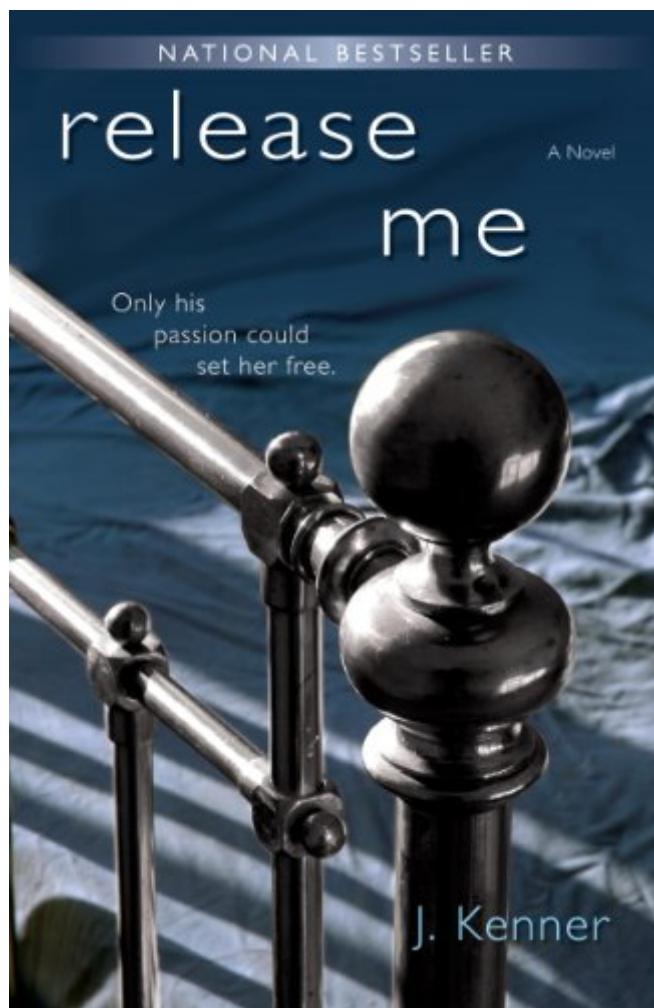


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# Release Me (The Stark Trilogy, Book 1)



## **Synopsis**

An emotionally charged romance between a powerful man who's never heard "no" and a fiery woman who says "yes" on her own terms. He was the one man I couldn't avoid. And the one man I couldn't resist. Damien Stark could have his way with any woman. He was sexy, confident, and commanding: Anything he wanted, he got. And what he wanted was me. Our attraction was unmistakable, almost beyond control, but as much as I ached to be his, I feared the pressures of his demands. Submitting to Damien meant I had to bare the darkest truth about my past--and risk breaking us apart. But Damien was haunted, too. And as our passion came to obsess us both, his secrets threatened to destroy him--and us--forever. NOTE: This edition includes excerpts from J. Kenner's *Claim Me* and *Say My Name*. *Release Me* is intended for mature audiences.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This was the first book of this genre that I read, and boy was I hooked. Damien is a man with more money than he knows what to do with but he is just as damaged and flawed as Nikki. They have a passionate relationship, which is all consuming but not only in the bedroom. There is BDSM in this

book, but it does not feel forced or gratuitous. It did end quite abruptly, but it makes the anticipation that much more .....

On the surface, this appears to compare to "the book that started it all!!!" And everywhere we look, books are being compared to Fifty Shades of Grey....And at one time, I admit, it was the standard by which all books in this genre were judged...Damien Stark and Nikki Fairchild will make you forget all about Christian Grey and Anastasia Steele...This book begins the love affair of Damien and Nikki.....The bar has been

