



Atone

Beth Yarnall

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Beth Yarnall's sexy and emotional Recovered Innocence series continues as two broken souls discover that keeping their hands off each other is even harder than facing their demons.

Beau: Six years. That's how long I spent behind bars for a crime I didn't commit—the murder of the woman I loved. Now I'm free, but life on the outside is a different kind of prison. I don't know who I am or who I want to be. At least I have my sister, Cora. She never stopped believing in me. She even got me a job at the private investigation agency that cleared my name. And then Vera Swain walks into Nash Security and Investigations and kicks my world on its ass.

Vera: There's only one thing that would make me come out of hiding after two years on the run: finding my sister. I made the mistake of telling a monster about her, the same monster who beat me and broke me. Now I'm forced to confide in Beau Hollis of Nash Security and Investigations. He looks at me like he knows me—the real me. He sees too much, makes me feel too much. The pleasure he offers is exciting and addictive. But I can't fall for him . . . because my love could get us both killed.

Includes a special message from the editor, as well as an excerpt from another Loveswept title.

Atone Details

Date : Published February 23rd 2016 by Loveswept

ISBN :

Author : Beth Yarnall

Format : Kindle Edition 245 pages

Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Atone for online ebook

Irene says

4 stars

Atone was such a good read, the storyline captured my interest from the first page, I couldn't put it down.

Beau and Vera were both dealing with so much pain & hurt from their past. Together they find comfort, understanding and love, something they both crave and didn't think they deserved.

This was an emotional read, Vera's story broke my heart.

I really connected with Vera's character, as a mother of three girls my Mama Bear protectiveness came out. I wanted to reach out & hug her tight and take away the nightmare she'd gone through.

Then go after the mofo that had ever touched an innocent child.

Beau and Vera were perfect together, I loved seeing them connect, to trust and open their hearts and accept each other's unconditional love. And their chemistry??? SMOKING!!!

Overall this was a touching, heartwarming and beautiful read, the epilogue left me with a huge smile on my face and a heart full of love.

I enjoyed reading Atone and highly recommend the Recovered Innocence series.

Thank you to Random House Publishing Group - Loveswept via NetGalley for the advance copy.

NiCoLeTa E. says

4,5 "Only now" stars

I liked so much the first book...

A young girl was fighting to get out of the prison her brother...

It was a beautiful story full of emotions and suspense...

And now, we got to learn Beau's story after his release from the prison...

And i have to admit that i was dying to get my hands on that book!!!

I was so curious about his feelings and how he will deal with all those ugly things in his life, but i got more than that...

Because in the equation was added Vera and her story was more emotional and heartwrecking, even from Beau's...

I was so hooked up from those two and i can say that this story was even better than the first one!!!!

"I walked out of the California Institute for Men in Chino, California, two thousand, two hundred and seventy one days-more than six years-after I walked in.

I was finally free.

Free."

Beau was being accused for the brutally rape and murder of his girlfriend and he spend six years of his life in prison...

Everyone had given up on him, everyone except his younger sister Cora.

Well, Cora managed with the help of the Nash Investigations to free Beau out of prison...

And now, Beau is out and he don't know what to do with his life...

He is feeling guilty for his ex-girlfriend and he can't forget the past...

The strange thing is that even though that he was in prison for a crime that he hadn't done, he wasn't feeling angry... He was more sad and guilty for his beloved Cassandra and he couldn't let go of her memory...

Cora tried to help him... She gave him a roof under his head and she was trying to make him work with her for the Nash Investigations...

Vera went to the Nash Investigations with the request to find her sister.

From the first moment, she and Beau had an instant connection... but Vera wasn't who she was saying...

She had a lot of skeletons hidden in her closet and she was terrifying for anyone to discover them, especially Beau.

But Beau was the only one who could understand and help her... he was the only one who she could trust. But with what price???

Beau and Vera came really close and together, they were trying to find clues that they could lead them to Vera's sister. But as their research was moving, Vera's fears are growing...

And Beau becomes more and more involved with this case...

But Vera's past is dark and her sister is in big danger to get caught in the same situation as Vera got caught before some years.

"He's become my knight in rusted, dented armor, offering to slay a very, very dangerous dragon. He has no idea what he's up against... He's been through so much. He deserves to live the rest of his life danger-free. He sure as hell don't deserve the threat my secrets bring."

Could they find her in time and save her for the same fate as Vera's????

Could Beau get free from Cassandra's ghost and to let his heart open for Vera????

