



## Our Broken Sky

*Sarah Harian*

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**Our Broken Sky** Sarah Harian

**In The Wicked We Have Done, readers were introduced to Valerie Crane. But you don't know her the way you think you do. This is her story...**

Valerie has always been different from her identical twin Veda. Tattooed, fiery, and foul-mouthed, Valerie acts on instinct, getting even with anyone who wrongs her passive and sensitive sister.

At twenty-two, Veda doesn't want to seek revenge against the three young men who raped her. As for Val...

Val never could manage her anger well.

As far as Val sees it, the Compass Room is simply a quicker way for her to die—payment for the crime she feels no guilt over. There isn't a reason to fight, not until a girl as broken as she is reminds Val of what it's like to hope...

## Our Broken Sky Details

Date : Published August 19th 2014 by Penguin/InterMix

ISBN :

Author : Sarah Harian

Format : Kindle Edition 90 pages

Genre : New Adult, Science Fiction, Dystopia, Lgbt

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## From Reader Review Our Broken Sky for online ebook

### Ashley says

Where to start with the awesome that is *Our Broken Sky*? Sarah Harian blew me away with *The Wicked We Have Done* and *Our Broken Sky* is no different.

Learning Valerie's backstory, from the way she felt about herself to her twin, Veda, to what drove her to revenge, gave so much insight into the Val we were first introduced to in *The Wicked We Have Done*. Val may come across as a no-nonesense, tough-as-nails kind of girl, but she's really not. There's so much more to Val than one would think. She's smart, loyal and rather compassionate. She's this deeply complex character and learning her story felt like a privilege I didn't deserve.

Her time in the Compass room is mostly spent with Jace. After spending most of her life not letting anyone close to her, Val finds more than a friend in Jace. She finds herself falling in love and that love is unfairly ripped away. If I thought I hurt for Val in *Wicked*, it's nothing compared to the emotions I went through reading it from Val's point of view. It's much more real and heart-breaking. Yes, Jace wasn't always the most likable character because she did whine because she was scared, but she didn't deserve what happened to her.

Overall, *Our Broken Sky* is a wonderful companion to the first novel. It gives so much more insight into Val and maybe a few hints for *A Vault of Sins*. *Our Broken Sky* is much more focused on a romance than *Wicked* was, and that's completely okay for me. There's not a lot of good lesbian romance out there and Sarah Harian has done a wonderful job of sharing Val's and Jace's story.

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### Jennifer says

3.5/5 stars

*Our Broken Sky* is a novella in the Chaos Theory series. It should be read after reading *The Wicked We Have Done* (book 1).

It is narrated by Valerie and split into three sections. The first section is before jail/The Compass Room. The second section is the Compass Room. The third section is after The Compass Room.

I thought that the first section was sort of interesting. We got to see Valerie's life before we met her in *The Wicked We Have Done*. Although the section stopped right when it got interesting (when she committed the crime). But we did get insight into what made her get arrested.

The second section was what happened in book one but from Valerie's point of view. A lot of it was glossed over very quickly and it was a bit confusing (it's been a while since I read the first book). It was also very sexual, which seemed sort of weird for a novella. Especially since I don't remember the first book being like that at all. Yes it's New Adult. But it just seemed very different from the first book.

The third section was interesting. It explained Valerie's crime in detail. Plus there was an intriguing encounter.

Overall, it was an interesting look into one of the Chaos Theory's more unusual characters. I'm not sure it added that much to the story. But it did give us a glimpse into Valerie's head.

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Thanks to netgalley and PENGUIN GROUP Berkley, NAL/Signet Romance, DAW for allowing me to read this book.

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### **Meghann (Becoming Books) says**

Continuing with Harian's gritty prose Our Broken Sky dives into the backstory of Val exposing her family, her loves, her crime and the aftermath in the process. As a series novella the storyline is quick and fast paced, avoiding content that is present in book one, The Wicked We Have Done, to deliver fresh storytelling. Val is an amazingly strong character whose voice is as raw and gritty as her personality. The moments where she really shines are connected to her extreme emotions of lust, anger, guilt and hope. Similar with TWWHD the scenes are intense, emotional and without filler. Celebrating the romantic side of the New Adult genre, Harian leaves the reader with super steamy scenes while incorporating much appreciated diversity.

