



## The Audition

*Tara Crescent*

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## **The Audition** Tara Crescent

Ever since she was a child, Allie Greenwall has wanted to get into Juilliard. But she hasn't played the piano in six years, and she is hopelessly rusty. Her only hope of passing her audition rests with reclusive Russian pianist Nikolai Zhednov.

But Nikolai is no longer the man she knew, and in his dungeon, Allie realizes that his help will come at a high cost, one she's not sure she can pay.

**Note:** This story contains a Dominant pianist who will use harsh discipline to ensure that Allie reaches her fullest potential, many erotic sexual and BDSM scenes, and a Happy-For-Now ending.

## **The Audition Details**

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Author : Tara Crescent

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## From Reader Review The Audition for online ebook

### Shurrrn says

#### Romance, and Music, and Kink, Oh My!

*...before all this, before the BDSM, before the leash, before the sexual attraction that shimmers in the air, Nikolai and I had one thing that bound us together, and it was the music. When I play, it is, in a way, a homage to that.*

Tara Crescent writes beautiful BDSM Romances filled with quality characters and generous amounts of steam. She is a stop-drop-and-read author for me, and I'm always delighted with her stories. [The Audition](#) is a fabulous addition to her catalog.

Here we have a couple who practically grew up together.

**This is a story of love, loss, music, and the scars they bear...**

Their D/s relationship is built on years of trust.

Sex takes a backseat to the discipline.

Discipline takes a backseat to emotional support,  
and *everything* takes a backseat to the music...

### Allie Greenwall

*...you don't need a lot to seize on, when you are looking for a lifeline, and god help me, I'm looking for one. Nikolai, with his crop and his insistence on my nakedness, with his leash and with his ruler, has offered me a helping hand, and I'm determined to seize it and start climbing.*

Allie's scars are emotional; she has been drifting in a self-destructive haze since the death of her mother.

She finally begins to emerge from her funk by auditioning for Julliard where her mother once served on the faculty. Her audition is less than stellar, but because of her mother's legacy, Julliard agrees to give her one week to perfect her playing before returning for a second audition.

There's only one person that Allie can think of who might be able to improve her playing in seven days. She hasn't seen Nikolai Zhednov since her mother's funeral, but she drops everything and shows up unannounced at his front door.

### Nikolai Zhednov

*"Perhaps treating you like an animal will help you remember how to survive."*

Nikolai's scars are physical; he earned them while attempting to save Allie's mother from the car crash which claimed her life. The burns on his hands robbed him of a promising career as the Principal Pianist of the New York Philharmonic.

Nikolai is nothing short of a musical genius. Allie's mother pulled him from Russia when he was a young man, and he quickly established himself as a prodigy in the Classical Music community.

Allie isn't lacking in technical skills. Her music suffers because she refuses to open her emotions and *feel* the music.

Allie fears that opening herself emotionally will expose all of her loneliness and heartache since the death of her mother...

Nikolai knows she needs structure, discipline, and a safe place to let go. He uses his own brand of disciplinary skills to *whip* her into shape.

If she won't lower her walls willingly, he will break them down and build Allie back up again.

**\*\*\*I was provided with an ARC of this book in exchange for my honest review\*\*\***

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### **Miranda Whore says**

The Audition by Tara Crescent is a romance novel with BDSM, if you aren't comfortable with a highly dominant man having his way with a submissive girl... then you probably want to walk away from this book. However, if you are like me... you will want to dive into it and not come up for air until it's done.

Tara Crescent is quickly becoming the queen of originality for me. Each story I have read from her has a unique and intriguing story. While they all have romance and kink, the plot devices are always different. She's a force to reckon with in this genre for sure. Needless to say I'm a huge fan and can't get enough!

Each character is fully developed and even though this is a short book, you still get all the details you need to feel a connection with each characters past and present. And man oh man did they pull on my heartstrings.

I don't want to spoil anything because there are so many little things throughout that I could easily give away too much by accident.

I'll leave you with this. Read this book. Love it. Read it. DO IT! Four stars for storyline and four drenched panties for kinkyfuckery.