What Vera is hiding and when the revelations of her past will come to light... how will Beau react to them???? Will Beau stay untouched of all her hidden secrets and to remain by her side????

There is a possibility for those two to be together or they are living in borrowed time???

I loved Beau even when i didn't know him... He got to me from the first time that i saw him in prison... It was so unfair what had happened to him, what he lost because of a false accusation. He didn't deserve it!!! In this book, he was struggling to start living again, when in reality he didn't want to live at all. He was so lost...

Vera's appearance made him have a purpose again. He couldn't save Cassandra, but he could save Vera and her sister... and he was determined to succeed this time.

He was attracted to Vera from the first moment he saw her but he couldn't let go Cassandra and when he was too close to Vera, he was feeling guilty...

I liked that we saw him to be so protective, so kind, so determined...
The job in the Nash Investigations was fitting him so good.
I also liked that he was so loyal in those that he was caring...

"I know a little something about grief and guilt and how the two wrap around you and squeeze until you can't feel anything else. They eat at you until that's all you are."

From the beginning, Vera was confusing me. She had so many secrets and i wasn't always sure about her... But when the truth was revealed, my heart was aching for her...

Yep, Beau was prisoned for six years for something that he didn't do, but Vera was also prisoned against her will for almost four years in a different kind of prison.

She went through some ugly situations that made me really sad and her sister was leading straight to the same hell... So, it was very important to find her before it was too late...

Beau was like a ray of hope for her... He was making her feel and hope and that wasn't very good.

She couldn't settle down in a place, it was too risky. She had to be on the running all the time... So, she decided to take whatever she could for him until their time to run down!!!

That was a really intriguing story for once again and i enjoy the ride so much...

All those details with the investigations and all those leading clues were faschinating me...
As for the hidden past.... that was squeezing my heart so painfully...
Our main characters were fighters with a big F.
And they were loving fiercely... Their siblings were all what they were having in their life and after they earned each other...

I really liked this story and i'm so happy that we will have another one story in this series.
We didn't get to know too much Nolan, but he managed to pick up my interest!

******ARC kindly provided via NetGalley for the exchange of an honest review******

Sheryl says

Not going to lie... the subject matter made antsy... uncomfortable... angry... sick in the guts... BUT it was still a good story!

Review to follow...

ARC courtesy of Netgalley and Random House Publishing

Parvathy says

4 Stars..

A really interesting romantic suspense/thriller..

I liked how the author has characterised Beau and Vera. Beau got released from prison after being wrongly convicted. The emotions and his state of mind is very realistic. He is lost and does not know what to do with his life. He misses his girl friend and feels like he is stuck in a limbo. His thoughts, emotions and helplessness and the anger and regret is very evident and realistically portrayed.

Vera is a complicated character. She is hiding from her past. She is desperate to save her sister from the same fate she suffered. The things she went through is horrifying and made my heart break for her. She is so deeply scarred by her past that she has put up walls to stop herself from feeling anything. She is so scared of love and of hope that she could have a normal life. Vera's character is meant to break the reader's heart and it really does that.

I loved that their relationship took its own time to develop. They both were understanding of each other's emotions and feelings owing to what both of them went through. They both had an immediate connection. Their sexual chemistry was explosive and the sex scenes were really hot. They both went through so much that their past is what helped them connect and bond. I liked that their demons is what helped them grow their relationship. It was expected and real.

I loved the suspense and thriller element too. It was well wove with the story and this element brought about the progress in the story. The suspense element and the romance element were balanced never overshadowing each other.

Now for the problems that I felt. What I had a problem with was that at times I felt Vera was merely narrating her past. I felt she was rather disconnected. Her words and emotions did not match or rather I felt that her character was very unaffected and cold. The author is trying to make us feel for Vera so much that at times I felt that author was just trying too hard. I also felt that story rushed a little towards the end and the end was a little abrupt and sudden. Inspite of the problems I had a good time reading the story. Liked it more than first book..!

Read this book if you like your romance read with the edge of suspense...

An ARC provided via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Claire Robinson says

4 - "We're a fucked up pair for sure." Stars!

The second book in Beth Yarnall's *Recovered Innocence* series, gives the reader the story I think we all wanted after being introduced to Beau Hollis in its predecessor, *Vindicate*.

This is an author that seems to be able to take dark stories with slightly twisted characters and balance the drama and angst levels so that they are in keeping with the depth of the story-line, but don't turn the whole thing into one dark and depressing read, which for me makes a massive difference to my overall reading enjoyment.

I'm raw yet scarred over.

