



# Before You Go

*Clare James*

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## **Before You Go** Clare James

Paralyzed by the past and terrified of the future, Tabitha Kelly is broken.

After a public sex scandal at her college, Tabby moves to a new city with a new school, convinced she can start over. But she soon realizes the changes are not enough. Tabby must take action to help her heal and move on from the past.

And though it sounds crazy, she believes a one-night stand is the best way to take back what's hers. If she can choose where, when, and most importantly, who ... maybe she can regain control.

First, she needs a willing participant.

She finds more than that when she meets Noah Adler.

Unfortunately, she can't go through with it. And when she tries to forget about the plan—and the guy—it becomes impossible.

Noah quickly weaves his way into her new life and her heart. But as he comes dangerously close to discovering her secret, Tabby's at risk of losing it all.

## **Before You Go Details**

Date : Published March 30th 2013 by Amazon

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Author : Clare James

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**Talltree says**

4.5 stars!

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**Jessica's Book Review says**

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Before You Go by Clare James had me hooked from the moment I opened the book. I started it before going to bed one night thinking I would read a chapter or two, next thing I know it is 4 am and I finished the book! I just couldn't put it down. I was captivated by the characters, the story, and not to forget Noah, he is totally swoon-worthy! Book boyfriend material for sure!

In Before You Go you will meet college student Tabitha Kelly. Tabby has it all, looks, money, popularity but after a night of partying and being drugged a sex scandal soon follows. She becomes the laughing stock on campus, no one believing her side of the story and she ends up losing her boyfriend (what a jerk), her friends, and her dancing career, even her mother who is more worried about her public image than her daughter's well being. After months of trying to overcome the assault, even getting help in an inpatient facility Tabby decides to start over in a different state. Tabby only wants to focus on school but her plans change when she meets Noah one night in a bar thinking he would only be a one night stand turns out he will become a lot more.

The first chapter will wrap you in and not let you out! I loved the opening scene of Tabby trying to overcome her past thinking a one night stand would help feel powerful. You will get a great insight on who she is while Tabby is sitting at the bar looking for the lucky guy who will become her one nighter. When she meets Noah they connect right away, their interactions are so funny and cute! Tabby is a great character; I appreciated being able to see her growth over the course of the book. I LOVED Noah; he is just a good guy. I love good guys. He wasn't tatted up, or an underground street fighter, he was simply amazing, understanding, handsome, and perfect. Though he had a secret of his own he was over coming it and became a better person for it.

Ms. James is a very talented writer. I felt the book had it all, humor, romance, some sexy scenes, and a very emotional. It's hard to come by a book that has it all with a great storyline as well. The only thing I wish was the ending was a little more wrapped up when it came to Noah and his past. I felt like the Jenna (a character from his past) and Noah could have had some more closure. The way Jenna treated Tabby at the end of the

book I was expecting a resolution to come, but there was not one. I still feel like Noah is in a big conflict between Tabby and Jenna and I would like to know what will happen between them next.

Before You Go is an amazing read I highly suggest to all my book lover friends out there. It has a wonderful story, deep emotions, great characters, and Noah of course! Can't forget about him!

I give Before You Go 4 stars.

*I received an ARC copy of Before You Go by the author in return for an honest review.*

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### **Clare James says**

Hi all,

I'm the author of BEFORE YOU GO. I hope you enjoy this New Adult Romance. It is equal parts sweet and sexy, and you will swoon for Noah.

Enjoy!

Find me at:

[www.clarejamesbooks.com](http://www.clarejamesbooks.com)

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<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/17...>

<http://www.facebook.com/clarejamesauthor>

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### **Gokce ~Muslin Myst~ says**

Being probably one of the last ones to hear about the New Adult genre, I say this book was just okay. The low rating isn't because the book was bad but rather it felt like it wasn't yet completed.

