



Wake Up Call

Victoria Ashley

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Avery Hale had spent her whole childhood abused by her drunken, drugged up parents. Broken from a lifetime of hatred and pain, she grew up realizing that trust and love just didn't exist. Not in her world at least. After turning the age of eighteen, she packed up and moved far away, determined to escape her painful past and start a new life for herself. Once on her own, she comes to the conclusion that the emptiness still exists. In order to survive, she found herself mixed up in exotic dancing and meaningless sexual relationships, numb to any emotion, for anyone. She was sure that her life was worthless and there was nothing left for her, this was the best it would get.

After meeting a beautiful stranger, her life suddenly is turned upside down. Everything she believed suddenly gets questioned. She is left to figure out if there is really more to her than she could ever have imagined.

Jace, having some secrets of his own, puts the pain of his own past behind to do what he can to help Avery. Can the love of another broken person be enough to help Avery, or is she already too far gone?

Avery's life is pulled in many directions as she tries to find herself, and not everyone and thing is what they seem to be in this story of love, trust and opening up. Finding herself and learning to love herself might just be the hardest thing she's ever had to do.

Wake Up Call Details

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From Reader Review Wake Up Call for online ebook

Cindy says

Favorite Quotes:

He looked down into the car at me as I sat there, frozen in time. "Well are you coming in or do you want me to bring my bathroom outside and clean you up?" He laughed in amusement and walked to the front door, looking confident and sexy as he let himself inside.

"Sounds good, but I get to pick the movie," I said playfully. "Okay, but nothing too girly. I'm a manly man," he said, nudging me in the side as we pulled into the video store.

He smiled at me and turned on the TV. "Are you feeling uncomfortable?" He grabbed my shoulder and gently pulled me against his body. It made my stomach flip. "You can lean against me for support. I'm pretty comfortable." He rested his head next to mine and placed his lips next to my ear. "I don't bite," he whispered. I love you, Avery." He pressed his forehead to mine and looked me in the eye. "I truly do." I reached out and touched his soft face. It felt so good under my palm. It still felt like a dream world to me. "I love you too, Jace. More than you can ever know."

When I saw the cover of this book I went Oh yeah I have to read it. But what I found when I opened it and started reading was not what I expected. I expected a sensual story of love. Well I got that and more. I got a story about suffering, healing, forgiveness, trust, friendship and love.

Avery is a young woman who feels she cannot trust, love or allow anyone close to her. She has been through heartache and abuse both mental and physical most of her life. She ran away to get away from it. She did what she had to survive, until she meets Jace.

Jace is a man with demons also but from the first minute he saw Avery he knew he would do anything he can to protect Avery. He started with saving her life, gave her a place to live and a job. The attraction between them scared both of them but Jace knew he would be there for her and slowly realized that he would love her forever. Slowly Avery realizes that he was the man of his word and would always protect her. But would her past catch up to her and destroy what she built or would she finally find the one person she could not live without?

This was an amazing story, one that captured your attention from the beginning to end. I did not put the book down until I finished it and didn't want to. This was a story that you felt that you were part of it. She captured your attention with the interaction between the characters. The more I read, the more I wanted to go and find Avery's mom and dad and have a long, long talk with them. Well maybe not talk but show them really show them and let them feel just what they did and how much hurt they cause Avery.

Coco.V says

?FREE on Amazon today (10/15/18)!

Nikki says

"Avery a girl that is shattered, crushed and without hope, she has to do what she needs to do, to survive a harsh card dealt in life to her. As she takes you on her emotional journey you'll find out that there is light at the end of her dark tunnel. She finds her solace in Jace cool; calm, collected not forgetting tall; dark, devilishly hansom he saves her in more ways than one; the only guy that she drops her metal shutters for. She rescues him right back. A story that will have you so addicted you want to keep reading on to the next chapter. Total addictive.!

Beautifully written with attention to detail, that's very alluring and breathtaking. Full of plots; twists and lots of drama. In all honesty a sign of an amazing author You will not be disappointed.

