



Alone Before You

Claire Scott

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Alone Before You

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With her past haunting her, Gwen Taylor shut herself off from every relationship she ever had.

But her lonely existence comes to an end when she moves to Beauforde, a small mountain town in Colorado. And when she meets Colton Underwood, a businessman and amateur boxer.

Their attraction is consuming, and soon even Gwen can't deny her growing feelings toward Colt or the fact that their affair is anything but casual. But, even as she comes alive for the first time in years, her past threatens to destroy everything.

Drowning with guilt over a something she cannot change, Gwen must face her fears before it all catches up to her.

***WARNING!** This book is recommended for ages 18+ due to explicit sexual content and language that some people may consider offensive. This book is dark erotica and is not intended for young readers. All situations of a sexual nature are consensual, though there is some non-sexual violence and disturbing situations. If you are sensitive to graphic violence or sexual encounters read with caution.

Alone Before You Details

Date : Published June 1st 2017 by Claire Scott

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Author : Claire Scott

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Genre : Romance, Suspense, New Adult, Contemporary, Adult Fiction, Erotica, Sociology, Abuse

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From Reader Review Alone Before You for online ebook

♥? Paulette says

Title: Alone Before You♥?

Author: Claire Scott

Claire Scott's debut book & a very well written story about Gwen Taylor, & all I can say is WOW- and I appreciate the opportunity & can't wait for her next book.

I didn't sleep last night cuz I couldn't put this book down

Warning: This is the first of a trilogy ... so beware CLIFF HANGER ahead.

Gwen

➡Gwen Taylor has had a tragic childhood & she made live on the run from her past. With her paranoid tendencies she had a hard time making friends since she never stayed in one place very long. For some reason Heather was able to break those barriers & get her to open up just bit

➡Gwen is twenty-five years old & she makes her living as an illustrator for erotic books & short stories. She's decided on going to college & moving to a very small sleepy mountain town in Beaforde Colorado

Gwen meets Heather in one of her classes & find it hard resist her friendship. Heather very outgoing, something Gwen wasn't use to. So when Heather invited Gwen to boxing club, she goes unwillingly

➡Colton Underwood- a businessman & amateur boxer. With somewhat similar past as Gwen.

When Cole Meets Gwen just for a moment he is very attracted to her. With all Colt's body strength he is unable to resist unique charm Gwen

Gwen only wanted a one night stand, all she wants is a casual affair with no promises on either side. But it seem that Colt had other ideas

I won't tell you anymore & I highly recommend this book.

If you enjoy erotica with small amount of suspense thriller, you will love this one. It's well written with characters that stand out. Gwen & Colt steamy scenes will have you reaching for something to cool yourself off with

➡Hope you enjoy this read & also always keep in mind this is just my opinion

➡**"I voluntarily reviewed this ARC" ..**

.**In exchange for an honest review.**

Paulette Review ♥?

1- Alone Before You♥?

2- Forsaken Before You

Looking forward to the next one!

Snow says

4 "Take me home..." stars

Gwen Lester experienced the horror of abuse in her childhood that ended tragically for the only person that protected her or at least tried to...and then it all abruptly changed the course of her life...

Although shattered inside, she glued herself from within and decided to take hold of the events that could impact her life-meaning she's controlling and almost obsessively OCD in organizing her life, bit by bit...

She never stays anywhere longer than necessary, her jobs are temporary and freelancing...

Until, she decides to stay in one place a bit longer...she enrolled the college, pursuing a dream of being an artist...but even though she tries to stay under the radar, it's practically impossible to do when she meets Heather, a young woman who desperately needs closeness of others and she recognizes the sadness/loneliness in Gwen...and she wants to help her even if Gwen is reluctant to any physical or emotional encounter...but Heather is nothing more than persistent and Gwen slowly gives in...and lets her in...

