



Love's Ache: A Single Father Romance

Ava Alise

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Liz

I'm a magnet for bad relationships. "He was too wild." "We were too young." But love is blind, and I never listen. Now at twenty-one years old, I'm divorced, frustrated and grieving my sister.

Chris was supposed to be a fling, a break from the pain so I can move on with my life. He's exactly the type of guy my sister always warned me about. But every time he touches me, it becomes harder to walk away. Should I play it safe and honor my sister's memory? Or should I follow my instincts, even if they've always been wrong?

Chris

I'm a working single father. The last thing I need is a relationship, and Liz clearly wants nothing more than a no-strings fling. Perfect fit, right? We even had a code: no lying, and no falling in love. But the longer this goes on, the more everything is turning upside-down. It's usually girls that fall in love, but now I'm the one who's trying to stay unattached. See, the last thing Liz wants is to end up with a guy like me. Nice girls don't usually end up with strippers.

Love's Ache: A Single Father Romance Details

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Author : Ava Alise

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From Reader Review Love's Ache: A Single Father Romance for online ebook

Laura Furuta says

Love's Ache (Gently Broken Series)

By: Ava Alise

5 out of 5 stars

The story Love's Ache (Gently Broken Series) by Ava Alise is a contemporary romance book. It is a story that I absolutely loved reading. It had my interest in the first couple of chapters and I didn't want to put it down until I had finished the last page. I loved the characters of Liz and Chris. Liz is a smart, beautiful woman who has been unlucky in love. She was to be trying to take a break as she was in pain from her relationships and also the death of her sister. That is when she meets Chris. Chris is a single working father. He doesn't do relationships, just hook-ups. Then he meets Liz. These two have a definite attraction to each other and soon find that there is red-hot chemistry between them. They agree to a code for their relationship. They are just having a casual hook-up, no pressure, no falling in love. What will happen when they both realize that the feelings that they have for each other are more than just casual? Will they take a chance at love or walk away from each other? This is a story that had my emotions going up and down like a rollercoaster. This is a couple that is meant to be together and you will be rooting for them to find a happy ending together. I really loved the character of Chris and how he took the responsibilities of being a father seriously. By his words and his actions, he shows his love for his child. There are also other characters that you are introduced to in this story which are the friends of Chris and Liz. I loved reading about them as well. There are parts in this book where I would have a smile on my face and that warm feeling that you get when two people are falling in love. Read this book to find out if Liz and Chris get their HEA. This is an author who writes wonderful stories and creates amazing characters. I can't wait to read what she writes next. This book does have adult situations including steamy love scenes. It would be recommended for those 18 years of age or older.

Bobbi Wagner says

Love Ache: A Single Father's Dark Romance (Gently Broken Series) by Ava Alise is a contemporary romance story that kept me engaged until the end. I enjoyed how this author was able to pull me into this story from the beginning. Her characters are creative, connectable, and really free flowing. There story flowed easily and made you feel as if you were right there with them. They will take you on a roller coaster ride of emotions but you will need to see what happens at the end. This is the story of Liz and Chris. Liz is a woman whose life is a little messed up. She is in the middle of a divorce and is trying to move forward from the loss of her sister. What will happen when her friend convinces her to go out one night and she meets Chris? She isn't looking for a relationship, just a casual fling. No emotions, no feelings, no relationship. Chris is a single father who also is not looking for a relationship. He is known for his one night stands and is happy that way until he meets Liz. Together they come up with a code for their relationship, no lies and no feelings. What will happen when one of them start having feelings for the other? Could this casual relationship turn into more? Will they take a chance on each other or will one walk away? I fell in love with both of these characters. They are so strong and have been through so much. They have such hot, steamy chemistry that you may need cooling off after reading about them. I loved that neither one is determined to

have a relationship but when fate takes over, you won't see what is coming next. I found myself hoping that they would find their happily ever after but you will have to read this book to find out for yourself. I also enjoyed the secondary characters in this book. I hope that we get to see a few of them in future books. This author's stories are always so easy flowing reading that I can't put down. I really enjoy her stories and can't wait to see what she will have for us next. I highly recommend this book as I know you will want to see if they keep their code, break it or just plain walk away.

