



Cam Girl

By Leah Raeder

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“Darkly erotic...a must read” (*Publishers Weekly*, starred review)

From the *USA TODAY* bestselling author of *Unteachable* and *Black Iris* comes a new, sexy romantic suspense novel about two best friends who are torn apart by a life-shattering accident...and the secrets left behind.

Vada Bergen is broke, the black sheep of her family, and moving a thousand miles away from home for grad school, but she’s got the two things she loves most: her art and her best friend—and sometimes more—Ellis Carraway. Ellis and Vada have a friendship so consuming it’s hard to tell where one girl ends and the other begins. It’s intense. It’s a little codependent. And nothing can tear them apart.

Until an accident on an icy winter road changes everything.

Vada is left deeply scarred, both emotionally and physically. Her once-promising art career is cut short. And Ellis pulls away, unwilling to talk about that night. Everything Vada loved is gone.

She’s got nothing left to lose.

So when she meets some smooth-talking entrepreneurs who offer to set her up as a cam girl, she can’t say no. All Vada has to do is spend a couple hours each night stripping on webcam, and the “tips” come pouring in.

It’s just a kinky escape from reality until a client gets serious. “Blue” is mysterious, alluring, and more interested in Vada’s life than her body. Online, they chat intimately. Blue helps her heal. And he pays well, but he wants her all to himself. No more cam shows. It’s an easy decision: she’s starting to fall for him. But the steamier it gets, the more she craves the real man behind the keyboard. So Vada pops the question:

Can we meet IRL?

Blue agrees, on one condition. A condition that will bring back a ghost from her past.

Now Vada must confront what she's been running from. A past full of devastating secrets—those of others and those she's been keeping from herself...

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Editorial Review

Review

Praise for *Cam Girl*:

“Raeder’s beautifully broken characters are so full of life that they leap off the page and demand that the reader pay attention to them...it’s a must read for anyone wanting a sexy deep dive into a tangled psyche and a difficult life.” (*Publishers Weekly* (starred review))

"*Cam Girl* is a beautiful exploration of gender and sexuality that begs readers to question how well we know those closest to us, including ourselves. Raeder's trademark sensual lyricism is in full effect here, but it's the fraught yet tender relationship between Vada and Ellis that will have you glued to the pages until the oh-so-perfect ending." (Dahlia Adler, author of *UNDER THE LIGHTS*)

“Raeder keeps the action moving as readers try to figure out the dual mysteries—what happened on the road that night, and who is Blue?” (*Booklist*)

“Gripping, emotional, relatable, and yes, romantic (in all the best ways) read. Whatever Raeder writes, I will always want to read and recommend.” (*RT Magazine*)

“Raeder’s best book yet. It has the grit, language, and heat you’d expect, but there’s more. Raeder has clearly dug down and bled and studied the mirror to reveal the ugliest and most beautiful parts of herself, and human nature. *CAM GIRL* is a rich and unflinching narrative.” (Emery Lord, author of *Open Road Summer*)

Praise for *Black Iris*:

"Like an afternoon special on bullying gone impossibly dark, Raeder's dizzyingly intense, drug-addicted queer teenage revenge fantasy takes its reader on a sexy, bloody journey of pure emotion...A twisting timeline dancing over a year's events makes every moment seem both immediate and angrily steeped in memory. Major themes include depression, mania, and the ways that the use and abuse of drugs affect access to the reality of self and the world's essential nature; but the soul-searching always comes in the context of action, everyone around hit by the shrapnel of exploding feelings. This is an exhilarating ride for our inner underdog, craving a taste of what it would feel like to just get back at everyone if we were reckless enough not to care about the consequences." (*Publishers Weekly*, starred review)

"Risky, brave, bold. Heart-breaking, captivating, and sensual. There aren't enough words to describe this suspenseful powerhouse of a novel. Raeder's gorgeous prose and raw characters will keep you flipping to the very end. *Black Iris* is one of the best books I've read this year." (Karina Halle *New York Times* bestselling author)

"Intense and visceral, *Black Iris* is as sharp as a knife and beats with a heart that is double-edged and dangerous." (Lauren Blakely *New York Times* bestselling author)

"Provocative, seductive, and skillfully written, *Black Iris* is a story that stands out from the crowd." (K.A. Tucker *USA Today* Bestselling Author)

"Raeder masterfully weaves a dark, twisted, dangerously sexy quest for revenge with a raw, honest search for kinship and self-acceptance. *Black Iris* demands your attention, your heart, and an immediate reread." (Dahlia Adler *author of Last Will and Testament*)

"Equally wicked as it is beautiful. This story is one of the best reads I've read to date. My book hangover afterward was *real*. It honestly opened my eyes to all things LGBTQIA+ and the importance of treating mental illness. Overall a very note-worthy read that everyone should digest at least once." (*Book Baristas*)

Praise for *Unteachable*:

"Lyrical, vivid, and poignant, *Unteachable* is one of best forbidden romances I've ever read." (Lauren Blakely *New York Times* bestselling author)

"*Unteachable* infuses the complicated dynamics of forbidden sexual tension and untamed passion, all while managing to break your heart. Easily one of my favorite reads." (Gail McHugh *New York Times* bestselling author)

"With lush, haunting prose, deft storytelling and scorching sensuality, Leah Raeder weaves a love story that obliterates convention. The best book I've read this year." (M. Pierce *bestselling author of the Night Owl Trilogy*)

"Leah Raeder's writing is skillful and stunning. *Unteachable* is one of the most beautifully powerful stories of forbidden love that I have ever read." (Mia Sheridan *bestselling author of Archer's Voice*)

About the Author

Leah Raeder is the author of *Unteachable*, *Black Iris*, and the forthcoming *Cam Girl*. Aside from reading her brains out, she enjoys graphic design, video games, fine whiskey, and the art of self-deprecation. She lives with her very own manic pixie dream boy in Chicago. Visit her at LeahRaeder.com.