But then all of a sudden, Gwen is pulled into a circle of people who seek contact...especially when **Cole 'The Hurricane' Underwood** sees more than a conquest in Gwen...

and there's an emotional struggle within Gwen as she can't let herself fall and break all the rules that held her together...held her life in composition of solid and safe at least from the outside...

maybe I did control my sexual encounters. But it was just my way of protecting myself. I took what I needed and left. In my mind, it was a healthy way to release any built-up tension

and Cole, this determined, demanding alpha won't back down from changing her mind, slowly 'playing by her rules' and showing her that there's more in human touch other than just pleasure...so Gwen doesn't feel threatened by him as long as she thinks she's in control...

I wouldn't fall in love with Colt. That wasn't the danger here. I didn't know how to love or what it was, let alone if I was capable of that emotion anymore. But with Colt, there was a great danger that I'd give something of myself to him. He had unwittingly made me confront certain aspects of my personality that I hadn't known were there. A desire to give up control, a longing for intimacy and impulsiveness, and a craving for mindless pleasure

until she figures out that she's been under his power from the beginning...and now, if she wants to make a change in her life, she needs to let go of control...

But first she needs to forgive herself for the lingering guilt and fight off, both- the lingering ghosts from her past and the very alive menace that still imposes a huge threat over her...stopping her from fully living.

If I wanted to put my plan into action, there could be no more running away. No more

hiding. And no more fear.

This is a moderately fast read, well paced drama with a inner strong heroine that tries to get a hold of her life while compensating gaps from her past with fills of present acts and yet she'll never be fully complete until she lets go...and finally opens up, take that ultimate risk of trust...

However, I'd wished there was more of deeper portrayal of Cole cause he's very imposing with his demanding presence simply commands more of him in that sense...

I m looking forward to seeing the unraveling events of their interactions in the sequel **Forsaken before you**

COPY provided by the author in exchange for an honest review

Cyndi says

So Claire gave me this book so I could give her an honest review. Honestly? Holy crap this chick can write!! From the first few pages you are grabbed by the throat and pulled into a complex and outstanding story. Gwen is one of those characters that breaks your heart. She had endured such horrible trauma and still lives under the threat of more. When she meets Heather she begins to trust another person. They both need each other. Then she meets Colt. He's hot, smart and desires her. The feeling is mutual, but he seems to want more.

All the characters are well developed. You actually see them through Gwen's eyes. I can't wait for the next book and I have my fingers crossed that we get more about Colt (maybe even some if his POV? That would be so cool). And I really want to see Gwen kick some ass. ??

Penny says

Actua Rating: 3.5 stars.

I liked it, it is an interesting story. I quite enjoyed it.

My problem with it is that it has several grammatical errors, which makes it really annoying to read at times.

I'll move on to the next book.

Forsaken (Before You #2) - 4 stars

Madeline ♥? Romance Bibliophile ♥? says

♥♥ 4 Tense Stars ♥♥

This is the first installment of a series, so be ready to invest yourself when you pick this up! I haven't dived into a series in a while, and I'm definitely glad I read this one. Gwen is twenty-five years old and on the run from her past. Her home life was a little less than stellar, to put it mildly, and she's constantly afraid that it'll catch up to her. Needless to say, she has trust issues and has never stayed in one location long enough to make connections with people until now.

I thought the first part of the book moved a little slowly, with it consisting mostly of Gwen's inner dialogue and commentary. However, once she meets Colt, things start picking up in pace and the writing flows much better. Colt is really fucking hot if you're into a subtle dominant male. Contradictory, I know, but Colt doesn't have to make big power plays for Gwen to see he means business. He's ready to claim Gwen as his, but given her past, she's skittish and scared. She doesn't want to put any trust in anyone besides herself and this is something she has to work through in this book.

The sex scenes are smoking hot, and almost make the read worth it for that alone. I loved the tension between these two, and the secondary characters actually had some depth that you don't always see. And Colt is basically my wet dream, so there's that.

I'm excited to see where the plot goes with Gwen's relationship with Colt, as well as with everything going on from her past. I kind of felt like the ending was a little abrupt, and I thought that there could've been a little more suspense than what was there, but overall I really enjoyed this book and will definitely continue reading the rest of the series.

****ARC generously provided by author in exchange for honest review****

Karla says

4 stars!