### **Why I'm desperately waiting for the next book...**

I tend to be skeptical about novellas and the value of their content. However, this really hit the mark by adding new and relevant content that parallels the original story. The downside is that it would be really hard to pick this up without having read book one to fill in holes and provide context. The upside is you get 90 pages of action and information which add more depth to TWWHD. Random shout out for looking at lesbian and interracial relationships!

I don't read my NA for various reasons but mostly because I feel like it's branded itself as an extension of the romance genre. I find the Chaos Theory series refreshing because there's a balance between exciting storylines/plot points, (super steamy) romance and character development.

\*Review copy provided by the publisher, opinions are honest and my own. 3.5 / 5 Stars.

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### **Karsyn says**

Finished ~ Our Broken Sky (Chaos Theory 01.5) by Sarah Harian

Completed 8/18/14

4 of 5 stars

90 page Kindle book

I received this book from NetGalley for my honest review.

I read the first book of this series ~ The Wicked We Have Done ~ back in the end of June and I loved it. I was glad to get this novella from NG for my review.

The problem with having read the book a few months ago is I've read a TON of books in between that one

and this one, so I did not remember who Valerie was until the Compass Room part, then I was like, Ooooooooh, her!

For those who haven't read The Wicked We Have Done, it's a must read, before this book. TWWHD is about a group of teens who have committed crimes. They are sent to the Compass Room which is a place that decides if they are moral or immoral. With Our Broken Sky we learn Val's story about who she is, what she did to get herself landed in the Compass room, her time there, and a brief part of afterward.

Typically I'm not a big fan of novellas. I'd rather read a full length novel any day and I rarely rate novellas anything more than a 3 star, but this one grabbed my attention and kept my attention, so I really did enjoy it. While I would have enjoyed a full book, I don't know that Val would have had enough for one, so I think it was a good choice and it was an enjoyable book over all.

I definitely recommend the books. I LOVED the first book and I can't wait for the next one!

Setting = B

Plot = B+

Conflict = B

Characters = A

Theme = A

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## **Kim says**

Find this review and more at [\*\*kimberlyfaye reads\*\*](http://kimberlyfaye.reads) .

After Sarah Harian took me completely by surprise with The Wicked We Have Done, there was no question at all of whether or not I would continue on with this series. I was hooked nearly from the start of the first book and couldn't wait for more once I finished. I got my wish when I had the opportunity to read and review this novella and now that I've finished, I'm more impressed than ever.

Our Broken Sky is Val's story. She was a great character in The Wicked We Have Done and I was thrilled to learn more about her life before, during and after time spent in the Compass Room. Val's was not a happy story. If you read the first book in the series, you know she was sent to the Compass Room for killing her twin sister's rapists. In this novella, we learn a little more about the relationship between her and her sister and what led Val to commit those crimes. I loved the relationship between Val and Veda. It was obvious Val would do anything to protect her sister and that's a family dynamic I can appreciate. Once on the island, Val befriends Jace and their relationship grows into something really special.

While this novella doesn't offer up much more information about the Chaos Theory, it does a great job of giving more information about a minor character in the series. After reading it, I felt as though I had a great amount of insight into who Val is, where she came from and what motivates her. I applaud the author for the diversity she brought to this series, and this novella specifically. Val and Jace's story might not have had a happy ending, but it was beautiful while it lasted. This novella ensures you recognize that.

What Our Broken Sky did more than anything else, however, is make me incredibly excited to dip back into this world fully with A Vault of Sins. Fortunately I have it on my iPad, ready to go. I just can't wait to see what happens next. I'm sure whatever it is will keep me on the edge of my seat!

*I received a copy of this book from the publisher, via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.*

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## **Amanda Byrne says**

Originally posted at Byrne After Reading:

It's no secret I've become a fan of New Adult romances. But the more of them I read, the farther I wanted to get from the tortured pasts and secrets and lies. Then I found *The Wicked We Have Done* and just about screamed my relief. Finally a New Adult story that gave us something different. FINALLY.

