



# Fearless

*Shae Ross*

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## **Fearless** Shae Ross

Devi Dalton won't let anyone hold her back. With the help of her friends, she's taken control of her future and traded her messed-up family life for a new job in Manhattan. Her only obstacle? Ben Winslow, the sexy friend she's desperately trying to resist. If she's going to succeed, she can't afford to be distracted, no matter how hot the chemistry burns between them.

Cage fighter Ben spent six months trying to convince Devi to take a chance on a relationship. Now that they've reunited in New York, he's not letting her push him away again. They're more than friends-always have been-and he'll do whatever it takes to prove it to her. First, he has a few demons of his own to slay...one of which could ruin his chances with her for forever.

But every fighter has a weakness. Ben's is Devi. And this time, she'll need more than just her favorite "Fearless Red" lipstick to protect her heart if she lets him in...

Each book in the Pretty Smart Girls series is a standalone, full-length story that can be enjoyed out of order.

Series Order:

Book #1 Lace Up

Book #2 Fearless

## **Fearless Details**

Date : Published August 17th 2015 by Entangled: Embrace

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Author : Shae Ross

Format : ebook 266 pages

Genre : Romance, New Adult, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit

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## From Reader Review Fearless for online ebook

### Nadia says

Basically, I'm the kind of reader who will automatically side with girls in every book she reads. That goes until the heroine proves herself too difficult for any affection or sympathy. Like the heroine who's supposed to be courageous, a go-getter, *fearless*, but chickens out at the first hurdle. And then at every other, too. Someone who shoots herself in the foot over and over again. Someone who changes her mind about serious matters more often than her underwear.

That's when I draw the line and say to hell with sympathy. So yes, Devin's life was no fairy tale, but that's what made her so tough, that's what's supposed to make her ready to face everything head on, not throw around lame-ass excuses about her background. Someone so strong should know her value, should know she deserves every bit of happiness and joy she encounters, because she personally knows there aren't a lot of moments like that in life.

I've seen readers hating on Ben, the hero, (view spoiler) But the way I see it, for six months he was being consistently turned down, had his own pride trumped on. It would've done a number on anyone. I'm not excusing his actions, but I can understand it.

In my opinion, he was the one who always got up when knocked down, the one who never gave up, determined, the *fearless* one. (Although, you could also tell he was kind of a masochist for going after Devin time and time again, but that's not as romantic.) This whole situation between Ben, Devi and Jillian gives this love story a sort of newness in the NA genre. To assure you, there is no crazy love triangle, but let's just say there's a twist to the HE.

The blurb and cover are a bit misleading, if you're concerned about it. Appart from a couple (as in two) scenes, there is no mention of cage fighting and when it is, it won't be what you're expecting. (view spoiler)

If you've read *Lace Up*, be prepared for something different with *Fearless*. You may think differently judging by the tone of this review, but I did enjoy this book. I was entertained and it got me thinking. I'd recommend this book for every NA lover who's looking for more than just fluff and fun.

*A big thank you to the author for providing me with an ARC.*

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### Charlotte says

While I was a fan of book I in this series, Pretty Smart Girls-Lace Up, I'm even more of a fan of Fearless. It was such a fun read. I haven't read a book that quickly in a very long time. From the settings to the storyline(s) to the ring, the characters Ben and Devin and their tumultuous relationship kept it interesting. Shae Ross did an excellent job highlighting Ben and Devin's story, all the while keeping the other characters from book I prominent.

A definite read.

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## **Bette Hansen says**

This was a truly amazing read! Shae Ross is quickly becoming one of my favorite NA authors. This second book in the Pretty Smart Girls series features Devi Dalton and Ben Winslow. Six months of Ben trying to get Devi to give him a chance has gotten him no where. Now that they are both in NY again he doesn't plan on letting her push him away again but can one nights bad judgement ruin everything??

This story is an emotional roller coaster that will grip your heart and not let go. I definitely recommend this one.

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## **Mari?ina says**

I love those books, you know the kind, the ones that a reader can enjoy effortlessly, the funny ones with enough reality in them to keep a plotline straight and a few bittersweet moments that make you think just a bit, but won't overwhelm you.

Fearless embodies all that so naturally. Maybe it's because of the characters who are all playful, smart and down to earth or maybe it's because of the writing style, which is always vivid and has an excellent flow, i don't know.

What i do know though is that Devi and Ben share a compelling story, an amazing tale made to be read on a lazy day , that i guarantee will leave you with a sweet smile on your lips and a few interesting notes.

