



Freeing Alex

Sarah Elizabeth Ashley

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Alternate cover edition for ASIN: B00EGT789M

Alex's story deals with domestic abuse and adult themes. It is therefore not recommended for those under 18.

A tale of sorrow, escape, strength and freedom. Of compassion, friendship and lust.

Alex Drake a 42 year old lady trapped in abusive marriage to a controlling husband. Out of the blue she finds her life is transformed by the huge legacy left to her by the woman she always regarded as 'aunt'. The months that follow throw her into a maelstrom as she finally escapes Lewis, the monster of a husband taking her daughter with her.

Starting her new life in London she discovers who she is and what allows her to start her journey to freedom. Will she find the love and affection she so desperately craves? Feeling totally insecure and haunted by her past she is supported through the trauma of divorce and Lewis' continual harassment by the handsome and incredibly sexy James Aconi, the General Manager of Reid's hotel, a luxury establishment and part of Alex's inheritance. A younger man with 'movie star' looks the attraction between the two is instant and mutual, their relationship developing to friendship and more as James introduces the naive Alex to everything that a loving and complete relationship should be, including things she had never dreamed of, let alone experienced

Freeing Alex Details

Date : Published (first published August 10th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Sarah Elizabeth Ashley

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre : Romance, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Freeing Alex for online ebook

Lara R says

Having not read much for many years, family preventing much time for myself, I've finally found the time for me again and have discovered Mommy-Porn! Wow - escapism or what!

I've enjoyed the Fifty Shades of Grey trilogy and one or two others, really like them. But Freeing Alex just had something extra, a real page turner. I think it may be because the main female character, Alex, is more like my age, well just a bit younger, she's 42 - not a 20 something lythe young thing! Alex has a c-section scar (how real is that?) She's in a terrible position with her husband who is a hateful man but she doesn't have the guts or finances to be able to leave him, although in the book I think she does acknowledge that maybe she should have, regardless.

In an unexpected turn of events she finds herself 'in the money' and this in turn takes her to meet James, who is younger than her and by all accounts every forty something womans dream! He's attentive, caring, protective and very sexy!

There's lots of sex and Alex learns a lot, about herself and about the bedroom. But there's also a story, if you like a backbone to the book. It is different to everything else I've read recently, main differences are that she has the money, she is older than him but where it is similar to others in this genre is that he is the one that takes charge when it comes to the seduction.

I really enjoyed it and will certainly read the next in the series when it comes out.

On a negative point and really what prevents me from giving this five stars, because the story line is really good, is that the author is new and there's no other way of saying that the book is 'rough around the edges', there are some typos and some things that just aren't right. But, I would say stick with it, because it really is good. It made me laugh and it made me cry.

Florencia Bartolaccini says

As the prologue started I found myself crying, that's how I knew that I'd love this book. The way things began between Alex and James seemed perfect, just in tune of what she needed and he knew how to work with that right away.

Every sexual encounter that they had was hot, steamy and yet never stopped being beautiful in a unique way like I've never read before.

The drama that Alex goes through it's very touching, I actually ache for her everytime. The few funny moments shared between Alex and James were refreshing, and the unexpected turn of events at the very last left me amazed.

I can say for sure that Sarah Elizabeth Ashley wrote a masterpiece, an emotional, erotic book that took me by

surprise for it's true beauty.

Desiree says

This and more reviews at [The Book Bar.co](http://TheBookBar.co)

Rating: Top Shelf from Guest Bartender, Hayley

This book had me captured from the prologue. The first book starts out with an abused wife who is married, with a daughter. She is so scared, both mentally and physically, that you really feel every emotion that she is going through.

From chapter one, the book starts to build as Alex is finally able to break free from her cheating, abusive husband and file for divorce, following her inheritance. The story line thickens as she is now a happy, wealthy, 42 year old woman and you can feel the confidence growing making her more beautiful as a character.

James, the manager of one of her hotels, is a very appealing character that is lovable but also very sexy and much younger. The chemistry is great and they become the perfect couple.

I loved this first book, with displayed every day life but with a twist of finding true romance and love at the end of the tunnel. This is a feel good book that has depth and meaning behind it.

I honestly can't wait to read book 2 to see how the future shapes up for Alex and how the beautiful James will expand on his 'knight in shining armor' hero.

The drinks selection for this book would definitely be champagne with strawberries. It's expensive with a sweet after taste and the things that James can do with strawberries... :-0

Eye Candy Bookstore says

Freeing Alex

Alex is in a extremely abusive marriage for many years but finally finds in herself to leave her monster of a husband. She takes her teenage daughter with her and their new life begins.

In the space of a short time Alex leaves her abusive husband, her Aunt dies and her estate is left to Alex. She meets James Aconi who is the manager of her hotel and also very sexy playboy.

The connection is there early, she feels wanted by James but after years of abuse she holds back.

As the weeks pass Alex and James grow close as does their attraction.

Alex's soon-to-be ex-husband turns up and hurts Alex once again. There are many twists in this book and it keeps you hooked.

