



Recovery

L.B. Simmons

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I *have* the perfect life.

I've *finally* found my happy ending.

I fought through the loss of one husband, lucky enough to be given a second chance at a lifetime of happiness. Settling into our new lives, however, may not be as easy as it seems.

What *really* happens after the fairytale ending? What happens after the prince rescues the princess? After he sweeps her off her feet and carries her off into the sunset? Do they *truly* live happily ever after?

Well...

This is *our* story.

Recovery Details

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From Reader Review Recovery for online ebook

Kim says

"Our life. This is our life, Blake."

I love how L.B. Simmons gives us a slice of real life in her books along with the love story. In Running on Empty we got the story of a single mother of 3 young girls dealing with the loss of her husband coupled with the second chance fairytale. In Recovery, we get the big happy ever after moment and then are hit with what comes next...the REAL stuff. The merging of two households, parenting differences, unexpected changes, and just learning to be a couple and family under one roof. It is not always easy to fight the daily dramas and real life is not perfect. It is messy and frustrating as much as it is joyous and sweet.

I adored Blake in the first book and that did not change...in fact I think I love him even more in this one. He is sweet, loving, invested, and tries to step into his new role of husband and father figure as best he can. He is so good with the girls that it just made my heart melt. But he also needs to feel needed and sometimes Alex is so used to being in control that it is hard to take a helping hand. Alex is stubborn, used to doing things her own way, and being independent. And communication with new couples and families can be hard. So they struggle a bit to find their way in their new life together. But this couple has been through so much and waited so long that you cannot help but hope that they find their forever happy ending.

The girls are adorable, hilarious, and full of mischief. And there is so much realism as to how life with kids really works. You never know when you are going to hear that yell for "Mommy" or have to break up a fight. Life is not always easy and you never know when something unexpected will happen that will shake things up and make you all pull together.

This was a perfectly engaging, beautiful novella. Even thought it was shorter, it felt like a complete story. It had me immersed from the first page. L.B. Simmons has this easy flowing writing style that draws you in and makes you feel like you are there in the story. This book made me laugh, frustrated, tense, tearful, and literally sigh with contentment. I love how she brought in a major element from the first book and how it played out in this one. This story shows us how important it is to share your feelings, be patient, Pick your battles, and appreciate your family. And has a recurring theme that everything happens for a reason and in it's own time. I adore these characters, this family, and their extended family of their friends Harlow, Trace, and new addition Tatum. I am looking forward to Running in Place that will focus on Tatum who is already proving to be an interesting character.

Thanks to LB Simmons for providing me with an ARC in exchange for an honest review. Posted at Reviews by Tammy and Kim

Lauren ♥ Inked in Chapters says

You can read this and other reviews at Madison Says

It's official. Blake Morgan is the sexiest man to never live. How can you resist a man who is willing to take on three children from a previous marriage in order to be with the woman he's loved his entire life? Oh, and it's not like he's just tolerating them; he honestly loves each of Alex's girls. Yeah, you can't – it's

impossible!

Recovery picks up where *Running on Empty* leaves off. Alex and Blake are finally making it official! She's given Blake her heart and now it's time to start their life together. There is just one teeny tiny issue. Alex has spent the last three years fighting to live any semblance of a life that it's tough to let go of the control she's been clinging to. She doesn't want to ask for help or rely on anyone but herself. Unfortunately, that doesn't bode well for a brand new marriage in a brand new house with a few brand new surprises...

“Sadly, I have a gut feeling that like two pieces of flint rock, the tension filled shift between us tonight ignited a spark, lighting the fuse to our very own Morgan family firework show. One capable of blowing us completely apart.”

I'm convinced that this woman lives to make me cry. The emotion that L.B Simmons can draw out of her readers is nothing short of amazing. She did not disappoint with this short read. In fact, that's the only complaint I have. It was too short! I realize it's a novella, but I'm greedy. I want more Blake and Alex! I want more of their crazy life with their ridiculously adorable children. As a mother myself, reading about Nycole, Kyndall and little Rylie's antics brings a smile to my face. I can see my daughter in each and every one of them. I'm officially addicted! Lucky for me I'll be able to get a fix once *Running in Place* comes out later this year. Yes, it's the story of Tatum and Noah, but maybe, just maybe Blake and Alex will make an appearance or two.

“So, when things don't make sense to you, try not to waste time being upset about it. Stuff works out the way it's supposed to. Some things just take longer than others.”

If you don't end up loving this book, you should probably see a cardiologist because I'm thinking you might be missing a heart. It's a giant ball of wonderful – brilliantly written! You will laugh, you will cry – both happy and sad tears. This novella has it all. Make sure you have a box of tissues handy and enjoy the ride.

Arely says

This novella was much, much better than the previous book. With *Running On Empty*, I felt like Alex didn't really learn how to be an adult, even with everything she'd been through. But with this story, she did.

