



Her Forbidden Hero

Laura Kaye

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A sexy category romance from Entangled's Brazen imprint...

She's always been off-limits...

Former Army Special Forces Sgt. Marco Vieri has never thought of Alyssa Scott as more than his best friend's little sister, but her return home changes that...and challenges him to keep his war-borne demons at bay. Marco's not the same person he was back when he protected Alyssa from her abusive father, and he's not about to let her see the mess he's become.

...but now she's all grown up.

When Alyssa takes a job at the bar where Marco works, her carefree smiles wreak havoc on his resolve to bury his feelings. How can he protect her when he can't stop thinking about her in his bed? But Alyssa's not looking for protection—not anymore. Now that she's back in his life, she's determined to heal her forbidden hero, one touch at a time...

Her Forbidden Hero Details

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From Reader Review Her Forbidden Hero for online ebook

Lindsay says

I loved this book.

The characters, their lives and the situations they found themselves in were completely realistic. It was easy to identify with the characters and they were so well written that you could almost believe they were real.

Alyssa was a strong heroine that knew what she wanted and what she had to do to make her dreams come true. She had a traumatic past, but between her brother Brady and Marco she had some protection and positive influences.

Marco was an amazing hero to read (and he's sparked off some interesting conversations here on goodreads). He was completely believable and at times heart breaking.

I loved the friendship and then the relationship between Marco and Alyssa. You could feel the connection between them.

I was also intrigued by Alyssa's brother Brady. He only had a couple scenes in the book, but that little bit left me wanting to know more about him.

(view spoiler)

Saly says

I really enjoyed this. The hero was scarred because of his last mission for Special Forces and his brain wasn't screwed on right and the return of his best friend's sister Alyssa wasn't something he needed. Alyssa expected the old Marco, but he was changed and didn't want her to see that he wasn't her old hero anymore. Alyssa has just graduated college and is broke and in need of a job, so she takes one where Marco works.

Her feelings for Marco are not brotherly and it takes her a while to see the damage Marco has and I loved how she helped him sleep at night without his knowing. We are made aware early on that Marco is falling for her but is too messed up, to want to mess up her life.

All in all I liked the book a lot even when the characters frustrated me with them keeping their distance.

Crystal~BIG book addict~ says

3.5 Stars!

Okay, I am going to keep this one short and sweet! I loved the story line but I had a hard time feeling a

strong connection between Alyssa and Marco. Marco has some major inner demons and physical problems that he must overcome since being medically discharged from the Special Forces. Alyssa has just graduated college and is working at the same bar as Marco. They have known each other since they were kids but haven't seen each other in a couple of years. He is finding it hard to deal with his attraction to her.

Marco and Aly

It was good but not great but still an enjoyable read with a HEA.

Gitte TotallyBookedBlog says

I have such a girlie crush on Laura Kaye and her books...they are just so yummy and her characters always leave my heart in a puddle on the floor!!! I love love LOVED "Her forbidden Hero"...Marco (*yummy sigh*) and sweet adorable Alyssa..

This story is one of friendship, first love, tormented souls - the emotional journey of Marco and Alyssa two broken people finding their way to each other's hearts and their beautiful love.

When Alyssa and Brady's mum died (when they were kids) their father didn't just end up hitting the bottle...this meant the pair of them would run to Marco's house next door to escape which ended up in the three of them becoming extremely close. Later, when Brady and Marco were able to, they got a place together and took Alyssa with them. Alyssa went on to college and the boys joined the army and went abroad to war.

Marco has returned from Afghanistan and is damaged in mind, body and spirit. He blames himself for the deaths of three soldiers under his command and is unable to come to terms with this guilt, his war wounds and his nightmares. He ends up as a bartender at Whiskey's Music Roadhouse.

Alyssa decides to apply for a job at Whiskey's Music Roadhouse. She has just graduated, has no money and she knows the man she has had a crush on forever works there....

This is where Marco and Alyssa's emotional journey begins, (or continues)...