The author also made me feel like there was an underlying issue with James, I'm not sure if that was her intention but I'm glad she proved me wrong. :)

I'm looking forward to reading the 2nd book. <3 Amy

Just My Bucking Book Blog says

****I was provided with an ARC of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review****

3.5 out of 5 Bucking stars!

Genre: *Contemporary Romance*

Heat Level: *Hot*

Intensity Level: *6 out of 10*

Series: Book #1 in the *Alex Drake* series

From the get go in *Freeing Alex* things start off dark, shocking and honestly a little gut wrenching. We meet Alex Drake, a 42 year old woman who has been trapped in an abusive marriage for over 22 years until she becomes the heir to multiple businesses previously owned by her 'aunt' who passes away. Her aunt is a woman who Alex doesn't truly know but she takes the way out her aunt paved for her and escape's her abusive husband Lewis and takes her teenager daughter Anna with her.

Leaving him doesn't magically make her life not a living Hell though, years and years of his physical and mental abuse have left her both emotionally and physically scarred. She is repulsed by herself and the marks on her but despite all this she keeps her chin up and her head held high and powers through with divorcing the rotten excuse of a man and begins to mould and new life for herself and her daughter.

One of the businesses she now owns is a very large and very successful hotel. She knows next to nothing about running a hotel and she doesn't plan on changing a thing with the staff of the hotel because she doesn't need to, it runs perfectly well under the management already, she just wants to be involved and known as the owner inside of being a faceless one.

It's in the hotel that we meet James Aconi, a mouth watering stud who just happens to be the hotel's general manager. He is a sexy but much younger man described to us as bit of a playboy from his string of relations with young women.

Alex - like every other red blooded woman - is fiercely attracted to James but with her damaged heart, her bodily scars and her mental ones she puts the possibility of even sleeping with him out of her mind. She instantly assures herself he wouldn't be interested in her anyway and she sticks with that mentality for a time.

The chemistry between them however quickly flows towards friendship then to much more. James is a modern day Prince Charming, he is there for Alex and rides in on his white horse and rescues her when needed. He is the antidote to overcoming her past and fighting off her demons. Though she feels like she doesn't deserve him, she can't deny they pull between them both physically and emotionally. He teaches her how to feel like a woman again and he does this in the most delicious of ways, inside the bedroom and out.

I enjoyed this story but the dragging out of the plot prevented it from being 5 stars. However, that being said it's still a *very* enjoyable read that is perfect for curling up with a bottle of wine, and of course, strawberries! ;)

My Secret Book Spot says

Freeing Alex by Sarah Elizabeth Ashley

4 out of 5 stars

Freeing Alex begins with Alexandra (Alex) being in a domestic violence situation, and we progress with her as she grows and becomes free. She receives an inheritance, and her life is completely turned around. I love the way we get to experience the life changes that Alex is going through, and she's a very well-rounded character. She still has to deal with her abuser, but she also gets a protector. I feel less of a connection to her protector, James, after reading this book, but that's probably because the story is told from Alex's point of view, so we don't actually get inside the head of James. He also seemed to be holding on to some secrets that are revealed before the end of the book. I can't wait to see how all of their lives continue to change and how they continue to grow in the next book in the series. This is a wonderful first novel for Ms. Ashley.

A complimentary copy was given in exchange for an honest review

Amanda, My Secret Book Spot

Sarez Tomoan says

I give this book a 3.5 star rating.

The book dragged out a little, there was some repetition and some unnecessary filler, which probably held back my rating. I have rounded it up to 4 stars though because it was definitely an enjoyable read.

The epilogue had my dying to just dive right in and left me trembling and cringing. I still wanted to keep going.

Alex's ex was a bastard and there were points where I shed a tear for what she was going through. She was a relatable character.

James - the bossman is a whole lot of sexy and sweet. He looks after Alex and works to protect her from her completely unhinged, deranged ex.

While I found I struggled with the flow of this book I found I couldn't get enough of it. With a few unexpected turns which was just delightful, a great cast of supporting characters, family secrets, and interesting intro into the next book - I know I will be continuing with this story.

A great debut novel.

Stephenee says

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

The book Freeing Alex was an attention grabbing book right from the start. It had a great backstory that continued to develop and reveal more and more as the story progressed. It wasn't just a story about the present day but also the past and how it could and did affect someone and the outcome of their life. This book had me captured from the prologue. The beginning of the story starts out with an abused wife and their daughter. Alex, the main character, is scared, both mentally and physically, and you can really feel every emotion that she is going through. I loved the uniqueness of the characters, their stories and the actual plot and storyline and how the author brought them all together. She also shows that no matter where you are in the world, that it is a small world and people's lives will collide and intersect even when you least expect it. The role of each character in the story is an important one, no matter how slight their role is and this was something that I enjoyed. It also shows that no matter how old or young you are, that there is always a connection that can be made and discovered.

The things that I didn't like were the typos and errors that ran throughout the book. I had a hard time figuring some of them out as the book is set in London, so I am not familiar with all of the phrases and slang that were used. I wish that the author would have mentioned that the story was based in London, as I think that some readers may find this important to understand all that is going on.

