



Juilliard or Else

Nichele Reese

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This is a twisting story of young love torn in two.

Abigail McCall has been accepted into Juilliard for Ballet. Being nineteen, she's ready to move out of her tight shell at her parent's house and in with her new roommates. Abigail finds herself distracted with things she never saw herself doing.

'Hey, I'm Tucker.

That's all it took. His own name rolling off his tongue.'

With no job and coming from a broken home with a mother who doesn't care what happens to him, could you blame Tucker for being so secretive? The dark and mysterious Tucker has his sights set on the prim and proper ballerina. So he knows he has to change his self destructive ways in order to keep Abigail in his life. Which means, betraying his closest friends.

Obstacles are thrown at them.

They don't approve of the ballerina and the poor boy.

The world won't let Abigail and Tucker be together. What do they have to sacrifice to stay together...

Can the good come out in the bad? Or does someone always end up hurt and alone?

Tucker has nothing, but Abigail has everything to lose...

New Adult Novel. Contains adult situations, sexuality, some violence, and is suited for ages 18 and up.

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Juilliard or Else Details

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Author : Nichele Reese

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From Reader Review Juilliard or Else for online ebook

Holly says

For a debut I think Nichele did an excellent job! I absolutely loved Tucker & Abigail's story and was sucked into their world as soon as I started reading. Abigail came from a privileged background growing up living in the best neighborhoods in NYC; on the outside her life seemed perfect but nothing is ever as it seems. Both Abigail and her parents have secrets. Big secrets. Our Tucker on the other hand grew up in Bushwick, with a useless mother more concerned with getting high than caring her young son

"I taught myself to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for my main meal of the day and wash my own clothes in the bathtub"

With that I was in tears listening to Tucker tell us his story!

Our couple meets once Abigail heads off to live her dream of ballet dancing at Juilliard; her two roommates get her to go out for coffee one night and Tucker and his friends are at the coffee shop playing pool. The attraction and spark was instant but being Abigail had never been in a relationship she was scared of being hurt, especially by guy like Tucker; he was a little older than her and more experienced. Tucker knew Abigail deserved better, however he was determined to become the man she deserved...

"God, Gabs. You do something inside me that makes me want to be a better person. You're pure. That's why I gotta go do this; sever ties, pretty much. That's the only way I can explain it right now"

While Tucker dreamed of being a tattoo artist, he was raised on the streets and even though he tried to not become a product of his environment; things happen. He did things he didn't necessarily want to do but you do what you have to do to survive...or in his case help keep his best friend alive. I wasn't crazy about his choices, but I understood them.

This story was so much more than girl meets boy. This was about two young adults learning to find their way in the world, dealing with overprotective and manipulative parents hell bent on keeping them apart just because Tucker doesn't come from money, drugs, violence, death and a few others (I don't want to give everything away now)

It's about two people in love that, despite everything they face they're determined to fight for their love even when everyone else is trying to keep them apart. They made some mistakes...together, but learned that some of the best things in life come from your mistakes.

I've read Juilliard or Else once in it's entirety but I keep finding myself going back to different sections I've highlighted or just random ones because I can't let this one go. I loved all of the characters; each one was an important part of the story but most of all I LOVED the story

Audrey Harte says

Abigail has been accepted to Juilliard to study ballet after years of training. Her overbearing and demanding mother has pushed her to her limits and stressed her to the point of bulimia. Enter Tucker, a bad boy with a dark past who makes his living by less than honorable means while he apprentices as an unpaid tattoo artist who only makes tips. Can Abigail and Tucker overcome all the obstacles that stand in their way as they try to join their two very different worlds? The chemistry between them is electric. This book is dark and deep and will take you on an emotional rollercoaster as you follow these two damaged young adults on their journey to find love in each other's arms. The author has done an amazing job on her debut novel!

