



Always You

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Lyla has to move on. She's been stuck in a rut since her heart was broken five years ago. Trying to decide about life with her fiancé, Nick, she resolves to finish one last project before moving to Spain and starting a new life. That is until she is face to face with the one man who broke her heart all those years ago, Alexander Knight.

Five years ago, when Alex and Lyla meet at his friend, Andrew's grave, they fall deeply in love. But, Alex is hiding a secret that will destroy his relationship with Lyla and does. What Lyla doesn't realize is that Alex has changed since their break-up, because of her love, only she still has hate in her heart towards him.

But now, fate has brought them together in such a way that they have no option but to remain dangerously close - dangerous enough for Lyla to fall in love with him again. How can she? Not after what she knows about Alex and what he did to Andrew.

It's true that love can change people for the better. But is it enough? What will happen when two broken people with a past come together? Can they forgive and heal?

Always You Details

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From Reader Review Always You for online ebook

Brooke Moss says

I enjoyed this novella! Sweet, sort of sad, lots of jet-setting, it was a fun read. Like a piece of candy before bed, I treated myself every night after I did my work with reading time. The character of Lyla is incredibly introspective and wounded. I enjoy a character like that. I like flawed characters, though some struggle with that. I don't. I like a character who makes mistakes like I do. And the character of Alex? Well, lets just say...I am a sucker for a hero in an expensive suit, who knows he's hot. I loved the fact that he's gorgeous and knows it, but underneath all of that confidence, all he really wanted was Lyla. That's honestly one of my favorite story lines. Ms. Mudiganti's strength obviously lies in two areas: 1.) Her ability to share thoughts and introspection from both hero & heroine. And 2.) She has a keen eye for, and a way with her words when describing, the sexy scenes. There are no logistical problems at all. You know where their hands are, what they're doing, and how awesome it is. I love that. She's got a bright future in romance writing. Very Nora Roberts-esque. My only complaint about Always You was that it was too short. I don't read novellas very often, because I am usually left wanting more.....but I guess that's not a bad thing! :)

~Tina~ says

The writing was a tad flat and the dialog felt a little formal, but the story line had a good twist and the characters were likable.

All in all, **Always You** was a charming, sweet and tender love story.

(Arc provided by InkSpell Publishing)

Carly says

Always You is a quick, snappy and to the point read. It read brilliantly and I ended up finishing the book in a couple of hours. The story line is engaging and there were lots of will she won't she moments. It is very heartfelt in places and I was simply dying to know the whole story of how Alex betrayed Lyla.

5 years ago Lyla was in a relationship with a guy called Alex. He helped her get over the death of her partner, who died in a car accident. When Lyla finds out that Alex had something to do with her partners death, she leaves him.

Five years later in a business meeting for her hi-powered job, Lyla sees Alex again for the first time since their split. They have to work together with a team of people on a assignment. Alex has never stopped loving Lyla and wants to win her back. After hating Alex for 5 years, seeing him again comes as a bit of a shock. Lyla has feelings for him, which she hopes is just physical.

Alex is a genuine nice guy who has had a bad reputation as a bit of a womaniser. He shows Lyla respect and is kind and caring towards her. She is starting to come round to his charms. But all Alex wants her to do is forgive him. Can she put the past behind her? And forgive the man who lied and was the cause of her partners death?

I loved reading about this pair, I only wish the book was a little longer, as Alex and Lyla were such interesting characters. I will definitely be looking out for more works from the author.

My favourite character would have to be:

Alex- He has a mysterious side which had me intrigued from the off. He is handsome, strong, caring, intelligent and doesn't give up easily when he wants something.

4/5 stars

Carly :)

A review copy was provided for the book tour

<http://fictionfascination.blogspot.com/>

Brianna Kilcrease says

This is the first adult romance that I have read so far in 2012, and let me just say that it was perfect.

