



The Truth About Love

Sheila Athens

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Strong Convictions

After her testimony sent an innocent man to prison, law student Gina Blanchard vowed to spend her life righting that wrong. She passed up more prestigious opportunities to intern at a Tallahassee nonprofit dedicated to overturning wrongful convictions. But when she catches the eye of sexy green-eyed hunk Landon Vista, she realizes there's room in her hardworking life for a little fun. Then she learns her newest case involves the man accused of murdering Landon's mother...and possibly setting him free.

Stronger Passions

The people of Tallahassee still see Landon Vista as their golden boy and football hero...and as the man who tragically lost his mother. Yet Landon hides his emotional scars behind his handsome smile. While working for a senator who's tough on crime, he finds himself keeping an eye on gorgeous redhead Gina in more ways than one. But as their passion simmers, their secrets build...until Gina's latest case collides with Landon's heartbreak past, threatening to tear them apart forever.

The Truth About Love Details

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Author : Sheila Athens

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From Reader Review The Truth About Love for online ebook

Anne OK says

Maybe it had something to do with my work experiences in the legal field, but I really enjoyed the heck out of this book from start to finish. Sheila Athens' well-developed and enthralling debut had a lot bang for the bucks! I definitely will be anxious to see what her next release offers.

Don't judge this book by the cover – because it did a terrible injustice to the story. It gives the impression that this is just another light-weight from the New Adult genre -- like so many we find these days. **It is not.** Accompanying the building romance between two very agonizing and torn individuals, there is a substantive and unique plot with legal issues surrounding the wrongful conviction of prisoners playing a prominent part. The author does an excellent job keeping the interest level well-balanced between the romance and the case at issue.

I am not going to give many details directly relating to the book. It just wouldn't be fair that each reader doesn't experience the full impact of a tragic-based story that comes full circle to the bright side of life. Both main characters -- Landon, a former football star and highly respected member of his hometown, and Gina, who arrives in town for a summer law clerkship -- are broken and trying to move forward in their lives. Unknown to them when they first meet and the attraction is immediate, is the fact that one particular case will put them on opposite sides of the fence. What follows is a highly entertaining and intriguing reading experience.

The only downside to this story was its ending. An Epilogue would have added the finishing touch that it so rightly deserved. As it stood, there were some dangling ends that left me feeling a little cheated and wishing I could have a peek into the life Gina and Landon made together.

Christa says

While discovering that they've each had a hand in sending an innocent person to prison, Gina Blanchard and Landon Vista grow attached to one another and develop a relationship. Both are carrying baggage and harboring secrets that makes them afraid to move ahead.

Good characters and an interesting storyline make this one a good read.

??υκ?τ? says

bekledi?imden çok daha iyi ç?kt? kitap.

Irish says

ARC provided for an Honest Review

*"I'm always here if you want to talk."
"Yeah. How sad is that? Being consoled by the opposition
because my dad let's me down again,"*

This book is totally complicated. There are some parts of the book that I find really hard to comprehend and the Characters is confusing as hell. I think I was more intrigued with the Case of the murderer of Landon's mother than the love story and that has never happened before. I am solely focus on the romance and I would have to admit, it was a great feeling when the ending was what I had expected except, I didn't expect it to take too long.

Gina, at times I really don't like her. She's too driven sometimes and she's really trying so hard to get her mind out of the gutter but she just can't. I like her when she's with Landon though. She appears to be strong and composed around him and she's really showing him what life means. She's an inspiration to him just like how women should be for men.

Landon got messed up when Gina came along. Add up his dad who has no care for him and he is even more messed up. It's cute how he is with her. Even when he knew what she's doing and who she is, he still want's to be around her. Not all guys are understanding like him. Some would have just stayed away knowing the girl he liked is digging up his past but he's not some guys. If Gina didn't give him the reason to doubt or if Gina never really came along he would have just been contented with his life without knowing he'd convicted the wrong person for his mothers death. I think Landon inspired me most in this book.

Well this book had just really proved to me that not everyone in prison are worthy to be in prison. And with everything that had happened in the book, I think Destiny really put Gina and Landon together. I have a feeling 4 stars rating is enough for this book.

Anaïs says

3 out of 5 Stars

*** ARC received in exchange for a honest review ***

When she was younger, **Gina Blanchard**'s testimony sent an innocent boy to prison to pay for the murder of

her brother. Ever since she found out, she is committed to righting the wrong by helping other innocent people to get out of jail.