Suitable for 13's and over.xD

Sheri says

Avery is a barely 19-year-old on her own and struggling day by day just to get by. Unable to find a job due to lack of experience, she has resorted to stripping to keep herself off the street. When she finds herself in a situation she cannot figure out how to get out of on her own, she relies on enigmatic and sexy Jace – though only because she really has no other choice. Avery does not trust easily, or at all, but Jace is determined to help her and will push until she cannot take it anymore.

As for the characters, Avery was really hard to like at first. Sure she had had a hard life, but when reading a book you want the character to have overcome the odds, to be different, to be kind and caring despite her past, but Avery was not like that. After the first couple of chapters I really did not like her much at all, and I was worried that her personality would bring the whole story down for me. However, she did grow on me. She was still hard and determined not to let anyone close, but she had her reasons, and she did try.

Jace was pretty awesome, though pushy at times, but I guess that's an admirable quality in an alpha male, which he definitely is. He's just really an overall nice guy, the kind of guy who when he sees someone in need he reaches out to them. This obsession with helping people has gotten him hurt in the past, but it does not stop him from helping Avery.

Overall the story was good and the writing was good, but there were many grammatical errors throughout the book, which I would not even mention if they were few and far between, but they were frequent, and having my eye catch on them and cause me to stop reading really took away from the story. There were also a couple of eye rolling moments for me in the story where I just thought, like that would really happen, and loose ends tied up too quickly or too neatly, but overall I enjoyed the story. Thank you to the author for providing me with a copy of her book.

Jamie Roberts says

I rate this book a solid ***FOUR STARS***

[Click here to see more reviews by Jamie, Morgan & Dana](#)

This story is told in the 1st person POV from Avery's perspective. I personally, really liked Avery's character and I felt like I connected easily with her from page one. She comes from an extremely abusive past and still carries all of her emotional baggage with her every single day. The beginning of the book really captured my attention. I was easily drawn into her lifestyle as a stripper, barely able to make ends meet.

While working one evening, Avery makes eye contact with this new mysterious guy, but she's never is able to go speak to him, which leaves her even more curious about who he is. She then runs into him by chance soon after inside his restaurant, The Indy Go. From that point on, they start a new friendship/relationship that differs from the friendship she currently had with her fuck buddy/friend, Caleb.

Jace is the epitome of this dream boyfriend. He willingly gives her a job at his restaurant, offers her a room at his place to stay, and freely listens to her whenever she wants to talk. Although, she has very little trust in him and constantly struggles opening up her feelings to him, Jace still holds out for her in hopes that one day she will come around and finally open up her past to him.

“When I first saw you, there was something in your eyes that told me you needed me. I needed you too.” - Jace

I really liked how the author was able to create detailed scenes from Avery's past through Avery's dreams. The author painted a good picture on how abusive her father was to her. The flashbacks were so well written that at times it made me physically nauseous to continue reading on.

One thing that bothered me about this story was all the sexual build-up in parts, but the author never actually wrote a full sex scene. I personally feel that including a sex scene would have helped the reader connect better with both Jace and Avery emotionally as they were building their relationship. There were a few parts that indicated they were getting ready to have sex and then the chapter would abruptly end. This really frustrated me.

Overall, I think the story was well written and is worth the read, as long as you go into it knowing this story is full of emotional drama and has a low sexual steam level. I give this story 4 star rating! I recommend this book to anyone who likes to read New Adult or Contemporary Romance stories filled with characters learning to overcome their troubled pasts and trying to move on with their lives.

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-XOXO

Reading, Eating & Dreaming

Lily ?? says

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for a review.

DNF. Honestly, I think I may have lost brain cells to this book.

When I decided on reading *Wake Up Call* I was hoping for a experience similar to when I read *Unteachable* - I was hoping for another New Adult novel to prove to me that they don't all consist merely of the simple formula of damaged characters and shamelessly graphic love scenes. However, *Wake Up Call* was so far from achieving that, it might as well have been (--).