This story was so well written and the emotions so real, so honest and believable, I completely felt it! And ummm the scene in the lake HOT!!!! ;0)

Michelle [Helen Geek] says

3.5 Stars

I enjoyed this book, but it didn't flow smoothly for me. I thought the characters were a bit too cookie cutter toward the end. I did like the story. I liked Marco especially. He first needed to learn to forgive himself before he could open himself up to love. The author did a very nice job with him.

I'm going to go think on this one a bit more before finalizing a full review, but these are my first thoughts.

+++++

Updating a bit after a discussion with AnneOK:

I think this author struggles a bit with conveying deep feelings. She spends too much time in the heads of her characters telling me what they are thinking/feeling and why. I like it when the story evolves so I can feel those things myself. The sign of a really good author.

I'm no expert, but I hate when an author can't convey real intimacy. I don't care if the sex is graphic or not. I do care if there is feeling and intimacy. A touch of the cheek, an soft kiss placed in the corner of his smile ... you know what I mean. I could say a bit more here, but I think you can surmise my meaning. You can't fake good... no way, no how. Have you ever had a discussion with girlfriends. You can always tell when one isn't too good at what she is conversing about ... poor thing. This component was sorely lacking for me with these two. It felt a bit immature and rudimentary.

I liked the Marco character. I could empathize with him totally. Even in non-war situations others can suffer from your well intentioned decisions. I think having him work through his issues was good. Flashing to the dreams and then replacing Alyssa in the dreams. These could have been a bit more developed.

I think I'm too tough on stories like these. I've dealt with people who have real life issues for one reason or another. It is no simple matter and takes a great deal of thought and patience to help them through it. I guess we can't change who we are [my baggage in a read].

Overall, I liked this one, I didn't love it. I think others have done it much better. She deserves some credit for the attempt.

Happy Reading!

Ann says

Laura Kaye is hit and miss with me. This one was a miss. Story moved along smoothly, but I just couldn't buy it. Marco still having issues after returning from Afghanistan hasn't seen Alyssa in a few years. They see each other when she shows up to work at the bar where he's working. He's all up and down, hot and cold bipolar on her. Alyssa's been pining away in love with Marco for years...ok, believable. But when they finally

hook up (once and only once) they're off again, then it's will you "Marry Me" (Really! He sings the Train song to her) and BAM - we have an HEA, The End. WTH!?!? I wanted several nice long heated romantic scenes where I got the sense they were an actual couple. Or to quote another Train song (yes, I'm a fan) "let's skip the how you been and get down to the more than friends at last", not to have left me high and dry, (pun intended ;-)) all sexually deprived. They do the business once and the guy's flakey throughout the bk and then he wants to get married?!? No, no, no.

I liked Marco and Alyssa, it's just their characters/story didn't have enough time for a believable HEA.

Karla says

4 ½ Stars! Oh my, what a sweet, emotional read. Laura Kaye does the tortured hero so well, and Marco fits the bill to a "t"! He's angry, confused, and the last thing he needs is more drama in his life, but that's exactly what he gets when Alyssa walks into the bar where he works looking for a job. She is his best friend's little sister, he looked out for her when she was younger and this is the last place he expects to see her. He's not happy and boy does he let her know it! So much for happy reunions! Alyssa adores Marco, and is in love with him, but the fun, loving, sweet, protective boy she once knew, is now a bitter, crass, irate man. She knows that he was injured while serving with her brother Brady, but isn't aware of the extent of his injuries or the mental torment that he suffers from.

This was a profound emotional read. You get a real feel for how much Marco is suffering, and Alyssa helplessness in her quest to aide him in his healing. She extends a hand and opens her heart to him; he reaches, tries to hold on and then slaps her away. Again and again, but she doesn't give up on him. Until Marco finally realizes... this woman, not his best friend's little sister, not the girl he protected...but the woman that Alyssa has become holds his heart in her hands. Loving her will allow him to love himself and the healing can begin!

