



The Girl In The Closet

Michelle Heard

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BIRDIE

Escaping an unthinkable nightmare, I'm given a second chance at life. Cole Trenton is the first person to look past the broken girl. But the moment I give him my heart he leaves.

Secrets never stay buried, and mine returns with a vengeance.

Cole walks back into my life when I need him most. He shows me how to be strong, that monsters only have the power you give them.

But my biggest fear remains.

How do I silence the girl in the closet before I lose Cole again?

COLE

I always knew Birdie Liles was different, but that didn't stop me from falling for her.

After years of being away, I return home to bury my best friend, only to learn that Birdie's in trouble.

If I had known about the monster from her past, I never would've left.

I went to fight someone else's war while I left the woman I love unprotected.

But I'm here now, and I'm ready to send Birdie's demon right back to hell.

The Girl In The Closet Details

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Author : Michelle Heard

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Genre : Dark, Romance, War, Military Fiction, Sociology, Abuse

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From Reader Review The Girl In The Closet for online ebook

Tyi says

It has been awhile since I've read a story from this author. I don't know how the author does it but she knows how to pull ya in. I loved how time didn't mean a thing when it came to the relationship Cole had with Birdie. He fell in love with the shy girl who he always wanted to say hi to at the lockers. Later, he fell in love with the woman who was brave in the face of overwhelming fear.

Cole didn't see Birdie the way she saw herself. He looked at what was on the inside and not what was decorated on the outside. I loved Cole because of his protective instinct, his loyalty to family and friends, and his overwhelming love for Birdie. I would say it doesn't matter if you stumble across the Boogeyman as long as you have Cole Trenton in your corner.

Philomena Callan Cheekypee says

This is book two in the Southern Heroes series.

My heart broke for Birdie. She has been through so much that we can't help but hope she gets a break.

Cole is the only light in her life. He has loved Birdie from afar but left to join the military. Cole comes back broken. Can two broken souls help each other? Can they reach the light together?

This is another brilliantly written story from this author. I adore her writing and I found this one faultless. I highly recommend this read. Can't wait to read more from this author.

Avidez Literaria says

**“A fear only has the power your mind gives it.” Cole’s words seep right into my bones, cutting deep.
“Then you haven’t experienced real fear,” I whisper.**

Second book in the Southern Heroes series, we are introduced to Birdie and Cole and these two have had their share of suffering throughout their lives. Their journey is hard, full of anguish, loss, fear and pain. It is not an easy book, it is a reading that makes you think that sometimes in life, evil is closer than you might think.

The book begins with a teenager Bridget (Birdie) living in a peaceful town, with her adoptive parents and her foster brother. She is an incredibly shy girl, so she feeds a Platonic passion for Cole, a popular boy from her school. But her shy, withdrawn mood masks a distancing she imposes because of everything that has happened. Her past is terrible, sad and brutal. She was rescued with five years older after a series of unimaginable events.

What she did not expect was that Cole was interested in her, too. And on a visit that ends abruptly, those two will be close, and little by little the well-built walls of Birdie will begin to collapse. Cole with his patient, loving and detached way will win the heart of the protagonist. But with the threat of the past prowling

around again, Birdie will walk away, breaking the heart of a passionate Cole.

Eight years later. Two characters marked by life. A real and close threat. A second chance. A protector. And a frightened girl desperate to stop feeling scared.

The book is very good! Birdie had a horrible childhood. The reports of what happened to her provoked tears. It is monstrous to think that whoever should love us unconditionally is capable of such atrocity. Even after so much time, she still lives in fear, does not feel safe anywhere. The beginning of the book where shows her and Cole starting a relationship was sweet and brought a calmer tone to the narrative, blending nicely with the dark part.

Cole was the perfect Prince Charming that Birdie needed as a teenager, and as an adult he was the highly trained soldier who protected her. He also suffered greatly. First to think that the girl he loved did not correspond, then losing his parents, facing the war and finally facing the greatest tragedy that shocked him and motivated him back home. Two characters broken, each one way, but they need each other so they can breathe.

The characters in the first book appear in the story, as well as a few others that will be part of the upcoming books. The plot of Reece and Clay seems to be interesting. The song and the excerpts that appear at the beginning of the chapters were brilliant.

The human being is capable of goodness and beauty but can also show malice and ugliness. We all have skeletons in the closet, but here he runs away from the metaphor and becomes literal. Birdie faced the boogeyman, left scorched, but survived. Even with scars and memories she won. Cole was her biggest prize in this madness called life.

*ARC provided in exchange for an honest Review *

<https://avidezliteraria.wordpress.com/>

Michelle Heard says

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I am.