The story is told from first person by our heroine who had to deal with some devastating experience. We come into the story after the initial crisis following this experience, but before the full recovery. This gives us time to both discover in bits what exactly happened to her, and to see step by step how and with who she gets over things. Even though I can't say I'm a big fan of first person narration, I have to admit this helps get into a character's head, especially in a plot such as this where psychology is the big chunk of the story.

The subject matter of this book is not an easy one to write, I give that much to the author. You gotta tread carefully, giving the necessary care to the character's condition. I think in this case the author did right by the heroine but unfortunately failed to cue us in. Even though for the whole of the book I was inside the heroine's head, I was unable to make a connection to her and I think that's where the book fails. As the most important person in this story, Tabitha makes not much of an impression on me, even though I try hard to sympathize with her concerning her past. And not only Tabitha herself, but also the rest of the characters feel

as if they might or might not have existed and it wouldn't matter for me. Her father, who help pick up the pieces together right after her incident is hardly there to make me feel for him. The new best friend Tabitha makes is also supposed to be a big help for her in getting over things but again, her existence is like a shadow. And Noah, the hero of the story, the one who's the biggest support, the biggest step in her recovery, fails to be that big. It felt like everyone had the right amount of potential, and they came *so* close to make the story reach its climax, and yet, there seems to be no climax in the end.

Another problem I had with this book was the unanswered questions. Sure, we do get why she's the way she is, what happened to her and how it affected not just her but everyone around as well, especially her family. But we never get any more detail than the overalls. I felt as if I was an outsider, and it frustrated me not to get any more information concerning the heroine herself and her relationships with those around her, or the hero, who seemed like his story was a bit more than we're told.

It was things like these, the little details that were neglected yet if told, they would've made a difference, and the fact that I couldn't connect with any of the characters, that made me rate this book this low. The story had potential, it's a real life problem that I'd be happy to read the heroine get over and move on with her life, but somehow it ended up being short of that potential. I would've preferred to read a hundred more pages if it meant I'd get the full of the story and a chance to click with the characters.

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### **Alpha Possessive Heroes says**

I bought this in amazon because the cover looks really sweet. ?

Glad I did, coz I ended up finishing it around 2am lastnight. It was impossible for me to put it down!

I love Tabitha, but specially Noah. He is a boyfriend material.

In this story- it made me feel something, something that is lacking with the books I've been reading lately.

I think the author did a very good job with the story that it pulled out different emotions to me.

I adore the cover. I love the story. But the ending was "meh". I wish the epilogue has more pages... I felt it was too quick and wishing it had more.. But other than that- I enjoyed Tabitha and Noah's story.

I highly recommend this book.

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### **Lauren at Live Read and Breathe Reviews says**

Here is a tale about secrets, lack of support, hope, second chances and love.

Tabitha has a past of hurt but she is finally able to start fresh in a new town and with the love and support of her dad and step mom.

With new starts comes with no friends and not a lot of support but it also comes with people not knowing

about your past.

In this new journey Tabby tries to battle her own demons but picking up a one night stand. Enter Noah who has his own demons and baggage but is drawn to Tabby.

**"That's well and good, Tabby." Noah's quiet, thoughtful. "But sometimes you need someone or something. Don't miss out on that because you're too busy focusing on where you're going. Sometimes all we have is right here, right now."**

Noah and Tabby have a rocky start but fate is being sneaky and they have so many outside connections that they are forced to get closer. With this walls start to come down on both sides and love and trust start to build.

**"I'm in love with you. I have been for months now. I was just waiting for you to catch up. I would do anything for you, Tab."**

With Noah and his past baggage also comes with Jules and Foster which are the light in the darkness for Tabby because with this she also gets Jules the friend she needs and deserves. With this past also comes Jenna the she-bitch.

The past always has a way of catching up when we try to run from it but what we don't realize that when we have true friends and true love it doesn't matter because they love us for who we are and not what we did or for what has happened to us.