Overall the book was a great read, once you over look those few things. I think that the author developed the characters well and that you felt like you could be a part of their lives. I am looking forward to reading the next two books in the series just because I need to see how Alex moves on with her life and all of the blows that it has dealt her.

Jen O'grady says

This story follows Alex Drake a woman who has suffered over 20 years of emotional and physical abuse at the hands of her husband.

I have to be honest and say I expected this book to make me feel uneasy because of its nature, but the problem was following the prologue which was horrific, I just didn't really get the feeling that I was reading about an abused woman.

Also as I was nearing the end I had that familiar feeling of there's more of this story to come and I'm at 98%!! And of course there is another book to come later in the year.

I did enjoy the relationship that Alex and James had but something didn't feel completely right about that either, maybe more will be revealed in the next book.

Overall a decent read 3.5 stars for me.

Tonya says

I reviewed this book for Just another girl and her books blog. A good read about a 42 yr old woman getting out of a horrible marriage of 22 years. The ups and downs that she has to go thru once she has left her husband. And how she was finally able to leave him. Secrets come out and she learns about herself and about what love really is. I loved how Alex isn't one of the depressed woman, that can't do anything. She is actually trying to regain and find herself again.

Myra Espino says

4.5*

Given a copy in exchange for an honest review

Freeing Alex, nice concept and the flow is great.
I love the uniqueness of the characters and the story.
It's not boring and I can easily get attached to the characters.

The characters, Alexandra has a good character.
She's easy to love and relate with.
Even though sometimes things get a bit tough, she never gave up.
James on the other hand, when I first encountered him he's a bit cocky and arrogant.
But as the story went, I got to like him more.
The other characters are also good.

The story, nice story.
The way the story started is good.
I almost cried on the start of the story.
The drama of the story really got into me.
And as the story goes, the things get exciting.
The way the story ends, I loved it.

Katey Stead says

The opener to this book was a bit sad to read but the story picked up with Alex being given a way out of her abusive marriage.

The story moves on to Alex being overwhelmed with her new life and love that she has found. There are ups and downs for her along the way but standing beside her always is her lover James ("The Bossman").

It was a shame about the many typos in this book but that didn't stop me from totally falling in love with these characters and their story.

Sarah has written such a wonderful book, as soon as I had finished this I was straight on to reading loving Alex and very much look forward to reading Alex and James final instalment in the new year.

Jenny Finnigan says

The title says it all this book is about Freeing Alex. I loved this book I truly did I'd recommend it to anyone. Alexandra Drake receives inheritance from her "aunt" who has died and with that she uproots her and her daughter and leaves for London. She leaves her abusive husband who has left her with scars inside and out, mentally and physically.

When she arrives in London she finds out one of the businesses she now owns is a very large and successful hotel in the centre of London. That's where she meets the hot and sexy general manager James Aconi whom she forms a friendship. He ends up her saviour from some situations. She also finds out a lot more about her family.

I don't want to say anymore as I'll ruin it but this book is hot, sexy, emotional and exciting. There is a second book in the series Loving Alex and a third one coming at the start of 2014 Eternally Alex.

Jacqueline Noir says

This book will have you hooked within the first few pages. Sarah Elizabeth Ashley brings to life Alex Drake and the incredible journey she goes through on her road to a new life. After being married for twenty-two years to an abusive husband, a strange series of events makes it possible for Alex to leave the nightmare she called life and her path takes her to a world filled with glitz and glamour. Along with this new life comes the handsome knight in shining armor, James Aconi. As Alex finds her place in her new life, not only professionally but personally, she will have to forge herself a new place in the crazy, high society world. Can these two make it out to the other side together or will Alex end up saving herself?

I thoroughly loved this book and was hooked right away. Going through the twists and turns, Sara Ashley keeps you on your toes, and you become emotionally invested in Alex as you read about her past, present and her hopes for the future. I love how complex Alex Drake's character is and how she has strengths and flaws. The woman is forty-two years old but in many ways she is a young girl trying to find figure out life and how to be loved on her terms. Freeing Alex is emotional, empowering, and overall a beautifully written story.

Book Junky Girls says

Alex has been in an unloving and abusive marriage for more than 20 years, staying only for the sake of her daughter. When she finds out she's the unexpected heir to a fortune Alex finally has the courage to leave. Now at 42 she's finally starting to learn to live her life. Wanting to be an active owner she gets to general manager to show her the ropes of the business and along the way the two fall for each other. But with James being so much younger than her the insecurities of her past creep up at the most unexpected of times. And with an ex like her's the past doesn't seem to stay away.

Alex is such a unique character strong at some times, but deep down you see how much she truly needs James and his love. James is your typical Alpha male, I loved how he said what he wanted and wasn't afraid of who knew it. The two together seem an unlikely match until you see how their feelings balance each other. This story has a little bit of everything and oh the Strawberries!!! Interested to see where Alex and James's story goes and how it unfolds.
