



Fiercely Emma

J. Bengtsson

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Emma, older sister of renowned rock star Jake McKallister, has crafted a quiet existence for herself. Fiercely independent, scorned at work, and indifferent to relationships, she's spent the past decade trying to move on from the crime that shook her family to the core. Living by a promise she made to herself as a distraught sixteen-year-old, Emma has sworn off marriage and children... until a chance encounter with a scruffy hitchhiker throws her orderly world into chaos.

A wild child raised in mayhem by a teenage mother, fearless Finn Perry cruises through life as the perennial nice guy. Now a struggling actor, he supports himself by performing daredevil stunts. At a crossroads in his life, one thing has always remained constant in his world: Finn's desire to start the family he never had. The mystery woman who rescues him from the side of the road sure seems like the perfect person for the job.

But unfinished business from Emma's troubled past looms heavy, threatening to destroy the fledgling love she's found with the only man to ever jump-start her wounded heart.

Fiercely Emma Details

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From Reader Review Fiercely Emma for online ebook

Brandy says

Sigh. Wonderful book. Absolutely loved it. Emma was a bit annoying, and when she fell in love with him it took me by surprise because she was pretty cold for so long. Finn was scrumptious.

Karen says

Book of the year!! I didn't love the main characters like I did Jake and Casey BUT the story was so real and told the "Cake" story from another angle. I suppose this could be a standalone but the previous two books in the series we're just excellent as well. I read Book one three times and loved it better each time.

I thought I truly could identify the main characters. I've been a tall girl with prickly personality and oldest daughter....I did not have the tragedy in my life like Emma's family suffered, however. Emma gets a good guy who really shakes up her way of life.

Love the humor and the irony in the McAllister pet's naming vs. Shelby's naming of her kids. Also ironic in that Shelby's birth of her son at age 16 and how Emma was also forced into "caregiving" at age 16. Somehow when I realized this I got how complex my feelings were for both characters.

I like how the author was kind to Finn's family. Those kids were hilarious. Between the paint ball war and the slip n slide in the dumpster meant to clean their yard...just hilarious!!!!

This author is fabulous!! It's must read!!

Melinda says

Fiercely Emma (Cake Series Book Three) by J. Bengtsson

Hmmmm where to begin with this? First of all, this is technically a standalone in the Cake series however, I would highly suggest reading books one and two in order to really appreciate Emma and her story.

What this family has gone through makes my heart ache. I can't even fathom what it must be like to grow up with the nasty shadows hanging over you. While Emma was safe at home, she still bore the brunt of her brothers kidnapping when her mother just couldn't and wouldn't cope. As a teen, Emma had to step in and be a mother to her siblings, look after the house, and try to keep the hope alive. All of these factors and so many more have made Emma the way she is when it comes to relationships. She's perfectly happy to have fun and enjoy herself, but refuses to allow herself to feel any more than the here and now. All of which is understandable. This all changes when she meets the lovely stuntman, Finn who makes her question everything she believes. Finn is pretty much like an overgrown puppy: he has endless energy, has a happy-go-lucky attitude, and despite the shitty hand he's been dealt, is full of positivity and good vibes. In other words, he's the complete opposite of Emma.

I enjoyed this book! I liked, understood, even experienced heartache for Emma. I felt so sorry for what she'd

gone through and really wanted her to just loosen up and enjoy life without placing limitations. I felt that Finn was just perfect for her in that regard. He's the complete opposite of everything she finds attractive in a man and yet she can't help but be intrigued by him. He was perfect.

The book is set in the past and present so there's obviously some back and forth happening but it's written in a completely non-confusing way. We get to appreciate what happened all those years ago from another perspective and while I despised Emma's mother from 'before', I came to accept her eventually in the 'now'.

My only negative is that some of the writing felt a little disjointed - and this has nothing to do with the back and forth-ing. Nonetheless, this is absolutely an enjoyable read and the series is one I heartily recommend.

*arc received in exchange for honest review.

**Reviewed by Melinda for Joandisalovebooks Blog.

Crazy for Books (Stephanie) says

How sweet. The poor family. And again, more layers of what Jake endured have come out from Emma's POV as well as how it affected her. Her relationship with Finn comes out of nowhere for her and bowls her over.

I can't wait for more from this author. I'm hoping it's Keith next.