Let me say that I don't mind the I'm-messed-up-because-of-my-horrible-past storyline if it is well executed, and there is enough complexity to the cause, and foundation to work with - but that wasn't the case here. All we get are extremely melodramatic and over-the-top dream-flashbacks where our protagonist Avery, and/or her mother are beaten up by her father. That's all that's (hastily) thrown at us every few chapters or so - enough to justify Avery's mistrust of men. Enough to make sure the reader knows that she has big trust issues when it comes to men, that she thinks they are not to be trusted, and that she will never, ever, ever trust any of those despicable creatures (see what I did there?), and move on to the designated storyline that consists of very obvious set-ups leading up to the focus of the story: girl ~~meets~~ loves boy. Really, I had the impression Victoria Ashley had thought: "oh, I want the two of them to have a scene like this, and that, and this, this, and wouldn't that be super hot? And *that* would be awesome too, right? And now, let's string all of those scenes together, okie dokie!"

I'm not even going to elaborate on the writing, which did absolutely nothing to impress me. Let me just note that besides the less than stellar construction and collocation of sentences, most of them started with 'I', 'he', and 'she', and were choppy and cringe-inducing.

But let's focus on the plot. Our protagonist works at a strip club, because she basically has no qualifications that would allow her to get a decent job, and she's broke to the point where she'd do pretty much anything to earn money - except for sleeping with strangers, because she already has that part covered due to the lucky acquaintance of her male 'friend' Caleb, a guy who genuinely cares about her, but whom she doesn't let herself get close to, because, I quote: "I haven't been able to trust a man ever since my father, and nobody was going to change that."

But all that is about to change; one night, while she's at the strip club, dancing at the pole, she catches the gaze of a guy standing at the bar, beer bottle in hand.

"He was gorgeous. He lifted his tattooed arm, tilting back his head as he took a long sip of his beer. He had those bad boy good looks with his jet-black hair, leather boots and V-neck t-shirt. It fascinated me and somehow had me curious."

And of course, insta love isn't far away anymore when she is fascinated by a handsome (apparently) bad guy looking at her while she's dancing at the pole (~~oh, imagine the surprise when you realize someone is actually watching you when you're up there~~). But what I failed to grasp is what exactly "fascinated [her] and somehow had [her] curious"; that jet-black hair of his, his leather boots, or that V-neck t-shirt? His tattoos? The beer bottle in his hand?

Good thing, though, that it's a wrap for her for the night (after one dance), because on the ride home by Caleb (whom she treats like shit, despite the fact that he always picks her up from "work" to make sure she's okay, and genuinely worries about and wants the best for her) she has all the time in the world to think about Tattoo Guy.

"The ride passed quickly, I sat in silence and closed my eyes, fighting the image of the strange man that filled my mind. I had dealt with others like him before but there was something different in his eyes. Something that made my stomach ache."

I'm going to overlook the minor aspect that she calls meeting someone's gaze "dealing with," but I'm unable to comprehend how in approximately two seconds she has seen something different in a person's eyes, and it makes her stomach ache. And all this happens in the first half of the first chapter. This is ... it's too much. Too soon.

Of course, she winds up having breakfast at said guy's place the next morning, where she behaves like a complete and utter bitch after a waitress mistakenly serves her the wrong dish. She demands to talk to the boss, and embarrassingly enough ends up insulting Hot Guy, because she doesn't believe him when he tells her he's the boss here, and she then proceeds to leave, quite mortified. He runs after her because he's *so worried* about her not getting breakfast, and needs to *make sure* she gets something to eat.

And he actually apologizes in his waitresses stead:

Several minutes later, Jace returned with a plate full of steaming food. He set down the plate in front of me, smiled, and was about to walk away before I waved my hand.

"What's all this?" I questioned. "I told you just corn beef-"

"Just eat it," he said firmly. "I had a talk with the waitress and she explained everything to me. Boyfriend issues. It's no excuse." He leaned against the table and crossed his arms across his chest. "I sent her home; she's usually one of my best waitresses."