The ending was oozing with "cheese" and was deliciously **perfect!!** There is a cast of wonderful secondary characters that you connect too, the writing flows nicely, and according to Laura Kaye...Brady is getting a book very soon! **YES!!**

Although I LOVED the book, I was looking for a confrontation with Alyssa and Brady's father. I think it would have added to the story and was a missed opportunity, but it's not my story to write. I understand that there is only so much you can put in a short read, so I'm hoping that we see this issue addressed in Brady's book, other than that...well done Laura Kaye!

"In My Life" by the Beatles" is mentioned in the book...perfect song for Marco, and one of my favorites. LK got it right!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZpVxL...>

**** Here I go again****

I know I sound like a broken record, but Marco is a fictional character who suffers from PTSD, an all too real condition for so many of our returning soldiers. So, try to support your home country military whenever, or however you can!

Catarina says

3 Dreamy Stars

Alyssa knows Marco since she was a child. Being her older brother best-friend, he knows everything about her, especially the abusive past she has.

But then he and his brother enlisted the army and gone to war. She haven't seen him for years until she ends up working at the same bar as he.

And with proximity feelings start to change between them.

But Marco is a different man now and war left wounds in him that make him keep everyone at arm's length. He closed himself and no one can enter.

Not to mention he has a strong sense of loyalty to Brady, Aly's sister. Alyssa doesn't give up on him, but soon her hope starts to fade.

When things starts to progress he must find out if there's a time to retreat... and another to go to war and fight.

This was a very fast and very sweet reading.

If you're looking for a quick romance between those books who ripped your heart apart, this is perfect for you.

It's light, with very likeable characters and a very cute plot.

Give it a try! ;)

MsRomanticReads says

This is my third Laura Kaye book and she never disappoints to write heart-warming stories about characters who seem to exist apart from everyone else and just want to find a place where they belong, someone they can belong to. In this story, the hero, a protector and friend finds himself in a role reversal. Once, a long time ago, he did the protecting. Now he's the one being protected by the one person he thinks he can't and shouldn't want. But being cared about never felt so good.

After the death of their mother, Alyssa and Brady Scott's father turned into an alcoholic and abusive towards his children. Their only solace was Marco Vieri, their neighbor. The three of them ended up becoming very close. When the boys were old enough, they moved in together and took Alyssa with them. Once she left for college, Brady and Marco moved on to join the Army's Special Forces.

Alyssa has just graduated from college and is down on her luck. With no money or possessions, she returns to her home town to take a job at Whiskey's. She knows Marco works there, so she hopes she'll be able to work with her once best friend (and secret crush) and earn enough money to afford a place to stay. The

reunion doesn't go quite as planned. Marco is happy to see her at first, until he realizes she'll be working in that rowdy place. He feels he owes it to Brady to look out for her when the last thing he wants to do is babysit her. Then he notices that she's not a kid anymore, but she's turned into a woman since he last saw her. When fantasies of Alyssa creep into his mind unbidden, Marco desperately tries to tell himself to stay away from Alyssa. Not only is he carrying around a ton of emotional baggage and he's not good enough for her, but she's his best friend's little sister and therefore off limits, end of story.

Alyssa has always harbored a secret crush for Marco which has turned into love over time, but she can't tell him that. He probably still sees her as the little kid and best friend's sister. That doesn't stop her from wanting to be close to him, thinking deep down he's still the same Marco she's always known. When he catches her asleep in the bar's green room, he offers her a place to stay, against his better judgment. Since returning from combat, he's been plagued with guilt and devastating nightmares. When Alyssa notices this, her first instinct is to comfort him and be there for him, just like he'd always been there for her during her rough childhood. Unbeknownst to Marco, Alyssa has been soothing him through the nights. He manages to keep his distance from her but his resolve is crumbling quickly. Feeling better and during a moment of weakness, they share a passionate kiss. Before she can revel in her happiness, it comes crashing down when Marco finds out that she's the reason he's been sleeping better, and that she's been losing sleep because of it. His anger is instantaneous and crushing. His cruel words cut her deeply, and she leaves. When he saves her a week later from a near sexual assault at work, he thinks he finally has a chance to make things right with her. They give in to their passion and their desire. Before they can really talk about their feelings, Brady shows up out of the blue. A misunderstanding and not wanting to come between two best friends force Alyssa to realize that she needs to move on with her life and accept a job offer in D.C. Marco finally acknowledges what he's always known, he loves her and now he must race against time to make her believe him or risk losing her forever.