A good romance is heartbreaking, loving, gentle, and full of surprises. Always You meets all of this criteria. The story of Lyla and Andrew is sad, and then in comes Alex, healing her, and then a betrayal happens. Nick on the other hand is there to pick up the pieces, but will Lyla let him?

A few coincidences help too. Like the fact that they just happen to be working on a big project together.

This book is a novella, it is only around 130 pages and is a pretty fast read. Normally I don't like books under 250 pages but this was an exception. It felt like an entire book. I didn't feel like any of it was rushed, and the details were amazing. The passion between Alex and Lyla kept me on the seat and I think I fell in love with him myself xD

Also it was in Paris, my new favorite city after reading Anna and the French Kiss!

5/5 for this awesome, sweet, heart-breaking novella.

CaliGirlRae says

First off, the cover caught my eye right away. Very sensuous, sexy and it definitely helps that the hero looks like the very yummylicious actor Neal McDonough.

Always You was a fun, sweet romance about secrets, betrayal, truth and moving on. Our heroine Lyla suffered when she lost her late love Andrew in a car accident involving Andrew's friend Alex. Lyla has harbored anger at Alex ever since she found he was in the car and was the lone survivor. Things are complicated when Alex and Lyla are thrown together in work, years after their breakup. Lyla has been angry with Alex ever since, but he, knowing the truth behind the accident, also knows the embers are still alive between them.

This reminded me of a classic Harlequin Presents novel only with a more likeable hero than the overzealous, sometimes brute-like HP heroes. Lyla was like a classic HP heroine going back and forth between her feelings while trying to keep in mind the sorrow she has held toward Alex. Exotic locations and glamorous jobs added to the romantic feel of the story, and there was also a sense of dramatic mystery throughout the book. One that hints to the reader of the tragic accident known between the hero and heroine but not to the reader.

Alex knows the truth of the accident and although he doesn't reveal it until later, there is a lot of internal conflict where he suffers survivor's guilt. The accident is not done deliberately by his doing (for anyone wondering ahead of time) but the reasons behind it are believable and tie the story (as well some of secondary characters) together.

I must admit, it's Alex's character who really brought me into the book. Thank you Ms. Mudiganti for this wonderful hero! While Lyla ran a bit hot and cold with her changing feelings (which made it hard to identify completely with her), Alex was a sexy, confident, complex character. He has a reputation for being a Lothario but inside he holds a candle for one woman: Lyla. While it was hard to identify with Lyla's ever changing attitude and quick changing thought process, I found Alex attractive in his smooth reasoning and calm confidence. I imagine much of his Casanova-ing took place off screen where we only hear Lyla mention it to reason herself into not falling for him again. This works because I wouldn't want to see Alex hanging all over another woman other than the heroine but I would have also liked to have been shown some things that were talked about later. Comparing the characters, it was a nice juxtaposition to have such two different personalities. I like to think that there were many a times Alex had to be the calm one to Lyla's passionate personality when they were dating before the novel opened.

Nevertheless, I enjoyed the whimsical romance of Always You. There were a few times when I as pulled out of the story due to some errors (grammar and such) and when I had to re-read some passages where it seemed like characters would be in one place one minute and then transport to another place with no transition, but I'm pretty sure that's only in the case for the ARC and the final books will be clean reads.

Always You gets a recommended read from me, especially for those HP fans looking for a similar story structure without the cookie cutter HQN style.

Pamela says

*** I received an eARC copy of the book from Inkspell Publishing. ***

Let me just start out by saying that I wrote up a long review and then accidentally clicked outside of the review window thus causing everything to disappear without being saved. So I think this time around I will skip explaining what the story is about as you can read about it in the blurb, I guess. Plus, this way I'm not spoiling any of the story for you.

I enjoyed reading Always You. I could relate to the characters and the story. I was emotionally invested in the characters and their situations. Plus I absolutely loved the ending.

There were, however, quite a few grammatical, punctuation, and/or spelling errors however I have to take into consideration that this was an advanced copy of the book. Hopefully when it is officially released, those issues will be fixed!