*Our Broken Sky* continues moving away from the angst-ridden stories so prevalent in New Adult romance by giving us the story of Val, who we met in *Wicked*. I had to wonder if it would be worth my time to read something where I already knew how it ended.

It was.

The first half of the novella shows us how Val ended up in the Compass Room to begin with. Not her crime, but the events that motivated her to commit it in the first place. As with *Wicked*, what the public is told isn't the whole story. The second half is Val meeting Jace, seeing their relationship spark and flame.

One of my favorite points in *Our Broken Sky* is when Jace tries to explain to Val that gender doesn't have anything to do with it. She's attempting to explain that she's a virgin, and Val gets combative and offended, thinking Jace is trying to tell her she's willing to "experiment". It makes me wonder if Val experienced what we called (back in college) the "gay 'til graduation" phenomenon. For Jace, that wasn't it at all. It's a matter of the heart wants what it wants, and what the person looks like, and what body parts they have, has nothing to do with it.

The second half is a bit disjointed. Harian seems to be trying to avoid re-treading the same ground she'd already covered in *Wicked*, and the result was a bit rushed. The scenes where Jace and Val are together and learning about each other are compressed. I wanted more room for their feelings to grow. Yes, everything had to happen within the weeks they were in the Compass Room, but in this instance, it was the length of the book that caused the problem, not the time frame.

*Sky* isn't a necessary read as far as the overall story arc of the *Chaos Theory* series. It's a worthwhile one, though, because it not only adds another facet to the events of *Wicked*, but because it's a reminder that not everything needs to be viewed through a heterosexual viewpoint.

More and more, we're seeing m/m romance in mainstream publications (thank you, J.R. Ward). It's a welcome change to see a f/f romance in a mainstream publication (the *Chaos Theory* series is published by Penguin/Intermix). But I wish it wasn't such a big deal. Love is love, and whether it's two dicks, two vaginas, or a dick and a vagina shouldn't matter.

Copy of *Our Broken Sky* provided by the publisher in exchange for review.

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### **Trisha Leigh says**

Um, that wasn't enough!! #moreplease

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### **Dahlia says**

I sped through this novella in one shot on my commute, and it was one of those reading experiences where you look up and realize you have no idea where you are. Those happen to be my favorite :) I was a huge fan of THE WICKED WE HAVE DONE, but I wasn't sure what to expect from a novella that centered around the extremely prickly Val. Not that that was going to stop me from reading this, especially not when it was pitched as "an insanely hot lesbian novella." I was extremely pleasantly surprised at how much I enjoyed the time in Val's perspective, getting to see both the consistently prickly side of her and the vulnerability; the balance of her love of and care for family, and her realistic impatience and connection gaps with them.

By the end of the Before section of this trisectioned novella (which also contains a section during the Compass Room, i.e. the content of THE WICKED WE HAVE DONE, which I highly recommend reading first so as not to have everything spoiled for you), Val felt like a real, fleshed-out character I wanted to spend time with...which actually made it something of a disappointment to remember I wouldn't get nearly as much of her, and of Jace, as I wanted. But when "I wish it was longer so I could spend more time with the characters and the writing" is your biggest complaint...yeah, there are worse things.

Oh, and the "insanely hot lesbian novella" pitch? Accurate.

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### **Erin Arkin says**

Our Broken Sky is a novella in the Chaos Theory series and while I don't normally review novellas I thought I had to say something about this book. This story is about Valerie and I have to admit, she is one of the characters I found most interesting in The Wicked We Have Done. The novella covers a period of time just before Valerie entered prison and it also flips forward to when she is in the Compass Room and meets Jase. If you haven't read book 1, you may want to stop reading here. I won't give any spoilers but anything I talk about might give something away inadvertently.