Janessa says

I was lucky enough to get Juilliard as an ARC so I thought I would let you all know what I thought. Nichele Reese is giving us a beautifully written story of following your dreams whatever they may be. Life can give you many choices and not all of them are easy but when choosing between following your dreams or following your heart making the wrong choice can change your life forever. Abigail and Tucker are forced to choose between life and love and deal with the consequences of their decisions. I do not want to give any of the story away because I feel everyone should experience this book and its wonderful twist and turns for themselves. I will say that this novel has such raw emotion and is so honest when it comes to how first love can be that I was completely captivated. In my opinion it is a must read. Make sure you mark it on your tbr. <3

Nacole Stayton says

I had the pleasure of reading Juilliard or Else and let me tell you this is a must read. Author Nichele Reese captivated young love in a way I haven't read before. Tucker is painted as this bad boy, but has such a soft loving, caring side you are immediately drawn to him. Abigail was brought up a little different but what a perfect pair they make. This debut novel is a great example for all young adults, that love truly can overcome any dilemma as long as both parties try. The love these two young characters have radiates off of them and makes even me a little jealous. This is defiantly a story of love, heartache and triumph. I suggest you mark this on your TBR. You will not be disappointed! :)

Jennifer Besterman says

"I was fortunate enough to receive an ARC from Nichele Reece for Juilliard or Else & want to share...but not give too much away."

Abigail & Tucker come from two different worlds & when that happens sparks can fly. They both have experienced so many different things in life, but they both know how to fight for what they believe is right. Love, at any age will have ups & downs but these two, are willing to go against the world, take it head & not let obstacles get in the way. They both have dreams & sometimes our dreams take us on a different path, making you look deep within yourself.

From the beginning, you're completely rooting for these young lovers. Nichele did an amazing job letting the reader experience the emotion of the characters. From the beginning, be prepared to be captivated & swept away.

If this book hasn't been added to your TBR, you definitely should!!!

Karla Mae (Reads and Thoughts) says

Just like Abigail, since I was a child I'm fascinated with ballet – with their graceful moves and colorful dresses. I think, my dad even sign me up on a ballet class when I was about 5 or 6 but I really don't know what happened after that since that certain memory was 95% hazy to me now. He-he. Anyway, now guys, you see what brought me into reading this one – it's the concept of ballet added up to a very intriguing story.

The rich girl ballerina with Bulimic problems.

The deprived tattoo artist with Drug dealing problems.

Well, those two statement sums up this story. Eye-roll inducing right? Well, it really is **But**, I don't really want to judge it basing on that. The story has its pros and cons and let me dissect it for you guys:

Let's start with the pro, well the characters Gabs and Tucker felt very real and they're pretty engaging character. Gabs, even though belonging to a high social status she's pretty much down to earth making her easy to like. She's unquestionably naïve and the only bad side to that is she gets a bit needy and clingy at times.

Tucker on the other hand, was one of those characters that are tough to figure out. It's a good thing that since the beginning for the story we know who Tucker really is – the bad side was first introduced to us but since then I know that he has a heart of gold and simply wanted the best in life.

The con that I find here is that there is too much drama and angst on the plot. When you think it through a lot really happened - with their inner self problems, parent conflicts, third parties and so on and so forth. I think toning down the angst a drama could do so much more. But I do appreciate the twists and turns that the story brought. Just when I thought I could see well what was coming I suddenly bumped into a wall leading me into another unexpected scene on the next page.

Oh and I just want to say Kudos to the author for tactfully writing about several topics that are too sensitive like eating disorder and drug dealing. Despite the too much drama, those sensitive issues are well handled.

Overall, the setting and characters were fine with me the too much drama just throws me off the hooks. Well, it was not a perfect read but it was okay.

Carrie says

I really wanted to like this book. I kept pushing on and trying to get past some of the issues I had with the

book. Sadly at 60% I decided I no longer cared anymore about anyone in the story.

I loved the ballet story. I felt like everything else was too cliched. We have a ballerina with an eating disorder. Check. We have a crazy strict (step)mom that treats the main character like shit because she's not really her biological daughter. Check. Abigail gets into Juilliard and becomes immediate best friends with her new roommates. Check. She starts taking up smoking on day one with them. WTF? And one of her roommates is a cutter so they have crazy coping techniques in common. Lovely. Abigail meets a boy from the wrong side of the tracks. Check. Crazy stepmom tries to force main character to date a different boy (future partner at her dad's lawfirm). Check. Everything was so cliched and I really didn't believe the relationships that were formed. And most importantly I didn't understand why the main characters fell in love. It seems like Abigail knew very little about Tucker. But she was quick to make him her first boyfriend.

Things just never added up.

****Won copy through Shh Moms Reading Book Blog****

Tiffany Readz says

Stick with this story as it revs up at about the 30-40% mark. Before that I was thinking that this book was a bit too YA for my liking, and then I ended up loving it! I panicked at the 90% mark thinking there was going to be a dreaded cliffhanger ending, but it wrapped up nicely with a fantastic epilogue.