Devi is Fearless Red, like her favorite lipstick suggests but only on the outside, what is going on inside her mind and heart is another story. Her trust issues and vulnerability won't let her freely live the best thing that ever happened to her, and that's Ben.

I like Ben, in fact i prefer his straight forward character and the unforgiving way he states the truths, even when they hurt too much. He is a stand up guy, he respects women and yeah he made a poorly judged choice, but i can forgive him easily..

All in all, this is a great book perfect for every romantic heart. It has a twist in the end you won't find to the other books with the same theme, it's fresh and endearing.

## **THOUGHTS ABOUT THE BOOK**

- Jett and Ryan were the headstrong leaders, Ben and Devi are the loud and outspoken couple, Vaughn and Jade are the sweet, cute and softer ones. I guess the whole series has a very unique pattern, match together people of the same mentality. I like that.
- Dual POV.

- All the bets and pranks. I freaked out for a second with Ryan and the knife. That girl and her poker face!!
- I liked seeing all of the characters i loved from the first book.
- Devi with the kids is amazing!!
- I loved the sub-plot with Gator..

*ARC provided by the author in exchange of an honest review. Thank you Shae so much!*

*ARC provided via Netgalley in exchange of an honest review. Thank you!*

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## **Dark Faerie Tales says**

Review courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales

Quick & Dirty: A fun new adult romance that I enjoyed, but didn't love!

Opening Sentence: I'm standing on stage watching her strut in front of me with a beauty queen swagger.

The Review:

Devi Dalton is going to start a new life away from her dysfunctional family. She is moving to New York to live with one of her amazing friends and she is lucky enough to land a job that she absolutely loves! The only thing Devi isn't looking for is to start a relationship with Ben Winslow, the hot guy she has been resisting for months. When they met months ago they had an instant connection, but they come from such different backgrounds that a relationship would never last. Instead of ultimately ending up broken hearted Devi decides to just ignore the attraction and just stay in the friend zone. But how long will Devi be able to deny the desire she feels for Ben?

Ben has wanted Devi from the first moment he meet her and he has spent the last six months trying to convince her that they would be amazing together. Now that they are both in New York and live in the same apartment building she can't avoid him as easily. As soon as it looks like Ben might finally get what he wants, some things from his past threaten the future he has been fighting so hard for.

There were things I loved about Devi and there were things about her that grated on my nerves. Let's start with the good stuff. She is very independent and I really respect that she has made something of herself when she comes from such a poor upbringing. I loved that she makes her own dreams come true because she isn't willing to give up easily. She also has a fun, witty personality that made her very likeable. Now for the stuff that bugged me. I hated how hot and cold she was with Ben. Technically, she doesn't lead him on because she is pretty honest about how she feels, but her actions seem to say different things than her words, which I didn't love. It made her come across as flimsy, which I felt wasn't consistent with her character because in everything other aspect of her life she wasn't that way. There were also a few times where she would make really stupid decisions and I wasn't a fan of that. Overall, I did like her character, but I felt like I was let down because she had potential to be a character I loved.

Ben is a really sweet guy that knows how to have a good time. He is smart, very good looking, and he knows how to be extremely charming. He comes from a wealthy family, but his childhood was no fairytale. His father left when he was a young boy and ever since he has had to be the man of the house for his mother and 3 younger sisters. His family has relied on him heavily for most of his life and it has been hard for him. I thought his relationship with his family was really adorable and the way he treated his sisters made me totally love him. I also have protective older brothers so his brotherly love just melted my heart. But there

were a few things about Ben that I didn't like as much. Some of the poor choices he makes in the story bothered me and ultimately they ended up making me like the overall story less.

For the most part, I really enjoyed the relationship between Ben and Devi. For majority of the book things between them were very hot and cold, which created great tension, but it also got a little annoying after a while. They have hot chemistry and I felt like they were highly compatible even though they come from drastically different upbringings. Their romance was pretty steamy and overall I enjoyed reading their story.

Fearless is a fun story with great humor, sexy romance, and fun characters. I really enjoyed the first book in the series and was really looking forward to this one. I thought that the romance was developed great, the pacing was perfect and I did like this book, but unfortunately I didn't love this one as much as I wanted to. There were a couple things that bothered me but ultimately the most disappointing thing for me was how it ended. It's not that it was a bad ending, it was more just not my type of story. But with that being said, I still thought it was an entertaining book and to be honest the stuff that bugged me probably won't bother most people, so if you are a new adult contemporary romance fan you should definitely give it a try.

Notable Scene:

Ryan starts the count down. "Five. Four. Three. Two."

"What's going on?" Jett asks.

