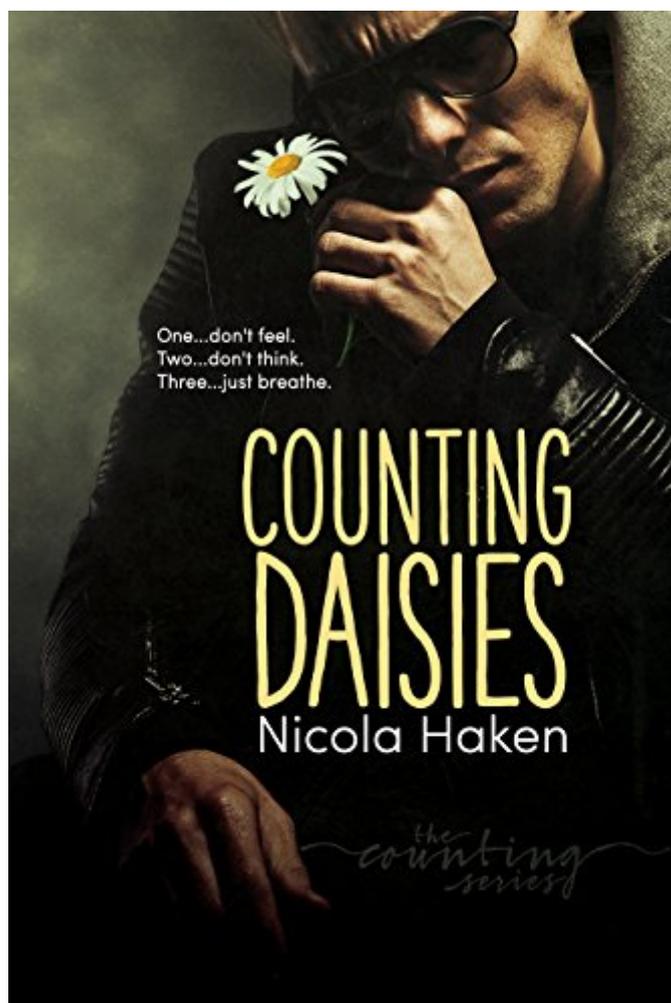


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# Counting Daisies (The Counting Series Book 1)



## Synopsis

Dylan Roberts and Cameron O'Neil were good kids. Growing up together, they shared everything. By the age of fourteen they were more than best friends – they were in love. They dreamt of their future, of success, marriage, happiness. They were going to grow old by each other's side. But – Kids are stupid. When tragic circumstances forced them apart, Dylan discovered that life wasn't the fairytale he dreamed of; it was dark, difficult, saturated with pain and shame. Life wasn't meant to be enjoyed, merely survived, but even that became a challenge. Damaged, worthless, and disgusting, he saw no point to his pitiful existence. Until he came face to face with the boy he used to love. Successful, honourable, and happy, Cameron had achieved the future they planned. He was good, positive, popular – everything Dylan would never be. What would happen if Dylan let him back into his world? Would he destroy Cameron too? Would his poison push him away like everyone else? – Everybody leaves. – They leave or they die. – But what if – what if Cameron didn't? Counting Daisies is the first book in The Counting Series, but can be read as a standalone novel. (M/M romance. Not suitable for readers under 18 years of age due to language and sexual content. \*\*\*Please note\*\*\* This book contains scenes and descriptions of intravenous drug use which may be uncomfortable for some readers.)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I can't even find the words to say how hard I loved this book. This is a very personal subject for me. I don't often trust books to be very factual about addiction but this was spot on. Feelings, thoughts, internal battles, self-loathing, anger, hate, and hopelessness; all perfect addiction accompaniments. I few triggers as a reminder some of those things will never go away. Using. Recovering. Dead. I've used those words to describe an addict more times than the daisies I could count. An addicts thoughts of themselves having disappointed a loved one, choosing drugs over all else; that's addiction. Trying not to get dead while at the same time hoping for death to end the pain. Running from fear of feelings. Living your whole adult life without knowing what those feelings are much less how they actually feel them. I've been both Dylan and Cam and neither hurts more than the other it's just a different kind of hurt. Dyl watching Cam fight harder for him than he could ever fight for himself, sometimes that how recovery starts but it never works if you can't make yourself the priority at some point. This one will stay with me for awhile.