Abigail is the rich girl that has everything to prove to her mother, but no matter how hard she tries, she is a disappointment in her mothers eyes. She gets a scholarship to Juilliard and finally gets out from under her mothers thumb and lives a little.

Tucker is a guy from the streets, not happy with they way his life has been and is turning out. He is trying to make something of himself, but the streets have a pretty big hold on him. He meets Abigail and her friends at a coffee shop where sparks fly instantly between them.

You can see that this is a good girl/bad boy romance, but I really like the way that these two fight to stay together. They have his street friends against them as well as her high society family. Quite a bit starts to happen and you wonder if they are going to be able to make things work in the long run.

I think this book was well written and really brings out the big guns for the ending.

Ji says

I started off this book kind of excited...read couple of reviews...and thought hey this sounds kinda fun! It was just a bitchy rollercoaster for me! My emotions were just everywhere. It was OK to HATE to LIKE then to FUCKING HATE then to I WANNA BITCH SLAP EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU!

*****WARNING***MAY INCLUDE SOME SPOILERS*****

First the book starts off pretty nice. Abigail a.k.a Gabs lives with her very controlling mother Carol and a pushover lawyer daddy. Carol controls EVERYTHING in Abigail's life and is pretty much the BIG BAD BITCH. She has her reasons for being such a controlling bitch; which we learn right before Abigail moves out of the house to start school at Juilliard. Knowing the truth; Abigail decides to stand up to Carol and makes all these promises to herself she won't let Carol push her. The funny thing is, Abigail is just REALLY STUPID and NAIVE. She falls into Carol's trap over and over and over and over and over and over again! It get's kinda old! And Carol is one lady who needs a damn wakeup call!!

Then we have Abigail's roommates Rachel and Jade. They bond instantly and become one big happy family! Right off the bat! They all decide to go have coffee together, and that's when they meet the boys: Tucker, Brad and Jett. They all fall in love instantly. Tucker with Abigail...Brad with Rachel and Jett with Jade... Jade has this "I don't give a shit" attitude. She has "issues" and tries to help Abigail with her "issues." I don't know how that's gonna work, but they start bonding over cigarettes. Abigail kept on smoking in this damn book with Jade, but she kept on insisting she was NOT A SMOKER... NO ABIGAIL... YOU'RE A SMOKER! YOU SMOKE WITH JADE AND YOU SMOKE WITH TUCKER...SO YES YOU'RE A SMOKER!.... Rachel on the other hand is the fashionista. She helps Abigail pick out clothes and is the one without "issues," except the fact she didn't want to admit her feelings for Brad.

Brad and Tucker are drug dealers. It's pointed out even before the first chapter that Tucker was a dealer. These guys seem to be always running away, and Tucker always hiding Abigail. Jett on the other hand owns a tattoo parlour. Tucker is an apprentice at the parlour, but he deals more than he tattoos.

This is a story I've read and seen in movies. Bad boy meets innocent, rich, naive girl. Girl has big dreams and boy is always in trouble. Parents disapprove, and boy and girl tries to prove that love conquers all. I give this one 2 1/2 stars. I just think this book had so much potential. It could have worked except the fact that the MC Abigail just didn't work for me.

REASON 1: Her friends Rachel and Jade knew that Tucker and Brad were into shady business, but Abigail just seemed to have no clue.

REASON 2: Abigail get's hurt and feels betrayed because Tucker was a dealer. REALLY??? YOU HAD NO CLUE???!!

REASON 3: She's such a strong character and a perfectionist when dancing...but when it comes to reality all her senses are gone!

Tucker...I think he's the only character I liked in this book... but he's still not perfect... Abigail had to reassure him how she wanted him so many freaking times... SHE WANTED HIM!!!! I feel like he could have helped build Abigail's character. I love it when guy's bring out the best out of their girlfriends, but I feel like all they had was this infatuation over each other... It was all about their attractions, but I needed something deeper... I don't even know if I'm making sense...

This just didn't work out for me...I thought I would like it, but it just turned sour... If you like crazy mothers, really naive female MCs and really cute bad boy...you should give this book a chance...

J.L. Brooks says

I had the honor of reading an advanced copy of Juilliard or Else. Part of me was honestly expecting the good girl/bad boy melodrama but I was quickly mistaken a short while in. Do not be deceived by the fact that Abigail or as her friends call her "Gabs" is a ballerina. Nor be too quick to judge the surface appearances of what some would consider a hopeless, delinquent Tucker.