This book started out heartbreaking we see a bit of what our h Gwen, goes through the pain and loss she has to endure. I'm glad it started that way because it explains why she's so guarded and doesn't let people in. I admire how brave she was she didn't let her past make her a victim but a survivor she had everything planned except to fall in love.

Our H Cole is just what Gwen needs, persistent in breaking down her guard and giving her a reason to finally stop running and face her past. I liked that their relationship took a bit to develop that we first got to be in Gwen's head and she her get comfortable in the new town and that one special friend that never took no for an answer. The story is solid and had a good pace I guess my only complaint would be that I wanted to see Gwen open up to Cole because he was so caring and protective of her but maybe in book 2 will see that. ♥?

Diana says

Alone Before You is not only Claire' Scotts debut book, but is also the first book in a promising new series *Before You*.

Gwen Taylor survived a horrific childhood. Ten years later she already has a job as an erotic illustrator and she driving across the country to Colorado, to follow her dream an attend college. Although Gwen is extremely cautious about her true identity getting out, she reluctantly becomes friends with a classmate, Heather. Because of her past, she is a very strong and independent person, but is socially awkward and has trouble adjusting. Everyday life for her is not easy, between the nightmares and panic attacks.

It is through Heather that she meets drop dead gorgeous Colton Underwood, an amateur boxer and club owner. There is insta/lust between Gwen and Colt right away. Even though Colt is definitely an alpha and wants Gwen to be his, Gwen is reluctant because she knows she cannot commit if she is always looking over her shoulder for trouble. She is in fear for not only her life, but for the lives of her friends. Even though she is trying to hide her past, her friends know she is running from something/someone.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this story. The side characters were very likeable, but it was all about Colt for me. He was definitely an alpha male that knew what he wanted, and it was Gwen. Colt and Gwen were smoking hot together and I thought it was funny how Gwen didn't fall all over him like other girls did. She had no problem pushing him away, which he was certainly not used to.

I would not consider the ending a huge cliffy, but Book 2 in the series, *Forsaken Before You* is due to be released September 1.

WARNING: (view spoiler)

I received a copy of this book directly from the author in exchange for an honest review,. Thank you, Ms. Scott.

K says

5 Stars!!

This book was sent to me to give an honest review. And I LOVED it! You know a book is going to be great when you are instantly captivated by the first page. So let me tell you I was 100% captivated!

The prologue started out with a particularly dark traumatic scene that involved child abuse. I have never read a book that had "graphic" child abuse in it so as you can imagine I was completely shocked :o

Even though it was more dark than what I am use to reading, it was completely necessary and explained the main character's trust and OCD like issues as an adult. These issues not only impact her sense of security but instill an obsessive psychological need to separate herself from everyone in her life in order to protect them from her childhood abuser (her father who is getting released from prison).

However, throughout the book Gwen develops such a sweet friendship with this girl named Heather, who has issues of her own and proves that she will accept Gwen no matter what.

And then Gwen meets this amazingly hot boxer/club owner named Colt. Their intimacy is immediate and so

passionate!! Gwen knows Colt makes her feel safe but she is very insistent on not having anything other than friends with benefits with him. I cannot wait to see how their relationship plays out in the next book! I hope she reveals her past to him...I'm dying to know what his reaction will be!

Overall this book was a very enjoyable read. I recommend it to readers who love dark suspenseful yet smutty reads!

~Anna**~ A Romance Reader says**

This was a great read! The Prologue was heartbreaking and it set the tone of the book. It helped me understand Gwen and why she is the way she is. She hasn't had a great life and has a lot of traumas, but is trying to fulfill her dreams and carry on. When she moves to a small city she meets Heather, which by the way is awesome, and her boyfriend Gabe. Gabe is best friends with Colt, our H and a swoon worthy character. He's so sexy and hot! From the first moment we meet him not only did he captivate Gwen but me also! I was so intrigued by him.

Gwen and Colt's story is not an easy one due to Gwen's past, but he's so amazing and patient. Their chemistry was off the charts and I really enjoyed their banter. This is the first book in a series and their story is just beginning, so it's more physical than emotional, although Colt wants to go all in. This story does end on a cliffhanger, but to be honest is not a bad one. I don't usually enjoy CH but this one didn't really bother me.