Michelle Austin says

Title: Love's Ache: A Single Father's Dark Romance

Author: Ava Alise

Series: Gently Broken Series

Love's Ache was a great 5 star read.

We get pulled in right from the beginning with Liz getting her heart broken by her boyfriend who doesn't understand why she's not divorced yet. We jump ahead a few weeks to Liz going out with friends to celebrate her divorce and act like a college student again. This is where she meets Mr. Teeth (Chris), LOL. She's not really out to find someone so she is a little standoffish with him. **The look in his eyes is dark and hungry.**

Chris is out with friends when he sees Liz. The red dress she had on pulled him right in, hence the nickname "Red".

Both Chris and Liz have some personal things they are dealing with. Chris is a single father and stripper who is dealing with an ex and custody issues. Liz is dealing with the guilt of her sister's death and past relationship. Chris and Liz end up spending time together and come up with a couple of rules that takes their friendship into some hot and heavy moments: 1: No lying, 2: No falling in love. Something about being with Chris calms Liz and makes her feel things she has never felt before. Can these two really stick to their rules?

There are some very unexpected twists that threw me, that I didn't see coming. And a few really hot and steamy ones, one can only dream to have a stripper for a boyfriend. I had some LOL moments with some of thoughts that Liz would have: **Remind me not to play sexy picture wars with a stripper, who owns a waterproof phone.** And when she found out Chris and his friends were strippers that was great. I really loved all of the secondary characters, they all added a great element to the story. I'm hoping that we get to see something on Tank and Ros.

I'm not sure that I would say this is a Dark romance but Ava Alise did pull me right in with her writing once again. I look forward to reading more from her.

Chantelle Smith says

Love's Ache is brilliant captivating read from author Ava Alise, this is my first read from this author and I loved everything about this read. This book had a brilliant story line and even better characters that had me hooked from start to finish. I can't wait to see what other books come from this author and whether they will

be as brilliant as this one.

From the first moment in this book you are drawn into the characters and the storyline and the characters history, neither of them have had it easy especially Liz. But these two characters are about to have a journey together that will change both of them in some way. This book is filled with twists and turns throughout that make this read even more captivating. The characters will also take you on an emotional roller-coaster that you can't help but feel as though you was there with them. Chris and Liz, meet and there is an instant attraction and connection between the two, but as neither one of them wants a relationship at the time they give into the chemistry and have a no string attached relationship in which they realise they have more in common than they realise and that spending time together their connection continues to develop further. They both begin to do something neither of them expected, opening up to each other about things they didn't think they would share.

This book gives you all of the feels, from happiness, passion, sadness, love, depression. But with the romance, passion, this book also had a level of humour, especially whenever Liz & Chris were together, they brought out the best in each other, the side that they find while being together. It was great to see the characters blossom throughout the book, the characters are in depth, creative and relatable in some way, Liz was very closed off and not being her true self and things were made worse by the fact of her recent break-up but Chris brings the new Liz into herself and I loved seeing her let loose and finally come into herself. At times she did frustrate me, with how she continually pines after Sean, knowing everything that he put her through. Chris is perfect from the very beginning, I wouldn't change a thing about him, he is the perfect father, caring, loving, considerate and he is exactly what Liz needs, to help her get through everything she is facing,

I loved everything about this book, I was captivated, entranced and couldn't put this read down. It flowed from chapter to chapter and it was made even better by the fact they each chapter was from a different POV. This made me connect with the characters even more, help me understand their thoughts and actions and why they were how they were. I also loved the other relationships within this read, from Liz and Ros, with everything they have been through together, and even all Chris's work colleagues and friends all of them are tight knit and look out for each other.

This is a brilliant Captivating read with incredible characters, that made it even harder to put this read down, I can't wait to see what else this author brings to this series, and hope this isn't the last we read of Liz & Chris.

Read.Review.Repeat Blog says

I was addicted right from the beginning! The premise of this story was what made me want to read it and I'm glad I did! I honestly couldn't get enough. Ava Alise is an amazing author and she always knows how to keep us on the edge of our seats. I can't wait to read more of her!

