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A.L. Parks , Anne L. Parks

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Bereaved bride Abby Clark is tortured by visions of the fatal crash that took her fiancé on their wedding day. She succumbs to a dark existence where loneliness, sadness and nightmares dwell; until handsome, brooding Bryce Holden walks through the door of her favorite coffee shop, wearing the same cloak of despair and grief. Abby discovers in Bryce someone who understands love and loss, and soon their close friendship grows into a deep love. But ghosts make strange bedfellows, and Abby is forced to battle the tormenting images that continue to haunt her, and confront the ethereal presence of a beloved wife to protect her future with Bryce.

Strangers Details

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Darcey Pickett says

Strangers
By: AL Parks

Love blooms from grief...

Grief is a cruel emotion that steals happiness and brings despair. Abby is beautiful, young and on the verge of her happily ever after. Fate steps in and deals a cruel hand on what was to be the most romantic day of her life. From the depths of her depressions, she steps out on that fateful anniversary to do as she has done for the last few years, spending time at the local coffee shop, planning the rest of the emotionally draining day's events. Gazing around at her surroundings she catches his eye, eyes that bear the unmistakable mark of grief.

Bryce, yum...Bryce is a handsome, sweet and thoughtful man, who knows too well how overwhelming grief can be. He too has lost a piece of his soul. Being new to the area, he finds his way to the same coffee shop where he immediately connects with this beautiful stranger.

Their relationship is built on a strong foundation of friendship, respect and love. Both Abby and Bryce are experiencing the haunting of their lost loves. Can they silence the ghostly voices?

Strangers is AL Parks debut novel, however after blazing through this beautifully emotional story, I found it hard to believe that a debut novel could offer such depth. This book took me on an emotional rollercoaster of their relationship. I adore the way this story developed. It was a breath of fresh air that the couple – Abby and Bryce didn't fall into immediate love or lust. It took a path of a sought after fantasy most women have – friendship first. If you are looking for a new type of romance, I highly recommend you get your hands on Strangers and fall in love with a new author, AL Parks.

Kristin (KC) - Traveling Sister says

***AMAZON SALE* \$.99**
9/13/13
<http://www.amazon.com/Strangers-ebook....>

Stephanie says

This is an amazing first work! The characters are very well developed. The story grabs you from the first page and takes you on a wonderful journey of healing and self-discovery. I was cheering for these two people to find happiness and peace! This story will make you cry, smile and laugh out loud! I can't wait for the next book by this talented author.

Calatasde says

They lost the one they love. They wanna start new life. Abby and Bryce.

Bryce is delicious and romantic and a great guy. Abby is a strong character.

I'm sure you can love them.

Enter a coffee shop and a chance meeting between them...And this is my favorite part of this story... A true friendship unfolds! You really feel their past pain, and their journey to hopefully have a future together. I read fast, there's two reason. First I'm a fast reader and I'm a Booker. Second is How can't I read this lovely book without interruption?

I do not want to give a spoilers because I don't like reading spoilers (when I read a spoiler after that I can't read that book). So You have to read. Come on! Add your Goodreads shelf this book :)

Gia says

Strangers is A.L. Parks first novel. It's a great read.

The main characters Abby and Bryce are very well written. Both have suffered great losses and this book follows them through coming to terms with their grief and finding new love.

In the first chapter, A.L. Parks pull you right into the book and you won't want to put it down until you are done. When reading you may want to have tissues handy.

Strangers is an amazing story that you definitely should you read.

Pam says

3 stars

"I never believed I could fall this madly in love with anyone again, but I am truly, madly in love with you."

No one could understand what Abby is going through, how could they, they didn't lose their fiance the day of their wedding, never living with the chance to be his wife and enjoy growing old together. But one Saturday in her favorite coffee shop, she looks into the eyes of an equally haunted man, who knew what it was like to live without the one you love. Starting off as strangers, they became best friends, and now they mean more to each other than any other person. A lovely sad read about finding love and hope when you lost faith in its power.

*Reviewed on 11/16/2013

Elizabeth (Perusing Princesses) says

This book was emotional and lovely! I cried sad sobbing tears in the first few pages....

Abby....Sweet Abby.... She is dressed in her wedding gown...waiting in the brides room in the church... Her dream come true... To be married to Trevor... Her love... Her future... And the a nightmare, a true heart wrenching nightmare happens....

Bryce.... Oh perfect....and perfectly flawed Bryce.... He suffers his own heartbreak as well....

Enter a coffee shop and a chance meeting between them.... And this is my favorite part of this story... A true friendship unfolds! You really feel their past pain, and their journey to hopefully have a future together...

Of course there are definite bumps in the road... Realistic drama.... And a beautiful love that emerges...

Great great story!