I think that if you have read *Vindicate*, you know that *Atone* is not going to be all unicorns and rainbows, Beau having just been released from prison, after spending six years incarcerated for a crime he didn't commit, is carrying around a lot of baggage. Pairing him up with Vera, a woman with more secrets than an active CIA operative, set this couples' story off and running pretty quickly. Ex-con and Ex-you-don't-really-wanna-know, both of them have more than a few ghosts to lay to rest, and for one of them those ghosts are very firmly back to haunt them.

We had a bit of a reverse in pacing in this one as well, whereas I found the first book in the series dragged a bit in the first half, this one went off like Usain Bolt in a new pair of spikes, but like all good sprinters, it lost its momentum a little as the distance increased. Weirdly the second half, where a lot of Vera's true past came to light is where things really slowed down for me, and then the last 20% or so everything kicked off again. In the main it wasn't an issue, as the book isn't massively long, but the pacing felt a little juddery at points.

You bent me, but you didn't break me. I'm still standing. I'm free.

There is plenty of everything in *Atone* sexy times, suspense, shocks and surprises. I think Beau was the biggest one, because I was expecting an emotionally closed off, brooding a-hole, and he was an absolute treat, endearing, romantic in a quirky sort of way, and all-in for his woman even with a few major wobbles along the way.

"What we are is not what either of us was."

So happy to see that Beth is continuing with the *Recovered Innocence* series, with *Reclaim* due at some point, I think there is plenty of scope for a few more visits to *Nash Security and Investigation* in the future, and I am interested to see what adventure the author takes her characters on next.

ARC generously provided via Netgalley, and it is my absolute pleasure to provide the above honest review.

XxTainaxX says

Alright so I'm rating this the way I did despite myself. Here's what I mean: Beau and Vera are two very broken people. They've been through the worst the world have to offer and have come through as decent but flawed people. Their bedroom chemistry was hot. Especially if you don't mind the biters :-p Outside of the bedroom, it was hard to tell because they were pretty much thrown together for this intense situation and we don't see them out of it til the epilogue. Beau, I can get behind. Even through his very emotional turmoil after having lost his love and being framed for her murder. No matter the other circumstances that come to light, he has the right to feel the sweep of emotions that the situation brings about. Was I happy about how he let it affect the beginning of his relationship with Vera? No. There were times when I glared at my Nook as he was going through the motions. I even liked how Vera handled it all. Here's the gripe with Vera: after establishing she was this suffered girl, why in the ever loving heck would you then randomly toss in the jealousy card??? You totally lost me after that one. -- She went from acceptably flawed to completely selfish and unfeeling and the way it was written didn't convince me she changed. Completely unnecessary to move the story forward. It was going SO well until that point. Then there's the drama in the end which we don't even get an explanation for. Ugh. Anyways, I rated it this way because although I want to rip it down to maybe even a 2-2.5, I get that this was the way the writer wanted the character to read no matter how much of a bs move I thought it was. Safety gangers: plenty of bad rape memories from Vera. It's written relatively tactfully but it's still hard to swallow. H and h have unprotected sex.

ARC received in exchange for an honest review.

Kate's Corner says

I read the first book in the series which is Vindicate and you can find my review here:
<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

I was torn between my feelings on that book and here it is no different. I really enjoyed this book and I want to give it 5 stars and I actually feel bad and I wish that I could give it 4 stars but in the end I can only give it 3 Stars. Please don't judge me.

Beau Hollis has been released for a crime that he didn't commit the murder of his ex-girlfriend and the wounds that it caused sit deep.

“I walked out of the California Institute for Men in Chino, California, two thousand, two hundred and seventy one days-more than six years-after I walked in. I was finally free. Free.”

Beau does a lot at the beginning for his sister Cora as he has her to thank for his freedom. He sleeps on her sofa, isn't entirely sure what he is to do with this life. So he starts working for Nash Security. He has a deep hole with nothing to fill it.

That is until Vera Swain walks in and asks them to find her sister Marie. Vera is not who she makes herself

out to be. She has had a tough past, her prison wasn't the same as Beau's but they were both trapped in different ways that is until she ran away.

Like recognises like. Beau and Vera strike up a friendship that leads to more. There was good character development and I liked how they both evolved and dealt with their demons.

They get to the bottom of the sex trafficking ring and it goes deep as well as how high it goes up.

There is a good plot to the story and we get bread crumbs of where the story is going. There was a strong build up but the most happened in the last 30 % of the book so before that it did drag a bit. I also felt that there were a lot of thoughts and feelings repeated and in a way it contributed to the story but on the other hand I feel as if the sentences could have been phrased differently.