Jacqueline says

solid read

Whitney says

J. Bengtsson keeps killing it! Her storytelling just keeps improving with each book, and she is going to be a force to be reckoned with. She has a knack for making her characters relatable - **and I love her for it!** The McCallister clan are just a sarcastic, loving family that have worked so hard to overcome tragedy. Bengtsson was able to flip between past and present to show the reader how beautifully this family has risen from ashes and how this affected our protagonist, Emma. The writing seemed effortless. The story flowed perfectly from beginning to end. **J. Bengtsson - nice job!**

This story was mostly about taking risks. That was what our fierce Emma did throughout the book; she took chances. And most of those risks involve a daring stuntman named Finn - but I'll fill you in on that later. You see, Emma had strict rules for herself after witnessing her family deteriorate after Jake's abduction. She didn't do love or kids. At all.

Yeah, I get it Keith. I'm a boring cat lady. As that hasn't been played to death in our family.

She was known as the *White Witch* at work - after bleaching her hair. Before that she was known as *Nurse Nasty* or *The Rock Star's Bitch Sister*. Yeah, Emma wasn't a ray of sunshine. She had a fort built around her heart surrounded by a moat filled with alligators. Nobody was breaking in.

Finn was such the opposite of Emma. He was always so positive while Emma was always mentally preparing for the worse case scenario. She was always cautious while he earned a living being reckless. However, I believe it is his positivity that makes Emma continue taking risks and breaking all her rules. I love Emma and Finn together. And the McKallister's reactions to Finn: priceless.

...your Spiderman raised the bar and did this whole climbing up the wall thing, and it was so cool, I think I might have peed myself a little bit.

He's like a goddamned monkey. Never seen anyone who can do that shit. Gotta get him in my next video, no joke.

Bengsston knocked it out of the park with this one. I hear we are going back to Casey and Jake in the next book, and I hope there is a wedding!

5 stars!

Taylor says

OH MY STARS!! FIVE stars to be exact! I absolutely adore this series but was BLOWN away by Fiercely Emma! Top read of 2017, hands down.

I have no words for how amazing Emma and Finn are - just pleeeease do yourself a favor and read this series!!!! You will NOT be disappointed! <3

Robyn says

5 Indian-Jones Stars

I have to say, this has been my favorite story in the series! I loved how the chapter flipped from past to present for Emma, to include Finn's POV. I wouldn't change a thing about this book—it definitely surpassed my expectations. I absolutely loved Finn and Emma individually, and together! Looking forward to the other siblings books.

Melanie (mells_view) says

A good but predictable love at first sight...

Emma is a bit of a self proclaimed ice queen, because of her past. She knows what's truly important in life, and she likes to keep things non-risky. Her job, her home, her sex life. She's going to a music festival where her rockstar brother is performing with her entire family to celebrate her dad's birthday. What she doesn't

expect is the dirty hobo she picks up on the side of the road.

Indy... I mean Finn is a stuntman and kind of actor. Things in his life are often unpredictable including his wild and crazy childhood that he looks at in a surprisingly optimistic light. After an especially bad week at work Finn he's more than ready to escape to the music festival in the desert his roommate scored tickets to.

I really enjoyed this story. It's a bit of a sparks at first sight into a quick love story. I usually am not a fan of instalove, but I can totally see when reading this how the setting and the circumstances could make the sparks these two fell fall quickly into love. I love that the side plot in this series is always family, and that even though it is mainly a love story the family plot plays a huge role in the love part. The only reason I took a star away is because the incident that changes this family's life is always rehashed. After reading about it twice from different perspectives I've kind of had enough by the third. I do see why the semi-rehash is necessary to Emma's story though.

All in all a really good read. There are naughty bits, but they are not super super erotic. The love story is insta, but it really works I feel. The side plot is good, just a little bit stale if you've read the other two books in this series. If you have KINDLE UNLIMITED, I'd definitely give this one a chance!

Oriares says

This book was awesome. Seriously, I'm impressed how much the author changed from book 1 to 3. I can't wait for more. There are so many questions left. Keep them coming.

One-Click says

Audiobook - Narration Zachary Webber and Andi Arndt - kick ass!

Holy cow I loved this series from beginning to end!

The narration was stellar - they're both great with voicing both sexes, but more importantly, they're terrific story tellers which really brought this all to life.

Loved the fact that an event impacting an entire family was strategically doled out across the three books of the series. The entire story was told through the experiences of three different people and yet it all seamlessly unfolded through flashbacks and confessions between family, friends and lovers.

The books just got better and better!