Little did she know that **Landon Vista** - the boy she kissed the night before at the sports bar in Tallahassee - is the key witness in her newest case. Landon witnessed the murder of her mother when he was 9 years old, and his testimony sent a local called Cyrus Alexander to jail. He wants nothing more than to have his mother's killer pay for his actions, and finding out that the redhead girl he kissed the night before is about to pry a can of worms open that was never really closed, delivers a punch to his guts since he is convinced of what he witnessed years ago...

This is one of the stories I find difficult to review, because I liked the essence of it and found the read captivating, yet some elements would not click and make the read quite a tad confusing.

Let's begin by stating the obvious. This is a New-Adult story with quite an unusual plot, but in the end it's about 2 like-minded individuals who find their way together against all odds. The writing is extremely good, and the story is built on a 3rd person narration with alternating POVs. This story is not just about romance and building romantic tension that both heroines feel is better left unacknowledged. It's also about morals, guilt, doing the rightful thing and about shedding some more truth on a murder case closed over 10 years ago.

The murder case is going to be a very important (and suspenseful) element of the story, as well as an important catalyst between Gina and Landon - because their relationship evolves whenever the case does.

I liked the fact that the story placed both heroes on equal footing, but on opposite sides, and how gradually, they met each other halfway in their convictions and helped one another to trade off their guilt and grief.

One reviewer said that they found Landon annoyingly hot and cold, and I agree. I found it pretty weird that Landon was so deeply convinced to have identified the right man on one day, and then completely doubtful about it the other. From one day to the other, he started cooperating with Gina and encouraging her to dig deeper into the Cyrus Alexander case, while he was extremely upset about it at the beginning. And in the end, he throws a fit because Gina's company wants to drop the case altogether.

And all along the story, Landon is given the role of the lost puppy that needs consoling, a duty that Gina is more than willing to take on. I just do not think his whole behaviour coincides with the rest of the story, especially with the achievements from his past. Despite growing up without a mom and with a dad who didn't want him, he made a name out of himself by becoming a renowned athlete, has several good friends and a coach who almost stands in as a father figure to him. Yet, he doesn't seem to have gotten over what happened... I don't think this adds up with all his achievements?

Another important pillar of the story is about two opponents becoming emotionally involved and thus creating a conflict of interest. This concept was interesting, yet I believe it was discarded way too quickly. At the beginning, Gina got reprimanded by her boss and other characters in the book, when in the end, everyone seemed to be OK with it and actually encourage it. And as for Landon, he never did care in the slightest that engaging into a relationship with Gina would be bad for his career. He did in fact consider hers, but not his own...

Anyway... some of the things didn't add up, or maybe I am just too stubborn to get hung up on details. But all in all, I liked the book - even if it wasn't one of my faves - because it was refreshing in terms of the storyline. I'd certainly consider reading other works from this author.

A Reader's Heaven says

(I received a free copy of this book from Net Galley in exchange for an honest review.)

After her testimony sent an innocent man to prison, law student Gina Blanchard vowed to spend her life righting that wrong. She passed up more prestigious opportunities to intern at a Tallahassee nonprofit dedicated to overturning wrongful convictions. But when she catches the eye of sexy green-eyed hunk Landon Vista, she realizes there's room in her hardworking life for a little fun. Then she learns her newest case involves the man accused of murdering Landon's mother...and possibly setting him free. The people of Tallahassee still see Landon Vista as their golden boy and football hero...and as the man who tragically lost his mother. Yet Landon hides his emotional scars behind his handsome smile. While working for a senator who's tough on crime, he finds himself keeping an eye on gorgeous redhead Gina in more ways than one. But as their passion simmers, their secrets build...until Gina's latest case collides with Landon's heartbreak past, threatening to tear them apart forever.

This was just a little bit "meh" for me - cardboard characters, boring storyline and a romance that was just beyond belief (in a way that makes you wonder what the author was thinking...)

Look, I can see why people raved about it - lots of ever-popular elements are present, but I am always looking for something a little different. The blurb promised that - but it didn't really deliver....

Paul
ARH

Mandy says

I really enjoyed this book! Gina is doing a summer internship at a non-profit that works to get wrongful convictions overturned. Landon's mom was murdered when he was 9 years old and the man convicted is in prison. Gina and Landon meet while playing volleyball and have an instant connection. That is, until Landon finds out that Gina is working for the non-profit that is looking into his mother's killers case. I really enjoyed how the relationship between Gina and Landon developed. Both these characters have been through a lot and I loved the way they connected and the chemistry between them. I also really enjoyed the whole wrongful conviction of this story and had no idea what was going to happen. My only complaint about this book is that I wish there was an epilogue. I really enjoyed this story and look forward to reading more by this author!

