



Aroha

Lillah Lawson

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Aroha Details

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From Reader Review Aroha for online ebook

Ginger says

What starts out as a heartbreaking story of emotional and physical abuse becomes a story about strength and the power of breaking free. For anyone who has ever wondered why a woman stays in an abusive relationship this book provides deep insight into that why. While I often wanted to jump in and save Miranda I also understood why she persisted in the relationship. In the end, it was Miranda who saved herself.

Lawson writes rich, interesting, complex characters who can not be pegged into simple holes. They are often frustrating and even unlikable but they always feel real. She also has a deft hand in demonstrating that her characters are many faceted. Miranda's ending action is not surprising as Lawson shows throughout the novel a woman who is strong. You have faith that she will make the right choices even when she makes bad ones.

Set against the lush backdrop of New Zealand with a interwoven story laced with Native culture, this novel is a must read. I dare you to not fall madly in love with Hemi! But make no mistake, this is not a romance. It's a study of how a woman finds her isolated and alone having to deal with someone who abuses and demeans her. It doesn't take another romance to make Miranda stand up for herself.

Alexis says

Aroha had me so emotionally invested, I had to force myself to put it down to keep my own sense of self! The characterization and imagery are amazing, the New Zealand setting and Maori culture are so ironic compared to the dark nightmare throughout Miranda's experience, and the message is strong and important. Human tenacity and love can pull a strong spirit through the worst of times. I will say the description sounds like a romance, but the reality is a stark reality of pain, loyalty, and hope.

No two-dimensional love triangles here!!!

Deniset??? says

I just got done reading this book and I was balling like a baby!!! I mean the tears were just streaming down my face. My nose was all stuffed up and I had myself a good long hard cry..lol..My son comes out into the kitchen, looks at me and says, "Oh brother, not again."...LOL...Do I need say more? I will.

My book reviews are not long, explanatory, or professional. They are, however, short, brief and to the point, such as: This is the first book I have read from this author and I loved it! The beginning, the middle and especially the end, where I balled like a baby. There is love, anger, hate, verbal abuse, physical abuse, friendship, love lost, and love found, it has grief, sadness, but also happiness and laughter. It's a book that I could not put down and read in one day. I love books likes this and have found myself a new "favorite" author. I recommend reading this book. You will be glad you did. :)

Shannon Jones says

By the time I figured out that this was not a romance, I was just as smitten with Nick and New Zealand as Miranda was. It really struck me that I too could fall for this tortured and brooding man, and in fact love him for his moodiness.

Along with Miranda, I hoped that the first shove was the end of it. I hoped his apology would stick. But, I knew that wouldn't be the case. I know the cycle all too well. And, having that experience, I couldn't believe that I had fallen for him too.

The introduction of Hemi gave me hope. He was the Anti-Nick. But also so beautifully complex and human. I hoped he would rescue Miranda. Even after Nick left, I found myself holding my breath with every ring of her phone and every knock at her door. The threat of Nick was ever-present in my mind. He could pop back any minute. Through long passages with no mention of him, I wondered where he was and if he would pop up randomly to drag her down again. I wanted Hemi to be her protector, her savior. But in the end, Miranda rescued herself. Her strength and bravery, even as she's thinking how weak she is, are amazing.

This story is a reminder that we often have no idea what happens behind closed doors. And leaving isn't as simple as packing a few things and bolting. As hard as it was to read through Nick's fits of rage and abuse, it's important to know what happens in the mind of an abused person.

This story is rich, complex, and beautiful in more ways than I can count.

I hope for a mushy sequel in which Miranda returns to New Zealand, marries Hemi, and has a beautiful baby with him. And Nick shows rears his ugly head again and gets put behind bars, hopefully before he does something worse than beat a woman.

Excellent book. :-)

Alice Hayes says

A beautiful and harrowing story of overcoming abuse. Heartbreaking at times - I cried through several scenes - but it's encouraging to watch the main character, Miranda, grow in strength and confidence. Lawson's writing style is charming, capturing Maori culture and the landscape of New Zealand (which I now want to visit) beautifully. It is also an accurate representation of anxiety disorder and the cycle of abuse, but the violence is not needlessly gory. The motif of currents in the air/electricity which was used to describe how anxiety feels and fear of impending violence has stuck with me; it was very well done. Although Aroha deals with dark topics, it is a very pleasant and suspenseful read.

Erika Nicole Hensley says

I read this book in two days. I couldn't put it down. I devoured it like a vanilla lavender cupcake. Lawson writes in a manner that draws the reader in and truly brings her characters to life. There are so many aspects of Miranda that I can identify with and I believe most women can find some part of themselves in her as

well. Aroha is an emotional story of one woman's struggle to survive an abusive relationship and to find the strength and courage within herself to know she deserves more than to just be alive. The rich New Zealand world Lawson creates will suck you in and leave you wanting more.

rachel graham says

Wow. Just wow. The hardest thing about reading Aroha was having to put it down. Ms. Lawson truly draws her reader into the story. I felt so emotionally connected to Miranda and her experiences. I need to know what happens next!!! Please let there be a sequel!

Elizabeth says

A heartwrenching, beautiful portrait of a young woman's descent into a harrowing relationship and her journey back to herself. The in-depth peek into the life and culture of New Zealand is a magical bonus! I promise you'll laugh, cry, and then immediately want to book a plane ticket...

Jennifer says

I loved Aroha! The story is a testament to the tenaciousness of the human spirit. Our bonds with other people can either destroy us or lift us up, and Miranda's journey highlights this. I can't wait for the sequel!

Carlene says

I won this book through a goodreads give away and I am so glad that I had.

I must say, that I was especially partial being Maori myself and reading about my homeland. I won this awhile back and have been meaning to pick it back for awhile, so when I did pick it up finally to add to my list I had totally forgot the storyline.

When I picked up the book, started reading the first 20 or so pages I was sucked into this almost amazing tale of boy goes away and comes back and yay happy in love. And then it all changed.

Nick goes from this sudden man of romance, to this man of horror for any female in a relationship. This man who snaps, who's back and forth personality puts Miranda at risk. There's not where to go, no family to help as she's in a new country where she knows almost nothing. The only slight happiness or sanity she has left in a middle aged Maori man named Hemi, an artist and a shop owner not far from her place of work at the Auckland Museum.

I was actually really surprised how quickly it got into the nitty gritty of the true Nick, almost surprised that the main issue of the book was put forward. I was super taken aback but I actually quite enjoyed and wanted to keep reading through to see the outcome of Miranda and how she dealt with this.

Reading how Miranda dealt with it, how she took everything Nick threw at her (Both literally and figuratively speaking) made me angry, made me upset and made me even a little bit numb with her. And yet even still, I continue to read on.

And I can't say I wasn't happy hearing and reading about the different scenery, the places. The green views of New Zealand, the great East Coast and even the small mention of Te Kaha, my own little area where my tribe are from. I'm glad it wasn't just focused on Auckland and Wellington, the big cities.

All over a good read, and a quick book that you could pick up and finish quickly if you've got the time to read as it's not too long. Have to admit I was expecting more from the ending, but I guess you can't always get the typical 'happy ending and forever after.' Plus, it does seem like this leaves an opening for a second book, possibly from Hemi's perspective even?