Apart from the writing issues, there were a couple scenes that just felt impossible to me. One example - Lyla sees Alex's expression when a beautiful woman sits down next to him while on an airplane. Problem is, Lyla is sitting directly behind him! Now, I just don't see how she would be able to see his face while sitting behind him, unless he leaned over the arm rest, but that's not stated.

I feel the need to say that there was one line in the book that I absolutely did NOT like. And that line is: "Not once did he try to force himself upon her, though he had a right." OKAY! Now, I don't believe the author meant it like that but no guy has the right to force himself on a woman, even if he is engaged to her. Nick, Lyla's fiance, is a caring, considerate, patient man ... what with the fact that they have been engaged for a year (dating for who knows how long before that) and they had never had sex. So I don't believe he would be the type to force himself on her anyway. But just the fact that that line is written the way it is sounds really wrong to me.

Now with all that said, I would certainly be willing to read more from Shilpa Mudiganti. Always You is definitely worth a read. This is, in fact, my second time of reading it!

Nereyda (Nick & Nereyda's Infinite Booklist) says

Book received as part of Blog Tour for review

Let me start off by saying that this book should be considered as a novella. My ARC copy was 112 pages but the font was really small so the final page count may be different. Nonetheless, it is a great quick read. A romance book set in the city of love, how can you go wrong?

Through flashbacks we learn that Lyla's boyfriend Andrew was killed in a car crash. At Andrew's funeral she meets Alexander Knight. (I love that name!) They become friends and Alex helps her through that difficult time in her life. Eventually, they end up falling in love and moving in together. But Alex is hiding something about the night Andrew died. When Lyla finds out through a friend that Alex was responsible for Andrew's death, she feels hurt and betrayed and she leaves Alex without giving him a chance to explain himself.

Fast forward 5 years to the present and Lyla is now a cold and distant woman who is afraid of letting people in close. She has a boyfriend Nick, who has proposed to Lyla but she hasn't accepted yet because she doesn't know how she really feels about him. She has one last work project to do before moving to Spain to be with

Nick. Turns out that last project will have her working with Alex. Immediately the chemistry and sexual tension returns full force, even though Lyla tries her best to deny it. Alex is still in love with Lyla and is trying to win her back, but Lyla refuses. She believes that Alex is still a liar and a womanizer. Slowly they start coming closer together. Making matters worse is the fact that Nick surprises Lyla, further complicating her feelings for both men.

Although Alex immediately won me over, Lyla's character was a little bit harder for me to like. I get that she is very confused and conflicted but her choices are not the best. When Nick proposes once again, in front of Alex, she accepts even though it's clear that she doesn't want to. Although she redeems herself at the end, sometimes I felt like shaking her.

Always You is a great quick read (can read in one sitting) about love and forgiveness which I really enjoyed. I wish this were a full length book because I think it would have been 5 stars. Cover Love: How beautiful is the cover for Always You? I LOVE it! Sign me up on the next flight to Paris!

4 out a 5 sparkly stars!

My favorite non spoiler quotes from Always You:

-What he wanted to do was take her in his arms, and kiss her soft, velvety lips, but he knew how impossible that would have been. Neither the surrounding nor their past would allow that.

-She gave a relieved sign when the airport was finally on the horizon and mused at the irony of traveling to two romantic places in the world with an extremely handsome man whom she hated.

-“So what are you doing to find the woman you love?” she asked finally.

“Hmm... let's see. I would say she's right in front of me but doesn't want to acknowledge it. So, I'll just wait till she does,” he finished softly.

Check out more of my reviews at <http://BooksandSparkles.Blogspot.com>

Sana says

Always You is a short entertaining read and I finished it in a few hours. What attracted me to Always You is the awesome cover with Eiffel Tower in the background which I just love! Moreover, the cover fits the story perfectly which I think is an important thing for any book.