For more reviews, visit [Live Read and Breathe](#)

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**Dilushani Jayalath says**

*\*I kindly received and ARC from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review\**

This book was actually nice and I really liked it. I wouldn't say that it had more defining qualities which made it a better story but for some reason I liked it more than other contemporary romance I've read. Tabby was a sweet person who just made a wrong mistake and compared to The First I read before this (In which our heroine also made many horrible mistakes) this was forgivable. As I got an uncorrected version there were many mistakes and it kinda annoyed me but other than that this pretty good. I'm pretty much psyched to read the second book. Jules was my favourite sidekick in a long time. I would also like to read the story about Michael, if there is one that is. He is such a sweetheart :)

**Actual Rating=3.8\***

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### **Anne OK says**

Clare James has done a marvelous job with her debut novel. Her writing style is smooth and straightforward. Her story, though not a new subject matter, proves its own uniqueness. A well-designed plot and a superb group of characters, both lead and secondary, add that extra dose of quality making this a thoroughly enjoyable read.

Noah and Tabitha are both damaged characters. One has been through a traumatic event that has marked her life severely. The other holds himself accountable for an accident that caused a death. Although there's instantaneous chemistry between these two, readers will be delighted with the slow-build into their tender and emotional romantic relationship.

Even though Noah and Tabitha find their happily-ever-after and there's no dramatic cliffhanger, readers are left with a few loose ends and several unanswered questions. Perhaps the author is already hard at work writing the sequel that solves those dilemmas. I certainly hope so.

"Before You Go" exceeded my initial expectations. I certainly never expected so many delightful surprises within the pages of this special gem. I highly recommend this one.

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### **SueBee★bring me an alpha!★ says**

**FREE today on Amazon US (1/1/2015)**

**BLURB:**

*Paralyzed by the past and terrified of the future, **Tabitha Kelly** is broken.*

*After a public sex scandal at her college, Tabby moves to a new city with a new school, convinced she can start over. But she soon realizes the changes are not enough. Tabby must take action to help her heal and move on from the past.*

*And though it sounds crazy, she believes a one-night stand is the best way to take back what's hers. If she can choose where, when, and most importantly, who ... maybe she can regain control.*

*First, she needs a willing participant.*

*She finds more than that when she meets **Noah Adler**.*

*Unfortunately, she can't go through with it. And when she tries to forget about the plan—and the guy—it becomes impossible.*

*Noah quickly weaves his way into her new life and her heart. But as he comes dangerously close to discovering her secret, Tabby's at risk of losing it all.*

<http://www.amazon.com/Before-You-Adul...>

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### **Katerina says**

Before You Go started off exciting. I have no clue why, but I was thinking of Mark Sloan and Lexie Grey from Grey's Anatomy as Noah and Tabitha even though Mark is wayyy too old to be a college student. Clare James made Before You Go embody something true to life. It was just the chemistry, and suave laid back flirting in the really great first and second chapters which made me feel like I was watching a television show and not merely reading manufactured words on a page. I liked that, I loved that. I sensed the interest and was really hopeful because I could imagine the script coming to life.

But that's all it was. The whole way through the novel at 25%, 40%, 80%, it always felt like their relationship was just beginning. Like they had just met and the sparks were there but it didn't raise off the ground. When Tabitha and Noah were close to being intimate in the first chapter, well...that felt more heady than when they were intimate at about the 30th chapter because the spark fizzled out and it felt monotonous like I was reading the same thing again. I couldn't feel the development.

Noah really disappointed me. He was suave and laid back and had chemistry with Tabitha, yes in the first chapter. Then he just became that guy. The newspaper student journalist filled with some unresolved obligation to another girl and a mix of religious beliefs and he wasn't special. He didn't have that trademark quality I look for in the hero of the novel. But I was waiting for the electricity, the pain, protectiveness, his obsession and passion for her beyond control and needing her. All he cares about was the newspaper. He was always tamed, safe, and in control and I hated that. He's not the "I would do anything for her" kind of guy. He's the nice guy with the steady salary and job and flirty but never all-consuming. He could have become that but he didn't.