Valerie is gritty and brash and she doesn't apologize for it - I think that is what I like most about her. She also really cares about her family – her twin sister Veda and her father. Getting the backstory to how Val ended up in prison was nice as it showed there was more to her (which I suspected) than what we saw in The Compass Room . It also showed what lengths she will go to in order to protect the people she loves/cares about. As she plans to get revenge on those who raped her sister, it was almost scary how focused she was - she also had absolutely no remorse for what she did.

Since The Wicked We Have Done is mostly about Evalyn, it was great to have a different perspective on The Compass Room as well as what was happening to each of them. I enjoyed seeing the relationship develop between Valerie and Jase...and then ultimately what happened at the end when she got out. Again, it showed another layer to a character that could have been fairly one dimensional.

If you enjoyed book one, I have a feeling you will enjoy getting a bit of a glimpse into this character and her

story. Perhaps it might even tide you over until A Vault of Sins comes out in September....perhaps. Definitely check this out when you can!

Thank you to Netgalley and Penguin/Intermix for the review copy!

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### **Carole (Carole's Random Life in Books) says**

This review can also be found at Carole's Random Life

I received an advance reader edition of this book from Penguin Group and Net Galley for the purpose of providing an honest review.

4 Stars

*\*Please note that this review may contain spoilers for the first book in the series.\**

This novella is part of the Chaos Theory series. I think that readers who read and enjoyed the first book in the series, The Wicked We Have Done, will also enjoy this novella which is told from Valerie's point of view.

Valerie was one of the more intriguing characters in the first book of the series so I was very interested to see things from her perspective. While this novella is rather short, it packs quite a bit of story into its pages. We learn about Valerie before anything happened. We see her with her twin sister Veda and find out exactly what happened to send Valerie to the Compass Room.

The story then jumps to the Compass Room and we see things from Valerie's perspective. Much of the section within the Compass Room focuses on Valerie and Jace's relationship and the time that they are alone together.

The story jumps once again to the period of time after the Compass Room and we see how Valerie is coping with everything that has happened.

I think that this novella jumps from section to section without much of a link. I enjoyed seeing Valerie's perspective because I already knew the story from the first book. I do not recommend reading this before book 1 because I think that it would be hard to follow and it would give away quite a bit of the plot of the first book.

While I don't think that this novella gave a whole lot of new information, I would recommend it to readers who enjoyed the first book.

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### **Celine says**

This review only contains spoilers if you haven't read *The Wicked We Have Done*.

*Our Broken Sky* tells the story of Val, who's in the Compass Room together with Evalynn, the protagonist of *The Wicked We Have Done*. We see Val together with her family, in the Compass room, and a glimpse of her beyond.

Val is one of the most interesting characters in *The Wicked We Have Done*. She has this really tough exterior, which makes you wonder what's beneath. She has murdered the three guys that raped her twin sister, and has spent years in prison before she's convicted to the Compass Room. It's nice to see the story from her point of view, and to spend some time in her head.

*Our Broken Sky* feels more like a collection of short stories rather than a novella. Novellas are incredibly hard to do well, and this one falls short of the format. It's at this weird, uncomfortable pace, and skips over exactly those scenes I was most looking forward to. For example, the murder of the rapists falls outside of the scope of this book. So does her time in prison. The novella flashes through events at an incredible speed, because if it doesn't, it would evolve into a full length book.

I would recommend *Our Broken Sky* for fans of the Chaos Theory series that are interested in Val. Or in some lesbian lovin, because this novella has plenty of that too. If you're new to the series, don't start here. Almost everything that happens in *The Wicked We Have Done* is described in this novella in a few pages.

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### **Denise says**

*Our Broken Sky* is a short read that I breezed through so quickly I was surprised to find out it was approximately 125 pages. In this tale we find out more about Valerie, an abrasive ill-tempered young woman, who we were first introduced to in book one *The Wicked We Have Done*; where we were also introduced to the Compass Room, which in the future is a new means of reducing the costs of lengthy trials and prison sentences for accused murders and used to determine their guilt or innocence.

This is Valerie's story and what brought her to sentencing in the Compass Room. It is not a pretty tale and is often stark, as well as heartbreakng, but we do get a glimpse into Valerie's character and what makes her who she is and how this result came about.