Overall this was a sexy, hot, emotional read. I can't wait to read the next installment and see how Gwen and Colt's relationship unfolds.

Bex (Beckie Bookworm) says

??? STARS

I enjoyed *Alone before you* by Claire Scott immensely.

From the opening scene which was so dramatic, I was transfixed with this book.

I would describe this novel to be of the New Adult genre and also just to add that this was my first experience with this particular author.

So *Alone before you* is the first book in a trilogy and this sets the stage for the whole upcoming saga.

So as I said earlier, as soon as this starts we are thrown right into the fray of what is Gwen Taylor's tragic upbringing.

Initially, we are given a brief snippet into her existence before then fast-forwarding into the present, where Gwen is now basically on the run, trying unsuccessfully to escape her past.

Sick of moving and wanting to lay down some roots, Gwen decides to settle in Beauforde, a small mountain town in Colorado as she decides she wants to attend school to do an art degree.

Here she meets Colton Underwood, an amateur boxer and local businessman who instantly upon running into Gwen sets her in his crosshairs.

Gwen is quite happy to oblige but only in a booty call scenario only as she doesn't do relationships.

I get the impression that Colton doesn't usually either but he's so drawn to and intrigued by Gwen he's quite willing to make an exception just this once.

It's quite apparent that Gwen is uncomfortable around people mostly due to her tragic past and her current unwillingness to mingle as she feels so unworthy of anyone's attention.

Her past really has done a massive number on her in this instance.

We also get introduced to some extremely interesting secondary characters here, I'm so adoring the friend Heather, she seems such a real sweetie and exactly what Gwen needs at this time in her life, and also being Gwen's first ever friend well that's just epic.

The sex scenes here are hot and sweaty and every time Colton opened his mouth and called Gwen babe I got bloody tingles, all the way down to my toes.

I'm also so loving the suspense angle in regards to Gwen's dad can't wait to see where this is going.

So, in conclusion, though I don't read many NA novels I really did enjoy this one and would be happy to recommend this.

If you're looking for a solid hot suspenseful read then give this a try.

I was gifted a copy of "Alone By You" of which I have reviewed voluntarily.

All opinions expressed are entirely my own.

Reviewed By Beckie Bookworm

<https://www.facebook.com/beckiebookworm/>

www.beckiebookworm.com

Natalie The Biblioholic says

3.5 "Me Before You" stars

You know an author's talented when you can hate the narrator but still enjoy the heck out of the story. I couldn't stand Gwen Taylor. Aside from my sympathy for the past abuse she endured, my patience didn't run high for her. She was inconsiderate, rude, and her reactions were too exaggerated. I get that she had an abusive past. Shoot, so did I. Granted, that scene in the beginning wasn't something I could relate to, but I was lost as to why she took the precautions she did when there wasn't any existence of a threat. Well, not right away anyway. The perpetrator was in prison and she was free to live her life. But she didn't. In fact, she was so against living a 'normal' life and so steeped in her unrealistic guilt, that she was completely unrelatable to me. However, I loved this story. I enjoyed the premise of the plot, the side characters were entertaining, and I found myself increasingly interested in watching how things would unfold for Gwen. I think the major contribution to my interest was Colt. Even though nothing gave me any true insight into his character, he came across as sweet but dominant, warm and understanding, and sexy as all hell. I would have greatly appreciated his perspective on things because there were many instances in which the story seemed one-dimensional. It could be because I didn't feel the connection to anyone. I'm hoping the next book, ***Forsaken Before You***, will change my mind ;)

Release Date: June 1, 2017

Genre: Contemporary Romance

POV: Heroine - 1st person

Heat: 3.5 out of 5

Type: Book 1 of the Before You series

Missy's Book World says

5/5 Stars

I stayed up all night because I could not put this book down it was that amazing. I can't wait to read the second book in the series "Forsaken Before You".

I really loved "Alone Before You"! This book was really well-written. Gwen had a horrible childhood but she did not let it break her completely she made a life for self and does really well as an erotic illustrator. Gwen never stays in one place too long she moves constantly trying to out run her past. But when she moves Beaforde a small town it changes everything. Gwen meets Colt and she starts to feel something for him she has never felt before and that scares her. Colt is a total Alpha Male. I can't wait to see were their relationship goes to in "Forsaken before You".