I didn't know what to expect from Counting Daisies, I just knew Nicola writes a great M/M book and that was a winner for me. I hadn't read the blurb, I didn't know what Cameron and Dylan had in store for me. This was a beautifully crafted story of friendship, love, bonds, addictive behaviour and heartache. It was hugely emotional in parts, and Nicola doesn't hold back. Without giving anything away, this isn't just a simple boys to men friends to lovers story, don't judge by the title it's not hearts and flowers, there is a much deeper element that cements Cam and Dyl together forever. And I love DEREK!!!!

I have a big problem with Nicola Haken's stories. They're so freaking real! She draws such complete pictures of problems that the majority of people don't have, don't know much about and makes us live them and feel them. So many feels! Creating the realism is the wonderful talent she brings to her work, along with careful research, brilliant characters and creative world building. It's also the hurt/comfort theme she delivers so well. Cameron and Dylan are fantastic characters. They really have to go through a lot to create more than a memory and a dream with each other. The narrative pulls no punches. Be prepared to deal with some angst, painful and devastating moments, a slow careful buildup of passion but also humor and warmth. Paul and Derek were the perfect secondary characters and supportive, honest friends. I think their story is next and it should be a doozy.

What a heartbreaking, loving, sensitive, emotional, beautiful story. Dylan had a rough start after his grandmother dies and it just spirals further out of control until he finds his best friend Cameron. This story is of their journey together to find happiness after a devastating set back. This book is a must read. Well Done Nicola.

5++ That is what I call a convincing drug addict story with all its ugliness. Oke it's a story and it works out good. In real life there are plenty who don't make it... but also who does make it. And luckily this story is about that last. Dylan, my God Dylan with all his beautiful and different sides he is absolutely not heroine he is so much more. My heart hurts for him. And Cameron, o my, he is a God send, a saint. And then there is Paul, hooray for Paul, he is thorough, he records everything in a very clear view. I trusted his opinion fully. Cameron actions were from the heart and that was sometimes not in Dylan's benefit. Paul on the other hand oversees it all. Strong judgements and clear vision. And Derek, I love him. Further in the story you will see which position everyone takes in and what part of the problem or solution they have. So well thought out. This needs an applause. It was very strong thought out. First they were not on the same level But finally they were equivalent. Amazing read. The recovery...the struggle.....The hurt.... All the feelings... The insight....The tools.. All the dialogue, the reflections they made so much sense...And I thank God on my knees...it all comes around."That f\* had taken everything away from me, stolen my power, and I was taking it back." One standing ovation for Dylan he is the real hero. He made the aim and accomplished it.

What an absolute roller coaster emotional ride! Jesus, every time I go into a Nicola Haken M/M book, I go with the mindset that there is no way on gods earth she could possibly top the previous book I have read of hers.. because, well Broken was beyond epic... but Counting Daisies? HOLY. HECK. BALLS. Like seriously now, this book was everything it could of possibly been. Cameron and Dylan - damn, those guys when through the ringer for their HEA didn't they? Cameron was the epitome ultimate book boyfriend - loyal, romantic, supportive, funny and hot. Him and Dylan just went together perfectly, despite the rock road they had to go along - I was rooting for them from the beginning. A few times I was kinda annoyed with the whole poor me act Dylan had going on, but then I would think back to the time spent in Cam's bedroom where things got rough and forgive him again. Nicola Haken is one incredible writer who really does put 110% in to her stories and characters. The information she packs in whilst delivering an emotional blow is nothing short of

amazing and always seems to touch on some sensitive subjects that some romance writers tend to avoid - the fact she is always going outside of the box and pushing herself is why she will continue to be an automatic one - click buy for me.Bravo Lady!

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