Aestas Book Blog says

I love the sound of this one! Plus, it's a standalone :)

Bereaved bride Abby Clark is tortured by visions of the fatal crash that took her fiancé on their wedding day. She succumbs to a dark existence where loneliness, sadness and nightmares dwell; until handsome, brooding Bryce Holden walks through the door of her favorite coffee shop, wearing the same cloak of despair and grief. Abby discovers in Bryce someone who understands love and loss, and soon their close friendship grows into a deep love. But ghosts make strange bedfellows, and Abby is forced to battle the tormenting images that continue to haunt her, and confront the ethereal presence of a beloved wife to protect her future with Bryce.

Kath says

I've received an ARC in exchange for an honest review

Well... OhmyLerd... I've finished this within a day and that's just how hooked I am into it. Cried the whole time. I cried for their heart breaking past, cried for their stubbornness, cried for Bryce getting cold, cried for the ending. Cried cried cried.

Must Read

Anne OK says

Fate serves two strangers a second chance at love. Abby's fiancé was killed on their wedding day and cancer took the life of Bryce's wife. Both are suffering their losses deeply and not expecting to find someone who will both understand and offer a lending hand in friendship.

This was a story loaded with emotion. The pace was set to allow for the relationship between Abby and Bryce to move their second chance at love forward naturally and realistically. Although bittersweet with a little slice of humor, as well, this debut novel handles the emotions of love and loss, and starting over in a surprisingly good read.

L.L. Collins says

This is a great first novel by AL Parks. I received an ARC for an honest review. You wouldn't know that she hasn't published before. Right off the bat, I like that she has character depth with the two main characters. They become friends first, which we don't see happen very often in most of this genre's books. The supporting characters also are well developed.

There are some terrible things that happen to both main characters in their past, and it affects their moving forward greatly. Twists and turns in the story make you wonder if they are ever going to be able to get there.

Bryce is delicious and romantic and a great guy. Abby is a strong character. I'm trying not to give any spoilers! I'm looking forward to the next one by AL. She really seems to be an up and coming author.

Lori Clark says

I loved this book. I loved Abby. And who wouldn't want their very own Bryce? This book is about loss and proves that just when you believe you're destined to be alone for the rest of your life -- perhaps have even

convinced yourself that's okay -- love walks though the door unexpectedly. It can happen anywhere, any time. Abby and Bryce are two broken people, trying to cope with the terrible tragedy of having lost the people they love, their soul mates, in separate circumstances. I think when love ends due to one or the other person moving on, it's different than when a loved one dies. This book is a reminder that when you least expect it, it happens. I laughed, I cried, and my emotions rode the same roller-coaster hills as Abby. Abby's relationship with her mother was like oil and water, and also very real to life. Bryce and Abby are two strangers who happen to meet in a coffee shop one Saturday morning. They become best friends -- first. Read this book! You will not be disappointed!

Jannat Bhat says

Strangers is a book about exactly what the title says. Two strangers who have lost themselves by losing their loved ones forever. Abby lost her to-be husband to a tragic accident on the day she was suppose to be married to him and start her happy ever afterlife and Bryce lost his Emily to cancer.

When fate brings them together in a coffee shop they couldn't help but connect to each other the way they haven't been able to since the death of the love of their lives. They become real close friends in a matter of weeks.

I really liked the way their relationship progressed. It was slow and sweet. Another thing I liked and was surprised to read was that Abby's birthday is written off as being on Oct 8th which is the same as mine *grins*. How cool is that right?? :D Anyway, after a certain incident with Abby, their relationship progresses further as they fall in love and try to move on. But will they both be able to do just that? After Abby asks Bryce to take a step further in their relationship, why does Bryce seem distant ? Has he not moved on from the past as Abby has?? And when you think about it, has Abby??

You'll have to find the answers to that by going for this amazing read. I absolutely loved this book. It hooked me in from the beginning itself and once I was completely into it , it was difficult for me to stop. The pace was just about perfect. Both the characters were well developed. The message that this story gives out is beautiful. Overall, this book has laughter, heartbreak and most of all a happy ending. I would without a doubt recommend this book.

Stephanie says

This is the debut novel by A.L. Parks and for a first book, she did an amazing job! Strangers is a heart-wrenching story that takes us down the road of Abby and Bryce who both experienced terrible losses in their lives. We see their despair, sorrow, and loneliness. We see how they struggle in their daily lives, believing that they have no future after such gut-wrenching pasts. Then when you least expect it, the author shows us how someone can come into your life and make you believe again. Parks does an amazing job showing us how true love can last forever yet allows, even encourages you to move on with your life. Her characters were very realistic and you will laugh and cry along with them. You will even feel extreme frustration when you watch Abby dealing with her mother...there were times I wanted to yell at Abby and strangle Charlotte! This book shows you how love can destroy, but also can give you a chance at a new life! I might be spoiled having read other books with both a male and female POV, but it would have been great to get inside of Bryce's head at times in this story. Overall, I loved it! Kudos A.L. Parks!! Can't wait to read your next novel!