Carol says

4 + stars.

Wow, I really enjoyed this sexy, edgy read that I was offered by the author in exchange for an honest review. I couldn't put it down.

What I didn't expect however was that this book was a cliffhanger. I may have mentioned before how much I struggle with cliffhangers. I just have a really hard time with unfinished stories and will usually wait until I have all books readily available to read and then binge on all of them.

This was especially true for this book as I was so taken with Claire's characters and and the direction of the story that I "sighed" hugely upon reaching the last page.

I must admit that the first chapter was a little difficult for me to read as it details the heroine's abuse by her father at a much younger age and death of her brother but it laid the ground work for a really great story.

After that I was captivated by Gwen she was an interesting, awesome heroine and I really liked her. When she enrolls at Beauforde's prestigious college of Fine Arts in a small mountain town, she meets and develops a friendship with Heather a fellow student. Heather is endearing and the perfect best friend for a loner like Gwen. Not long after that she meets the sexy Colt and believe me the scenes between him and our heroine are sizzling.

We also start to see Gwen open up to people after running away and being secretive for so long though she is still fearful about her whereabouts being discovered by her father.

This was a good read and now I WANT MORE.

Hanne says

Gwen has been on run for years now, but she wants to settle down somewhere and fulfill her dream of going to college. At college, she meets Heather, who brings her in contact with Colt. Gwen doesn't like what Colt does, but she's attracted to him. Colt wants her and will fight for her. Gwen won't make it easy for him, but she can only fight against the attraction for so long.

I love Gwen and Colt. Gwen is sweet, feisty, talented and a little damaged. She's amazing at her job and authors want her as their illustrator. I already felt for Gwen in the prologue. It painted the picture of her horrible childhood. Her past still affects her present life. She doesn't want to fall in love. Colt of course wants to change that, because he wants her desperately. It has been long since he has shown some interest in a woman and that he wants more. It's also so refreshing for him that someone doesn't know him. Colt is truly an amazing man. He's rich, protective, talented, successful, caring and muscular. He knows that Gwen is hiding something, but he never pushes her to tell him.

This book also has some fantastic secondary characters. Heather is such an amazing friend and the friend that Gwen needs. Heather is caring, sweet, outgoing and genuine. She has a strong, solid relationship with a great guy! Something has happened to her and I felt for her when it was revealed.

Alone Before You is the amazing debut novel by Claire Scott. It's hot and a little suspenseful. This book doesn't end with a big cliffhanger, but there are definitely things still left unsolved and Colt and Gwen's relationship isn't strong nor solid. I can't wait to continue Gwen and Colt's story and read more about them falling in love.

-- My honest review is based on a copy provided by the author. --

Myla says

Gwen Taylor is always on the move to escape her tumultuous past. She's always careful in dealing with other people and as much as possible she doesn't want to be close to anyone. Being an adult illustrator for a publishing company, she didn't have to worry about money. And there's one thing Gwen really want to do and that's finishing collage. Settling to a small town, for the time being, she enrolled to an art school. Here she met Heather, a bubbly personality and wants to be her friend, of course Gwen isn't too excited about it. But Heather is persistent and finally Gwen gave in. Being friends with Heather, led her to meet Colt Underwood, an underground fighter with oozing sex appeal. It takes some time for these two get down and dirty, so-to-speak, but when they did it's hot, hot, and hot.

"I found his authoritative commands tantalizing. For the first time ever, sex was something completely pleasurable and natural."

Just when Gwen thought everything seems to be going great, a mysterious phone call came with a warning. Gwen has to decide; will she run away again or stay and face whoever is looking for her?

This is a debut book from Author Claire Scott and I absolutely like it. I enjoyed her way of writing, her characters are well developed, and pacing of each scene is just right. A real page-turner! This book ends with a cliffy, you've been warned. I'm looking forward to read the next book in this series. So, if you're into this kind of book, I highly recommend it!

Note: Free copy generously provided by author in exchange for honest review.

