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Rachel Haimowitz , Heidi Belleau

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The Flesh Cartel returns for a compelling second season with "Choices." Brothers Mat and Dougie Carmichael thought nothing could be worse than being snatched from their home and brutally dehumanized in preparation for sale as sex slaves. But they learn their suffering has only just begun when they're shipped to their new master's home.

Professional trainer Nikolai Petrovic is a master of his trade. His ultra-rich clientele pay him to create perfectly tailored playthings, and Mat and Dougie are the latest in a long line of men who have walked into his remote mountain home as terrified victims and left it permanently altered: subdued and obedient, ready and even eager for a life of service.

To achieve this, Nikolai must take a drastically different tack with each brother. Dougie, manipulated with affection and denial. Mat, controlled by pain and fear. The one thread in common for both men is choice. Nikolai prides himself on never forcing, but will Mat and Dougie submit willingly to his vision, or will they first need to learn the price of disobedience?

This title is part of the The Flesh Cartel, Season 2: Fragmentation serial.

Choices Details

Date : Published January 7th 2013 by Riptide Publishing

ISBN : 9781937551711

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Format : ebook 76 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Erotica, Bdsm, Dark, Adult Fiction, Sociology, Abuse, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Choices for online ebook

Alice says

Nikolai you bastard.

There are no spoilers from Choices, but there will inevitably be some from Auction and Captured. (Contains cussing and explicit scenes.)

3.5 “You came as baggage with your brother.” stars.

(Was this episode supposed to be amazing?)

As if on cue, he thought he heard Mat scream. Distant again, so distant it all had to be in his head. Just guilt, that’s all. Guilt and insanity. Mat wasn't here.

Me: Well that episode was disappoint-

Book: Don't say it.

Me: Why?

Book: You'll anger the Book Gods, and they will make you crap your pants in the next episode.

Dougie's scared that his brother will hate him after what he did to keep them together. He has more pressing issues though, there are bugs on his skin, tickling, itching. But they aren't really there, he's just losing his mind.

Mat's confused, on one hand Dougie wanted to keep them together but had failed, on the other Dougie didn't have to cause him so much pain. He doesn't know what to feel, he'll know though, the next time he sees him. Either relief or anger will flood his mind.

Well this episode was a fucking disappointment. The series seems so be going downhill for me 5 stars then 4 and now 3.5, what is going on here?!

He'd always said he'd do anything for Mat. Die. Sell his soul. Now he really had.

Again with the spoilers in the blurb and the beginning of the e-book! I skipped them- again! Although the Title doesn't have any spoilers in it, I don't think. ;)

I want to bite Nikolai's dick off. Just sayin'.

Still, Madame’s men had performed an essential service. They’d taught the boy pain so that, with luck, Nikolai wouldn't have to. In Douglas’s eyes, he could be the kind master. The good guy. The rescuer he truly was.

I have no sympathy for Dougie for this episode, although I would of probably acted the same way that he did.

Together . Madame had kept her promise, they’d been sold together. Every horrible thing Dougie had endured and done on that stage had been worth it for that.

Mat you're so brave *rescues him*

“Tell me, Mathias, what do you fear?”

Losing him again. Failing him again.

“Bees,” he said.

Once, at a stoplight, he spotted a bird sitting on a wire, and stared and stared until it flew away, a strange unsettling feeling in the pit of his stomach that had nothing to do with the cramping from the plug. He realized, perhaps eight or ten miles later, that it was envy.

Why a 3.5 and not a 3? The actual content was maybe a 3, but because of the clear divisions of the perspectives (separated into chapters) of the brothers, it was a lot easier to tell who was who, hence the .5 raise.

Also, the rating wasn't higher because it just sucked for me- I don't know why, it was still interesting, but just not good? Huh?

To see my previous reviews and my next review for The Flesh Cartel please click the links below.

Capture (The Flesh Cartel #1) - [HERE](#)

Auction (The Flesh Cartel #2) - [HERE](#)

Consequences (The Flesh Cartel #4) - [HERE](#)

Debra says

I need a break! Just read books 1 - 3 back to back and understand why this is in serial form. If this was all one book I would absolutely go mad.

I thought it would be impossible, but this installment hit me harder than the first two. We finally get a view of what Nikolai's plans for Dougie and Mat are. While Mat is destined for nothing but physical pain and unhappiness, it is the manipulation of Dougie that is really tying me up in knots here. Both brothers are only hanging on by the thought of saving the other. The thought that Nikolai will be successful and ultimately drive a wedge between the brothers has me cringing.