One word that would describe Nichele Reese as a writer is FIERCE. She is fearless and is not afraid to push the reader past their comfort zone. You will easily get lost as Gabs beats her pointe shoes against the studio floor and transcend into another place. Your heart will break as you begin to see the world through Tucker's eyes, and the oppression he must face in order to just exist in her life.

Everyone has a dream and no matter how impossible it may seem, Nichele Reese does a beautiful job of putting the struggle into words and describing the underlying passion that drives through resistance. Whether it be family, friends, love, and life, a privileged status does not guarantee a tranquil passage. For Gab's it may be Juilliard or Else, but for Tucker, it's the chance at the untouchable.

Five stars all the way...

Anne Leigh says

First of, I want to say that the cover is amazing. So beautiful. As beautiful as the story.

Juilliard or Else is a story about two very different people. Abigail McCall is a girl who is set in life. She is going to the prestigious Juilliard Academy and she has her perfect life all set to go. Then, one day, she meets Tucker. Oh my!!! Tucker is a bad, bad boy but he just finds himself in a whole lotta trouble with Abby. And this is where their love story begins.

Juilliard or Else is a poignant story about kisses, love, and passion. Add in the mix of redemption for one of the main characters and you have a perfect blend of sweetness, angst, and a journey towards finding love. Nichele Reese's writing is phenomenal. It translates in the pages of the book and as for me, I want my own Tucker. He's a broken boy who is put back into pieces by a girl, who on the outside, seems to have the perfect life.

I loved, loved this story!! There is no 'or else' in this book. It's plain awesomeness.

Erin says

Could NOT finish. The writing was horrible. Could have gotten into the storyline, but was too annoyed.

I'm not picky about grammatical errors because I understand indie writing, but I just couldn't stand this book. It was inconsistent and inappropriate swearing. I had so much hope for this book because I'm a fan of Kim

Karr, but I just couldn't get into this book. I felt that this book got to where it is because of the support of Kim Karr which I find highly annoying. There are a lot of good books out there that aren't known because the authors did not piggy back off of another author. I feel so sad that Kim Karr would support such writing. I'm sorry, I was so disappointed in this book.

Erika Ashby says

Have you ever read a book and afterwards thought, "I wish I could write like that?"...Well, that's totally me after reading Nichele's book. The way she explains the surroundings, the movements, the emotions, just the characters in general is Aca-amazing. This book has so much depth to it. She takes the rich good girl/poor bad boy idea to an unheard of direction. This isn't your typical story.

Everything that is going on, you feel like you are a part of. I felt like I was in every scene as a side character watching the events unfold. I felt what they felt.

Abigail and Tucker each have their flaws, besides coming from totally polar opposite backgrounds. You feel sympathetic towards Gabs just as much as you do for Tucker, but for completely different reasons.

This story is about winning when the odds are against you. It's about finding out what's worth fighting for, and going for it. This is an absolute must read!

Love N. Books says

Wow. Nichele came out of the gates with a BIG BANG on her debut novel! BRAVO! This book hits you right in the gut in Chapter 1 and I swear you won't be able to put the book down until the end.

This book hits some major, major issues while spinning a heart wrenching tale of love and tragedy. And I loved every second of it! Nichele does a fantastic job of creating characters that will live with you long after you finish the book! Some of them you want to throat punch... while others you will want to take home and keep forever and ever. The chemistry between Tucker and Abigail is magnetic from the beginning and so well written through the entire book. They were HOT as a couple and honestly I could not get enough of these two together! The friendships and relationships with the secondary characters are also a major draw in this book.

Twists, turns, tragedy, love, heart-melting love scenes and a well thought-out plot. I could NOT. PUT. THIS. BOOK. DOWN. This pulled on my Grinch heart-strings (and my panty strings too). This is a MUST READ!!

Amber says

Was not able finish this book. This has not happened to me in a long time. I love reading and the written words and I never really write reviews because I think that every reader deserves to make up their own mind about the book. I am a hypocrite in a way because I do look at star ratings though. I saw a few ratings for this book and it received a lot of 4/5 stars so I bought it. I was really disappointed and well I guess it was just not

my cup of tea. The writing was very inconsistent and there were a lot of grammatical errors. I know this was an independent publish, and I usually let a lot of those things go. I think my biggest discomfort was that there were confusing segments that just left me annoyed and ended up abandoning the book after three tries.