My eyes are filled with stars,
my feet planted firmly on the ground.
My fingertips are in the pond of destiny
making ripples through life.

I've been to hell and back,
holding the scales of truth.

I'm your conscience,

and every haunting memory.

I've seen the cruelty of love.
I've bathed in the acid of deceit.
I've felt the coldness of death.

I've seen it all.
I'm chaos.
I'm revenge.
I am Fate.

Kim Brewing says

This is a new to me author and I didn't realize this was book 2 in a series. Having said that, I don't feel that I missed anything as there doesn't seem to be an overlapping story line. If you looking for a sappy, happy book - yeah, this isn't it. Birdie has a very traumatic childhood that has followed her into adulthood. Cole is dealing with some heavy loss when he returns home and sees his unrequited love. Could it be their time now? Can they help each other slay demons?

I loved the pace of this story and didn't skim at all as I didn't want to miss any details. I was happy to see these characters in flashbacks as teenagers so we could understand the choices that they made then rather than just being told. I'll definitely read more from this author.

Amber- Leave Me Alone I'm Reading says

Allll the feels for this one! The Girl in the Closet has me on the edge of my seat one minute, and reading through my tears the next. These characters are so broken, and the way they pick up each other's pieces is just so beautiful. I loved it so much!

Mandie says

The Girl in the Closet was one hell of an emotionally dark read. It slowly ripped my heart out and put it back together again. I loved every agonizing minute of it! This book will stay with me for a long time!

KAT ? Kitty Kats Crazy About Books ? says

►When I try to think of my past, the darkness is always waiting ready to suck me right back in and suffocate me.

THE GIRL IN THE CLOSET: Is the second revised romance book in Author Michelle Heard's

‘Southern Heroes’ series. Dual POV’S

We’re first introduced to seventeen year old Bridget aka Birdie, adopted twelve years ago by a pastor and his wife, she came to them with scars marring her body and mind, scared of her own shadow, severly broken, her father *the boogeyman* is castrated, serving a fifteen year sentence for what he did to her.

Her story is her story to tell, it's raw, it's heartbreaking, it's ugly.

She’d always harboured a crush on Cole but knowing deep down that it would never be reciprocated, but that’s where she’s wrong, he’d always had his eye on her, she’s just always seemed shy and unapproachable walking away every time he’d try and strike up a conversation with her, hiding behind her friends. She just wanting to be invisible, to keep everyone at arm’s length. She didn’t want them to get hurt.

Thinking there was no hope for anything to transpire between them Cole and his best friend join the Marines.

But things escalated quickly between them when they found themselves in each others company. And he begins to regret signing up so hastily.

Eight years go by

This part of the story wrung out all the feels..A second chance is on the cards for these two, he's back from the war, and she's never left their hometown. I couldn't get enough of these two, they were the perfect match for each other, I devoured their story, I loved it, I wanted more, I craved more, I needed more but I'm glad I got to spend the time I did with them.

A time for healing, a time for putting the past behind them, a time to love again fully, a time to embrace their survivor battle wounds.

My favourite passage (The story about pebbles)

► *Life is full of pebbles you pick up along the way*

Some might be smooth and others rough around the edges,

but that it doesn't matter what they look like.

It only matters what you do with them.

We all throw our pebbles into the same lake

and the ripples we make affect the ripples of other people.

Some people's pebbles skid over the water and they have a smooth life

where others peoples pebbles get tossed around by stormy waves.

Then there are pebbles which sink, and those people don't get to live that long.

The girl in the closet is highly addictive, raw, gritty, emotional, unique, unconventional and utterly unputdownable. I highly recommend this!!

* Teasers used are off the authors facebook page *

Anne Milne says

Birdie is a young woman who has a terrible past adopted into a loving family at a young age. Her past hasn't been forgotten it's almost a living entity inside her that she can't let go. To say she is cautious about letting people in is an understatement.

Cole is a family friend who somehow manages to gain her trust. The one problem is he thought he never had a chance with her and has enlisted in the Marines and is due to leave soon.

This is such a breathtakingly beautifully written love story. I challenge you not to fall for Cole both before he goes and when he comes back from war a shell of the man he once was. The way he loved Birdie made my heart happy she had always been his one and time hadn't changed that.

I'm not going to spoil it but I will say when her past comes back how far will he go for the woman he has always loved. A story about love and healing and second chances. Simply stunning.

Na says

3.5 stars

"A fear only has the power your mind gives it."

The Girl In The Closet deals with very tough topic that makes this whole book pretty dark and depressive. And this is also the reason why this story is a slow burn romance. But due to a great writing style and well developed characters, you won't be bored once. This story has a lot to give if you are open and read between the lines.