** ARC provided in exchange for an honest review **

Romance Readers Retreat says

The Truth About Love is Sheila Athens' debut novel, not that you could tell because the writing is fantastic the plot very well thought out and it instantly drew me in. It's written in the third person and although

usually I don't like that as it feels to me like there's less of a connection with the characters, this book doesn't do that at all, the way Sheila has written it makes sure you feel every emotion you're supposed to while reading this tragic but beautiful story. I found her to be very descriptive and that helped me mentally picture what was happening.

I loved the characters, Landon and Gina were clearly made for each other but obstacle after obstacle is thrown in their path. Landon is an ex-football star and still very popular in this little town and everyone likes to be able to say they know Landon Vista but in reality not many people do. Gina is the new girl in town, only here for the summer to work for Morgan's Ladder a law firm that helps people who are in prison but have been wrongly convicted. Landon's mom was murdered when he was a boy and it was his testimony that got her killer put in prison. Gina has shown up in town and thrown Landon's life into turmoil, at every turn she seems to be making things worse for him or harder and the poor girl doesn't even mean to do it.

They both have sad pasts and now because of Gina's past and her wanting to make amends, Landon's reality is paying for that and his life has been turned upside down. I love that this book has two main focuses, Landon and Gina's connection and the Barbara Landon murder case. The hunt for justice is a long arduous one and there are many conflicts to overcome but so worth every second of tension you feel about it as a reader. For me the two stories work well alongside each other and connect really well, none of the story seems forced, it flows nicely. I don't want to give too much away so I'm going to stop there but I will say I am very impressed and can't wait to read more from this author.

Nurhayat Turna says

Shelia Athens - Ba?ka Bir Hayata || Kitap Yorumu

Kitap içerik hakk?nda duygusal ve dü?üncelerimi dile getirmeden önce kapak ve bask? hakk?nda gevezelik etmek istiyorum. Ba-y?l-d?m! Çok tatlı? ve sevilesi bir tasar?m olmu?. Kapa?? konu ile pek ba?da?t?ramasam da görür görmez arka yaz?y? okumadan kasaya ko?mal?k bir kitap. ?ç tasar?m?, pembe ku?e ka??d?ndaki kalp detay?, sayfa sonlar?na al??t??m?z numaralar?n sayfa ortas? sol ve sa? kö?elerde olmas?, bölüm say?lar?n?n k?vr?ml? ?ekil -ad?n? ?u an unuttum ama akl?ma gelince yazar?m- içinde olu?u, yine kalp detay?... Bask?ya a??k oldum! Tabi ki nazar boncu?u olarak nitelendirece?im iki yerde -biri yaz?m biri bask?- hatas? fazla dikkat çekmez ama ben pimpirikli böylesi ?ahane var!?? didiklerken gördüm. Ama dedi?im gibi nazar boncu?u!

Sevgili Nemesis Kitap'a, böyle güzel kitaplarla biz okurlar? bulu?turdu?u için te?ekkürü bir borç biliyim. (buraya bir alk?? efekti eklenmeli!)

Yazar?n tarz?na a??k oldum. Yüre?e böyle dokunan erkek karakteri yabanc? bir yazardan okumaya? uzun zaman olmu?tu. Landon Vista beni kendine a??k etmeyece?im kalmay?p hayran b?rakt?. Hayat?ndaki karma?aya ra?men güçlü durmas?n?, hala içindeki çocu?un babas?na olan muhtaçl?k duygusunu bast?ramamas?n?, kendi ba??na birçok ?eyi ba?armas?n? buruk bir ruh haliyle okudum. Öyle ki ç?u yerde gözlerim doldu. Güldü?üm yerlerde çoktu fakat bir burun s?zlamas? kitap boyu devam etti.

Gina Blanchard ile yollar? bir voleybol maç?nda kesi?yor bizim yak??kl?n?n. K?z?l sar? saçlar? adam?n dikkatli bakan zeytin ye?ili gözlerinden kaçm?yor ve hatun ilgiyi üzerinde tutuyor. Aralar?ndaki çekim öyle kuvvetli ki- reklamlar! Han?mlar?n dikkatine. Okudu?u karaktere a??k olan k?skanç okurun çekememezli?i araya giriyor!