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### **Dirty Dayna says**

Okay Seriously I LOVEEEE this author and it makes me very happy to get my greedy hands on anything she writes

\*this copy was provided by the author for an honest review\*

4 Audition Stars

Our main character Allie is trying to get into Juilliard but her audition didn't woo the judges and she has 5 days to correct her set and audition again.

Allie lost her mom and her way 6 years ago and turned to boys, booze and bad decisions. And one party she sat down and played the piano for the first time in 6 years and decided she wanted to go back into playing again to save herself and live for herself and her mother.

She can play the piano she just can't give any emotion to it. She decides to ask her mother's protégé Nikolai to train her for a week because he was one of the best pianist of all time and was the principal pianist of the

philharmonic but was severely injured in her mothers accident and can no longer play that extensively.

Nikolai agrees to train Allie and ensure she can pass her exam.

Allie: *I need to go buy clothes and get a hotel room*

Nikolai: **No you will be naked and you will sleep in the dungeon (in a crate)**

Nikolai used various methods to get Allie to focus such as playing thru orgasm, playing after her hands been smacked, playing while orgasm, playing well enough to earn sex etc. And her sassy smart mouth gets her some unique punishments but the longer they are together the more their attraction develops

Nikolai: **You played good**

Allie: *Good enough for sex?*

Nikolai: **Yes, Good enough for sex**

Tara gives a sweet little ending which comes off as an HEA so I will take it... Swoon

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### **Christine says**

This was a quick read. I read it in one sitting. The author did a good job with making me understand how desperate Allie had become and why she sought Nickolai's help in getting into Julliard.

This is not a dark read, but Nickolai is not exactly gentle when it comes to his techniques in instructing Allie on how to feel in order to become a better pianist. At first I was not sure if he even liked her. Then I thought that maybe there was something that there was a relationship between Allie's deceased mother and Nickolai years before. Nickolai barely says anything except to instruct Allie. He uses BDSM to make her feel and play, which with what Allie has been doing and acting like after her mother died maybe what she needs.

Days after reading this I am not sure how I feel about these characters. I loved the premise, I love the whole concept behind this story, but yet there were times were I felt lost. I was not expecting any type of deep love story, but I was hoping for a more intense connection. It was one of those "it could have been so good" but it was just missing something. Maybe if the prologue was written in Nickolai's POV. I do not like dual POVs in these types of stories, but I think a little insight to Nickolai would have helped.

My feelings (and this is my opinion) when reading this was that Allie was not different to Nickolai than any other subs he may have had or trained. Nickolai never lost control. It felt mechanical.

A copy was provided in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Sasha elle a.k.a. Mrs. Liam Callahan! says**

**\*A Proper smack you with happiness 4 Nutella jars\***

**what an amazing quick read, first of all its tara crescent whom I absolutely adore and to a point stalk , let me tell you something about tara that women knows her BDSM to the "T". proper BDSM not the**

**"I'm a wounded sicko kind". The love I have for tara is scary okay I'm creepy when it comes to authors ask all the authors I stalk I just never leave them alone, and love like this.\*whispers hey tara\***

**Now moving on are story is about Alison Greenwall a pianist who is trying to get inside juilliard but when her first audition goes poorly she decides to seek help from her mother's protégé Nikolai Zhdanov who is or could have been the principal pianist of the philharmonic but due to an accident where Alison also lost her mother couldn't continue his career.**

**Cue in Nikolai who due to the accident had to give up his career and now just plays music for his soul and teaches in a school. Nikolai is not surprised that Alisons audition didn't go well , not only did he try to reach out to her when she was completely on a downward spiral from her mother's death but also tried to to save her mother. Nikolai agrees to teach Alison before her next audition but she must play by his rules \* here comes the sex dungeon\***

**likewise any other sassy heroine our Alison is no less , she speaks her mind and talks back \*hence she gets punished\*, but loves it every time**

**After a whole lot sexy sessions Alison finally gives her audition surprisingly nikolai is there and as always the audition goes marvelously so a proper HEA**

**Over all it was really nice read though I still think tara's other books \*namely the nights in Venice was way better\*. But hey i did enjoy this book but i still wanted a little bit more (yes I'm a greedy bitch) but I still love tara and her book and I'm done**

**P.s I'm out of Nutella**

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**Charlie says**

Yet again, another fantastic kinky romance by Tara Crescent. I'm not usually a fan of romances where the characters are musicians, I've read a few in the past and they've bored me. This book however, was excellent and I was hooked from the beginning.