"One!" Ryan screams. We turn, flip our guns to our shoulders and unload the Super Soakers. Two solid streams of icy water shoot through the air and pelt their chests. Ryan moves her stream up to Jett's face, and I move mine down to Ben's crotch. They stumble back a pace, hiss out a series of curses, and start to scramble toward us. Jett slides on the wet floor, and Ben knocks into his back. We dive into our apartment and slam the door. My fingers fumble to flip the dead bolt as Ryan slides down the door laughing hysterically.

"Oh, my God, I totally got Jett right in the face!" she gasps.

I drop to my knees and join her trying to draw a breath between wails of laughter.

"I got Ben in the crotch. It looked like he peed his pants." Fits of laughter wash over us as we compare notes on the expressions on their faces. I retrieve a roll of paper towels, and we wind them onto our hands and crawl around to mop up the residue, still laughing. "These are awesome!" I say. "This was all we really needed. Why did we buy all that other stuff?" "

All that other stuff's for defense, when they start to retaliate," she says.

"Let the games begin," I say, and we laugh.

FTC Advisory: Entangled provided me with a copy of Fearless. No goody bags, sponsorships, "material connections," or bribes were exchanged for my review.

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## **Fizza says**

This is the second book in Pretty Smart Girls series but like book one can be read as stand alone novel. Where book one had more fun-and-games tone this is more on emotional side and even better read. It doesn't mean there is no fun involved as we know Ryan and Jett like their games and those often involve their

friends too. It made me laugh on occasions. Ben and Devi are as amazing as I had expected. With their sad pasts and family baggage, they are perfect for each other. Ben knows that but it might take some time to convince "Fearless" Devi.

P.S. I received a complementary copy of this book, for which I thank the author.

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### **Amber .:★Wild Heart Reviews★:. says**

Fearless is a stand alone novel by new-to-me author Shae Ross. I enjoyed it for it's hilarious, knock me over giggling moments, and it does have an HEA. (Happily Ever After) That being said, I'm pretty much on the fence with this book, so I'll tell you a bit more about what I did like about it and then go into the things that I did not.

I enjoyed the characters a lot in this book, especially Devi. She is what I'd call the definition of Fearless and to me, this book is more about her than even the story of her and Ben. She comes from a pretty messed-up background, I don't want to say more because of spoilers but it's bad. Devi basically is one of those characters that has no fear, she flouts authority and thinks that would make me think twice? This girl doesn't even bother. The one thing she does have an issue with, and will run hell bent for leather from, is relationships.

Ben is okay, a stand up guy, he appears devoted to Devi. She's supposed to be his weakness and I believe that. He has his own family problems, although less on a scale then Devi's and he also had problems of his own making. As much as this character was sweet, protective, and would do anything for Devi... due to plot twists, I found myself wanting to smack him with my Kindle.

I was enamored with this book until about the 40% mark, and then I started going.. hrrrm. There are some plot twists in this book that don't just tweak my pet peeves, but totally just wrench them sideways and kick them. Pet peeves are personal to each reader though, so I'd still give the book a shot. The book itself, save for few parts, will have you laughing out loud until the end with random moments of hilarity.

I gave the book three stars, if it hadn't been for the plot twists and a few other things I didn't like, it'd have been a solid four stars for me. What I didn't like?

(THESE ARE SPOILERS) Ben is toted in the synopsis as being a cage fighter... you never see that in the book. The cover photo also leads you to believe this. While in the past, he was one, you don't see it anywhere in Fearless save for one part, and it's tiny. He's also supposed to be completely in love with Devi and has been for months, now... I'm going to be up front, and you can read between the lines on this because just telling you ruins a major plot twist, but I don't agree with what he did. I don't care about what comes -out- of it, but if you're supposedly devoted to someone on that level, you don't do what he did. I don't care about the reasons, I don't care that they weren't "together" or not, it's going on about how he feels about her, etc and making a huge deal about them, then this smacks you in the face. Maybe that's just me and my feelings on it, but it just took my enjoyment of the character down a lot. Up till then, I really liked him.

**Major plot twist spoiler for those of you who want it, if you've got an ARC to read of this, I'd suggest not reading the spoiler.**

(view spoiler)

So, anyway, all in all, it's a 3 star book for me.

## Talltree says

H cheats + OW-prego-scary-drama...  
Not for me.

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## Melissa J (Book Addicts Reviews) says

I received this book as an ARC through NetGalley and through the author Shae Ross. And in return I will give my honest review.

First of all thank you Shae Ross for giving me a copy of this book! This is going in my favorites folder! I loved this book. Very well written and all the same characters from the first book plus much more background. I really liked the first book but this love story I just could not put down!