And then we get to the scene where he just happens to be around when she's being assaulted by a stranger. Of course our Knight In Shining Armour is ready to punch some sense into that gross guy and rescue her.

"Let me help you," he whispered. "I won't hurt you." He kneeled down in front of me and gently grabbed my face in his soft, cool hands. I looked up slowly to find myself staring into the same emerald eyes that I had first seen at The Indy Go. The softness in them made me weak.

Instead of jerking away, I found myself falling into his firm chest as another round of helpless tears came, hot against my skin. As much as I hated being touched - with Jace, it didn't bother me at the moment. In fact, as I lay in his arms I felt safe for the first time in a long time.

He then notices she's hurt, and wants to take her home with him, but she refuses, because she has to earn some money, or else she's out on the street, and she tells him so, and what happens next?

I felt a pair of hands grip my waist as he hoisted me off the ground, face close to mine, as

he carried me toward his car like a mischievous child. It both excited and shocked me at the same time. I opened my mouth to scream, but was quickly silenced by his soothing smile and gentle disposition.

And the book carries on in this manner, no, it actually gets worse. She ends up living at his apartment, and blah-de-blah, you can pretty much see where this is going. I stopped at the part where both Avery and Jace were in the same room, Avery with Caleb, and Jace with a girl named Emma, and both of them were trying to make each other jealous by sticking their tongues down their partners' throats and doing other M-rated stuff, while watching each other.

Wake Up Call is the stereotypical NA novel that will get mostly four and five star ratings, reviews consisting of pictures of hot guys and gorgeous girls, and declarations of how utterly awesome and amazing it is, because so many are dying to lap up a love story of a hopeless, messed up female character falling in love with a handsome guy with an equally troubled past, who will help her figure out a way to overcome her issues. Throw in countless steamy smut scenes and everyone is happy.

Carol (StarAngel's Reviews) Allen says

Book provided by author in exchange for an honest review

4.5 Amazing Stars

If you are looking for a book full of suffering and healing, then this is the book for you!

This story grabbed me from the very beginning since it delve right into the painful life Avery was leading.

Avery came from a childhood full abuse from her father and sometimes mother. She was programmed to think she was worthless and would never make anything of herself. Jace first sees her stripping at a "hole in the wall" bar and then rescues her from an over zealous fan.

Jace knows that Avery has been abused and makes it his crusade to save this girl from continuing to live a life in hell. Jace gives Avery a place to live, a decent job and joys of a childhood she never had.

We follow Avery growing from a life of self destruction to gaining her courage and self worth back. Even though Avery is happy, she didn't seem destined to continue this, instead she is met with painful reminders in dreams and visits from people of her past.

This is a beautiful, heart wrenching journey of two people destined to find love and happiness!

My hats off to Victoria Ashley and her first book!

Will says

This book kept me hooked. I wasn't much of a reader until I found this book. There wasn't a dull moment and it was easy to feel for the characters. I would recommend this to everyone who enjoys to read or even to those that don't. Victoria Ashley

Roz Ward says

I love this. Like truly madly deeply love this. Jace really is scrumptious and as perfect as she says he is! I love that it's a stand alone. So many authors drag out the story, making us readers wait for months. This was told with just enough details without going over the top. The epilogue was lovely, giving enough closure to make me go warm and fuzzy! Everything about this was enough, it was never too much or too little but just enough. Perfect in fact! I want what Jace and Avery have ❤

Erin says

This was almost a "did not finish". But, because I have issues (OCD) with not finishing books that I start, I eye-rolled my way through and carried on.

I had this at 1 star but bumped it up to 2 because I honestly think the book had potential. I liked Jace a lot. I didn't connect with Avery but I didn't dislike her, really...I just didn't understand her or feel anything for her and I think that's a result of really choppy writing. Her story was sad, I *should* have been heartbroken for her but I just couldn't get there. There was a lot of exposition (which drives me crazy at the best of times...and yes, I know sometimes it's necessary) but there wasn't any flow.

