



Beneath the Scars

Melanie Moreland

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The sound of the ocean, the crash of the waves as they kick up against the sand and rocks—these are the only sounds Megan Greene wants to hear. She wants to leave the rest of the world behind, and find some peace. The offer of a private house on the beach, set in a small town in Maine, is perfect. Time to think—to be by herself. It's all she wants. It's the escape she needs.

Until she stumbles across the painting that seems to echo her own chaotic mindset. Until she meets the unfriendly artist behind the stormy painting and discovers his secrets.

All Zachary Adams wants is to be left alone. His canvases, and the unending scope of the ocean and sand, are his life. They direct him—fill his hours. Bring him focus.

Until she enters his life. She dredges up memories of the past—the haunting images he has hidden for years; the fears he has never shared. A story he keeps buried below the surface.

Can she make him see what he is missing? Can he trust her enough to believe?

Together they embark on a journey where their pasts collide and threaten to tear them apart. Will their fragile bond hold or wash away with the ebbing tide?

Beneath the Scars Details

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From Reader Review Beneath the Scars for online ebook

Meli says

Zachary ist mürrisch!

Sie sind beide in Maine um ihrer Vergangenheit zu entfliehen und finden hier mehr als die Ruhe, die sie suchen ...

Als Megan das Gemälde entdeckt, das ihr mürrischer Nachbar gemalt hat, ist sie fasziniert von der Schönheit des Bildes und der Gefühle, die es ausdrückt. Sie muss es unbedingt haben. Aber Zachary lässt niemanden an sich heran. Auch wenn er bei Megans Anblick Dinge empfindet, die er schon lange nicht mehr zugelassen hat, kann er es nicht zulassen, wieder verletzt zu werden.

Protagonisten

Megan hatte eine üble Erfahrung und wurde verraten, darum will sie nun etwas Ruhe um sich zu sammeln und ein wenig zu schreiben. Dann trifft sie den mürrischen Zachary und erkennt sofort, dass in ihm viel mehr steckt, als die Leute erkennen können, wenn sie nur seine Narben betrachten. Sie erkennt die ganzen Emotionen in seinen Gemälden und will ihm unbedingt irgendwie helfen. Dabei kommt sie ihm immer entgegen und versucht, ihn nicht zu bedrängen, will aber auch möglichst viel über ihn wissen.

Also ich kann ihre Faszination schon verstehen, bin mir aber nicht sicher, ob da nicht auch Mitleid und Neugier eine große Rolle spielen. Oh, mysteriöser, undurchschaubarer Typ mit so vielen Emotionen. So heiß!

Zachary fand Megan auf den ersten Blick anziehend, was ich nicht so toll fand. Ich bin einfach gegen diese plötzliche Liebe, die Charaktere in Büchern einfach so überkommt. Er war jahrelang allein und einsam und dann - oh, Megan! Aber er will sich ihr trotzdem nicht nähern, sondern sich trotzdem von ihr fernhalten, denn das funktioniert schließlich. Er mag Menschen einfach nicht, weil eigentlich jeder nur oberflächlich und egoistisch ist, so wie Zachary selbst und die Leute, die ihn enttäuscht haben. Er ist zynisch, schlecht gelaunt und erwartet eben von jedem Menschen das Schlimmste. Jeden Moment rechnet er damit, dass Megan ihn verraten könnte, egal wie oft sie das Gegenteil beteuert. Zwischendurch ist er auch ruhig, aber bei jeder Kleinigkeit kehren seine Zweifel zurück.

Handlung und Schreibstil

Ich fand die Geschichten der beiden Charaktere eigentlich ganz interessant. Zachary, der früher mal erfolgreich war, und Megan, deren Buch geklaut wurde. Die Idee gefiel mir an sich schon. Aber die Charaktere konnten mich irgendwie nicht ganz überzeugen. Sie wiederholen die gleichen Verhaltensmuster immer und immer wieder. Ich kann schon verstehen, dass es Zachary nach all der Zeit schwerfällt, sich zu ändern, aber die ständigen Wiederholungen waren schon anstrengend.

Fazit

Ich fand "Beneath the Scars" recht mittelmäßig. Es hat mich teilweise gut unterhalten, aber die Wiederholungen und die Liebe auf den ersten Blick haben mir nicht gut gefallen.

Lady Vigilante (Feifei) says

2.5 stars!