The first two books were available in the romance bundle and the third was a well used credit.

boogenhagen says

I have never read about such supercilious family members in my life - and I hang out in HPLandia a lot, so that is saying something.

The premise of this one is that the h is older sister of several children, one of the younger boys was taken by a serial killer pedophile when she was 16 and tho he made it back, her parents checked out in the parenting dept. so she had to take over. To compound the situation, while the kidnapped son became the big focus of the family when he returned to them and now is a mega rockstar, the parents blamed his brother for a long time and abdicated their parenting of the rest of the kids.

The h understandably is wary of relationships and she comes across as pretty distant and uninvolved until she meets the H. Then she gets preggers unexpectedly and since she did not want kids, this throws her. She calls the brother who was kidnapped for some emotional support and he has a hissy that she doesn't appreciate their mother or him. WTF?!?

I get that the mother went over and above for him, but really. I have read this whole series to date and the brother that was kidnapped is a self-centered slime encrusted sewage pump. The mother may have helped him, and that is great and I get that he had a trauma, but clearly every other child in the family had an entirely different experience and they have **EVERY RIGHT** to be resentful and angry about that.

The mother is just a flaked out pathetic slime pustule on a nematode and there was no excuse for her prior behavior for her treatment of her other children - especially the son she blamed for the kidnapped child's predicament. Yet this h is the one who has to grovel for resenting that she had to parent four younger kids at 16 and cope with a pathetic lump for a mother.

There is no redemption for the failure to be a decent parent in my book. And a huge smack with a toilet seat for the tormented "special snowflake" who can't look past his own inner slime to see that yes, his experience was bad, but every one else's in the family wasn't much better either and he needs to get over his not-so-special self.

Also, what is with the whole tired, trite " I am afraid to love, so no kids" trope. Why can't the h just not want kids cause she spent significant time raising someone else's and she is done? This book was a standard rehash of typical emo drama NA tropyness miss for me and it really pissed me off.

The H and h were decent people and it was a nice love story, but the family this h comes from leaves a lot to be desired-- with the H's family being just as bad--and I wouldn't mind if the mother and the special snowflake brother and the entire H's family dropped into the depths of a black hole.

Monique says

I am hooked on this series and this author. I love the way she can unwind a story and keep me captivated. If you haven't started this series, and you love contemporary romances, then you need to jump on board and get started. I would recommend you start from book 1 to get the full experience of this families history.

Emma is the older sister to Jake and Kyle. Both these boys experienced something no kid should, more so Jake. And when the chips where down, the unlikely one to step up was the 16 year old Emma to try and keep the family on some sort of normality. She is close to her siblings but that year when things went wrong, she formed a deeper bond that stands steadfast to the present day. The only side effect was that Emma now feels she doesn't want a family of her own.

Finn, might just be the guy to change all that for her. He is her total divergent in his manner but something

just catches her eye to trust him. He also comes from a unconventional background that makes these two connect on a deeper level. He is very witty, which appeals to Emma, and he has some brilliant lines in the book, that had me giggling along with him. He was exactly what Emma needed to bring her out of that boring comfort zone and who could fit in to her crazy loving family. As he says, No reward without risk.

This book starts with some backstory, and goes back and forth between that and the present day. This was so needed to know what went on at home during that awful time and to understand Emma's dilemma. I felt it was done very well, and was just enough history to fill you in and it will just break your heart.

I have enjoyed every couple in this series, and each book seems to be my new favourite couple. Next up to finish off the series is Jack and Casey again. I am also hoping there is more on Kyle and Kenzie as well as Emma and Finn - who is just adorable and captivating.

*I received a copy for an honest review.

FS Meurinne says

I just love every book J Bengtsson writes, they are full of emotions, they always keep me captivated and this is just the same. Emma is the older sister to Jake and Kyle (previous books), she always tries to help the family so much that she might not want one of her own. That's until Finn comes into the picture. The past story and present one combined gives this book a special effect, heart wrenching feelings and hope that will keep you reading. Must read all of the books they are that good.

Cc says

Emma and Finn

Emma never really recovered from her brothers kidnapping, it had overshadowed her entire life.

Finn overcame all the adversities life put in his way and still kept his optimistic view of life.

These two with such opposing life views should never have worked together but they did much to Emma's surprise. (Finn was always sure they would go well together.)

This Cake Series is one of my favorite! The depth of emotions in these characters is amazing. There are three more McKallister siblings to go, I can hardly wait.