There were some cute moments but mostly it just felt like one scene jumped to another as if there was a checklist of scenes to be included in the book:

1. Avery's in danger, Jace comes to the rescue, Avery resists his heroics 'cuz, of course, she can take care of herself but eventually caves and goes home with random stranger rescuer. Check.
2. Must create drama with potential love triangle/square...insert random scene with awkward, "make him/her jealous", voyeuristic, makeout session while leading on the people you're using to create the jealousy. Check.
3. Must include serious life threatening scene which makes the reluctant-to-love character realize the full extent of his/her feelings...as in, he/she can NOT live without the other. Check.

etc.

I get that it's tough to write a completely original story, I do. I know that there are always going to be similar patterns. Again, I just think that it was really obvious here because of the (to me) choppy writing.

I had issues with the editing too. I always do...I'm not sorry. I'll say this again so that I'm clear, I get that with self publishing there are almost always going to be *some* mistakes...it's easy to miss certain things when it's just you and maybe a beta reader or two going through the finished product...but, in this case there were

little things happening all the way through the book. Names weren't always capitalized. Apostrophes were missing in a lot of possessive nouns. "Of" was used instead of "have" - "I knew that she had to of heard me." - ugh.

And then, almost everything was overly descriptive. If your readers have a vivid imagination, they're literally picturing things happening as they're reading. So...

"I stared at the pink sheet of paper held up by a rusty, metal pin. I hadn't even realized that it was already the 10th of September and I was still \$400 behind from last month's rent. ..."

Frustrated, I yanked the freshly printed-paper off of the door, shoved my key into the lock, and turned before running inside and slamming the wooden door shut behind me. I exhaled in defeat, leaning against the door as the thick tears began to stream down my face. I grabbed my head in both hands and allowed myself to fall to the floor..."

It's just all SO dramatic. The verbs are all so aggressive: yanked the paper, shoved the key, slamming the door, grabbed my head... which is fine, I guess...it just (to me) ends up creating a kind of comical visual. Also, she's staring at the door, so I'm assuming she was at a standstill...then, after shoving the key and turning, she "ran" inside and slammed the door behind her and ended up leaning against the door...so when she was "running inside" she ran what...? one, maybe two steps over the threshold and stopped to slam the door and lean against it? Again, with the visual. It ends up being ridiculous.

"I sat on the edge of the sink and stared at myself until my vision blurred. It had to of been for hours."

First: "It had to HAVE been for hours."

Second: the vision I have in my head of this scene is Avery straddling the sink...'cuz how else would she be sitting on the edge of the sink and staring at herself in the mirror? It could've been: "I lifted myself up to sit sideways on the edge of the sink, turning to stare at myself in the mirror until my vision blurred..." or something.

FYI: At this point we're only up to page 18.

"I began to play with the strap on my purse nervously before I finally looked up, swiveling my head to the left..."

"Turning my head...". Turning would've worked fine here...swiveling makes it seem very exorcist-like.

Then, during a "you're behind on rent, you're out of here" interaction with Avery's angry landlord: **"My old landlord crossed his eyes and sighed in frustration as he reached for his set of keys and opened the door. "You have one hour to get your shit out."**

He "crossed his eyes"...really?? How about he "growled" in frustration. Or just leave it as "he sighed"...you've got gigantic, menacing looking Jace with you...I can see the landlord backing down a little bit and giving in and "sighing in frustration"...but crossing his eyes?? Comical again. Not what you're looking for in this scene, I assume.

"I hurriedly hung up the phone..."

"emptied out my dresser clumsily"

"glared at me dirtily"

Way too many adverbs all the way through. It makes it seem like you're trying too hard, IMO. Sometimes less really is more. Sometimes less paints a better, albeit more vague, picture which sets the scene but leaves some things open to reader interpretation.

But, then again, maybe I'm just over thinking all of this...taking every word I read too literally? Either way, as I said, I think this had potential, I just think it was poorly executed.