The Children's center made me cry, made me smile, made me laugh my butt off, but most of all warmed my heart. Those children were hilarious!! And I am so glad Gator got his happy ending. There is so much going on in this book that I don't even know how to address it all. Dev and Ben are what I imagine are the perfect couple. They dish out as much as they get. Oh and the whole Helga fight scene and the braids had me laughing my butt off. There were a lot of obstacles for these two and yet they still never faltered in their love for each other.

If you are looking for a easy, funny, sexy, heart warming, no holding back twist and turn kind of love story this is the one for you!!

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## Jacob Proffitt says

*This is second in a series and you really should read the other one first. A lot of the character interactions and emotional backstory are established there. Plus, it's a better story.*

It turns out that Devi sucks every bit as much as I thought she would. She's self-involved, which is particularly debilitating for someone with such low self-esteem. Her best quality is that she can deliver a decent set-down if cornered.

Ben, on the other hand, is perfect. Which is its own problem, but at least it is a pleasant problem to join him with. I love the strong, competent man with that deep-seated caring that has him step up to help those around him without feeling the need to smother. I fell for him in the first book and all of that is confirmed in this one.

Dragging the story down further, unfortunately, is Ross adding a bit of manipulation to up the drama. She doesn't do it big, but it's rather pervasive. The most overt example is letting circumstances prevent Ben from (view spoiler). It's particularly raw because he knows he has to get ahead of that curveball and he fully intends to do so only to have Ross throw "circumstances" in his way to make sure it hits maximum pain (twice).

Anyway, Devi's self-immolation and the drama manipulation have this coming in at a 2.5. I'm rounding to three stars because I fell for Ben and he never disappointed.

**A note about cover copy:** Ignore it. Nobody is a cage fighter. Least of all Ben (despite planning a bout that he later bails on for drama-plot). The only one actually doing any cage fighting is Devi. And she does it as a desperation move because drama-plot demands it. I don't know who wrote that twaddle, but they should be ashamed of themselves and should probably take some remedial reading comprehension courses before trying again.

**A note about Steamy:** I let this go 18 hours before writing my review so I forget the actual count. No more than three. The middle of my steam tolerance, though Ross piles on the New Adult a bit by making them particularly, er, jaunty.

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## **Elaine says**

Brilliant - there are some authors who, whenever a new to me books becomes available, I just can't resist reading it asap and Shae Ross is one such author. When she asked if I'd like to read an ARC of her latest novel in the Pretty Smart Girls series I jumped at the opportunity - thanks to her for giving me the opportunity to do so in exchange for this, my honest review. I will say straight away that my high expectations for this novel were attained, I thoroughly enjoyed it and have no hesitation in highly recommending it to anyone else who enjoys a great romance with so many other life issues involved ensuring nothing is ever straightforward for the characters involved.

Devi Dalton and Ben Winslow are the couple whose relationship is being explored in this novel. They met in "Pretty Smart Girls - Lace up" when they were on opposing teams in an enterprise related competition which Ben's team won. Now the winning team members are starting work in Manhattan where the sponsoring company have their headquarters. As part of their win, they've been given accommodation in the city and the boys decide to sublet one of the apartments to two of the girls, Ryan and Devi. Devi has a dysfunctional family background that she's keen to leave behind her, she really does like Ben but has been resisting the temptation to have a relationship with him for more than six months despite their undeniable attraction to each other - but can she keep doing so when Ben is so patient, considerate and hot? Ben made a drunken mistake when Devi refused to go out with him in the summer, will that come back to ruin his chances with her forever?

There is lots of drama in this story, with everything from starting new jobs, working with traumatised children, potential parenthood, cage fighting, drugs, a nasty mother and uncertainty, too. Through it we learn more about the main characters from the earlier book which I don't think you have to read to appreciate this one but it is also brilliant, so why miss it out? Some of the comments and reactions will probably make more sense to folks who have read the first book though the author does a great job of filling in the scenarios and gaps for anyone who hasn't done so. The decisions that need to be made, the influences of past family history, personal pasts and the impact of one serious mistake on the lives and possible futures for all the characters add drama to the continuing story. I enjoy how the author manages to keep the other characters involved as well, ensuring I'm already looking forward to reading any future novels in this series!

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## **Krystal says**

I loved Fearless! I think it fused well with the first book in the Pretty Smart Girls series.

Some of my favorite parts are:

I'm as riled as a bull after the first missed pass of the cape.

