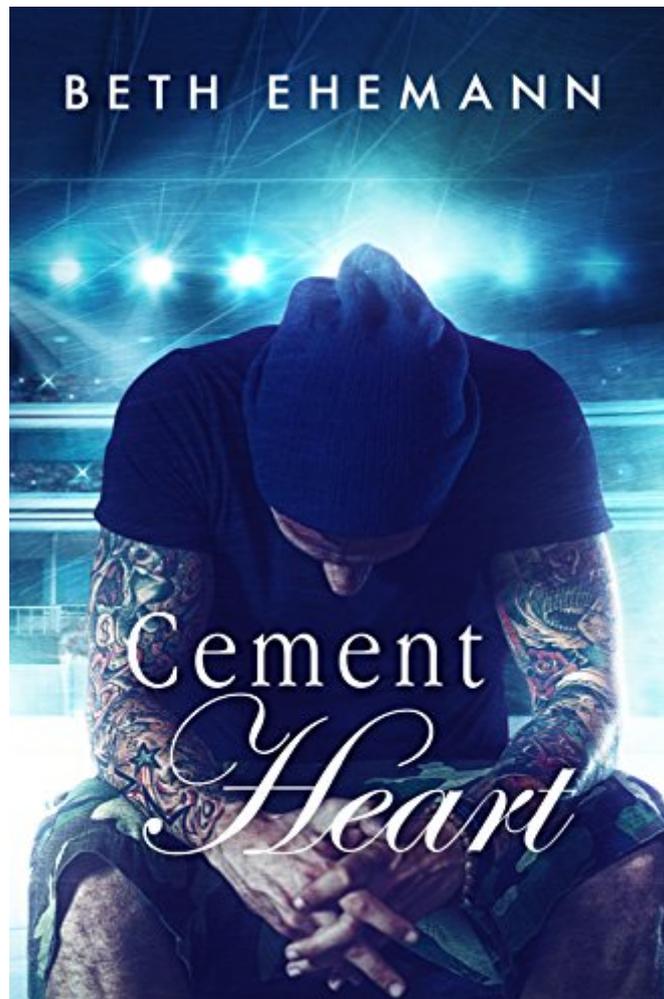


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# Cement Heart (Viper's Heart Duet Book 1)



## Synopsis

Lawrence Finkle, known simply to his die-hard Minnesota Wild fans as Viper, isn't used to hearing the word "no." He lives his whole life just a little on the reckless side. After all, life is just one big game, right? Wrong. When what was supposed to be an innocent bet goes horribly wrong, he's left to deal with the aftermath and the guilt. In an effort to make things right the best way he can, he ends up falling for the one person on the planet he never should have. The old saying goes that two wrongs don't make a right . . . or do they?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

[She] had waves. I had doors. Maybe we could sit on my door and float on top of those waves together. Lawrence "Viper" Finkle is a well known womanizer and has no intention of changing his ways, settling down, or starting a family. It's not that he doesn't like kids, as he is fantastic with his teammates' kids (when he remembers not to swear around them). His friends watch his actions and accept him as he is. Do they always agree? No, but he is unapologetically himself at all times. In the Cranberry Inn series, he offered some hilarious moments as he adjusted to Kacie and the twins as part of Brody's life, and I am so glad his story came out here. I'm not including very much plot description as part of this review on purpose. You won't see the name of the woman who catches his eye, nor am I going to share how they met, or anything about

their journey. Why? Because not knowing makes this reading experience so much more emotional. I spent the first part of the book watching his interactions with the women around him wondering which one would cause him to begin breaking his rules, and that mystery made it even better than if I had been waiting for a specific woman to walk through his door. Could we make it work? Could we both let go just enough to make it possible without letting go completely? I loved the way this story built. By the time it was clear who the woman was going to be, I was so emotionally invested in this story that my heart broke with every new scene. Every new detail. I shed plenty of tears over the course of this book, from sadness to happiness. There was so many emotions tied up in this story I couldn't help but have them spill out of my eyes. I loved getting inside Viper's head so much more than I could have imagined.

Please note this review may contain spoilers. WOW. Seriously, just WOW!!! This is not how I envisioned Viper's story playing out. Not at all. I expected Cement Heart to be a really funny and dirty read about a rough and tumble manwhore getting knocked on his arse by some scrap of a woman. Instead I was hit with a story that reduced me to tears too many times to count. It had me crying all the way until the very last paragraph. And I mean that literally. That last paragraph? Ripped. My. Heart. Out. Just thinking about it makes me tear up. I am struggling with writing this review. I want to include spoilers just so I can talk about them and include some beautiful quotes, but then I don't want you to know what happens because it'll be so much better when you read it for yourself. Sadly, I'm going with option # 2 which means that as I write this paragraph, I've deleted about a quarter of my review already. We were introduced to Viper, Brody's foul-mouthed friend and teammate, in The Cranberry Inn series. Viper is a manwhore, there's no doubt about it. He doesn't do relationships, only one-night stands and as frequently as possible. Life is one big game to him, until one game goes horribly wrong and the consequences are devastating. Wracked with guilt over what happened, he spirals and cuts everyone out of his life. With his place on the team threatened, he's forced to make some changes. One thing he does is to finally honour a promise he made to his best friend. But when he starts having feelings for a woman he shouldn't, the guilt just keeps on coming. While this book has quite a lot of sad moments, you'll also see a good amount of humour and happiness.

This story was a learning experience for me. An eye opener. I didn't realize just how much of a formula romances tend to follow until I read one that didn't. This story isn't so much a romance as it is Viper's journey back to life, to the ability to love. For half the book, through the series of events

that transpired in the beginning of this story that completely gutted me, I kept wondering who was going to be Viper's love interest. (I should have lead with the fact that I don't read blurbs, I go in blind every time. Knowing this story was about Viper was enough for me to tear into it hungrily knowing nothing else.) Anyway, as the story unfolded, I wondered who this romance would follow... which one of the many women in Viper's life would crack his cement heart. I didn't know because for 50% of the book, this wasn't a romance. This was Lawrence Finkle's struggle. I thought that was odd at first. Typically an author will introduce the woman, the intended love interest fairly early on, guiding the reader, dropping hints to get the reader's brain prepared. That didn't happen here and I kept thinking "Beth Ehemann, what are you doing to me, lady?" As the story unfolded I wanted to high five this author so hard. Seriously. This story evolved in the most perfect, most unexpected manner and it was so necessary and so right for everyone involved. This story didn't begin as a romance because these characters weren't ready for that. They weren't those people and anything other than the path Beth Ehemann took them on would have felt forced, artificial, wrong. This is a story about finding hope when hope is lost. Finding joy and meaningful relationships after life shatters the ground beneath your feet. Why did this story catch me so off guard?

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