From the beginning of Always You, it dives into the heart of the matter. Lyla has been hurt and deceived by Alex five years ago, but she still is unable to move on despite being engaged to another. She has decided to move back to Spain after her current project. But little did she know that she was to meet Alex again and what it would do to her. She wanted her last project to be memorable and boy, was it! Needless to say, she still has feelings for Alex as do Alex himself. But stubborn as she is, Lyla chooses to ignore those.

I fell in love with the character of Alex because he had so much to offer to the reader! Sensitive and down to earth, Alexander Knight is a character who is hot and caring at the same time. A Casanova for sure!

From then on, as Alex her boss and a business trip to New York and Paris on the schedule, it is a whirlwind

ride into the world of second chances and how much damage can misunderstandings initiate. I really loved how the author has managed to integrate the whole concept by writing such a thought-provoking story.

I really enjoyed **Always You** and it is a really good debut by Shilpa Mudiganti. I will surely be looking forward to more books by the author!

heather - NightlyReading says

This book was the perfect set up for a passionate romance.

Alex and Lyla once shared a past. Due to a huge secret that Alex had kept from Lyla, their love affair quickly ended with Lyla walking out on him and never turning back again. When Lyla goes to a work meeting and walks into the room, she comes face to face with Alex after so many years and she is not sure if she can keep herself from falling in love again.

This was a very quick read for me and I am not sure if the reason is because I loved the book so much or because it was only 112 pages? The reader is quickly swept into the life of Lyla, she is involved with Nick and is not sure if she can truly love him and then Alex walks back into her life. I understand Lyla's feeling of betrayal, the secret that was kept was really big! I enjoyed that the setting for the book took place in two of the most romantic cities in the world, NYC and Paris!

Alex was DEFINITELY swoonworthy! He made me giggle a few times with his snarky comments. We also got to see a little from his POV. The book was mostly from Lyla's POV, but luckily got a glimpse here and there into Alex.

I would recommend this read for anyone whom would like a short romance. This book will captivate you until the end, which was steamy!

Vanessa says

such an incredible book, i wish my boyfriend was like alex. there were times during this i wanted to cry. this book has it all romance, mystery and a happyending. shilpa is a friend of mine and she did an incredible job on this book. i highly recommend people to read it.

i cant wait to see more books shilpa publishes.

Arlene says

Rating Clarification: 3.5 Stars

Well if I'm being completely honest, it was the book cover that attracted me to **Always You**. I mean look at the gorgeous pose happening here! Yes, I'm among the many that judge a book by its cover and for the most

part it's usually a disappointment, but in the case of **Always You** it was simply a mild surprise.

A small part of me was expecting a little bit more where the story of Alex and Lyla was concerned, and I think if it was about 100 pages longer Mudiganti would have still kept me glued to the book with a more developed storyline. However, for an abbreviated novel, it delivered in the areas of interesting characters, plot and steady pace.

There were parts of the book where I wanted the author just reveal the back-story and get it done with, but patience isn't a character trait of mine, so I have only myself to blame for my frustration.

Overall, I enjoyed Mudiganti's story and I'm curious to see what else she has out there. I'd definitely give it a try.

Katrina says

Always you is the Debut novel by Shilpa Mudiganti .. I love the cover .. very sensual and alluring ;) I know dont judge a book by its cover - but - I'm a cover love kinda girl and this is just stunning.

I won't go into the storyline much as it's only at 112 pages long. Please do read the blurb ! Always you Is a heart warming story with a few steamy scenes - but also contains moments where you may need to grab that box of tissues. ** I know some of us are emotional readers *

Always you is a story of hurt, lies, betrayal and love. I read this book in one sitting; it had me intrigued within the very first pages. Likeable characters, you can relate to, romance, hurt, lies, underlying passion, and chemistry between the characters that was certainly undeniable. Alex and Lylia share a past, both filled with love, passion, and lies. A story of forgiveness and understanding I'm sure once you start to read this, you will read till the end. The chapters run smoothly and the storyline progresses at a steady pace till the very end, keeping the readers interest piqued till the very last pages.

