



Away From Me

Sophie Oak

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Shattered by the loss of his wife, Callum Reed is a man surrounded by rules designed to protect him. He has found the perfect submissive in Gaby Sullivan, until she breaks his cardinal rule.

After three years of perfect obedience, Gaby declares she wants love. Love isn't in their contract, so Cal lets her go. But Gaby has a secret reason for leaving. When Cal discovers the truth, nothing will stop him from following her. On a secluded island paradise, Callum will do anything to prove he's the perfect Master for his defiant, loving sub.

[Siren Classic: Erotic BDSM Romance]

Away From Me Details

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From Reader Review Away From Me for online ebook

Lana ✽✽Dirty Girl Romance✽✽ says

5 STARS

He couldn't, wouldn't love Gabrielle. He would never allow another woman inside his heart like that. It hurt too much.

All. Of. The. FEELS.

Oh mylanta! Dare I say that this was one of my favorite stories from this author? And having read practically her entire backlist, that's saying a lot. But oh my GOD! This book! I don't remember the last time a couple and their story captured my heart so thoroughly and so effectively.

Away From Me is a powerful second chance romance. It's a story of love lost and moving on. It's a story brimming with emotion, angst, and enough sexual chemistry to light a small village. No joke.

If you love a romance with an epic grovel, this book will bring it, and then some. Callum Reed is a man that makes a colossal mistake, albeit unknowingly. But boy, when he decides to mess up, he definitely goes for gold. Used to guarding his heart after a tragic loss, when his submissive asks him for more than a mere contract between them, he doesn't budge. When she tells him she's leaving, he thinks she's manipulating her. But you know what they say about the bigger they are, right? Because when he takes the time to get his head out from his fear and pain, he goes after Gabby with a singleminded intent. And it. was. AWESOME.

Gabby was such an incredible heroine. Sweet yet no pushover; a survivor at the core of her. I absolutely loved her. I loved her honesty and sweet nature. She loved Callum but she refuses to settle for what he wants to offer. Little does she know that the man has finally seen the light, and will stop at nothing to get her by his side again.

I don't have enough words to describe all the love I had for this book. For a novella, it was so satisfying. Never did I feel it was too short. It was perfection; with both development and pacing. A sizzling second chance romance with plenty of feeling that will keep you riveted to the pages from beginning to finish. I read it in one glorious sitting, with bated breath and sobbed my way through a good half of it. I finished it with a smile on my face and butterflies in my stomach. I cannot recommend it enough!

ARC courtesy of author in exchange for an honest review

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Optimist ?King's Wench? & MANTIES Champion says

I've had this book forever. I vaguely recall when I bought it reading something about it being "hardcore". Well, the only thing hardcore I found here was the level of Cal's douchenheimerdom. I'm still confounded as to why or how Gaby forgave his cruel douchenozzle ways.

Seems all it took was a couple orgasms, a spanking, some buttsex and some dirty talk for her to fold like a pair of deuces at the big boy's table. And he's douche. Make no mistake about that. Then again, I guess douchedom comes with the lawyer territory sometimes.

Gaby and Cal have been in a 3 yr contractual D/s relationship when Gaby realizes that he's never going to be what she needs. She tells him she's going to leave and he's a douche. He sees her 10 mos later at a party held by mutual friends and douchenheimers out on her AGAIN! Once he finds out she had other reasons for leaving he's somehow miraculously determined to get her back and be what she needs.

The grass is always greener on the other side, I guess.

The D/s was unexceptional. There was a mid-level hotness factor that I enjoyed. The resolve to survive, rebuild and be unapologetic about that transformation was what I liked best about this story. The rest felt a little too neat.

Recommend for those who enjoy some kink and escaping into the romance novel *HEA-come-hell-or-high-water void*.

I ♥ Bookie Nookie (bookienookiereviews.blogspot.com) says

Sophie Oak has yet to fail me! I just love her books and this one was not exception. This one was, however, different that her other in the sense that there was no menage and it began with the H/h together., then they break up and find their way back to each other. In her other books, they are mostly discovering each other thru the story.

Gaby and Cal are in a D/s relationship. Everything is fine as long as Gaby follows Cal's rules and one of those rules is "no falling in love". Cal has been there, done that and doesn't want the t-shirt..and doesn't care to visit again. With his heart carefully guarded, he conducts his happy little life with Gaby until one day she declares her love for him and asks if that is ever going to happen for him. When he say no, she packs what she came with 3 years ago and flees.

Without giving the entire story away, Gaby has a big secret...once Cal discovers this secret he is like a dog with a bone and won't walk away until he has her back where she belongs...wearing his collar and by his side. I was actually surprised by the secret it is not at all what I thought it was going to be.