This book is a classic example of where all the ingredients for a good, solid story are there but unfortunately the execution was a letdown. I liked the premise of this modern beauty and the beast story: second chance romance between an eccentric and reclusive artist and a betrayed writer. However, the plot was terribly underdeveloped, the writing too descriptive, and the overall story too bland and clichéd. I suppose if you are looking for a sweet and straightforward romance this book is a good choice.

Megan Greene is a writer betrayed by her ex-boyfriend, who stole her manuscript and claimed her work for his own. With no legal proof to back her claims and her career in shambles, Megan retreats to a small town in Maine to regroup and take a breather from reality.

A moody artist with a gruesome and heartbreaking past, **Zachary Adams** is practically the hermit of the town. He avoids people and only expresses himself artistically through his evocative paintings. It is one of his paintings that draws Megan's attention and she is hell bent on buying it from him.

The first few times Zachary and Megan bump into each other, harsh words are exchanged but there's no doubt that they are attracted to each other. Not one to give up lightly, Megan pursues Zachary relentlessly for the painting and a series of coincidences also bring them together, eventually leading Zach to reveal what he doesn't want people to know: he is physically scarred from fire burns. But unlike others, Megan sees past his scars and doesn't think less of him.

There is some resistance on Zachary's part, but pretty soon he gives in to his attraction to Megan and they start up a relationship. During this time, Zachary still doesn't 100% trust her because he's been burned by love in the past. Megan on the other hand tries her best to get Zachary to open up and accept intimacy.

Up until the last quarter of the book, I was enjoying this book (probably 3.5-4 stars then). After the 75% mark, everything went down the drain. I have to mention the ridiculous insta-love on Megan's part in the beginning – this is a woman who's been hurt socially and personally by her ex and her goal for staying in this small town in Maine is to distance herself, yet the moment she meets Zachary she pursues him relentlessly and feel an inexplicable connection to him. But because I adored Zachary's character, I was able to overlook that.

I think this book could've at least scraped a 3 star rating if it weren't for my #1 pet peeve taking the stage here: **LACK OF COMMUNICATION.** *takes a deep breath* You know when both main characters say they love each other and when some complete stranger shows them false evidence hinting at betrayal, they just believe the stranger instead of asking for an explanation. And then said person runs off. Completely leaves the other person hanging and dealing with the aftermath. Completely leaves a (view spoiler) person behind. But of course to get to that perfect ending, there is absolutely no groveling and loose ends are tied up so nicely rainbows start shining and world peace is achiev-

UGH.

In a nutshell, this overly sweet, clichéd, and unbelievable whirlwind romance was not my cup of coffee. Good simple premise, bad execution. I am an oddball after all so be sure to check out other reviews before completely writing this book off.

ARC provided by Patchwork Press via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Alex ? says

3.5 stars

Brilliantly written – emotional and raw.
Fabulous!

But... the hero was my less favorite by this author.
I got that he was hurt in the past, but it didn't justify his drama-queen attitude.

Damn, dude annoyed me. I would never ever be the heroine of this book.

Apparently I'm not a good person enough, and I'm definitely not into saving lost a\$\$es, ups, sorry, souls.

Likable heroine, sweet, patient. Quite the opposite of me *lol*

Nevertheless touching love story with depth and humanity.

MELISSA *Mel Reader* says

3.5 "You're Home" Stars!
(ARC provided by Netgalley)
(BR with Dee)

Megan Greene is a writer living in Boston. After being hurt & betrayed by someone she trusted and thought cared for her, she feels worthless & needs to get away & think. Her best friend offers her the use of her beach house in a small town in Maine called Cliff's Edge. She heads to the beach house hoping to find some peace & find the inspiration to write again.

Megan heads into town to pick up supplies & spots a painting in one of the shops that calls to her. This painting captured all the emotions she was feeling & she felt connected to it somehow. She finds out the

artist is a British man named Zachary Adams that lives in a house on the bluff at the end of the beach near where she's staying.

Megan meets her new neighbor & quickly learns he isn't all that friendly, and wants to be left alone. Zachary is a quiet, private, closed off, damaged man with trust issues. He has a complicated, troubled past, and pushes people away before they have a chance to reject him first. He is in his own private pain, & feels he has nothing to offer another person & has trouble letting anyone close enough to love him. Megan feels drawn to him instantly, and is persistent in getting to know him. Seeing himself through Megan's eyes, Zachary quits hiding from the world around him, & learns to let go of the past & move on.

-I didn't believe him when he said he wanted to be alone- I was certain it was the only way he knew how to be.

-I felt more for him in the short time I'd known him than I ever felt for another man.