~Amanda

What do you do when you are 21 year old freshly divorced and freshly dumped woman? Go out with the girls and have a Divorce celebration! Liz has had a complicated and messy love life. Just recently dumped by her long time boyfriend, just recently divorced from her incarcerated husband, she doesn't need anymore love life drama! While out with the girls, she runs into Chris, also not looking for complicated. Chris is a

single dad who has been scorned by a greedy baby mama!!! He does not want or need "Love! Can a hook up just stay a hook up? Can Chris and Liz stick to the rules of their agreement and keep it breezy? I enjoyed this book and I loved the push and pull of the characters.

~Helen

A single dad romance with a girl who has a broken heart and a love that wasn't suppose to happen. There was a whole happening in this story and I felt sorry for them both with what they were going through in their personal lives. The companionship between the two seemed genuine and the love they both had for the child was evident.

~Jen

Move over Channing Tatum! I want to see Chris up on the stage!

Love's Ache was a steamy, single dad romance!

Liz and Chris were both looking for a friend with benefits when they decided to start seeing each other. I could quickly tell they wouldn't end up as just friends!

Ava Alise has blown me away with her writing ability! Where have you been all these years??? This my second book by her and I cannot wait for the third to be released early next year!

4 Scorching Stars!

~Heaven

Hot and steamy single dad Chris and Liz are seeing each other as friends with benefits. This story had me from the very beginning. Chris is a stripper just trying to make ends meet. But when his feelings change can he keep Liz? This book has all the feels and I didn't want it to end!

~Natalie

Alicia Harrietha says

Loves Ache by Ava Alise is another great story from the Gently Broken Series, a series that I have come to love very much and cannot wait for more. This single fathers dark romance is much more than a story of a single dad, it's about two broken people that find one another when they needed it most. Yet neither are willing to let it be more than they can handle or think they want.

Chris, a truly devoted father will do anything and everything for his son MG!! He refuses to let women into his life for more than one nighters, he works a job that's not idea, and he puts his son first in every decision he makes. Oh and man he is hot!!! A deliciously confident male that is use to women falling all over him as well as his bed. That was until a gorgeous girl in a red dress walks into his life and all but goes giddy for him. She makes him work for.

Liz, a gentle soul who has only ever wanted to be loved immensely and whole heartedly. With loving and marrying the wrong man and the death of her sister, Liz was a mess. Divorced and trying to move on with her life after her sister, the one guy she thought could help has once again let her down. Now she is once

again alone and extremely sad. With the help of her friends, Liz decides to try a new approach, one of no commitment, no faking in love. It seemed to her that Chris was the idea person for the new found rules!!

Together Chris and Liz enter into a no lying, no falling in love type of friends with benefits. It seems to work for them and makes them happy when they are together. With so much hurt and baggage on both sides, not looking for commitment is the best alternative for right now.

As a reader I want so badly for them to fall head over heels and forget all their troubles but that is not always the case. The twists and turns, all the emotions and wow all the steamy sexual chemistry makes this a book I could not put down. What's makes the story even better is the supporting characters!! They really pull the story all together. I would love to read more about this crazy group of people!!! For those who have not read any of this series yet, get in it!!! It's so worth it!!!

Paulien says

The story is all about Liz and Chris. Liz is a girl who made a few mistakes that ended her up in a relationship she didn't want to be in.

On the day she's divorced she decides to go out and party, that's where she meets Chris.

They hit it off well immediately and they decide just sex and fun. With two rules.

- 1: no lying
- 2: no falling

They fail.

Him: is a strong ex-stripper that had a little boy together with Shayma. His baby mommy isn't exactly a gift but they fight and make it work.

Her: she has a ex-husband in prison, a sister who's dead and a shitty boyfriend that breaks up with her.

Heat: the heat level in this book is high! They have insane chemistry!

This book was quick read, but not really a light one. There are some subjects that are rather heavy. No epilogue in this book though...

This book was a stand-alone.

3,5 stars!

Liz says

Love's Ache by Ava Alise tells the story of Liz and Chris. Liz a college student who struggles with guilt, loss, and grief. Chris is a single dad whose main priority is his son, MJ.

The last couple of years have not been easy for Liz. She lost her sister, she is divorced, and her recent boyfriend just broke up with her, before she is even done with college. She was determined to get her boyfriend back, but her friends convince her to let loose and have some fun. Live a little. She has been through so much.