This was an enjoyable read...I love that everything wasn't all hunky-dory. They hit some bumps and the Dom had to learn to submit for once...that was quite a pleasurable scene...In more ways than one. It also touches on a lot of emotional topics. For instance, the loss of a loved one among others , letting go of old fears and

learning to love again.

Although many shelve it as BDSM, it's really more BDSM lite. The main BDSM element in this novel is D/s. So even if you are not a BDSM fan, this should be a pleasurable read for you as it is more like a contemporary.

** Reviewed on I ♥ Bookie Nookie Reviews

If you like this type of book, you might enjoy one of these groups. Check us out!

Menage Readers

Erotic Enchants

Bookie Nookie's Erotic Lending Group

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

This is a re-release of one of Sophie Oak's most poignant books, originally a standalone that plucks at the heartstrings from the very first chapter. It is also a classic story of a man who can't identify his own emotions and fails to see what is right in front of him.

It starts with Gaby asking her Dominant, Callum, if he loves her. Thrown off stride by the question from his submissive of three years, Callum tells her he doesn't love her and never promised her anything beyond the collar she wears. He is totally shocked when she takes off her collar and leaves.

When he sees her again nearly a year later, she has changed almost beyond recognition, and unsettled by how much he missed her, he treats her terribly, only to be wracked by guilt when he finds out why she left.

Gaby is now managing a sex resort on a private island and is startled to find Callum has come after her, wanting her back. But Gaby no longer trusts Callum and he is going to have to prove to her that his professions of love come from the heart.

Once Lexi Blake obtained the rights back to her Sophie Oak books, she is updating and re-issuing them. In this case, an unknown Dom in the beginning becomes Liam from the Masters and Mercenaries series, and additional scenes have been added, without changing the emotional impact of the book. The only change I didn't understand is changing the name of Gaby's "murse" (male nurse) from Chris to Cody. It's especially disconcerting since the characters also appear later in Siren Released, a Bliss book that will be updated as well.

I loved this story when I first read it, and the updates have only made it better. Gaby is such a strong woman to be a submissive and its delightful to watch Callum find out how far he has distanced himself not only from his friends, but his own emotions. The potential for tragedy underlies the story, but the author avoids it with a deft hand. This is one of Lexi Blake's finest works.

Courtney says

So not only can Lexi write angsty and sexy full length novels, she can also deliver that same punch in a novella and still leave you breathless and panting. HOT DAMN!!!

This was an extremely fast read for me but I think that's because I was so drawn into the story, that I just felt this need to see where everything went. And it moved so quickly yet still felt like nothing was left out.

And Lexi knows how to add the appropriate sexiness and BDSM elements to make this book HOT HOT HOT. I am going to give any details because the blurb gives you enough that adding anything else is just pretty much giving you highlights of the whole book.

If you have never read anything by Lexi but want to get a taste of what her writing is all about, I highly recommend reading this one. And then you can thank me for starting your newest addiction. ;)

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

WOW!!! I seriously wasn't expecting this book to be erotic, BDSM and emotional. Gaby has been Cal's sub for three years, she wants his love and marriage. Because of the death of his first wife Cal has refused both to love and marry ever again. Something happens to Gaby, that makes her think Cal will never want her again and she decides to leave him, especially since he does not love her. This story is about the road to Cal winning Gaby back. This story may not touch everyone like it did me, maybe it touched me because of the struggles Gaby goes through as a result of her incident....THERE IS A HEA in this story and the part when Gaby "bares all" to Cal and his reaction was tender and sweet.

I can't even say much more about this, just thinking about the story gets the tears flowing. This story hits close to home, not the BDSM part, but because the incident that happens to Gaby has happened to one of my aunts and I have witnessed first hand, via my aunt, the emotions and feelings that Gaby goes through about self image.

Angie - Angie's Dreamy Reads says

3.75 Stars - 4(ish)! Man, who knew a novella could pack such a powerful punch. Not only was this scorching hot, but it was also really really really angsty. A fast read with some major feels.

Michelle says

ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review

Come get swept away with Lexi Blake's sexy re-release of **Away From Me**. In this book, Blake explores the physical and emotional relationship of Callum Reed and Gabrielle Sullivan. In this Dom/Sub relationship, Callum only saw Gaby as a contract. No emotional attachments that is until Gaby couldn't handle it anymore. She wanted more. She wanted his love and sin Callum couldn't give her that, she leaves him. So when a year passed by, how far will Callum go to get back Gaby? Can Gaby ever go back to him on her terms?

Away With Me is a sexy but emotional erotic romance that might have been my favorite of what I have read from Sophie Oak. This book was written in a fashion to leave you wanting more and satisfied with the ending.