Yes, they've both had some shitty life experiences over the past year. I was more emotionally involved with her past story and depression but there was a disconnect between Tabitha and Noah even when they shared their stories. I was actually hoping she'd hook up with her step brother and drop Noah even though their relationship was platonic. It didn't happen.

And when Noah and Tabitha declared their love for each other after a while, I understood it, but I couldn't feel like development.

It was just okay. It never picked up and it had potential to but we don't get to know enough about Noah, and the plot line as a whole disappointed me despite the well-written story.

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### **Sarah says**

**Free today!**



UK - <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Before-You-Im...>

US - <http://www.amazon.com/Before-You-Go-I...>

Nook - <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/befor...>

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## Beth says

### Four Stars!

Every now and again (pretty much this week) you find some hidden gems with free books from Bookbub, luckily I've read two amazing books from it while I've been on holiday.

I'm honestly pleasantly surprised as I mentioned in a previous update. I think the story handles the issue of Mental Health quite well, especially in aspects that were difficult to read about particularly how her mother dealt with it.

The only issues I had with this was we didn't really get closure with what happened with her family or Jenna...

I loved Jules as a character, I think everyone would want her as a best friend.

Overall I liked this much more than I thought!

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## Kirsty says

*\*Due to be released April 8th\**

This was a great debut novel by Clare James.

The story isn't necessarily unique but it's still good all the same. Tabitha has survived an awful ordeal in her old life and is doing all she can to overcome it. She's moved school, moved town and left everything and everybody who ruined her behind.

The story starts off with Tab about to start college, but before that she has the bright idea that a one night stand is just what she needs to help move on and heal from her past. But is it really? Noah is the lucky one who she chooses for the one night stand, but there's something different about him.. she's finally 'feeling' whilst she's with him, she isn't just numb and the feeling is so foreign that she clams up and can't go through with it. Moving on and trying to forget about him is just what she plans to do..

But fate has other ideas and on her first day at college there he is. Typical, right? I guessed this twist was coming but I loved it all the same when we got there. Noah was wonderful.. he is hiding his own secrets but that doesn't stop him going after what he wants and what he wants is Tab. Issues and all. I love how their relationship wasn't 'insta-love' that we see so often these days, it started off slow and really didn't progress to more until right near the end. **"I'm not damaged with him. I'm not broken."** Their relationship was sweet, passionate and loving. Noah didn't enable Tab to wallow in her self pity, he nudges and pushes her, all in a good way, to face her past and move on from it.

*"I feel... beautiful and adored for maybe the first time in my life."*

This book really made me feel. I felt for Tab on so many occasions, and even Noah once his past was revealed. The author did a great job of pulling out my emotions. The only criticism I have is the lack of epilogue. I really would have just liked a few more pages to see how they were getting on in the future, but the book was really good all the same.

*\*ARC provided by author in turn for an honest review\**

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## **Paige says**

### 2 "Getting Back Up" Stars

Before You Go is the story of Tabby. She was assaulted at her previous university and after the fallout became too much, she changed universities hoping to start over. She meets Noah one night as she's trying to take back her power by having a one night stand. But her past still haunts her and she can't go through with it. Noah is very gentlemanly about it though and when she runs into him on campus, they start a friendship that Noah tries to make more but Tabby isn't ready for. When Noah's past comes calling, Tabby starts to spiral downward again. Tabby knows though that until she moves on, she'll never be able to be with Noah.

This had a really interesting synopsis, but I just couldn't feel much of a connection to the characters or between Noah and Tabby. I wanted to like them but found them kind of flat. Their initial meeting was quite interesting but afterwards much of their relationship seem kinda of immature. There was too much back and forth and with Noah trying to play healer to a problem he didn't even know about was a bit much for me. Plus one minute Noah is eager to help Tabby but then puts her on the back burner when he "friend" comes calling. It turned me off to him and it was hard to like him much after that when he demanded Tabby have a backbone when he didn't in regards to their pasts.

While this book didn't work for me, I'm sure that those who love a good angsty NA read will love it. I think it just wasn't for me right now.

ARC provided by publisher via Netgalley for honest review.

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