-Never had I felt so attuned to another person's emotions; it was as if my soul felt the shift of his mood and transformed it to match. He could make me feel lust, anger, or happiness so fast; I barely knew it was happening.

- "I'm here."

- "Right here with you. Be with me."

- "Lose yourself with me, Zachary."

- "I didn't think there was anyone as sweet as you left in this world." "You weren't looking in the right place." "I wasn't looking at all," he replied. "Yet, somehow you found me."

- "When you look at me like that, I feel... like I can do anything."

- "You make me want...things."

-She made me smile. She made me feel. She gave me something I hadn't felt in years: hope.

- "How do you say so much with those eyes of yours? How do you affect me so fucking deeply?"

-I want to know you; all of you."

Christine Wallflower & Dark Romance Junkie says

[surprise pregnancies (hide spoiler)]

Dianne says

A woman emotionally beaten down, deceived, humiliated and judged in the court of public opinion seeks a healing place to re-group and get a hold on her life. A mysterious and dark man lives like a hermit just down the beach from Megan. Being anti-social is his only defense against his past and the scars he carries both inside and out. A gifted artist, Zachary is standoffish to the point of cruelty to Megan, who had reached out in friendship, but the kind-heartedness in her keeps her going back for more. There is just something about this damaged man, someone who is far more shattered than she that draws her in.

As she slowly breaks down his resistance, she finds a man longing for love, and to be accepted, who has secrets that are tearing him apart, a man who is able to heal her own pain, as well. But is their love destined to last? Will the outside world interfere on their oasis of peace? Are there still doubts to be overcome? Are there new doubts that will arise?

Beneath the Scars by Melanie Moreland is a painful journey told through the eyes and hearts of both Zachary and Megan, one much darker, one more full of cautious hope. Ms. Moreland has brought together a warm love story about a man who has stopped living and a woman who never really started. Passionate and intense, her writing colors a tale of two imperfect people in an imperfect world, struggling for acceptance, and above all, trust.

I received this ARC edition from Melanie Moreland as part of the Beneath the Scar Release Day Tour, stopping at Tome Tender October 14, 2014.

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Carol (StarAngel's Reviews) Allen says

Review to come

Beverly says

LIVE <http://www.amazon.com/Beneath-Scars-M...>

The story begins with Megan running away to Cliff's Edge. She is a writer and her book has been stolen from her. She is devastated and her friend offers her, her beach house. While at the beach house she sees a

mystery man: Zachary.

Zachary isn't running, no he ran away a long time ago, now he is in hiding. A painter living life as away from everyone else. In the small town he only talks to a few people out of necessity, but mainly keeps to himself. When his new neighbor comes to him sick with worry over losing her dog, he basically tells her off and slams the door in her face. Afterwards, he feels like an ass and decides to go help her.

This changes things for both Megan and Zachary and they begin a relationship of sorts. Zachary is scarred from a fire and is very self-conscious of how he looks, but Megan sees past his scars and wants to help him.

I was so excited to read this one when I signed up to review it on NetGalley, I thought it had a great premise. A girl running from her past and a troubled man living a life as a recluse. Plus I thought it had a great cover.

With all books I don't love, I have to question if it is me or the book - I hate the idea of negatively effecting someone's opinion on a book without knowing for sure.

So here is my humble opinion:

This story moved extremely slow in the beginning. I had a really hard time getting into the story, and almost DNF'd it a few times, but my OCD wouldn't allow that.

I didn't love Megan. She is running from her past and problems, and immediately jumps into "love" with someone else. That part just didn't seem believable to me. I mean if your problems are so bad you feel the need to *runaway* are you going to immediately jump into a relationship with a damaged guy? Even having Megan's POV I still had trouble knowing her motives, I didn't think she was using Zachary, but I did wonder why she was jumping into something with this type of man when she had some real issues herself.

I also didn't love the lack of communication that led to wasted time. I know this is a common occurrence in books now, but it makes me want to scream. To me it is unbelievable, because in real life most people would have to talk things out. Second, it is a copout to fill pages. If we are going to have a "communication" problem I don't want it to go on for multiple pages/chapters.

Lastly and one I can't stand...(view spoiler)

Now Zachary. Yes, I loved Zachary - it's no secret I love a damaged man, who happens to be a bit of an asshole. I thought Zachary was great. I felt like his feelings and reactions fit based on his past. I liked how knew how he acted in youth was wrong, and that he wanted to be a better man-period. I liked how he wanted to be better for Megan.

