



The Beginning (Beyond the Voices) (Volume 1)

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Dr. Tesh Peterson has a secret that tells her her secrets.

When an educated professional begins questioning love, marriage, family and her own sanity after she comes into contact with a spiritual energy, is she one step away from a padded room or one step closer to Erotic Nirvana?

This is the first book in the series that documents Tesh's journey through her childhood to present date, reliving her most erotic and abusive relationships with men. Tesh's communication with the voices is something she cannot explain, cannot speak of to anyone, and at times can barely comprehend herself. She knows one thing for certain, their guidance is giving her the strength to come from her knees, to stand on her feet, and begin what she has come to know as the Path.

The Beginning (Beyond the Voices) (Volume 1) Details

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Author : Mary Katherine Fontanero

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Ape says

Hmm. I have rather mixed feelings about this book. And I realise my rating isn't that high, but it's as much about the fact that this isn't my type of book as any reflection on the quality. Although I do have a couple of misgivings about it.

Anyway, in a sense this is the life story to date of our main character, Tesh, who is a forty-something doctor in Canada (I think) - north America anyway. The main focus of her life story is her sex life, and it's got to be said the most descriptive sections are the sex scenes and she is a bit experimental, so this isn't one for the faint hearted! So it's erotica, but some of it makes for very uncomfortable reading - not so much in a my-goodness-they're-doing-what-now?! kind of a way, but the fact that there is essentially child abuse (she's 13 that summer the older boys force her into sex acts in the wood shed), rape (at a sleep over the father is abusing her on the assumption she's asleep and is unaware) and an old guy old enough to be her grandfather playing out what feels like a Lolita-paedophile fantasy on her (this also feels like semi prostitution as after this encounter, her new bike with extra features that she can't afford is all paid for), at various points in the book. She is clearly abused and used by a lot of men, but she never tries to turn it into a sob story and play the poor-little-me card, which is refreshing in some respects although also disturbing in that I didn't feel that she got how much she had been abused. Admittedly she says that she enjoys all of this, and her life story seems to be leading to some ultimate sexual state of being that I guess she'll achieve in later books.

Although this is a work of fiction, I do also feel that there is a distinct new age-self help book feel throughout. In some respects it's good in that she's saying we should avoid negativity, it just drags you down, life's too short etc. And also the realisation she's coming to that sex shouldn't just be about pleasing men; women shouldn't be submissive to men in relationships - she leaves her waste-of-space bloodsucker husband at the start of the book. So hurrah for all that.

But there is still a distinct feeling that you need a man to complete you. Having made the decision to leave her husband she goes straight into a relationship with Tom. There is never any space for her to learn to be with herself and be a whole person in her own right. And two years into this new relationship, they are still caught in the honeymoon phase, talking together on the phone every day, no I miss you more, and this devastation if they have to spend a day apart. Some of the guidance and comments also seemed to be leading to the point that if a relationship isn't 100% perfect, you don't 100% love everything about your partner, then it's not real love.... some of the relationships she portrays are not healthy, but going to the other extreme is presenting an idealised, and quite frankly suffocating idea of love. No one is perfect, and if you keep looking for your perfect person, you will never be happy. I think it's more a case of you've got to accept people for what they are, and that there will be aspects that aren't quite what you'd like. Just as the fact that it is normal and healthy to argue now and then, and also to need your own space sometimes to be an individual. There's also a bipolar woman who's a patient and not happy in her life. She sleeps around, nags her husband and complains that he doesn't help with chores. She expected him to change. On the one hand she needs to work at her relationship, realise you can't change people... but I almost got the impression that if he doesn't want to do the dishes, he shouldn't have to. No, no, no, I'm all for fair division of labour in households, I don't think it's a case of woman, shut up and get it all done.