We're walking down the aisle- two white girls from the suburbs, dressed more like we're ready for a shopping trip to Nordstrom than an MMA event.

"Do you really think lipstick is necessary right now?" "If she punches me in the mouth it will help keep my lips from splitting and I might as well look cute while I'm kicking her ass. "

How can you not like the humor in this book: Admit that we both made a mistake and treat it with the same respect you'd treat a fart. Pretend like it never happened.

I can't wait to read the next Pretty Smart Girls book from

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### **Heather andrews says**

Our girl doesn't beat around the bush she puts it out there, "I'm going to take you home and eff your brains out," I say." I loved that Ben was crying and that at times a girl just needed her man, "his door opens and he's in the hallway, blinking. He takes a giant step toward me. " What's wrong?" He's bare-chested, and his jeans are unzipped, hanging half off his hips. "Devi." I lunge at him and he grabs my shoulders." I liked this book both characters were lovable.

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### **Cass says**

4,5/5 stars

English Review

This book can be read independently from the first volume. There is a point at the beginning of the book that allows us to know that Devi and Ben met at a competition. Devi, Ryan and Jade faced Ben, Jett and Vaughn. The competition has materialized the romance between Ryan and Jett, but between Devi and Ben that does not change because Devi prefers to remain at the stage of friendship.

Six months after this famous competition, they are all graduated: Ben, Jett and Vaughn have a job in New York, Ryan comes into law school in the same city. Each boy has an apartment with their job, and Jett and Ben decide to share one to be able to sublet the third to Ryan and Devi. Like that, she will be able to look for work and thus make a fresh start. Ben will enjoy this proximity and approach Devi to convince her to give a chance to their relationship.

The English summary is misleading because it says that Ben is a « cage fighter », and no, this is not the case. He works in a company and one evening he decides to make a fight as an amateur.

This book is really successful. I liked to find Ryan and Jett again and to discover Devi and Ben. It is more intense than the first volume in terms of preliminary, the sex scenes are simple and fast. The humor is very present, the competitive spirit is always present between boys and girls and we have some very funny scenes. Finally, I have a big crush on Gator that we discover at Devi's work.

Avis en français

Ce livre peut être lu indépendamment du premier tome. Il y a un rappel au début du livre qui permet de savoir que Devi et Ben se sont rencontrés lors d'une compétition. Devi, Ryan et Jade faisaient face à Ben, Jett et Vaughn. La compétition a concrétisé la romance entre Ryan et Jett, mais entre Devi et Ben cela n'évolue pas, car Devi préfère en rester au stade de l'amitié.

Six mois après cette fameuse compétition, ils sont tous diplômés : Ben, Jett et Vaughn ont un travail à New York, Ryan entre en école de droit dans cette même ville. Les garçons ont un appartement chacun grâce à leur entreprise, Jett et Ben décident d'en partager un pour sous-louer le 3e à Ryan et Devi, celle-ci va pouvoir ainsi chercher du travail et prendre un nouveau départ. Ben va profiter de cette proximité pour se rapprocher de Devi et la convaincre de donner une chance à leur relation.

Le résumé en anglais peut induire en erreur, car il est dit que Ben est un «cage fighter », combattant en cage, or non, ce n'est pas le cas. Il travaille en entreprise et un soir il décide d'aller faire un combat en amateur.

Ce livre est vraiment réussi. J'ai apprécié de retrouver Jett et Ryan et adoré découvrir Devi et Ben. C'est plus intense que le premier tome pour ce qui est des préliminaires, les scènes de sexe étant simples et rapides. L'humour est très présent, l'esprit de compétition est toujours présent entre les garçons et les filles et donne lieu à des scènes très drôles. Enfin, j'ai un gros coup de coeur pour Gator que l'on découvre au travail de Devi.

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## **Dísir says**

Personally disappointing to me, the moment I learnt that it was going to be a story (the kind I absolutely abhor and find distasteful) where a one-night stand comes back to haunt the couple in question. Academically, I know this tries to mirror reality, but of the sort where the consequences way outlasts an unwanted and reckless summer fling? No, thank you.

The issues here are clearly mine and mine alone, of course, which I feel I need to add as a disclaimer. My sympathies lay wholly with Devin and a lot less with Ben, whose profession of wanting to forget Devin led him into a drunken (rebound) affair with someone as dislikable as Jillian (which I just found unforgivable even if they weren't together). Poor excuse and even poorer taste there, despite it all being a mistake.

This unfortunately, isn't a story where I'll paste a smile on my face and say I liked it, because it was the exact opposite, as much as I adore Shaw Ross's brand of writing.

\*ARC by netgalley

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