I did like the message, that beauty is not only skin deep.

In the end, I think this story may work for a lot of people, it just didn't work for me. I could have overlooked a few things, but it felt like I was getting hammered with things.

Dee Montoya says

*****3.5 Stars*****

(BR with Mel)

(Arc kindly provided by Netgalley)

When I started reading this book I thought the plot had a lot of potential but as it developed the insta-love factor in the story was what ultimately prevented me from really connecting with the characters and their romance.

Megan is running away from her life, she got involved with her boss, a famous writer , and trusted him enough to share her own book with him but instead of finding support in him he stole the manuscript from her and now claims that he wrote it. With her life upside down, she decides to pack her life and her beloved dog and go to the secluded beach house her best friend offered, in search of some peace. She heard of the misterious neighbor who doesn't talk to anybody, but when they meet on the beach and both their dogs connect, Megan is immediately taken by him and wants to know everything about this recluse man who has so much pain in his eyes. Zachary is also hiding from a painful past life that marked him, now he spends his days painting beautiful masterpieces and drowning in self loathing, until he meets the sweet read head who will bring him back to life. Little by little Megan wins Zachary over and is not long before a powerful passion takes over these two broken souls, but can they really open up to love and trust one another, even though they both have been burned by people in their pasts?

I enjoyed the writing style and the plot was very promising but I had a really hard time connecting with Megan's character, she was very wishy washy and cried over everything. Another thing I didn't like about the story was the execution of the intimate scenes, they would start really passionate but then skip over the details and not describing anything further after the initial foreplay. I enjoyed the ending and I will definitely be interested in reading more from this author.

✿kawehi.reviews says

? I received an ARC from MaE Tours in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!! ?

3.5 stars!!

I personally really liked this story. Sure, it struggled with some pacing issues and a few execution extremities... BUT, as a whole I enjoyed it.

For me, what stuck out was the concept and premise of the plot and characters. It struck a fresh and out of the box type of feel that brought a different depth of 'brokenness' to both Zachary and Megan. While some of it was heart breaking, some of it also led to inexplicable outcomes that had us readers both reeling and cheering. It was that incredibly raw and powerful.

Author Melanie Moreland brings to the table a compelling and majestic statement with ***Beneath the Scars*** as it dwindles a delicate balance between themes of tranquility and disarray of human nature. While some of it can be beautiful and serene, the other half of it can be quite dark and destructive.

A lovely, lovely read that I absolutely adored! ♥

Libby Harrison says

<https://romanticcynicblog.wordpress.c...>

Beware of Spoilers!

Star Ratings:

Heroine (Megan): 25yrs old – 5/5

Hero (Zachary): 37yrs old – 5/5

Plot: 5/5

Grovel: epic!

Cheating: none

HEA: a perfect ending with babies!

Triggers: none

Average score: 5/5

Best Line: *“What frightens me even more is how much I need you. I have never needed another person in my life. You’re like the air I breathe. I can’t be without you now, Megan.”*

Worst Line: *“Ugliness outside often indicates there’s ugliness underneath.”*

Personal Review:

This was an epic romance between a tough and scarred hero and a loyal and stubborn heroine.

Random Ramblings:

- Wow, he was an ass in the beginning but I was intrigued
- I’ll give you hugs...thousands of them!

Overall Feeling:

***TANYA* says**

Oh boy!!! The amount of tears shed by the 2 protagonists was EXHAUSTING!!! They were fresh, overflowing, pouring and abundant amounts of tears in this book, yet my eyes stayed dry!! Lol.

Rhea Dsouza says

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My Review

It takes more than just a good story or realistic characters or even a pretty cover for a book to be a book. The book needs a soul. And *Beneath the Scars* has soul. I honestly can't think of any other book in the adult genre that I've read that's gone so deep inside of me, I can't even explain it.

Megan Greene's struggle is heart breaking. Betrayed and searching for some quiet, she accepts her friend's offer to stay in a beach house in New England, Maine, unknowing that *this* is the decision that will change her life...forever.

Zachary Adams is all-alone in his house at the beach and he prefers it that way. But his friendly neighbour won't leave him alone.

And slowly, he's started to like that.

Beneath the Scars started out slow. I remember almost wanting to give up on the book because I wasn't sure when exactly the "action" would start. But start it did and I loved every minute of it. It had me absolutely hooked and biting my nails.

Megan sees Zachary's painting at an art gallery, and she just can't get over the fact that the painting reflects her. Her emotions she's feeling right now and the chaos in her life. And with that, she's determined to buy the painting. Only, Zachary isn't willing to sell it.