I hate everything about what is going on in these books but Rachel and Heidi have me on edge wondering what will happen next.

Monique says

This series continues to exceed my expectations ~ Rachel Haimowitz and Heidi Belleau - you are Brilliant! The whole concept of this series, characters and world building is truly Amazing... you have us by the proverbial balls and you ain't letting go any time soon!

Before reading

I have just picked up this book to start reading Season 2 of this amazing series and just reading the blurb from the previous two books was like being punched in the chest all over again... I can already feel the tears pricking in my eyes!

I am so excited to read this, but apprehensive at the same time... you see I find myself thinking of Mat and Dougie occasionally, they slip into my mind when least expected causing a rush of adrenaline and anxiety... I want to know how they are, how they will fare with the formidable Nikolai Petrovic... but at the same time I do not want to flick to chapter one! Mat and Dougie have found a place in my heart and as much as I am in awe of Ms Belleau and Ms Haimowitz writing... I am scared!

I know they are going to take me on a journey in Season 2 where I don't want to go... yet I must. I am enthralled by the love the two brothers have for each other and totally gutted at the possibility that the one thing that holds them together may be destroyed and finally break them! My heart is racing in expectation, knowing our writing duo will take us further into the depths of darkness and torture with **hope...** being the most compelling of all reasons to continue reading...

Review

I read this, not relaxed in the armchair by the fire... No! I was on the edge of my seat, hand over my eyes peeking through my fingers! Wanting to read - Not wanting to read! Tears replaced by anger replaced by tears. My heart breaking for these two Brothers, separated and being broken down, depriving them of the one thing that keeps them alive and gives them hope ~ Each Other!

In this book we get a look into the mind of the Evil. Son. Of. A. Bitch... Nikolai Petrovic. Initially I wasn't feeling cruelty from him, more like detachment and determination for the task at hand. However that small blip didn't last long... common sense prevailed and my mind was soon changed... He is a Sadistic Fuck! Calm and composed, a master manipulator and an expert at mind games. He relishes the challenge and it's all about power... and he is the man controlling it. Mat and Dougie are mere puppets, with him the puppeteer. With the Brothers separated, he is stretching and trying to break the tethered thread that holds them together! Will Mat and Dougie have any resolve left when Nikolai is so expertly pulling the strings?

The POV is constantly moving between Mat and Dougie, building the intensity, with each being treated to a different yet equally abominable torture. For Mat it is more of the same... used and abused by every horrific act of debasement thinkable... How clever of Nikolai, he uses pain and torture and sexual abuse to the extreme, with no let up, no relief and no break... it was constant! He wants him angry, he wants him to suffer and he wants to be the saviour to control the animal inside Mat wanting to Kill. But he has more to control Mat, he has Dougie... surplus to requirements but the key to ensure he meets his objective... to train Mat to the specific requirements of his client and Dougie will be his leverage to guarantee his success. Failure is not an option, he needs to break down Mat... but not render him completely broken.

Meanwhile, the man I want to KILL! is using psychological torture on Dougie, breaking him down by sensory deprivation, in a room with nothing!... picking at his mind and sanity. Dougie is not strong like Mat, mentally he is weak... he needs Mat and Nikolai will use this weakness to drive a wedge between them with Nikolai again being the saviour. He wants Dougie needy... he sees the submissive in Dougie and his inner sadist is salivating at the thought of Dougie prostrate at his feet, the perfect slave!

We do get a tiny, minuscule glimpse of compassion from Nikolai and it makes me wonder where the authors

will take that... Dougie maybe!?! and if so... how the hell are Rachel and Heidi going to endear us to such a heinous character? I have given up trying to anticipate where we will be taken next on this journey with Dougie and Mat, whatever scenario I try to envision in my head is destroyed by what actually happens! It is completely unpredictable never knowing where, what or how... the only thing we can guarantee is that whatever happens it is a living hell for both the Brothers and for us!

I have a Love ~ Hate relationship with both the series and the Authors ~ Love to Hate them and Hate to Love them! the impact of this series on your heart is immense... Mat and Dougie are so embedded in my mind, they have crawled under my skin and I feel every abominable act of abuse meted out as fun or punishment! Yet I am addicted, I can't help myself... I keep asking myself WHY!... do I put myself through this pain? I have come to the conclusion, I must be a masochist because I want more!

This is the third book in the series, before reading this check out...

The Flesh Cartel #1

The Flesh Cartel #2

This ARC was provided by Riptide publishing through NetGalley... Thank you so very much!