I LOVED this pairing of the closed off loner, the tortured hero and the silent, but vigilant heroine. Marco's self-loathing is absolutely believable (because I know someone a little like him). Of course he tries to keep her at arm's length, to save her from shouldering the burdens of his ugly life thus far. He claims that Alyssa is too naïve for her own good, and maybe she is when it comes to him, and thinking he made it out of the war zone still the same man. What drew me the most to this couple was the heroine. There were flashes of her where she seemed so young and fragile, like the little abused girl of her past. Then she'd show some backbone and my admiration at her tenacity would rise. The flow of the story was well paced, the events unfolded believably. I didn't feel like the characters fell in love too quickly – they already had a foundation to begin with, only now Alyssa gets to play the role Marco had always had for her in her youth, a protector. The author's writing is as usual brilliantly executed and she still manages to bring her characters to life through her words.

Tense negotiations in foreign languages with warlords who would shoot you as soon as they look at you, he could handle. A simple conversation with a twenty-two-year-old American woman? Apparently not. Goddammit.

Duchess Nicole says

It was good, just maybe not my cup of tea. They seemed a little young to me, for some reason? And I don't think that's the feel that I was supposed to get from this read. After all, the hero is a veteran Special Forces soldier who was gravely injured while on duty. Alyssa, I think, was supposed to be a few years younger, just

out of college and ready to take on the world. I think the fact that they were bartending and waitressing may have thrown me off, reminded me of my college crazy days when that was about the only lucrative job around. It was a sweet story, with a couple of plot holes that made me stop reading to go back and see if I missed something. Nope! (view spoiler) I just thought it was awkwardly done. I think this was just one of those that again...everyone loved but me. Still an okay read, but like with most shorter novella-length reads, it needed to be more fleshed out to get more stars from me.

Wendy says

As much as I adored the hero and heroine, this was just an average read for me. A little predictable in parts and it didn't have quite the spark I was looking for to make this a really good read. I know there will be others that will disagree with me, but hey that's why we're all different. Enjoy!

Lisa says

This was a short sweet read. Very enjoyable and worth picking up.

Lisa Jayne says

5 BE MY FOREVER STARS.

I've been on a bit of a brazen book binge of late I think I've needed my sweet but sexy fix. So when I saw that this particular story was written by Laura Kaye author of 'Hearts in Darkness' I was hoping for a five star special, what I did discover was a novel with a jumble of theme's that ranged from friendship, love and belonging to heartache pain and abuse that all brought together equaled to a surprisingly heart warning and dynamic book.

What's it all about?

Alyssa Scott is a long distance away from the shy, timid and abused girl that she was growing up. As a victim of domestic violence Alyssa was cared for in the darkest of times by her brother Brady Scott and family friend Marco Vieri as the years go by the trio are inseparable and a young bashful Alyssa finds herself falling for her brothers best friend. Brady and Marco leave their life of small town living to join the United States Army Special Forces and it's years until Marco and Alyssa are reunited, but when she returns to claim her one true love the darkness of war has taken over the man she loves and pain and conflict stand in the way of this couple finding their happiness. 'Her Forbidden hero' takes the reader on the journey of overcoming obstacles to fight for what's right.

What did I love?

I'm always on the hunt for a friends-to -lovers themed story so already this book was ticking my happy place boxes, the history of love

and friendship between Alyssa and Marco was special, there was certainly no insta love, but most definitely enough appeal and connection between the couple to keep me glued to the pages. Marco was a beautifully damaged man, I loved his strength and inner dialogue the dual POV gave this book a special twist as I was able to connect to both characters and their romantic and at times heart breaking thoughts. Alyssa was everything a female heroine should be; sweet, determined and came nowhere near any annoying traits, I was won over by these love birds and can't wait to meet more of this authors characters in future books. This story had my heart beating and melting all at the same time. I found myself cheering for this meant to be couple. 'Her forbidden hero' is a sweet but sad story of love found within the friend you've always known.

