areas, leaving readers on the edge of their seats." - Booklist "In this delicate, tense exploration of teenage relationship abuse, both the slow progression of Dillon's illness and Emma's refusal to see the signs until it is nearly too late ring true. The violence is handled sensitively, and readers are left hopeful for Emma's recovery. A perceptive portrait of relationship abuse." *Â* *Â* - Kirkus "With a fresh voice, Dominy adeptly depicts how love can grow dark and that abuse isn't always physical." --School Library Journal "I can't recommend it enough." --Gae Polisner, author of *The Memory of Things*

Grade: B+ What is love? How much must we give? How do we know when to stop? What do we do when the little voice inside our heads warns of danger? Do we listen, or heed the pressures of others? Emma's life turned upside down after her parents divorced and she moved across town to live with her alcoholic father. But Dillon makes everything better. Until he doesn't. Amy Dominy did a great job creating a main character with sense and inner strength, who still falls prey to a troubled

boyfriend. For all the upheaval in her life over the past year, Emma is a confident, sensitive young woman. She had a passion for archeology, is deeply devoted to her father and boyfriend. She also lacks the support to help her when Dillon becomes manipulative and controlling. Or maybe she has the support but avoids people, like her sister and favorite teacher, who will tell her what she needs to hear. I love that Emma wasn't a weak character, because even strong girls and women can fail to recognize warning signs of a troubled relationship. Dominy gave Emma a thoughtful, compelling voice. The perfect pacing added authenticity to DIE FOR YOU without being overly dramatic. Emma and Dillon's story could take place in any high school. I strongly recommend DIE FOR YOU to teens and parents as an example of an emotionally abusive, controlling relationship spinning out of control.

Such a page turner, this YA love story took over my weekend. If this book was food, it would be a banana split---at first it makes you feel really good, but by the time you're near the end, you feel kind of sick. Dominy does a great job of introducing us to these seemingly ordinary teenagers, then simmers the plot until the relationships reach the boiling point. I appreciated that the boyfriend of the main character was not portrayed as a "bad guy" but instead we see the shades of gray of mental illness. What's the difference between passion and true love? I loved the parallel story of the last day in Pompeii as well. A really powerful novel about love and obsession.

Was lucky to read an early version of this book and I LOVED IT! Writing clever banter is one of Amy Fellner Dominy's strengths, along with getting to the heart of relationships. But the best part of this story, is how Dominy shows the deceptively innocent way one can find themselves in a bad situation. Love the writing, love the message. I can't wait to read it again when it comes out, and have everyone else meet these characters!

Thoughtful. Enjoyed the historical overlays throughout. Characters have a some depth. Read it and you will understand!

What starts as a story of teen-age love turns dark, and once the reader realizes that Emma is in danger, there's no putting the book aside. Confusion, guilt, mixed loyalties, good intentions gone wrong, hard choices, prioritizing demands and needs - all there and handled adroitly.

This cautionary tale of losing oneself in another is a great read for young and old. Important lessons for our kids to learn are brought to light in this book which speaks to the perils of "love" and lost

identity. I'm purchasing several for the teens in my life.

Fast read - a great story and a great message. Perfect for school libraries and teen book groups.  
Couldn't put it down.

A gripping, realistic and heart-felt novel. Perfect for readers who like contemporary, thought-provoking YA.

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