For more reviews, please visit...Sinfully Sexy Book Reviews

Rebecca says

Reading In The Dark Blog

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It's taken me three books to form an actual review that's not just me bitching and being all WHAT THE ACTUAL FUCK?!?!?!?! I hate it, I love it, I hate it. But I'm going to try.....

The writing of these books is really something special. The writers have this amazing ability of forcing the readers to experience the trauma alongside Dougie and Mat.

It's not simply voyeuristic, you suffer *with* them. Via Nikolai in this one.

I initially thought the brutality would make me not be able to take the series seriously so I put off reading them and it was only my curiosity that got the better of me, that and the fact that I like to push myself and my reading limits.

Don't get me wrong.....I love dark, violent and disturbing- it's perversely fascinating watching people struggle and wondering how people are going to cope. My only concern was that because they are short I may not get anything *except* dark, violent and disturbing without any character depth.

So before I picked the up and started reading them I didn't have much interest in such a- what I naively assumed- mindlessly violent abusive short book. How much story can there be? I thought. How emotionally invested will I get in only 50 pages? I thought. Turns out a lot, its fucking **E-motional** reading these.

Not enjoyable as such but yeah.....completely overwhelmingly enjoyable. Like an actual roller-coaster thinking NOOOOOOOOO I'M GOING TO DIE. I HATE THIS REALLY REALLY HATE IT. Then get off and like huh...I wanna do that again!!!
God Fuckin Shit, they're so good.

The sense of futility and suffering is just so real its unnerving. It's incredibly frustrating reading these, I'm three books in and essentially nothing has happened except my poor boys have suffered. That's not even a criticism, I don't mean there is a lack of plot just simply that the guys have had no reprieve. Nothing good has happened *AT ALL* .

I don't know what I'm supposed to think of Nikolai, I hate him obviously but I don't at the same time. Don't judge me. He is a strange strange man. Like he gets more satisfaction in the training and the journey rather than a full blown sadistic shitbag.

Anyway.....I don't know where these are going but I hope to god it ends well. Don't know how but please. I need a teeny tiny ray of sunshine.

Rach says

**REALLY GOOD BOOK, IN MY OPINION NOT AS GOOD AS THE FIRST TWO
BUT STILL BRILLIANT**

CHOICES OR CONSEQUENCES- those are the options for Mat and Dougie. Brothers fighting to survive the horror of what has and what will be done to them at the hands of their master/trainer Nikolai

Nikolai is a manipulator of the mind and wants to break one brother while seeking to have the other brother come willingly to him. He exploits Mat and Dougie's obvious love for each other by coercing them to do his will, without hesitation.

'This was no life worth living, and he reached the point where he'd have ended it if they'd let him, even knowing that would mean leaving Dougie behind'

Nikolai's treatment of the two brothers is different, separating them to divide their loyalty towards each other.

'He always said he would do anything for Matt. Die. Sell his soul'

With Dougie, Nikolai is determined to chip away at his soul until he makes him lose faith in Mat and rely more on his master.

Dougie while lying in his isolated cell believes all hope was fast disappearing

'Dougie's hallucinations were getting worse. It didn't help that he knew now how very real monsters were, that terrors did lurk in the dark, thought so far they'd all come in human form'

The master manipulator wants Dougie to feel alone and builds his fear while he is trapped in isolation, with only his thoughts to comfort/disorientate him

Would I recommend this book? Yes I would to all lovers of dark reads.

Will I be buying the next in the series? HELL YES!! Already pre-ordered o arrive on the due date, I cannot wait now

Optimist ?King's Wench? & MANTIES Champion says

You know what I'm having trouble with? Yes, I know I'm probably over thinking it. This whole cartel is predicated on buyers wanting a specific product, in this case humans. Were I a buyer I would want my product in pristine condition.

PRIS-FUCKING-TINE

These two boys are getting hit harder than an all you can eat buffet by a football teams' worth of dudes with

the munchies at 2 a.m. Without condoms! And don't even get me started on that plug they shackled Mat with because ruined was the only word that kept coming to mind. I hate to be a stickler here, but I'm, fairly certain Dougie would be dead in real life after that long without water.

No matter. I'm sticking with this thing if for no other reason then to find out who Mat's actual owner is. I'm also curious about this Nikolai cat. He seems awfully smitten with Dougie already, though Dougie does seem like a natural pet.

"It is not enough to serve me. You must love to serve me."

Geez, I hope there will be some chastity! Every good pet needs protection.

Less torture. More chastity!