Eve Recinella (Between The Bookends) says

So funny enough I JUST read this one for the first time a few months back. It had been sitting on my tablet for a LONG time and I just hadn't gotten around to reading it. It turned out to be one of my all-time favorite Lexi books. So saying I was super excited to get my hands on this "new" re-released version would be an understatement. I loved it then and I still think it is one of Lexi's best books.

~WRITING - PLOT - PACE~

As always with this author the writing in this one was fantastic. The pace was perfect. The plot was engaging and kept me turning the pages. It's a quick read. Longer than a novella but not as long as a full-length book. That said, it packs a lot of angst and feels within those limited pages. Also, do be aware that it does have a dead ex in it, but I never felt Gabrielle was second best. But I am not bothered by that scenario so that is just MY interpretation. This is the type of angst filled plot I ADORE. The hero's an a\$\$. The heroine gets hurt by his behavior. They separate. The hero gets his head out of his a\$\$ and goes after the heroine. There is some angst back and forth and they live HEA. Or HFN in this case. I do wish there had been an epilogue BUT I believe we will be seeing this couple pop up in others books as the author re-releases them and goes about connecting them through the added material.

~FAVORITE QUOTE~

"Such a nice man wouldn't do anything bad." "You should be glad you live on an island, Jackie. You would

be horribly murdered by the first serial killer to come along."

~HERO~

Cal (Callum)...So Cal is a bit of an a\$\$ to begin with. He doesn't want to love again. He doesn't want to marry again. He doesn't want kids. Gabrielle and Cal have lived together for three years they have a D/s relationship complete with a contract, but Gabrielle is in love. She rocks the boat. Cal doesn't respond well and acts like a complete a\$\$hole. Fast forward ten months later they meet again. He AGAIN pulls a douche move. So yea, he is a dickhead. That said, I LOVED him. He made up for his behavior by groveling and winning back Gabrielle. He was also a smokin' hot Dom AND he wasn't a manwhore at all. In fact, he had only slept with TWO women his whole life. His deceased wife and Gabrielle.

~HEROINE~

Gabrielle was a very likable heroine. My heart broke for her at the beginning of this book and for all she went through the months they were apart. I like that she didn't immediately fall right back into Cal's arms (though the book is short so she didn't hold out too long). I like that she was moving on and standing on her own two feet. She was pining for Cal but was making plans to move on. She was a strong heroine.

~SECONDARY CHARACTERS~

This one is a little light on secondary characters. I loved Cody though. I would love to see him get a book of his own. I also loved the tiny little Liam cameo that we got!

~HEAT LEVEL~

Medium. There are some hot sex scenes in this one. Bondage. Spanking. Anal play. The frequency felt right for the length of the story.

~ANGST LEVEL~

Medium to High. This one is fairly angst but all that angst comes from the couple themselves. There isn't anything or anyone outside of their relationship that causes issues. There is no OW drama or OM drama. As I mentioned Cal has only been with two women his entire life and he was celibate for the ten months, they were apart. Gabi wasn't a virgin, and she was also celibate during their separation.

~IN THE END~

I LOVED it. Like I said this is one of my all time favorites by this author. Well written and paced. Full of the type of angst I love. Tons of feels and hot sex. With characters that are extremely likable and who you will be rooting for to get a happily ever after. Two HUGE thumbs up from yours truly.

Jamie says

That was super sweet and sexy.

It's no wonder that Lexi Blake (aka Sophie Oak) is in my top three favorite authors. Not many people can cram that much feeling into under 150 pages. I usually have trouble connecting with the characters in novellas due to their brevity, but that was not the case here. #allthefeels

Kathleen R. says

I honestly love Lexi Blake's alter ego Sophia Oak. She's edgy. She's real. And it's emotional. It's the kind of books that give you that pick me up and bridge the in between two books. This is what Away From Me was - it was short, sweet and at the same time, it picked your attention like no other. For me, it was the book that satisfied my thirst for more of this alter ego because the Texas Siren series has become one of my favorites and i know i have to wait weeks before the next instalment.

While Lexi Blake adds suspense in her books, through Sophia Oak, she can bridge the two personas - in Away From Me, you get to see some of the characters that you've met in her Masters and Mercenaries series and see how it all started, to find out just what their connection to the BDSM world is.

In less than 3 hours i was finished reading this book and i know that i might be missing something since there are so many references to previous series by Lexi Blake - however, that did not deter nor impact my enjoyment of the book whosoever. It simply made me more curious to start back up from the very beginning and then squeal about how 'OMG i've read this part before in so-and-so's book!!!'. That part i really can't wait because i know it'll be something to behold for sure!