Nikki Anne says

A must read! Avery seems to have given up hope for a better life and has settled for the life she thinks she deserves until in walks Jace *swoon*. Jace has problems of his own but sometimes having another person in your life who is not perfect can help you move forward to something better. The problem is trusting not only the other person but trusting yourself and your feelings while allowing yourself to feel those feelings. Avery and Jace are two characters you will root for their HEA from the beginning.

Lisa says

ARC Given to Blog for Honest Review

DNF

1 Kiss

I am really sad this book didn't work out for me. I had heard such great things about it and was really hopeful, but when I realized within the first few pages I wasn't connecting, I knew it probably wasn't going to be the book for me. And I realize that not every book can, it's illogical to think so...but I can't help but be upset.

What didn't work for me...I am an emotional reader and this book was lacking any emotional connection to the girl telling the story. We knew what she was doing, how she was doing it, all the little details but very little else connecting me to what she was thinking, how she was feeling, why she was doing it, the basics that I need to connect me with a book...the plot...the characters.

Another thing for me was the over detailing...everything was described, to the point of annoyance for me. It got to be redundant and over the top, where I knew that whatever was going to be described next was going to have an adjective before it giving me some sort of depiction, necessary or not. I'm really not trying to be mean but there is a way to describe something without being staccato and robotic and this just wasn't it for

me.

The point that really got me was when she decides it's a good idea...after being attacked...to go to a stranger's house that she has seen like, three times. How is that an intelligent thing to do? She knows nothing about him other than what he looks like and that he goes to strip clubs. You can go anywhere else in the world **other** than his house and I would have been ok-ish with it. When you cross the lines of common sense, that's when I can't be okay with the plot line.

I will blame my dislike on my personal tastes – everyone has their likes and dislikes, this book just had too many of my dislikes for me to continue reading it.

Amy Rogers says

I absolutely love and adore this book! I've been gushing over it long after I finished reading it! This book is such a sweet book! Jace is just a absolute dream! My heart hurt for Avery and everything that she went through. I was so happy that she had Jace to pick up the pieces of her shattered life although he held his own heart ache. He selflessly but himself last and befriended Avery and gave her everything that she needed. What started out as friends quickly blossomed into something much stronger. These two were absolutely perfect for each other! I always say that this book is such a gem! One of my favorites by Victoria Ashley!

Christie72 says

Avery is a beautiful girl that is in such a dark place that she may never be able to find her way out. Life has completely shattered her, so she has turned off all feelings and emotions. She is probably one of the saddest female characters I have come across in a long time. But, I couldn't help but love her. Despite her tragic past, she is a survivor. She doesn't have friends and her only relationships are sexual. As she hits her lowest level, she meets a handsome stranger, Jace, who just may hold the key for healing for Avery.

I loved Jace and Avery. At times, I would get sooo frustrated with her as Jace would show her in every way how much he cared for her. I just wanted to shout, "What more proof do you need?" "Can't you see how much this gorgeous guy loves you?" But, I could understand how she couldn't let go of the vise she had on her heart. Victoria Ashley really did her research on abuse victims and what it takes for them to recover. Of course, I just adored Jace. He was PERFECT, and did I mention GORGEOUS???? I loved all the other characters as well (except the obvious villians) and how they all are able to help Avery's heart thaw.

Wake Up Call was so much more than a hot romance. It was a story of healing, redemption, second chances, and love. I wish that others who might be experiencing the same things as Avery will find hope through her story. And, I absolutely loved that there was an epilogue that allowed me to see how things turned out for the characters in the future. I have just added Victoria Ashley as one of my favorite new writers.

Beth Kiamil says

I first found this book on Wattpad and it was the first one I managed to read. It's safe to say I was hooked from the very beginning. It has such a great plot line, and whilst it does have the fairytale happy ending; in my opinion, it is very much what real life could be like for some people. It is a book that describes all kinds of different emotions in such detail that it gets your own heart going along with the words you're reading on the page.

A short and sweet review, but what more can I say for a book and story that I fell in love with. My congratulations to Victoria on writing such brilliant piece of work!