I know. Fat chance.

Lisa Henry says

This book to me, as it slaps me over the head: "Why are you hitting yourself? Why are you hitting yourself? Why are you hitting yourself?"

Me to the book: "Leave me aloooooone!"

I have a total love-hate relationship for this series. The torture and sexual assaults are so gut-wrenching and visceral that it is actually horrible to read. But I can't stop. Maybe I'm like Mat - looking for a fighting chance. Or maybe I'm like Dougie - hoping for a glimmer of kindness. But holy hell, this was another intense ride.

Hey, Rachel and Heidi, I think I see a tiny little bit of hope you left over there. Stomp on it for me, okay? Yep, that's it. You got it.

In this episode, we get a better look at Nikolai. And I almost want to like him, to believe he's not as bad as everyone else who's had Mat and Dougie in their power, but that's not true, is it? A more civilised monster is still a monster. His logic and his intelligence don't make him a better man. Because while he's being almost kind to Dougie (considering the circumstances...which Nikolai could change, of course, if he really wanted), at the same time he's torturing the hell out of Mat. Which is the logical and intelligent thing: the brothers require different training, after all. See? A monster.

And that's the very clever thing about this series. You think they're only fucking with Mat and Dougie's heads? No way. They're fucking with all our heads as well.

I hate it. I love it. I hate it... more, please!

Shile loves books says

1 or 5..Hmmm! 1 or 5.. Ok mind made up.

5+++++++ fucked up, why the hell do I read such books stars

WARNING quoting the book I call review.

Tell me how not to suffer

Maybe I'm a ghost, he thought, despite evidence to the contrary: the feel of his own heaving chest under his palm. They killed me and I'm a ghost and this is limbo, and they sent me here for hurting my own brother.

This series is just so wrong on many levels, yet I find myself here reading book 3 and will continue upto 19.

Everytime I read a book in this series.. let's just say all moral pffft!

What morals? Out the window they go. Bye Morals...

Nikolai is a bastard. Like a Psycho bastard,.. I hate him but then again I am intrigued by him.

"My name is Nikolai," the man said. "But you must earn the right to call me that. For now, sir will do."

This book Matt was made to suffer more than the last two.. I was like please just give the guy a break.

I will kill your brother. I didn't buy the pair of you for him. I have no use for him. I don't particularly have time for him. And lest you get it into your head that death is preferable, understand that I will kill him slowly. Over months. I'll pull out every tooth, every fingernail, every toenail. Gouge out his eyeballs. Cut off his ears, his nose, his tongue, his balls, his cock. Cauterize his wounds and leave him to die of sepsis. Do you understand?"

Dougie.. poor guy he has suffered to a point he just decided to go with the flow.. I am so rooting for him to succeed.

"Undo my fly," he said, and when Douglas moved too quickly, too eager to play at eagerness, Nikolai steadied his hand with his own and added, "Slowly. Sensually. This isn't mechanics, it's worship, do you understand?"

"The instant I pull free," he panted, "you will stroke me to completion. You will look me in the eyes the entire time. You will hold your mouth open, tongue out, like—" He had to stop for a moment, breathe deep, rein himself in. "Like a happy dog, if you'll excuse the crassness. Don't you dare let so much as a whisper of disgust show on your pretty face. Con-se-quences."

So if you can read about Rape, Forced Incest, Torture, Psychos and any other despicable thing there is, then by all means read this little gem of a series.

Em says

This series is definitely not for the faint-hearted if you are this far in it's too late to turn back now!

I can't see how it's ever going to end in a good way for Mat and Dougie but for some reason I feel better with them in the hands of Nikolai than back at the processing centre. Fool that I am!

Susan says

4 stars ...now, in light of this rating, what I'm about to say might make no sense at all:

I f'ing HATE these books.

By book 3, I no longer feel shock, am beyond anger...now, it's just rage. I seriously want to hurt someone. I want to destroy every single person who laid a hand on Dougie and Mat. (And I vacillate between wanting to shake Dougie & Mat out of frustration and of course, wanting to protect them, save them...)

But, you see...the sick thing is, I actually believe that's the reaction Rachel and Heidi planned all along for their readers. To slap them around so hard that they want to retaliate. And for that mastery, and for inciting the kind of emotions in me that I typically do NOT tap into, I commend them.

Kudos for the addition of Nikolai, slave trainer, sick mutherf'er, and a BRILLIANT character in episode 3.