There's also a possible sci fi element to this that isn't my usual reading area. Her new guy, Tom, seems to be channelling voices, so sometimes he's actually a wierd guy Magnus who speaks very strangely and lectures

her on how life and love ought to be. And there's another being that starts to come through towards the end of the book who is distainful and impatient. I can't decide if this is as it appears; if she's just having some kind of mental breakdown; or if Tom is playing nasty games with her.

I realise I am picking up on things and interpreting things in completely different ways to how other people may see them, which makes my scoring very objective. Depending on how you feel about fiction-self-help with new age sci fi elements and relationships and erotica, this may be just the book for you. I read it very quickly, so in that respect it is well put together. For me, I think it's a good book but not great for my personal tastes which is why I'm putting it down as "ok" (two stars on goodreads, which as I've said before isn't necessarily a bad thing with the way I score books).

I won this on a goodreads giveaway - many thanks for the chance to read something a little different. Just as a side note having seen that the writer is originally from Spain, I wanted to say I'm impressed by the book which she's written into English, not her mother tongue.

Gillian Ashton says

This is a story of Tesh...its an interesting and disturbing tale.

She goes back through her days of promiscuity and abusive situations in the hope of understanding, or finding out the truth about Love, why she is having the relationships she does and hopefully learning to move forward.

I will be very keen to see how the series unfolds as we delve into the supernatural and Erotic world that's dragging us in!

Bill Miller says

The Beginning by Mary Katherine Fontanero

Customer Review by Bill Miller

August 11, 2014

The author, Mary Katherine Fontanero, describes the tangled life of a young female physician, pondering her teenage sexual escapades and consumed with the desire to fulfill the emptiness in her life—with what, she's not sure. Her quest for true love and sexual satisfaction leads to a promiscuous lifestyle bordering on prostitution, yet, evaded by love. Eventually, she finds the man of her dreams, tall, dark, handsome, and caring, but with supernatural powers of the mind—mystic energies that can recall her past and foresee her future.

Erotica no doubt, but not overboard—just enough to command attention, keep it exciting, and out of the ordinary. I read the book from cover to cover without putting it down, and can hardly wait for book two in the fantastic, Beyond the Voices Series.

Wanda says

I received a signed copy of Mary Katherine Fontanero's "The Beginning" Beyond The Voices Volume 1 compliments of the Goodreads Firstreads Giveaway and appreciated the opportunity. May contain spoilers.

This is the story of Dr. Tesh Peterson, a family medicine physician, who finds herself retracing memories of her past, which include sexual promiscuity, risky behavior, abuse and victimization. While facing financial despair, a failed marriage and pending divorce, Tesh enters into a friendship with Tom, who supports her in learning the truth about love and what healthy relationships represent. The story takes on a supernatural twist, whereby Tesh begins to seek direction from "voices" that appear to be guiding her along a new path in her life. Tesh must re-live her past experiences, surrender to the consequences of her actions, in order to move ahead. All of the memories she had suppressed, come flooding back, raw and painful. Tesh remains insecure and confused as positive energy enters into her life. Can she accept love and trust spiritual entities who have began their intervention.

There are many dark and uncomfortable events that the main character faces within the novel. Some of the eroticism portrayed surrounds sexual abuse and is unsettling. The story evoked many emotions including anger and repugnance towards the abusers, along with empathy for the victim.

I raced through this story in one sitting, it was well-paced and akin to a novella in length. It captured my interest from the start and the eroticism within the novel was in timely doses. The author's writing style was simplistic and direct. My one criticism was the language spoken by the character Magnus. I found it awkward and challenging to follow and it was a negative distraction from the story. I would recommend to adult readers who have an interest in erotic writing. I look forward to the next installment of this author's series.

Rheal says

I received Beginnings through the Goodreads Firstreads Giveaway program.

At only a little over 200 pages, the books is both a fast and easy read. Overall the writing was good and the plot was compelling.

That being said, one of the characters had an unusual speech pattern that I found very distracting and didn't feel it's use added to the book. I also found many of the erotic situations less hot and more awkward. I'm glad other people have enjoy this book, but I probably will not read the second one.