When Chris' girlfriend finds out she is pregnant, he tries to give his son a good life. To support his family, Chris becomes a stripper, but keeps his personal life separate. But after years of unhappiness, they separate, and Chris takes responsibility of MJ. He enjoys strictly no string flings with no lying and no falling for each other.

When Chris and Liz meet they feel a strong attraction to each other. But neither is looking for a relationship or complications. But as they spend time together, they realize they enjoy spending time together and have a lot of chemistry. They decide to have a fun, no strings attached relationship with two simple rules. No lying to each other and no falling in love. The only problem? With such an easy relationship, they find themselves opening up to each other in ways they never expected.

I enjoyed Love's Ache. I found Liz a bit frustrating, but I also understood where she was coming from as we learned more of her background. I loved Chris. His heart was in the right place. He loved his son and always put him first. Liz somehow found a way to sneak right into his heart and vice-versa. Could they find a way to let each other in or will they walk away from something so real?

Love's Ache was a good read. There were parts that were a bit slow, but overall, I was drawn into the story and the characters.

3.5/4-stars. Read and reviewed for Sultry Sirens Book Blog.

Happy reading!

Beyond The Covers Blog says

Liz Thatcher has nothing but one heartbreak after another. First her sister dies, then her husband is put in jail for her death, and now her boyfriend of a year dumps her. After six weeks of moping and her divorce becoming final, Liz's friends take her out to celebrate and remind her what it's like to be a twenty-one-year-old college student. She's determined to remake herself into "New Liz" as her friends encourage her to find rebound guy and have a casual fling. "Old Liz" is a relationship type of girl and "New Liz" is hell bent on changing her ways.

Chris Preston is a wonderful loving father to his son MJ. He devotes all his time to him except when his ex has him on the weekends when Chris is working. Chris's job as a stripper brings in good money and keeps his son and his ex in the lifestyle that they are a costumed to. When Chris happens to meet Liz one night and they hit it off, they quickly set up some ground rules. This is nothing new for Chris. No strings attached, no lying and no falling in love. The question is can they both adhere to the rules that they agreed too?

Love's Ache by Ava Alise is a friend with benefits story with a lot of twists and turns along the way. Both main characters carry their own underlying baggage that at times get in the way of the friendship. With Liz's underlying story being the death of her sister and her ex-husband having caused that death you have to read through the entire story to find out what happened. It is not until the last two chapters that the death plot is revealed and then Alise surprises us with a twist to that plot. Liz's character is very emotional and at times paints women as being too dependent on the need to be in a relationship to be happy. Chris's character though is that of a strong father figure. Even though his career choice at first is not one that is ideal for a young father it shows he was willing to do whatever it took to take care of his son. Chris being a stripper did add for some hot steamy sex scenes between him and Liz. Love's Ache is four star read and I can see Ava Alise continuing more stories with other characters from this book.

Angela Shirley says

Love's Ache: A single father's Dark Romance by Ava Alise is a wonderful story of second chances and finding what truly is inside someone.

Liz has had tragedy in her life first her sister dies, then she is divorced what more can happen before she leave college although she is trying hard to overcome it, when one night her friends decide to take her out for the night as all college students should have a night of pure fun was she expecting what happened. When they enter the club and she sees the stunning man in front of her she instantly feels the attraction. The only problem is she is not wanting a relationship just fun will he be up for the challenge.

Chris has had his fair share of problems in his life, now being the sole parent for his son he took the only job which would pay the salary he needed to survive, it just happens to be a stripper. With his son in the picture Chris has always had hookup's just fun not commitment which suits him just fine. Until he meets Liz will he be able to settle with just fun.

The story continues and you find that with the hassle free relationship the two of them talk more freely regarding there lives and end up trusting each other and finding each of them have more feelings. The character of Chris was warm, loving and he loved his son and always put him first, this coupled with the slightly broken Liz getting to understand what got her to this was a great contrast to Chris's character in the book. Although I enjoyed the fast pace of the book there were places which I felt slow down the story but overall I really enjoyed the style of writing and kept me hooked til the end.

This is the first book I read by this author but I will be looking out for more in the future.