I honestly wish I had never started this series. It's sick, twisted, brutal, unrelenting. But, I did...and once I turned that first page, I was shackled and became my own form of prisoner. I won't be released from Dougie & Mat until the last season's last episode. And for that, I'm both terrified of what's ahead and dreading it...but of course...I can't wait.

Martin says

Oh boy how to rate this?

Did I enjoy it? No.

Was it well written? Very much so.

So 5 stars for Mat and Dougie!

I swear if they don't make out of this shit in one piece, I'm gonna be REALLY mad..

Eugenia says

Still dark. Still disturbing. I still loved it.

In this one, the brothers have been purchased at auction after an excruciating display for the buyers. It takes three days for the new buyer/trainer to come pick up his purchases, and in the meantime, more horrors await the boys.

Safety seems to appear as they leave the auction house, but it's truly the beginning of the end for the two. Here they will begin their real training. What we witness is painful, and the only thing that seems to keep them going is the thought of escape and keeping the other alive.

Rape, torture.

? BookAddict ✍ La Crimson Femme says

The third book is out! (Well, okay, I have a copy and devoured it.) This continuation of Dougie and Mat's training into slavery is not slowing down. There are still sadistic scenes of rape as well as non stop anal gang banging. The question is, which brother is the one constantly sexually violated?

This story is focused on Choices, with the aptly named title. The reader learns how Nikolai plans to break down Dougie and Mat. Their conditioning is vastly different. It seems there is no hope for either brother. Will this serial story end with a happily ever after? This reader is starting to feel doubtful.

Nikolai is coming across as a Machiavellian character. Yet he's not exactly hateful. He's a cog in part of a much larger machine. It should be interesting to see who wins this game. Will it be Nikolai, the experienced slave breaker? Or will it be Dougie, the psychology student? Ms. Haimowitz and Ms. Belleau dangle another tantalizing chapter for their voracious readers. This m/m non con story is recommended only to those who have no issues with BDSM fantasy in a dark and depraved manner.

Dia says

5 BROKEN stars

I have no **choice** than to give it **5 stars**.

This review has been posted on Dirty Books Obsession.

Mat and Dougie are going to learn on their own skin that they have **NO CHOICE** than to GIVE IN. They have to choose to let go and submit.

It broke my heart, but it's only the beginning of such a painful road.

Lisa Arbitrary - AttentionIsArbitrary M/M Blog says

~ ~ ~

First Season

The Flesh Cartel #1: Capture

The Flesh Cartel #2: Auction

Second Season begins with this book #3.

Per Riptide Publishing:

Reader discretion advised. This title contains the following sensitive themes:

explicit violence

non-consent

Fair warning, this is NOT MM Romance. This is a psycho-sexual thriller which includes rape and torture. Please proceed with that knowledge.

One of my updates described this as a "speeding bullet" and holy hell it is. Each episode has just, flat out, been one hell of a ride. This speeding bullet will hit you hard with pain, torture, mind fucks and god, this underlying gut-twisting need for these guys to hang on. It's like you know you you'd already be totally gone, but Dougie and Mat just can't lose it...not yet. Then, at the same time, losing it would be the best kindness they could get.

You *WILL* feel these books, these characters, this crazy intensity that doesn't slow down for one minute.

THE CHARACTERS

They killed me and I'm a ghost and this is limbo, and they sent me here for hurting my own brother.

Dougie - A PhD grad student isolated with only his devastating guilt for company, he is being prepared to meet a psychological master.

...and it didn't escape him how fucked-up his worldview had become when the thought of being claimed by his new owner was something to look the fuck forward to.

Mat - The Fighter. His endurance is his worst enemy; then he meets Nikolai, who plans to teach Mat to endure...everything.

Nikolai preferred transformation and ascension to brute terms like "breaking,"

Nikolai A fucking, twisted fuck. Who's character *is* this? Rachel, Heidi? Damn, I know I hate this guy, without question...but....

THE STORY

Out of the fire, into the frying pan. Yeah, that about sums this one up.

THE WRITING

Again, if a story with this level of intensity wasn't written perfectly, it would be a glaring problem. In my opinion, this is written perfectly. In fact, beyond perfect. The hidden, twisted mental turns just kept screwing me to my chair. I want/need to look away but I can't begin to put this series down. Bring me more.

The title, Choices, seemed innocent enough, heh. The next is Consequences Holy hell!

A very sincere thank you to Netgalley and Riptide Publishing for providing me with a early release version of this book, in exchange for an honest review.

~ ~ ~

Take a look at my Male/Male Romance Book Blog:

<http://www.attentionisarbitrary.blogspot.com>