Recovery starts pretty soon after ROE leaves off. Alex and Blake are adjusting to the married life. Like any couple, it has its ups and downs. Alex is especially having a hard time adjusting, since she's so used to doing things independently. However, here she actually matures and learns. She needs to have some people tell her that it's ok to not have to do everything and to be in control, but she finally gets it.

In the beginning she was pretty much the same as she was in ROE, but throughout the story she learned and matured and I really liked the person she became.

And thank you, Blake, for calling Alex out on her parenting. I saw it in ROE too, but I was more concerned with everything else that was going on to mention it. Blake tells her that it is **not** okay to let them do nothing around the house. +100 for Blake.

Blake also improved here. He learned to communicate and he learned how to adjust in the household. I really liked how Blake and Alex helped each other grow into the wonderful couple that they are at the end.

I really felt like this book was a huge improvement compared to ROE, and I'm so glad I gave it a chance. Both Alex and Blake acted like adults here and I was able to connect with them and fully understand their actions.

The plot was also very good. I liked that marriage wasn't portrayed as something that's all flowers and rainbows, and that you have to *work* for it. I also loved the ending—it was really, really sweet. I also really enjoyed that though it is a novella—and therefore short—it didn't feel like it was missing anything and the pace was just right.

I do recommend you read this one, because it's sweet and portrays marriage realistically and yet still manages to end with a happily ever after. You don't necessarily have to read ROE, but you'll be confused in the beginning because most of the characters were already introduced in the previous book.

Laura's Book Addiction says

A nice novella

Jenny - TotallybookedBlog says

Jointly reviewed for totallybookedblog.com

Jenny: Gitte, I have to say I was ecstatic when I heard L.B. Simmons was going to extend ROE and give us more of Blake and Alex's story because I wasn't ready to say goodbye to them and those adorable little munchkins of theirs just yet. I felt I needed some sort of conclusion to ROE, you know..... I needed know how they fared going forward and this Novella most certainly delivered. It is a perfect companion to Running On Empty and takes place about a month after ROE finishes and really does give us the closure we needed with Alex, Blake and the girls.

“Because as sure as my heart beats, you have given me life again...in more ways than one.”

The same heart-warming, funny, beautiful characters are back...I defy anyone not to fall head over heels in love with them all; every single one of them is like a ray of sunshine.

This time we are privy to Blake and Alex facing challenges in their marriage, challenges that married couples face every day and in this respect Recovery had such a feeling of reality about it. How does this family cope going forward and become a cohesive family unit?

“You NEVER ask me for help!”

You really could relate to Blake and Alex's situation because their issues and struggles felt so real and raw. It was almost as if you were there and privy to their problems first hand. It's all handled in such a sensitive, beautiful and moving way, presented to us in wonderful prose laced with the trademark LB Simmons, humor, heart, warmth and love. I really do adore this authors writing style.

“What happened to our life, Alex?”

LB Simmons really has created a little world in a book and the addition of Blake POV's.....well, I ask you Gitte, could we LOVE this man anymore? His voice was so moving, so real and he reduced me to tears and gave me goosebumps on more than one occasion. Just perfection!

Gitte: I love him so much. Blake is so amazing and I devoured this novella. I just couldn't put it down. The writing is once again absolutely beautiful and emotionally stunning. It sure did give me the closure I needed Jenny because as you said we truly fell in love with every character. I was CRYING when I read Blake's speech to Alex...This man truly, there are no words.

“...It’s always been you....Every single part of you has been and always will be my reason for living....You are mine. Without you I am nothing.”

Yes, I loved the honesty and realism that once again was threaded through this story. The struggle which Alex and Blake went through felt real and believable. Start as you mean to go on, yet how easy is it to stay in a role that plays out as if still in the same situation, acting out of habit. Does change come naturally and do we adapt immediately to it?

“Where exactly did Blake and I get off Loving Couple Road and turn on to Distant Marriage Avenue.”

I have to say I really felt for Blake in Recovery. Don't get me wrong I understood where Alex was coming from, but....her voice did at times seem different to me as opposed to 'Running on Empty'. Not sure why this was the case. She seemed to have changed slightly and I'm not sure my connection was as strong with her this time round unfortunately.

Overall though, I loved this novella; L.B Simmons sure knows how to write with passion and beauty. Once again she elicited every emotion from me as I was swept away with her words. I love this Author and there is no doubt she is a sure one-click for me!

Jenny: Me too Gitte. I'll always 1click this Author's books that's for sure! Something I absolutely loved about ROE were the feelings elicited between Blake and Alex. It was all there. The love, the pain, the passion and the chemistry. You could feel it all. The chemistry and passion was off the charts and yet not a detailed sex scene in sight. It was all "felt" completely despite it not being spelled out and was always handled in way which endeared me to that book.