Please note that this is my personal opinion and in the grand scheme of things it can be taken at face value but I recommend reading the book and finding it out for yourself.

I will most certainly read the next in the series.

Book given to me via Netgalley from Random Publishing Group – Loveswept in exchange for an honest review.

Maya says

ARC received via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

What an amazing read!

Both characters have their past demons that they together overcome in such a beautifully way. They are both wonderfully imperfect but together they make a whole. They simply fit together and I can't wait for the authors next work.

Full review to follow.

Carrie says

Beau is trying to regain his life after spending six years in prison for a crime he didn't commit. Life on the outside hasn't been easy adjusting to though with everyone staring and still talking about him being in prison. Beau's sister Cora has gotten him a job working for Nash Security that was behind helping Beau get out of prison.

Vera Swain walks into Nash Security wanting to hire them to help find a half sister that she doesn't really know but she believes may be in danger. Beau and Vera immediately have a spark between them, perhaps drawn to each other by their troubled pasts. Vera however has more secrets and has had a horrid life until she walked into the office.

Atone is the second book in the Recovered Innocence series, it could really be work fine as a standalone though. I actually did read Vindicate, the first book in the series, and I do believe overall I enjoyed Atone

just a tad bit more.

Atone tackles much darker subject matter than Vindicate did. I don't want to go into detail and give away Vera's secrets before a reader gets a chance to discover them but her life prior to walking in and hiring Nash Security was the thing nightmares are made of which had me on the edge of my seat wanting to know everything about her past and if it would all work out in the end.

Also, along with being more intrigued with the things in Vera's life I felt that the relationship in Atone was a bit more on the steamy side. Beau and Vera were steaming up the pages from the beginning and I believe that may be because of the age and/or maturity of these characters as opposed to the relationship aspect in the first book.

Overall, a fast paced romantic suspense that headed down a gritty, cringe worthy path with the subject matter involved that had me glued to the story until finished.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.wordpress....>

Sabrina says

3.5 Stars

Just realized I never rated or reviewed this on here, only on NetGalley. Whoops!

I really liked the emotions that were involved in this story, and my heart broke for Vera and Beau. They both had past demons haunting them and on top of trying to figure out how to survive those demons they had new problems popping up.

Overall, I did like the story but I also had some issues with it. I felt like there were times when Vera was very one dimensional and I just didn't feel a connection with her. The sex scenes were off the charts hot in this one...but then once they left the bedroom it was like their connection just ended.. I guess I just wanted more romance between them.

Christine says

Well written with lots of sex and emotion, but this was not for me. Beau and Vera had such painfully brutal pasts that it was difficult to contemplate that they really could have a peaceful future together. And for me, the deal breaker was what happened to Vera's sister. These two tormented lovers never got a break. 2.5 stars

DJ Sakata says

Favorite Quotes:

“Being with Cassandra was like... like the sun shining on me all the time.”

“It’s funny how you never thought about wanting something until there’s absolutely no possibility of ever having it. Then you want it more than anything.”

My Review:

Drama, tension, angst, intrigue, secrets – so many secrets, and they are oh so slowly revealed to keep the suspense and reader wound tight. And I certainly was. I adored the first book in the series, Vindicate and Atone continues with focus on the newly released Beau, who is attempting to learn the PI trade from his sister. His first day on the job, a new client catches his eye, and it is on like Donkey Kong. Atone was considerably more sensual, suspenseful, intense, and darker than Vindicate, but continues with many of the same characters as well as several new ones. I am curious to see who Ms. Yarnall will turn her focus on for book 3.

Kristine says

Original review can be found at [http://kristineandterri.blogspot.ca/2...](http://kristineandterri.blogspot.ca/2014/07/review-atone-by-mary-yarnall.html)

* I received an advanced readers copy from Loveswept via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!**

Atone is the second book in the Recovered Innocence series but can be read as a stand alone. I did have the opportunity to read Vindicate first yet I still feel that a reader could pick this book up with no issues at all. Having followed this series from the beginning I can say that I think I liked this book better than the first one. It seemed like Yarnall was able to get some of the kinks out and it showed.

Vera came to Nash Security looking for help in finding her younger sister. Beau immediately recognised her as a person who had been through a lot and was lost but hiding it just like him. Although the initial screening proved that she was lying about some things, he hid them so that his sister and the rest of Nash Security would help her.