"You'll be naked. And you'll sleep in the dungeon"

When I read this I wanted to scream pick me, pick me!

Tara Crescent has this Magical ability to write super hot Doms and Nikolai was no different. He was definitely a 10 on my Dom-o-meter (yes that's a thing) and just wow, he made me melt inside. I would love to spend a few (or all) nights in his dungeon. I mean, he has a freaking dungeon!

This was quite a short book but I fell in love with Nikolai after just a few pages. A sequel to this would be very welcome.

\*\*This book was provided by the author in exchange for an honest review\*\*

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### **Riri Hanafi says**

hhmmm... I don't know... I guess this one is not my kind of cup of tea...

I love romance story spice up with sex, even with kinky one... but I guess too much kinky aka BDSM is not for me...

even with FSOG, I don't really like it, though with different lot of reasons...

this one, is quite good actually...

I just don't like the heroine, not my kind of girl and also the man... don't get their chemistry together... and sometimes I got confused on the girl's feeling... and the non-existence feeling from the man... and maybe I just don't get them...

I requested it over Netgalley, honestly, due to the cover... and the synopsis that gave hint the cover is a Russian... wow, really?? :D

but then... I can't say that I hate the story, I just don't like it...

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### **Nadine Bookaholic says**

Allie needs help practicing for her entrance performance to get into Julliard and the only person capable of helping her is Nikolai whom she hasn't spoken to in six years. Well I can tell you that was a reunion that shocked the pants off of me. Nikolai is a strict Dom that wastes no time in getting Allie right where he wants her. I must say that the chemistry is right on the money with these two and I would love to see a follow-up book/novella to see how their relationship grows past this week together.

The book left me wanting more and that is the only reason that I didn't give it 5 stars.

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### **Claire Robinson says**

4 - **"You play the biggest role in your resurrection."** Stars!

*The Audition* is the first book I have read by Tara Crescent. It is safe to say I was pleasantly surprised and

extremely impressed, with the writing, story-line and characterizations. I am what I'd call a soft BDSM reader. I don't mind a bit of spanking, tying up, toys and light pain play, but when things go past that I tend to steer clear.

Although *The Audition* is probably still pretty tame by the BDSM reading connoisseurs standards, for me it went past the normal parameters of what I would usually enjoy. But I fell in love with Nikolai, and his methods although seemed to be initially harsh, reached a part of Allie that she had lost with the death of her mother, and opened her up to her love and feelings/emotions for playing the piano again.

### **"Music doesn't live in your fingers... Music lives in your heart."**

The writing of this couples Dom/sub relationship was bluntly graphic at points, but Tara gave me the emotion behind the actions that I have found sorely lacking in the few heavier BDSM reads I have looked at in the past.

Definitely an author I will look to read more from in the future. Nothing felt like it had been added for 'shock' value, this couple were wholly into each other and what they were doing together, I liked that and I felt comfortable reading it (for want of a better word).

### **"Play for me."**

ARC generously provided via Netgalley, in exchange for the above honest review.

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### **Daria says**

This story really surprised me, I wasn't sure Id even like it...I know it had to do with a concert pianist and that is so far from my thoughts. But I had received the book from the Author to read and review. I must say I loved it, the writing was amazing and very heart felt. I enjoyed both Nikolai and Allie.

For me it was just the right length and everything was covered, the story line, the fleshing out of characters it all worked.

Since her mothers death Allie has been on a self destructive mode, more like a train wrecked twice. When she tries to pull herself up out of it by auditioning she fails that miserably, but because of her mothers reputation and standing Allie is given another chance. Allie knows of only one person that can help her.

After a tragic accident that leaves his mentor dead and him unable to play in concerts again. Nikolai goes on with is life. Its been a very long time since he has seen Allie, but he knows her life is in a downward spiral of her own making.