Zachary can't believe the fact that 12 years after the incident that changed his life and took away everything, he's started to get attracted to his nagging neighbour. She challenges him and breathes life into him. And he's honestly warming up to her when—in a moment of drunken weakness—she does something that starts a chain of events leading to something that threatens to tear them apart.

Correction: It almost *did* tear them apart.

The imagery that the author invoked is another thing I'd like to mention. Her setting was already perfect but the way Cliff Beach was described...there are absolutely no words. I could read the words, close my eyes and just be right there. It was perfection.

If I were to talk about Megan individually, I'd say she was a little too perfect. She didn't make any mistakes—except the aforementioned drunken blunder—and the discovery of that too was entirely coincidental. The case of being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Zachary, on the other hand, is a complete jerk. I literally couldn't feel it in myself to even summon an ounce of sympathy for him—until I read about his past. But most importantly, how he felt about his past. His remorse won me over to his side.

But together, these two people brought to me the most amazing story—in the Adult category—I've read in some time :) Now go read this, people! Shoo, shoo :D

Find this review and more at Rhea's Neon Journal

Erika says

This book had a lot of great things about it, but also had some themes and characterization which are not my favorite. Nevertheless, it is a very well-written book and I believe many romance readers will love it!

This was much different than Moreland's other two books, *Into the Storm* and *Over the Fence*. In those two books, I felt like the main couple was united, in love, against the world. In this book, there was a lot more angst that came from within the relationship. The hero, Zachary, had a tough upbringing and some traumatic past experiences, and as a result, he was emotionally and physically scarred, and very defensive. The heroine, Megan, was a sweetheart, and honestly, pretty much a saint! She put up with A LOT from Zachary, and always forgave him, always continued to love him. Other characters couldn't understand how she did that, but yet she did.

Though I may not have loved this book as much as I loved Moreland's other two, there were some great things I would point out:

- sweet and selfless Megan
- the dogs!! They were ever present and ever adorable.
- the setting: the beach, the forest, the rugged coastline, the little town. I loved it.
- the artistic element. Zachary was a painter. Megan was a writer.
- the way Zachary's background was kept mysterious and how it was revealed.
- The last 7%. I loved when things came together for this couple. And the epilogue was really really sweet and fulfilling.

I pretty much will read anything Moreland writes, as long as they are safety gang safe. This book is 100% safe. There is no OW drama whatsoever. The characters are faithful to each other, even during a separation. If you love a scarred and/or reclusive hero, this book is a good bet for you!!

Katie says

5 STUNNING STARS

OMGGGG MY EMOTIONS ARE EVERYWHERE BECAUSE OF THIS BOOK! One chapter I am smiling with a stupid shit-eating grin, and then next I am sobbing. And let me tell you, I loved EVERY SECOND of the emotional roller coaster this book put me through!

So you know the drill with my reviews at this point: short and sweet && a brief discussion of the characters, whom by the way, I LOVED!!

Megan

...LOVED HER! I was immediately drawn to how real she was. We meet her arriving in Cliff's Edge, a small town on the water. She eludes to the fact that she was running away from her problems at home and as the story takes off, we learn why. She then meets the elusive Zachary, who for lack of a better term, was a complete and utter asshole to her. But she knows there is more than meets the eye to this handsome stranger and the love affair that starts between the two is absolutely beautiful. My only issue with Megan is that I felt she was a little too loose-lipped on the "L" word, but to each their own!

Zachary

...LOVED HIM TOO! In Cliff's Edge, Zachary is known as the reclusive artist that doesn't give anyone the time of day. When he first see's Megan, he ignores her completely. OF course my first response to this was-wtf? If there is a love that starts between them, I am going to be pissed because he's a dick. (Yes, my words exactly...what can I say? I'm a genius when it comes to words) But as he shows himself more and more to Megan, we learn exactly why he is the way he is. The scars that mar his face and body aren't just on the surface, they are skin deep as well. Never before have I felt such compassion for a character. This man, before he met Megan, was literally suffering in his loneliness. The fact that it took Megan's love for him to finally be able to peel off his "mask of indifference" towards to world, made their love that much more amazing and enjoyable to read about.

Seriously, I loved this book. It had my emotions all over the place! And as of now, I truly believe that my fiancé now thinks I might be bi-polar due to my many emotional breakdowns he just so happened to have witnessed while I was reading the book. Oh well. So worth it!
