



## **The Key to My Heart (Surrender to Love #1)**

*Stephanie Aviles*

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For Katherine, the end came slowly. Her husband Brad, a spec ops airmen, hasn't been well for some time now. At first, she thought it would pass, but his PTSD has only been getting worse. And so has his drinking.

With tensions at an all-time high, Kat threatens to take their two kids and leave if Brad doesn't seek help. Brad begs her to at least wait until he returns from his deployment. At first, Kat agrees, but when she receives a picture of Brad with another woman, she decides enough is enough. It's time to go.

But no one said building a new life would be easy. Working two jobs and living out of a small one-bedroom apartment in Seattle, Katherine still rebukes the charity of Charles Hamilton, a high-flying city lawyer who visits her diner one night. But Brad's deployment has ended, and with his final whispered threat— "If you take my kids away from me, I will kill you"—at the forefront of her mind, Kat finds she might need Charles more than she ever expected...

The Key to My Heart is the exciting and touching tale of one woman's triumph over adversity and is a must for fans of thrillers and romance alike.

## **The Key to My Heart (Surrender to Love #1) Details**

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# **From Reader Review The Key to My Heart (Surrender to Love #1) for online ebook**

## **Heather says**

I must say I really didn't think I would enjoy this book. Cat comes from an abusive marriage and her husband is a drunk. Brad is currently serving in the military and stationed in Guam. After many broken promises an affair and too much alcohol cat decides it's best for her and her children to leave Guam and start a new life. While working two jobs she met an attorney who later comes to help her get out of jail after an altercation with Brad. This story is about somebody trying to put back the broken pieces of her life set an example for her children and find her own self-worth. I will say that I really did enjoy this book it was heartwarming.

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## **Kelly Tyree says**

The Key to My Heart is a book the really highlights PTSD in the military and how it negatively effects all people it touches.

Katherine, "Kat", and Brad were a married military couple with two children. Brad began to be physically abusive toward Kat when he used alcohol which had become more frequent. The deployments had taken a toll on Brad. Kat kept trying to hang on to the marriage despite the abuse. When Brad leaves for a deployment, Kat gets an email that shows Brad has had an affair. Kat makes the decision to leave Brad and begin a new life with her children. Kat moves to Seattle and begins working as a waitress. One of her diners is a handsome lawyer, Charles, who had just lost a case. Kat gives him a pep talk but Charles is struck by Kat's beauty.

When Brad makes a return to Kat's home and becomes abusive again, Kat is arrested for fighting back. She stands to lose everything including her children. Charles recognizes Kat from the diner and rescues her. He also gives her a job that helps provide for her family. The more Kat and Charles get to know each other the more they are attracted to each other. But Kat is not like the other ladies Charles is used to and she has major trust issues. Charles has to decide if she is worth it. He finds she makes him become a better man, but can Kat let Charles in and finally have a chance at a new life. One that is free from abuse and that is with a man who is gentle and giving? Things begin to progress until Brad reappears in her life needing her.

The Key to My Heart is a romance about starting over and about allowing yourself to trust again after you have been hurt.

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## **R says**

The author takes you on an emotional journey, through the life of Kat and her children. Brad her husband is suffering from his time served with the military, he needs help but refuses to accept help. Kat's journey to help Brad leads her to meet Charles.

this is a beautifully written book, full of emotion, heartbreak but also a brightness at the end of the tunnel. I

thoroughly enjoyed reading the book, and can not wait to read more from Stephanie.

I received a free copy of this book and voluntarily chose to give an honest review.

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### **Suzette says**

This is a well written book. It is poignant and touching. It shows the fierce strength of a mother trying to protect her children. It also teaches the power of forgiveness and letting go in order to heal one's soul. It is also possible to open your heart to new love and all it's possibilities even after you think you have nothing left to give. It is a story of love and hope that will have you crying but by the end leave you with your spirits lifted.

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### **Mary says**

great book. great love story. love hea and good character interaction.

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### **Taylor R says**

Won this in a giveaway through Goodreads. It wasn't a bad read per say but it just wasn't my cup of tea. There's no epilogue and I really do love a good epilogue.

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### **Paige Smith says**

The Key to My Heart is an emotional read that I couldn't put down. If you're looking for a raw tale of overcoming adversity, then I definitely recommend this book.

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### **Cynthia says**

#### **Loved It**

I won a copy of this book from Goodreads giveaways, I was not required to give a favorable review. This story touches so many different things. Katherine was a military wife trying to raise her two children while his husband was deployed. Brad came back changed and she to help even willing to get them help. But he wouldn't and he substance abuse got worse. But what broke her was his cheating. She left and took her kids and flew to Seattle. She was working two jobs to take care of them. That's where she met Charles. He made a difference in their lives.

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## **Elizabeth says**

3.5

I really think this book should've been longer. It just didn't feel fully fleshed out. Everything seemed to get resolved far too quickly and the supposed drama fell short. The writing and story was good, I just wish there was a little bit more

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## **Sharon Grow says**

A wonderful, emotional story that touches on our military families and the way their worlds are upended for both the military personnel and those that wait at home. Katherine is doing her best to raise her two children while her husband, Brad, is deployed. Each time Brad returns home, he is a different man and has seen too much that he can't forget. He becomes abusive as he turns to alcohol to numb the pain and shuts out Kat when she tries to help. After a particular soul-destroying event, Kat leaves and take her children back to the states. Kat will work two jobs to try to make ends meet and when things get tough, she meets Charles Hamilton, defense attorney. Charles, who has worked hard to become a wealthy and successful attorney, is enchanted with Kat. She is like no other woman he has ever known. He admires her strength and willingness to overcome and survive for her and her children. I really enjoyed the up and down emotions as Kat and Charles work towards a possible life together. A very special romance. I received a free copy of this book and voluntarily chose to give an honest review. (by paytonpuppy)

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## **Cindy says**

### **Leaves a bit to be desired**

I enjoy a good romance when it's well written. This one misses the mark. Goes too quickly from a married woman to being in love with someone else. Forgets to bring all the characters along through the entire story. Just not that great of a story.

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## **Pat says**

The great character and storyline development made this book a very enjoyable read which kept me totally enthralled until the turn of the very last page!

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## **Shellie Halfhill says**

I feel many people could probably relate to this book through ones own experience or another from the first love, lost love, new love, both physical and mental abuse, divorce, unexpected friends/support and sheer humanity. This book captivated my attention throughout due to it's intensity of the unknown and the anticipation of what may or may not happen. I highly recomend this book simply for the characters, I especially love the main character in Stephanie's first book "The Man of My Dreams" she made me laugh

outloud due to her strong willed fiesty personality. This book had a totally different theme it was more intense and kept me on the edge of my seat, I was so happy with the ending, and the way this author changes your perception of having hate and discontent emotions to feeling guilty that you thought that way through empathy. Great book Stephanie Aviles so looking forward to your next book !!

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