If you a romantic at heart who doesn't mind obstacles along the way then *Always you ** is a great afternoon read, or a night cap for all who like to read before bed.

I will be looking for more of Shipla's stories I enjoy romance and this was an enjoyable read.

3 1/5 stars. !

If you enjoyed this review Please find more at www.pageflipperz.blogspot.com

Nicola says

This review first appeared here on my blog.

Always You is a contemporary romance novel about a woman named Lyla and her ex fiancé, Nick. I decided to read this book because I quite liked the cover- it's well done and has a relaxed feeling to it- and the premise sounded very interesting. I was definitely interested in seeing what choices Lyla would make. I always enjoy stories like this so I was expecting good things from Always You.

The book as a whole was pretty good! It's very light reading and being a novella, doesn't take long to get through at all. It's full of believable characters and the story is easy to follow. Both Lyla and Alex are well developed characters and I enjoyed getting to know more about them! There was a lot of conflict and mystery in this book and emotions ran very high at times! I was happy with the ending; I really liked that there was an epilogue because it certainly helped tie things together and I liked knowing how things had turned out further on in the future.

What I didn't like was the dialogue. It was so formal at times. It just felt like nobody actually talks like that in real life. It was too stiff and proper to take seriously sometimes. Also, another reviewer actually mentioned this as well: There is one sentence about how he had the "right" to "force himself" on her because he was her fiancé. That is obviously all kinds of wrong and made me do a double take. It was just such a bizarre and awful statement since of course he had no right to do such a thing.

Overall, Always You is a nice story and I'd recommend it to any contemporary romance fans looking for a quick read.

Cocktails and Books says

Excellent story. Look for my review on Night Owl Review

Darian Wilk says

Always You is a novella, you get all the lovely ups and downs of romance in about half the time. And this novella doesn't hold back at all, and quickly sucks you into the turmoil Lyla has been living with for five years, trying to forgive and forget the love of her life, all while planning her wedding to Nick; a man who loves and is good to her.

It's an emotional ride, watching Lyla fight the love she has for Alex and hopes to find that same kind of love with Nick. Mudiganti does a wonderful job of expressing the torment of a woman stuck in such a predicament, when you can't trust your heart enough to make the right decision about either man.

There are moments when you want to slap Alex, slap Lyla, scream at them both to just give into love and hug poor Nick for the torturous ride; which in my opinion, means you're reading a good story to stir up such

emotions in a reader. Mudiganti pulls off the connection between Lyla and Alex beautifully, you would have to be reading with your eyes closed to not see the strength of the love Lyla tries so hard to forget.

The love scenes were handed with a thoughtful and skilled touch, enough to pull me into the moment but not, well, graphic enough to make you uncomfortable. For someone like me who likes a lighter love scene, this was perfect.

Typically I steer clear of novellas (a mini novel), too often have they left me feeling unsatisfied; either like a book on speed, or jolting at the ending leaving the story to feel unfinished. And when I agreed to review *Always You* I feared the experience would be no different. Some people might think the ending came too quickly, and as a writer myself I can see where the story could have been drawn out longer - BUT this is a novella after all, and I think the ending was done with a trained eye. This mini novel doesn't hold back, and draws you into the thrill of a good read, ending precisely when it should and in the manner it should. It moves at a good pace. You're pulled in quickly, yet given the satisfaction of a proper ending. Over time I have become an anti-fan of novellas, but this one has made me reconsider that.

Mudiganti has a keen eye for love, the raw emotion it can churn up, and the utter whirlwind of confusion it can create. Overall I applaud her delicate hand in tackling the tricky task of novellas (sometimes much harder than writing a full-length novel). She has a story-tellers eye, the heart of a true writer, and is a lover of love. All the key ingredients for creating a sweet, solid romance. I would recommend this to anyone who is a fan of love, but doesn't have the time to squeeze in a full novel.

**My review copied from my blog, <http://crazyladywithapen.blogspot.com/>