"I love you so much. Not only because you helped me, but because you reached into the darkness and brought me out into the light."

Cole and Birdie were quite a match. Both beautifully written with well paced character development, they give this story a beautiful and intense frame.

The Girl In The Closet is a gritty, emotional and unique story that will make your heart ache.

"You've taught me how to look at myself and the world. I no longer see darkness. When I close my eyes, you're all I see. It's okay. I'll be your air, and you can be my light."

Kathy West says

This book was previously published as Twisted Boundaries but parts have been changed and edits. And I

read that book. But I went into this one with an open mind because it's been a few years since I read the other book.

Birdie survived living with the devil. When she was found by the police when she was 5, she was like a skeleton. But the devil will be out of jail in the future and Birdie isn't sure what she is going to do when that happens. But what she does know is that she wants to keep the people she cares about safe when he does get out, so she keeps her distance from people.

Cole has always had a crush on Birdie, but when she pushed him away, he left for the Marines and never looked back. When he returned home, under terrible circumstances, Birdie is thrown back into his life. He is determined to keep her safe from the devil.

This book was an okay read. There wasn't anything wrong with the book but there wasn't anything particularly special with this book.

Janice Somers says

I couldn't see how the stories by Ms. Heard, could be better with each word in the book. This is a story of the Dark and Haunting life of a girl in the closet. It's gut-wrenching reading and emotional enough to bring me to tears. But it is not only of the story of a girl it's the story of friends and family and love.

This the second book of the Southern Heros. The first was The Ocean Between Us. There are six in total. I personally recommend to all to read all but in order of their release, as the characters from first to second and so forth are in each story.

Heads up you will need tissues when reading.

Eve Recinella (Between The Bookends) says

So I don't know what to say about this one. It was a good book, but lord it was depressing as F-CK. From beginning to end...depressing without a single lighthearted break until the very end. That said, the writing was still very good. It was well paced. The plot was engaging. The baddie aspect was OK (a little underdeveloped). I wouldn't say this was an angsty book relationship wise, mostly because this couple is not even a couple until 77% into the book (although they both love the other). Needless to say, because of the slow burn nature of the story the heat level was super low. There was also no OW or OM drama.

There was a good cast of secondary characters (one of which appears to already have a book of his own), and both main characters were likable. The heroine was a virgin (groan), but in this case, it made sense. I don't

think the hero was a manwhore, but I am reasonably sure he slept with OW in the eight years they were apart. Which I am adding because I know it will bother some people since he claimed to be "in love with her always." However, it is never mentioned one way or the other. Last, it was all wrapped up in a sweet ending.

Jan says

A sign of a good book is not being able to put it down and I definitely read this in one sitting.

I was entranced by Birdie and Coles story.

Birdie's story is fascinating, a girl who was locked away in a cupboard for years by her father and obviously this has psychological side effects even now she is in a loving home.

Birdie is a shy girl and due to her scars always wears long-sleeved clothing but something about her captivates Cole. Cole and Birdie go to the same school and I wish there was more of the early years in the story, stolen glances, feelings, how protective Cole felt of her, however, the story jumps to Cole going into the Marines just before anything could happen between them, when they are only just discovering they are attracted to each other.

Cole goes into the marines and returns years later with his own nightmares but due to living in the same town reconnects with Birdie the girl he never forgot.

The GIRL IN THE CLOSET is a heartwarming story although, in a dark setting, it's moving and has a mixture of hope and fears within the plot.

Another unforgettable read by Michelle Heard.

Arc received for review purposes

Kay's Blushing Book Reviews says

***THE GIRL IN THE CLOSET* by Michelle Heard**

GENRE: *Dark Romance*

NARRATION: *Dual POV*

BOOK DETAILS: *Standalone*

MY THOUGHTS:

The subject matter is dark and disheartening, but the story is resolute and emotional and extremely well written. The burn is slow and torturous but will have you itching for more.

Cole and Bridget aka Birdie's journey is a sad and tragic, but it is a reminder to us all that love is a powerful weapon and can help heal even the most broken of souls.

I read this book in the one sitting, it's a page turner, tear jerker, nail biter, gritty and intense second chance love story. The characters are very well developed, and the storyline flowed smoothly. I really enjoyed this book and look forward to more from this author

ARC kindly provided in exchange for an honest review

Teaser used is off the authors Facebook page

MY RATINGS: (All ratings are out of 5)

HERO RATING: 4

HEROINE RATING: 4

BLUSH RATING: 3

DARKNESS RATING: 3.5

PLOT RATING: 4

OVERALL: 4 Blushing Stars

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