Which brings to my one and only "blimp" with Recovery. Those same feelings are there in Recovery, but I have to say the detail and terminology used in one scene felt a little out of place. It didn't seem in keeping with the way it was presented in Running On Empty which maintained a beautiful innocence yet still allowed the reader to absolutely feel the passion experienced between Alex and Blake. I personally didn't need the details because the experience was more in what wasn't said as opposed to what was said. However, this was a very minor blimp on what was a beautiful read which I devoured and loved.

This story and the characters completely captivated me and LB Simmons once AGAIN managed to reduce me to tears!

“I know you will. I love you, Blake. Thank you.”

This author has a way of presenting her characters with so much warmth, charm, love and real emotion that a reader can't help but be sucked into the story and spending time in an LB Simmons book really does leave me feeling all warm inside with tears in my eyes and a big smile on my face. Recovery is a must read for

fans of this series. All I can say is...sigh....just beautiful.

ARC provided by author for an honest review

Christina Pannell says

This was a really good Novella to follow up "Running on Empty". It gives you a look into Akex and Blakes relationship, hard times, worries and hardships

Fiction And Fashion Book Blog says

Brittany's Review: 5 Stars!

www.fictionandfashion.com

Novellas are really hard to write. I don't know why authors even set themselves up sometimes. I've only seen a few authors successfully deliver a novella that I walked away from and felt...fulfilled. And I'm VERY happy to say that Recovery did just that. I loved Running on Empty. I fell in love with Alex, Blake, the girls, Harlow, everyone. All the characters were well rounded, developed, the only thing I wanted was more of Blake and Alex's story. And as if L.B. Simmons could read my crazy little mind, she gave it to me in the perfect little novella. {grin}

"But it's time, Alex, for both of us. It will be different, but...better."

So many authors write follow up books lately just to continue to deliver on the hype of a story. Creating drama, plot, and randomness just to continue a story that doesn't need to be continued. Alex and Blake's story in Recovery was anything but that. We left them in Running on Empty at the very beginning of their relationship hoping they would be OK. In Recovery, we see the ups and downs to a new relationship and creating a blended family. Anyone who is married or has kids can definitely relate to the drama that unfolds. It's hilarious, heart warming, and had me smiling from the very beginning until the very last page.

"Love you too, hun. But, if you mess up my artistry on your face, I'm gonna have to downgrade that to a strong like."

I'm not going to get into details of the storyline, because it's only 150 pages of pure goodness, but the set up of the story, gives you just enough plot, drama, and angst you wanted while still leaving you feel fulfilled at the end. I also loved that you got to see a little into book #2 characters Tatum and Noah {Plus a cute sneak peak at the end of Recovery}. I'm very excited to see where Simmons' takes the Mending Hearts series in the next book and look forward to having a new set of characters while still getting glimpses of our favorites.

"Note to self: Send the girls to Blake with any future arguments and/or blood curdling screaming contests."

As always, Simmon's writing is flawless and the story literally flows off the page and before I knew it I was at the end and dying for book #2 in the Mending Hearts series.

"Our Family"

Make sure to push this up your TBR list because it's fantastic and a quick read. I successfully hid from yard work and my husband while reading and he didn't even know :P

Buy Recovery on June 13th and be sure to check out Blake Morgan's Book Boyfriend Page.

Kendall {Book Crazy} says

"Let yourself live your life, because otherwise you're just wasting precious time."

This novella was amazing! After falling in love with Running On Empty I was really looking forward to seeing where Alex and Blake's relationship went to next! The author's writing again blew me away! I fell in love with it in Running On Empty and I fell in love with it again in Recovery! L.B. Simmons writing flows so beautifully! And it's super addictive! So much happened in this novella! It was like a time line showing some of Alex and Blake's life together and it showed the good moments and the bad moments as well! I also loved that some chapters of this novella were written from Blake's point of view as he is such an amazing character and I loved him so much in the first book! The plot of this novella was bittersweet! It started at a good point and then it showed the downfalls of a relationship and then it showed that love can conquer anything! This novella showed that every relationship has problems, but if you don't talk about your problems then they won't change and they will come between you as a couple! I loved the plot! It was quite short, but there was so much in it! It was the perfect addition to Running On Empty! The characters were again amazing in this novella! As this novella is told over probably a year Alex's attitude slightly changed! I still loved her and I could see why she had obviously changed slightly as well! She was still an amazing character! She was quite a stressed character in this novella, but she did have a lot going on! In this novella you really get to see Blake! He was the sort of broken character this time! He went through a lot and he had a lot of bottled feelings, but at a certain point in this novella everything started to work out beautifully! I wished that Blake would have spoken to Alex about his problems, but I could genuinely see that he didn't want to upset her! Blake and Alex as a couple still blew me away and they will definitely remain one of my favourite couples! I know that the next book in this series isn't about Alex and Blake, but I am still super excited to read more of this series and also the authors writing! The cover for this book is stunning! It really suits the book and it also suits the cover for Running On Empty perfectly! I will say the exact same thing that I said about Running On Empty's title! It suits the book perfectly and it has a significance that you will discover as soon as you read the novella! Big thank you to L.B. Simmons for an ARC of Recovery!