This story was deeper, darker and sexier than Vindicate and I was flying through the pages. I wanted to know all of Vera's secrets and the terrible stuff that happened to her. Was she at risk? Was she putting Beau at risk? Would they find her sister? Was somebody going to get hurt? I was really drawn to the suspense aspect of the story.

I really liked Beau so it was a little difficult for me to like Vera because I was so afraid that she was going to hurt him or get him hurt. They had an almost insta-love which I tend to struggle with but it was definitely sexy and the pages heated up quickly. Even though I liked Beau better than Vera I was still in their corner. I wanted a happily ever after for them and was hoping they would get it.

Overall I really liked this fast paced romantic suspense and I am enjoying the series thus far. I can't wait to see what Nash Security takes on next!

Mariann {at} Belle's Book Bag says

This story was brutal. I couldn't help but feel so incredibly sorry for both Beau and Vera. They had such heartbreaking stories...Vera's maybe even more so than Beau's. I loved how they were able to find peace and comfort and strength and most of all acceptance and ultimately love with each other. Poor Vera..how she was able to survive her past and move forward with her life was just amazing. I loved the ending but it still left me with a sense of sadness even though they were both so happy.

A great second book in the series and I can't wait for what's next.

**ARC provided per Netgalley. Thank you!!

Jayme says

Atone is a lot darker book with more tension and violence than Vindicate, the first part of this series. But if you read that, you know it could not be otherwise. Meet the story of Buea, innocently convicted for murder and released after more than six years behind bars.

*"While I'm no longer serving a life sentence for a crime I didn't commit, I'm far from free.
?"*

About the plot: In the first part Cora, Beau's sister, fought for his acquittal, now he must learn again to live in the new world. What isn't at all easy. He is still grieving and can't come to terms with the death of his former girlfriend. He can't accept that his conviction not only destroyed his whole future, but also the lives of his family. He is going through a difficult time, full of anger and grief, and can't cope with the new life. Cora convinces him to try to work with her in the agency who helped free him, Nash Security and Investigations.

"Everything about her shouts Back the fuck off. It only makes me want to draw closer. "

This is where he meets Vera, who comes to them due to find her sister. They find themselves kindred spirits, and discover their deepest secrets and sorrows. But Vera is on the run, and has more problems than she says, that will only complicate more and more over time. Until the moment from which there is no escape.

"There is no sunshine in either one of us. Together we'd be a perfect storm of misery, regret, and lost youth. "

My thoughts: This story is really engaging and emotional. We have two characters who survived in their lives a huge nightmare and are now trying to cope with it. The past comes back to them and does not allow to go forward. They are trying to find peace and redemption and strength and hope in themselves. I was very drawn into all the mysteries and secrets, as well as the same investigation. You find in this a few surprises and twists scenes.

The story is well built, because all the time reveals new pieces. It is dark, raw, violent and terrifying. There's a lot of angst and unknown. Emotionally not easy to read because of what the heroes went and what else before them. But even though it is very dark and there is a lot of sexual scenes, violent descriptions and a strong language, I had the impression that this is a book for young adult or very young new adults.

This story has all the rights to squeeze tears, but didn't do that for me. I can't identify what it is that was missing for me. Probably for everyone it will be something else. Just sometimes I miss deeper emotions, although there is a lot of them. Maybe sometimes it should be a little bit more convincing, but on the other hand, I do not know, because it all makes sense. I don't really help? I was simply missing something, but I am not sure what really. I think you have to find out yourself if you wondered.

In summary it was a touching story with a difficult and delicate subject. There is a lot of action and investigation, rather don't expect much of romantic moments, it is more about survival. My tears don't squeeze but definitely shocked me in some moments. It is difficult to comprehend and terrifying that such things happen in the real world.

*****Quick Review:*****

Series: The second part in the Recovered Innocence series. Can be read as standalone.

Grade/Tag Tabs: New Adult. Romantic Suspense,

Release Date: February 23rd 2016

Main characters: Vera Swain, around twenty-one years old. After two years on the run, she wants to find her sister. Beau Hollis, twenty-four years old, innocently convicted for the murder of his girlfriend, free after more than 6 years in prison, now starts work at Nash Security and Investigations.

Secondary characters: A few scenes with Leo and Cora, the main characters of the previous part.

Location: San Diego, CA.

Steamy: (view spoiler)

Sensitive topic: (view spoiler)

Love triangle: (view spoiler)

Cheating: (view spoiler)

Cliffhanger: (view spoiler)

HEA: (view spoiler)

Next in the series? Yes. *Reclaim*, coming soon.

ARC kindly provided in exchange for an honest review.

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