I was looking for a trilogy to read after the Crossfire series, and I kept running across this one. I have to admit that it took me a while to actually hunker down and buy it, I really didn't want to spend money on the books if they were going to end up being too FSoG (don't judge but those books just totally didn't do it for me, and everyone kept comparing this series to that one). But in the end I bought all three books, and I have to say I'm not sorry that I did. So in this book we learn mostly about Nikki, and not Damien, don't get me wrong Damien is a huge part of the book, but his actions and his past all kind of wrapped in this air of mystery, and as the reader you are right there along with Nikki trying to figure out all the little things that make this guy tick. What I think is completely safe to say is that both of these two people are damaged, Nikki definitely had a hard childhood, her mother didn't really make her life easy and she coped with it in a way that some teenage girls do, by hurting herself. She literally carries the scars with her. I don't know how realistic I found the agreement Nikki enters into with Damien, to be painted in the nude and to agree to be Damien's for the time it takes to paint the nude, and yes I mean ~~she~~ as in his bed for whatever he wants. He of course is going to pay for her sitting for the painting, like a whole lot of money. I had a hard time believing that she would go for this after barely knowing him. But that being said I did like Nikki, I liked that she had intelligence as well, that was a big plus for me, and that she had goals for what she wanted her life to be. Damien was okay. He's a good looking guy, well super good looking. But I also found him to be a bit creepy when it turns out he met Nikki when she was 18 and had kind of been keeping tabs on her, eh it's a bit of a ick factor for me. If you are looking for a super Dom, Damien is not really your guy, he seems to like some elements of BDSM but he's not really that Dom personality you come to think of for that lifestyle. Overall, I think it

was a pretty decent start to the trilogy and I look forward to reading the next one. I think in future books when we get to know the characters better and have some light shown on Damien's past, I think it will make everything come together nicely.

I thought this was a good book, it didn't blow me away but it was enjoyable enough and I thought it was well written. It definitely was in the same vein as 50 Shades and Crossfire but there were plenty of elements and different twists that made it different from those series. I liked that before they met in this book they had a bit of history between them from a chance encounter several years earlier, it was fun trying to figure out if he remembered her at all from that. I also thought that their backgrounds, him being a former tennis star and her a former beauty pageant participant/winner, was also very unique and I definitely bought the whole œkindred spirit thing they had going on because of their childhoods. The circumstances that brought them together was also different from the other series, it was sort of more like a business arrangement that started to turn into more. This part was interesting for me because as things progressed through their week together they never really addressed what to call their relationship, was it really just them keeping up their end of the bargain or was it more? It certainly felt like more and they both seem to think that, but it's left unanswered in this book. There was a bit of angst in this book but it was pretty tame compared to some other series, they both had some skeletons in their closet and I think we got to see most of Nikki's in this book and a few of Damien's come out but I feel like there will be more that may cause trouble for them as the series goes on. I really liked the characters. Nikki had been through a rough time but she's very strong and not willing to just roll over and take it. She sticks up for herself and while she does submit to Damien's control in most instances she is not afraid to confront him or submit on her terms. She's also very smart and is looking to build a career for herself and has no desire to just sit back and rely on Damien's money. You have to respect her for that! I thought Damien was very charming and despite his controlling tendencies I really felt how he cared for Nikki and only wanted the best for her. He was incredibly careful with her, but at the same time didn't treat her like a delicate flower. And of course because he's filthy rich he showers her with elaborate gifts and whisk her away on his private jet for lunch on the beach, which adds an extra touch of romance and whimsy to the story. They have a ton of chemistry between them and there were some very hot scenes as a result! The secondary characters were also fun, her roommate Jamie was a hoot and I liked how Ollie was like a protective big brother for Nikki. Evelyn and Blaine were also nice additions. This book ended

on a bit of a cliffhanger with an ominous meeting between Nikki and her former boss, so I am sure that there will be lots more drama served up in the second book! But overall I thought this was an enjoyable start to the series and I look forward to continuing on Nikki and Damien's journey.

Joshua Judges Ruth is considered a great album, and it is known for being technically a fine recording, as well. I was very impressed with the songs and the recording here. He always uses crack musicians. The many instruments complement each other well, without getting in the way. The sound is superb, and the back-up singers are perfect. Recently Lyle played Tulsa in an acoustic set with John Hiatt. I had seen Lyle's "large band" before but was very impressed with the acoustic guitar and singing of these great American musicians. Lyle is doing as good of work as he ever has. If you enjoy blues, country, jazz, gospel, and bluegrass, it's all here, sometimes in the same song. All these genres are American, and Lyle is a national treasure. Please do yourself a favor. Disregard the one star review that must be the exception that proves the rule and enjoy this music for yourself.

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