As a fan of truly well done angst, I have to say I loved this short story and I am a true fan of Valerie. The writing was very well executed and while portions of the tale were violent, the violence was not gratuitous and was first-rate in the delivery. I am once again on the edge of my seat awaiting the next installment in this new series and can't wait to dig in and see where the author takes us next. I received this book via NetGalley.

Posted at <http://www.ismellsheep.com/2014/09/bo...>

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### **Barb Lie says**

*Our Broken Sky* by Sarah Harian is a novella that continues her Chaos Theory series. This being a novella makes this a difficult review, as anything would be spoilers. I will try to explain and just give you mostly my thoughts. You truly do need to read *The Wicked We Have Done*, before you attempt to read this book, or it would be way too confusing. You can read my review on *The Wicked We Have Done* to understand more.

Our Broken Sky revolves around one of the survivors in The Wicked We Have Done...Valerie. We know that everyone who was sent to the scary Compass Room in the first book, committed a crime, and they were expected to not survive. We know Valerie is gay, and a tough young lady. We learn in this book exactly what her crime was to having been sent to the Compass Room. We learn a lot more about Valerie, and what makes her what she is. Harian does a wonderful job, moving the story back to the Compass Room, and we get to see Valerie's view of her stay there, and what happened to change her.

I enjoyed reading this story, and learning about what caused her to commit murder, which made us understand a lot more. It was also nice to see her and Jace again, and how Valerie began to soften up, even though she knew her days were numbered. She found true love. We also knew the ending. I can't say much more, other then this was an excellent filler, as we wait for the next full length novel, *A Vault of Sins*, coming in September that will bring the survivors of The Compass Room back together. I for one cannot wait. Wonderful writing by Sarah Harian, especially in this short format.

Barb  
The Reading Cafe

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### **Christy LoveOfBooks says**

A few months ago I read *The Wicked We Have Done* and really enjoyed it, and I look forward to reading the sequel, *The Vault of Our Sins*. However, it's *Our Broken Sky* that I was excited for. Sure, it's only a novella between the two books, but it's Valerie's story!

In the first book we are introduced to Valerie, one of the prisoners who was chosen to enter the Compass Room. She can be fierce and hot-tempered, but she's also loyal and protective of the ones she loves. Especially her twin sister, Veda. So when Veda is raped and becomes pregnant, Valerie sets out for revenge.

This book takes us back to just prior to the rape and moves forward through her time in the Compass Room. I loved getting Val's perspective of what happened and the circumstances surrounding the incident; it's infuriating and heartbreakng. Honestly, it would be extremely hard for me *not* to do what Valerie did.

Since we only got to see the Compass Room through Evalyn's eyes during the first book, I enjoyed seeing it from Valerie's. It wasn't only that, it was the change and growth she went through from the experience. I was happy to get insight to her feelings for Jace and what an impact she made on her.

I'm not going to lie, I totally developed a girl-crush on Valerie as soon as she was introduced in the previous book. Now, I love her even more!

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### **Teresa Mary Rose says**

More Reviews Here: Readers Live A Thousand Lives

First I just once again need to stress how much I love that New Adult is beginning to branch into other

genres. I love that this series is New Adult and Dystopian; two genres I love have come together and it is pretty damn good. I enjoyed this novella and liked getting a glimpse inside of Val's mind. She was such a great character but a bit of an enigma so I really enjoyed getting to know her better.

This novella was a good companion to The Wicked We Have Done. We were able to see what lead to Val ending up in the Compass Room and how those events affected her. What I love about this series is that the characters always blur the line between good and bad. You can't really condone their actions, but at the same time you can see how they were driven to them. It really makes for interesting characters that are different from the majority of characters out there. The only drawback with this novella is that I thought it went a bit too fast. Yes, I know, it is a novella, but at times I still felt like the story was moving at a super fast pace. Also, if you haven't read The Wicked We Have Done, I'm not sure you would have been able to follow this one.

Other than those tiny things, I really enjoyed Our Broken Sky and would definitely recommend it to fans of the series. If you aren't a fan of the series yet, I suggest you get started on The Wicked We Have Done.

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