Nicole French says

A wonderful debut by a new writer. I had the privilege of reading this book in its early stages, and you don't want to know how many times I messaged the writer asking for more. Ava Alise creates lovable, real characters that whose struggles will become your own. Warning: Chris will steal your heart. This dude is a

bad boy with a heart of absolutely gold, and you will fall in LURVE with him. Ava: can you write a sequel? Pretty please? I'm not ready to be done with these two!

Aly says

*I received this book in exchange for an honest review.

I give this book 3.5 stars. It started off a little slow, Liz was very reluctant at first. Once Liz and Chris got more into their relationship, the story really picked up and the smut was fun and sexy ;) Liz was frustrating, there were times I wanted to strangle her! But I also felt for her with all the shit she went through. It was nice to see her grow as a person. Chris was fun and I loved seeing how devoted he was as a dad. He and MJ are super cute. I also liked the friends they both had. Ros is a good best friend and JJ made me laugh. My only real complaint is that there was no actual stripping! Gasp! That would have been fun to read, but oh well. This was a good read!

Kristin says

Become Invested In Characters & Plot + HOT Chemistry = My Kind of Romance

Love's Ache is the riveting story of Chris and Liz. The story will have you hooked from the first page to the last. You will feel for, ache for, and cheer on Liz and Chris through out the story. Love's Ache has a remarkable storyline, well developed characters, and sizzling scenes. Liz and Chris are realistic and believable characters. You will feel like these character could be your friend or even meet them around your town.

Both Liz and Chris have been unlucky in love and have experienced heartache. Either one wants to get hurt and decide to have an affair without commitments. The chemistry between Liz and Chris is electric. These two are drawn to each other, and it is scorching hot. With everything else going on in their lives, will they be able to find happiness and love?

Chris is a single father who tries to do the best for his son and to put his son's needs first. Chris is a stripper and sinfully sexy. He tries to deal with his son's mother, so the child can have her in his life. Chris has a kind and sensitive side that Liz gets to see. He doesn't tell Liz what he does for a living.

Liz is a college student. She has recently got divorced and been dumped by her boyfriend. Liz is also dealing with her sister's death. She is heartbroken of the loss of her sister and the end of her relationship with Sean. Liz's friends take her out to celebrate her divorce. Liz meets Chris that night, while out with her friends at a club.

Love's Ache is my kind of romance. It is one that you are fully invested with the plot / storyline and characters from the beginning, but it will keep you guessing and on edge through out the story. This story makes you wait for the characters to grow, develop and discover themselves before they can find their happiness / love. Ava Alise delivered a magnificent story. I can't wait for the next book.

Overall Story - 5 Stars

Chemistry - 5 Stars

POV - Dual / Alternating POVs

Cliffhanger - No

Recommend to Others - Yes

5/5 Stars

S.Shade says

I had the pleasure to voluntarily read and review an Advanced Reader Copy of this book.

Rule #1: No lying.

Rule #2: No falling.

Rules are made to be broken though, right? ;)

When we are first introduced to Liz Thatcher she is living in a world of pain. Her sister had died a few years prior, she is going through a divorce, and her "perfect" boyfriend has just broken up with her. Needless to say she is a shell of the woman that she used to be. Good thing for her though, she has some amazing friends who don't let her wallow for to long. On the night of her divorce finalization she meets sexy as sin Chris.

Chris is a single father whose first priority is his son, MJ. He doesn't want to complicate what he has going for them so he goes by the rule no relationships, just sex. When he meets Liz he knows there is something different about her. He knows she's the relationship type but the chemistry between the two is off the charts. So begins the pact of: No lying and no falling.

I loved watching Liz come out of her shell and become the spunky, ornery, sexy woman she became around Chris. He truly brought out her best light and she complimented him in so many ways. I loved reading the chemistry between theses two, then the friendship, and then watching these two characters slowly fall. It was such an amazing progression, nothing rushed, just the perfect pace.

Kim Shofner says

Now this book is sweet. I loved how the author showed the progression of Liz from a meek, fix it all kind of girl into a sassy, always speak her mind girl. Chris didn't need any changing. He stayed perfect from start to finish. Shayla and Haley are lucky I can't reach into a book and grab them by their hair. The relationships in this book are amazing. Between friends and lovers the bonds are awesomely written. The story flowed easily and I couldn't wair to finish it. Awesome read.