Christine (Shh Moms Reading) says

www.shhmomsreading.com

For those who have read Running on Empty, this is book 1.5 in the series and continues with the love story of Alex and Blake...sighhhh.....

It's their wedding day and I am so excited to see the next phase of their life together...Alex's 3 beautiful and fun girls are ever present in this story as well as her best friend Harlow who is as funny as ever!

I do not want to reveal any parts of the story as this novella is not out yet so I will tell you what I like about this book –

I am still loving the fun and hysterical notes to self!
“The Office” had me laughing out loud...how genius!

I am still so in love with this sweet man Blake – his reassuring words to the girls about their father and how he will never replace him but hopes to follow in his footsteps...this man made my heart melt over and over again.

So as they say – the honeymoon doesn’t last forever and Alex and Blake will go through their ups and downs. Yes, their love is still as strong as ever but will Alex, who has gone through a period of time where she had to take care of everything on her own be able to relinquish control over everything and allow Blake to help and really become a part of her life and her children’s? Will she be able to depend on someone again and show Blake how much she needs him?

I will say that L.B. Simmons knows how to write emotions well...I connected with these characters on a whole different level in this book. I experienced everything – the genuine love, the hot sex and the tears. I am a spiritual person and appreciated the sense of God in the afterlife watching over us. I have always been afraid of death and this gave me hope that there is more for us after we die and that we do get to see our loved ones again.

This could be described as a beautiful epilogue – allowing us readers to see even more past the HEA in Running on Empty. I was content and had a smile on my face. So thank you Ms. Simmons for allowing us to see more into the lives of this family and I look forward to reading even more from you soon!

Favorite Quotes from the book:

Live your life without fear, and love with no regret. That’s the way it should be.

Everything works out eventually. You just have to have patience.

H.J. Bellus says

I received an ARC copy of this book. I instantly fell in love with Alex and Blake in Running on Empty! So I nearly shit myself when I received an ARC. I read the whole thing in an afternoon. I just had to find out what Alex & Blake went through...Guess what! It's normal everyday marriage obstacles!!! Every mom this IS A MUST READ...lots of laughter and tears...so down to EARTH! Every woman can relate to the events that happen in the book. The three adorable girls are still at it. I fell in love with each one and their amazing personalities! Thank You, LB Simmons for another brilliant book...Can't wait for Tatum's story now!!!!

Maria says

I still have no flipping clue how I got so lucky as to getting an ARC of recovery into my chubby hands!! But I will say "thank you book gods!". Where do I begin? I have always loved Alex from page one! She is one of the most realistic characters I have ever read. LB Simmons has a way of making you a presence in the story. You feel your actually watching the story unfold. She has those creative minds that make you forget you even turned the page let alone finished the book. In recovery we receive the closure we so desperately needed from Blake and Alex. This novella takes place just one month after Running on Empty. It lets us see the relationship of Blake and the girls and the transition for all of them to becoming a family. We see the hardship they face while adapting to living with each other and we see the love. I loved getting Blake's pov, he's been a favorite of mine since book one, and the fact that I was in his mind sealed the deal for me. I was in tears in many parts of this novella and especially towards the end where I literally held my breath. The emotions run high in this wonderful ending to our beloved characters! And although we will be reading

about them in future books, this one lets you know how they will turn out in the end. Definitely one for the permanent shelf. I give it ten fingers and ten toes!

Lucinda - I JUST LOVE TO READ says

Oeeee I loved this short story! It was great to read about Alex and Blake and her 3 daughters. I love LB Simmons. Can't wait for the next book about Tatum ;)

Nanci Tink says

So excited for this book!!! <3

Tonya says

Wonderful novella!!! I loved this book, getting to find out what happens after second chances and happily ever after. Blake is a Amazing man, not only has he waited, loved and been there for Alex he gladly takes care of three girls that he loves as his own. He knows he will never take the place of their father but will be a father figure to them. He worships Alex and tells her so. Makes me....

This book shows the ups and downs of marriage and family. The miss communications and stubbornness seem to get Blake and Alex flustered and angry. I must admit I was getting a little nervous and upset at Alex. Yea I think it was more her fault because she is so stubborn and wasn't listening to what Blake was saying which made perfect sense. He broke my heart.

It was only 9 chapters but every single page was awesome. I'm so glad to see the after. Quite enjoyable.

To the author....

Fern (whirlwindbooks) says

<3 yay.

I CANNOT wait for this.