Final thoughts ...

I won't wait as long again to search for other books by this author. If you want romance with added depth and heart warming characters then you won't go wrong picking this book up Laura Kaye must have romance as her middle name, go grab it readers ... Kisses.

KatLynne says

4.5 Stars

She was his best friend's baby sister. When she was twelve, her life changed drastically. Throughout her entire youth he had helped her brother, Brady, keep her safe from a source that should have been her haven. Being five years older, both Brady and Marco had postponed their military careers until she'd graduated High School and left for college. Now, both Alyssa and Marco are back in their hometown. One has returned a broken man who's lost the only thing he thought he'd ever wanted. The other is fresh from college and determined at last for a chance to get her heart's desire. Two friends who had shared so much together ...but the thing is, Alyssa has loved Marco for as long as she can remember, and not anything like a friend!

Marco suffers. There's very little left of his old self. His greatest desire was to join the Army and complete his training in Special Forces. He'd always felt the pull to "stand up for those people who couldn't stand up for themselves." Now, not only has his body been damaged in a mission that went bad, but deeper and more serious are his emotional scars. He is a broken man; A warrior whose sense of failure is suffocating him. His dreams are gone and he is struggling to find purpose for his life. He's a man with no hope. And eating away inside is his inability to let go. Guilt is his constant companion and each night he is tormented by debilitating nightmares.

"Seeing Alyssa again made him feel trapped between two worlds but not fully a part of either. In those few short moments they'd spoken, her very presence had pulled him back in time to when he knew who he was and what he wanted. When he believed he could do or be anything."

He is completely shocked to find Alyssa has been given a job in the musical venue where he works as bartender. Being a shadow of his former self, he's determined she should not know the man he has become. The only problem with that is he is fighting a war between his brain and his beautiful body because the moment they are reunited, he can't dismiss that his young friend is now a very desirable, grown woman. And there's a **passionate chemistry** here that cannot be ignored or denied. But no way will he open himself up or allow her to shoulder any of his baggage.

This is a beautiful, poignant, sexy love story built around a tortured man who no longer feels worthy and an amazing young woman who is smart, compassionate, and brave enough to fight for the love she wants. Alyssa Scott is a heroine that I both admired and adored and Marco is a beautiful, swoon-worthy hero that grabbed my heart! The build up to the **HOT** love scenes are a little longer wait but totally perfect for this story. These two are getting reacquainted and their relationship is developing around completely different emotions and feelings than those of friends.

While not perfect, I loved this story! It's rare that my feelings run as deeply for the heroine as it does for the hero. But these two captivated me and I had to have a happy ending for both! I didn't want to stop reading until I was assured of this! There were a few times Marco made me mad as nails for the way he talked to Alyssa or by not responding the way I thought he should in certain situations. But, of course, I forgave him completely! And one of the most endearing attributes of Alyssa is how she stood up for herself to him and brother Brady. Just because she loved Marco didn't mean she would stick around as a doormat. My kind of heroine! And I completely enjoyed the musical presence here. I'm married to a musician and could easily relate how LK used this aspect in the book. The guitar, lyrics and the emotional portrayals were spot on!

Marco's negative actions towards Alyssa stem from his trying to save her from a life of pain and heartache. This man is one tortured hero and can be a total jerk. I thought the author did a wonderful job portraying his need of touch. It was never stated just felt. I found myself wanting these two to just sleep together, to cuddle, and touch and sooth away the intense inner turmoil and maybe in this small way help convey the unconditional acceptance they both needed so desperately. (view spoiler)

For me, I loved the ending. I felt it matched perfectly these two characters and their background. Now, I'm looking forward to Brady's story!

Mo says

This was a nice quick read. Usually like the story of the older brother's best friend, falling for the little sister, who has had a crush on him since forever.