In order for Allie to play music she needs to put emotion into it, she keeps a wall around her emotions and that is what keeping her from her potential as a pianist. Nikolai will use his own love of kink to push Allie, he will use his own love of music to guide Allie.

Will Nikolai be enough help for Allie? Will Allie be able to learn in 5 days to let go of what she's had 6 years to hold on to? Enjoy the Music :)

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## **Tia says**

(Clears throat) ummmmm "The Audition" by Tara Crescent is a very erotic bdsm book that hits on the correct way to do it. Not the punishment type just to hurt someone, but for discipline and direction.

After Allie's mom dies she lost all hope and her love of life, pushed Nikolai, a Russian that her mom sponsored to become a great pianist in the US. He lost his job as first pianist for the NYC Philharmonic in his attempt to save her mom, but didn't lose his hope and love of music. When she fails her audition for Juilliard she's given a second attempt to get in but she has to pass the next one or she's out of the running. Allie decides to go to Nikolai in an attempt to get him to tutor her. They both end up with more than they bargained for.

18+ due to adult situations and activities

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## **Amanda says**

This book starts off a little slow for me but ends well. I liked the story that is shown throughout the book as well as the steamy scenes. I have read many books by Tara Crescent and have never been disappointed.

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## **Sophie Kisker says**

This is a review for The Audition by Tara Crescent:

I always love Tara's books. This is no exception. She is really good at fleshing out characters thoroughly as the stories unfold even if the stories are not really long. This one was the perfect length. I enjoyed finding out bit by bit what happened between the two characters in the past. I know if I had an audition I was unsure about I'd love to get this kind of motivation! If Tara has any more books about Nikolai planned, I'll be there to buy them.

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## **Taralinda says**

This book was pretty good, but there were some things **missing** that could have made it much better. I didn't feel much of a connection to Allie and Nikolai. I think most of that is due to there being a real lack of character development. There was also no real description of the characters other than that Nikolai was Russian.

Nikolai is introduced almost immediately after Allie is, and since the book is in Allie's POV, you don't get to form a connection to her outside of her feelings to Nikolai. Some background information is given about Nikolai and his connection to Allie, but he doesn't get developed beyond that. I was *hoping* for more insight into his character as the book progressed, but it didn't happen

There is not a lot of chemistry between Nikolai and Allie; it's almost wam-bam-thank you-mam. You know

that Allie is attracted to Nikolai, but it's far from **all-consuming**. It's unclear where Nikolai's feelings lie, and there's no build up to when they come to light. There's almost **no angst** in their relationship, it's more about Allie finding comfort in Nikolai. Sometimes it's nice to have a break from angst, but this book could have been better with more.

*I turn unbidden and hug him. I put everything into it, my gratitude for the way he saved me.  
My still desperate need for him.*

I liked the music aspect in this book being a fan of the piano myself. It was very beautiful at times; Allie's struggles with her skills were tangible, and Nikolai's loss of skills was heart wrenching.

I draw on the emotions and discipline Nikolai has helped me find. I am music. I am, every poignant painful note of Chopin's concerto, every bit of wild dissonance of Ginastera, every calm soothing note of Bach.

Nikolai and Allie do get a HFN, but I would have liked some kind of epilogue where they have to deal with making their relationship work.

All in all, it was a good, quick read. I'm curious to see what else Tara Crescent comes up with.

***ARC provided in exchange for an honest review.***

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### **Lina's Reviews ♡????????? ♡??Book Blog?? ♡????????? ♡ says**

\*ARC given by the author in exchange of an honest review\*

Wow. It's been a while since I was left satisfied by a novella. Great read.

Allie & Nikolai are two people sharing the same passion: music. They are pianists and former friends.

Grown apart since an accident that damaged famous Nikolai, they are brought together again when Allie decides to get her life back by auditioning at Juilliard. Knocking on his door for help, she finds out that he is not the man she once knew. He takes it upon himself to tutor her for her audition and that is when she finds out his peculiar tastes in bed and his unorthodox way of helping her find her passion for music again.

Nikolai was such a refreshing hero. No cheesy lines and he truly held a certain air of stoic determination in his interactions with Allie.

Great BDSM romance and wonderful flow. I will be reading more from this author.

5 Stars.

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