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Cam Girl

—1—

A car crash is a work of art.

At first it's Cubism: the hood folding, doors crumpling, windshield splitting into a mosaic of shattered light, the whole world breaking into shards of color and noise and tumbling around you like a kaleidoscope. Screeching tires and cold air and gasoline and your own scream are all just bits of debris flying around, gorgeous chaos. When the tires stop spinning and the engines die, you're left sitting in a smashed puzzle of metal and glass, trying to figure out which way the pieces go now, why some are stuck together and won't come apart. Why there is an eye next to a foot, steel where there should be skin.

I listened to a soft dripping and the sigh of steam. By then it had become Surrealism. My hands were puppet hands, one arm bent at a bizarre angle. A deflated airbag lay in my lap like a bloody surgery sheet. The seat belt (I buckled up, I didn't really want to die) was some kind of medieval bondage device and I clawed at it senselessly before clicking the release button. Then I saw her.

Ellis slumped in her seat, limp against the seat belt. Red-gold hair hung in her eyes. She was utterly still.

I kicked my door open. Staggered through the electric prongs of the headlights to her side of the car. My right arm was heavy, pulling toward the ground, so I used the left to haul her out. Impressionism now: the dashboard glow dappling her pale skin cyan, black ice reflecting swirls of white starlight. My breath spiraling wildly into the sky. I cried her name as I pulled her onto the road, her legs dragging.

“Wake up, Elle. Please, please, wake up.”

You idiot, I thought. You know CPR.

I brushed her hair off her forehead, leaned close. No warmth on my ear. My right arm had begun to tingle and buzz and it was going to make this difficult. I took a deep breath, but before my mouth met hers she coughed and her eyelids fluttered open. Details became acutely clear, almost Pointillist: stars glittering in her eyes, ruby droplets freckling her skin. I touched her face, smearing the blood.

“Vada?” she said weakly.

“Can you move?” I couldn’t take my hand off her cheek. “Move your arms. Ellis, move your arms. Okay. Now your legs.”

She obeyed.

I grabbed her in an awkward one-armed hug but hugging wasn’t enough so I kissed her cheek, her mouth, cupped her face and stared down into it. “Are you okay? There’s so much blood.” I wiped her face again but it only got worse. “Where’s it coming from? Are you hurt?”

We both noticed my right arm at the same time. The sleeve of my hoodie ripped to tatters. The sliver of white showing through red near the elbow.

“Oh my god,” Elle whispered, her breath musky and sweet. Tequila.

I let go of her.

The other car.

His headlights made an X through ours, a crucifix of light across the blank black night. We were on a highway bridge between nowhere and eternity, the ocean glinting beyond the treetops. The other driver lay sprawled facedown on the ground. My eyes traced the path he’d taken through his windshield, the bloody stripe running over the hood of his Jeep.

“Vada,” Ellis said.

I dropped to my knees at the man’s side, feeling for breath, pulse. My right arm was completely numb now. When I lifted his head, a warm red gush flooded my palm.

“Call 911.” My voice was calm.

Elle fumbled in her coat pocket and then at the screen and almost dropped her phone. As I watched I thought,

She's drunk. God, she is so drunk.

I took her phone and painted by numbers with the stranger's blood.

"I need an ambulance." I described the river nearby, the bridge.

Elle sank to the ground beside me, those lucid green eyes locked on the body. Her glasses were gone. She couldn't see how bad it really was.

On the asphalt, pieces of skull lay scattered like pottery fragments.

Can you tell me what happened?

"Car accident. This guy wasn't wearing a seat belt and he's . . . on the road."

How many people are hurt?

"Three. We're okay but this guy is—we need an ambulance."

It's on the way, miss. Is the man breathing?

"I don't think it really matters anymore because I can see his brain."

My voice remained calm but Ellis clapped a hand over her mouth.

The dispatcher asked another question. Elle stared at me, horrified, over splayed fingers.

In a few hours, she wouldn't remember any of this. The concussion and the alcohol would blot it out.

But not me. I'd never forget.

"Vada," I said. "My name is Vada. I'm the driver."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Terry Grissom:

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try point that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love Cam Girl, it is possible to enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout people. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

Robin Curtin:

Many people spending their time frame by playing outside along with friends, fun activity with family or just watching TV all day long. You can have new activity to shell out your whole day by reading through a book. Ugh, do you think reading a book can definitely hard because you have to take the book everywhere? It okay you can have the e-book, taking everywhere you want in your Touch screen phone. Like Cam Girl which is finding the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's view.

Dione Wicker:

This Cam Girl is fresh way for you who has curiosity to look for some information given it relief your hunger info. Getting deeper you in it getting knowledge more you know or perhaps you who still having tiny amount of digest in reading this Cam Girl can be the light food for yourself because the information inside this kind of book is easy to get simply by anyone. These books build itself in the form that is reachable by anyone, that's why I mean in the e-book web form. People who think that in reserve form make them feel sleepy even dizzy this guide is the answer. So there isn't any in reading a book especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for a person. So , don't miss the item! Just read this e-book variety for your better life along with knowledge.

Donald Wexler:

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