*ARC provided by Author in exchange for an honest review. Reviewed by Kathleen, The Small Girl from A small girl, her man and her books

Julie says

What do you do when you discover your relationship has gone ‘wrong’ over time? For Gabby – the thought that Callum didn’t reciprocate the type of love her heart demanded was more than she could bear. The duo had spent years together in a Dom/Sub relationship that was part of their daily routine. A stagnant relationship that was more expected than spontaneous.

With their contract at an end, Gabby leaves the relationship and the two do not cross paths again for months. Callum doesn’t respond to crossing paths with Gabby very well. Visualizing the physical changes in her appearance and associating them with other lovers. Two say their connection was strained and insulting would be an understatement. If fact – Callum’s reaction set a course that lead to revelations that would affect both former lovers.

Clearly – the duo has unfinished business. Gabby isn’t the same person that Callum thought he knew. A much tougher exterior to match the interior. With the mistakes of their past weighing on both of their shoulders, Callum and Gabby realize that their unfinished ‘business’ cannot return to the way that things once were. How can two former lovers find a way to forgive? Is there a possibility of a future for them again?

Away From Me is an unexpected second chance romance that will pull at your heart strings!! This novel is a rewritten and re-released version of the book from Lexi Blake (pen name – Sophie Oak). From the very beginning of this book....you think that you know where Callum and Gabby will lead you. Guess again!! All I can tell you is the tears on this one were real!! I found myself reaching for the tissues several times, and I am not ashamed to admit it!!

The things that brought Callum and Gabby together in the beginning will lead the duo on a path of discovery, broken heartedness, and second chances. Callum’s hard heartedness will leave an impression on you. Resulting in feelings so deep you can actually imagine the pain that Gabby felt. Lexi Blake delivers such soul wrenching drama in this second chance romance. A treat for any romance lover!

Shayna says

“The man had been her everything and he had broken her in a way no one and nothing else could.”

Are you in the mood for a good cry? Are you ready to feel ALL THE THINGS? Are you prepared to get your heart broken, only to have it put back together ever so gently? Well, Lexi Blake HAS GOT YOU on all fronts! This re-release has shattered me ALL OVER AGAIN! Away From Me gives us the quick, beautiful, and heartbreaking story of Callum Reed and Gabrielle Sullivan. From page one, I knew I was diving into a tear-jerker...an UNPUTDOWNABLE tear-jerker, for sure! AWAY FROM ME might be a quick read for avid readers like myself, but it was packed full of so much heartache, so much passion and sensuality, so much love and respect, that I just wanted to read it over and over and over again, no matter how badly it hurt.

Nobody writes like Lexi Blake...absolutely NO ONE! In Cal and Gaby's story, she tears at my soul, only to mend it back together to make it even stronger...kind of like mimicking Cal and Gaby's relationship. When it comes down to it, I'm absolutely a goner for these characters, Lexi's writing, and this series. Even though this is a re-release, there was some tidbits added that fans of Lexi's other series will greatly appreciate. I know that I did.

~ Becs ~ says

Well, this was a very quick read but it's a hot little story with a wonderfully romantic ending.

Gabrielle has been living as Cal's 24/7 sub for 3 years. He is a widower and wants nothing more than the terms laid out in their BDSM contract. Gaby leaves him, ostensibly because he won't tell her he loves her, but she actually has other reasons which Cal is in complete ignorance of.

They meet again almost a year later and Cal treats her like a whore and uses a few badly chosen sentences to crush her and she walks away again. When Cal finds out the real reason behind their break up, he sets about winning her back.

I have a few choice words for the main characters.....

Gaby - you **IDIOT!**

Cal - you total f*ckwit!

But there is a deeply romantic conclusion to the story even though (view spoiler).

4 stars erotic romance and thanks to Karla for the great rec.

Cheesecake says

Callum and Gaby. I've never read Sophie Oak before because I don't particularly like BDSM books or Menage. But I do like a good romance and if it happens to have those other things in it, well that's fine too. SOoo I got this book because I liked the premise and it was a good read. Surprisingly, the BDSM stuff is a pretty integral part of the story and what made the ending so good! It wasn't just added in for titillation, although it did that in spades without being creepy or ouchy. So anyways, Gaby and Callum have been together for 3 years but it has been a pretty one sided relationship as far as emotional give and take is concerned. Something happens to Gaby that makes it all come to a head and when Callum still can't find his emotional balls, she leaves him. He's pretty nasty about it too. Typical little man child who can't stand not getting his way... or is it because he really cares? Life goes on for the better part of a year before they see each other again and the truth about why she left comes out. He of course chases her to the island she is now working on and things heat up from there. The ending is bawdy and sweet and perfect for the MCs. I will just have to look into more by this author ;)