Aralar?ndaki çekim kuvvetli, randevula?malar vs konu?up, kokla??p, öpü?üp de anla??yorlar. ?kilinin bir de farkl? konu ile kar??la?malar? var tabi. Landon'un annesi o daha dokuz ya??nda bir çocukken öldürülüyor.

Ve cineyet sonrası o korkunç tablo ile kar??la??yor. Landon için bu kabus hayat boyu yakas?n? b?rakm?yor. Ayya? babas?n? sorumsuzlu?u da cabas?. Nefret ettim o adamdan! Fazla detaya girmeden konuyu toparlayarak yorumu düzenleyeyim.

Gine yanl?? hükm giyen mahkumlar?n masumiyetini ispatlayan bir hukuk birosunda staj yap?yordur ve bu sefer masum oldu?una inand??? adam?n Landon'un annesinin cinayetinde ifade vermesi üzerine hapse at?lm??. Gerisini okuyun da siz karar verin kitab?n güzel olup olmamas?na.

Ben kitaba a??k oldum. Bask?s?ndan, konusuna, anlat?m?na bay?ld?m. Kitap tam benim sevdi?im tarzda. S?k?lmadan, severek bir ç?rp?da okudum. Çevirmeninden editörüne, düzenlenmeyi yapandan yay?na haz?rlayana, bask?da ter dökene, k?saca kitap üzerinde eme?i olan herkese, ellerinize sa?l?k. Kitap çok çok çok güzeldi. Yazar?n ba?ka kitab? var m?? Varsa bas?l?r m?? Ya da bas?lm?? ba?ka kitab? var m?? Hiçbir fikrim yok fakat en yak?n zamanda ara?t?r?p ö?renece?im. Yazar en be?endiklerim aras?nda yerini al?rken benden tam puan kap?yor :D -buraya gözlerinden kalp f??k?ran emoje-

<http://sonsayfasiask.blogspot.com.tr/...>

Natalie says

I enjoyed this book very much, the story line was one I hadn't expected. I just thought the DNA would clear the man who was in prison. That's not quite the way the story went, nice twist there before the end. I would read more by this author.

Lea's Audiobooks Hensley says

I didn't read this one or listen to the entire audiobook. I tried to listen for an hour or so but Angela Dawe - a narrator of several of my faves - simply failed completely here. Her portrayal of the hero is not one I can buy into - at all. So, a complete DNF.

Merve says

Gina geçmi?inde ya?ad??? bir olaydan dolay? haks?z yere hükm giyen suçlular? hapisten ç?karan bir firmada k?sa süreli?ine staja ba?lar.

Landon ise, annesi o küçükken öldürülmü? ba?ar?l? olan eski bir futbolcudur ki eski oldu?una bakmay?n 24 ya??nda?

Gina ve Landon bir ak?am kar??la??p birbirlerinden etkilenirler ve yemek için söyle?irler ancak Gina'n?n yeni i?i Landon'on annesinin katilinin suçsuzlu?unu ispatlamak olunca aralar?nda f?rt?nal? bir ili?ki ba?lar. Acaba Landon yanl?? m? görmü?tür katili, yoksa Gina m? yan?l?yordur?

Yorumum,

Kitap böyle, konusu güzel ama cerezlik bir kitap. Yani dün ba?lad?m bugün bitti, kolay okunan ak?c? bir kitap.

Beklentilerinizi yüksek tutmazsan?z sevebilirsiniz.

Benim için orta halli bir kitapt?.

Bana katt??? bir?ey yok dedi?im gibi chick lit tarz?nda, cerezlik.

Sevmedi?im yerleri de fazlas?yla mevcuttu kitab?n,
Mesela karakterlerin ilk sayfada hemen a??k olmalar? ya da ne zaman bir araya gelseler sadece fantezilerini anlatmalar?, ve sürekli cinsel yakla??mda olmalar? beni s?kt? aç?kças?.
Kitab?n yeti?kin içeri?i(+18) fazlas?yla mevcut.
Puan?m 2/5

Cassandra says

ARC kindly provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

This book was a 2.5 star read for me.

Starting with what I liked:

1. I thought the writing was excellent! There is no doubt that the author is talented.
2. I was really intrigued by the storyline. I'm all for the justice system actually doing its job, specifically putting the right people in prison. Gina's drive to help the innocent get out of prison was really admirable.
3. It seemed like Landon was genuinely interested in Gina. A lot of his thoughts were about how he just wanted to spend time with her and about a possible future. I found that sweet! A lot of the time in books, the guy is constantly thinking about getting the girl in bed and you never really know why he likes her other than that. Here, Landon occasionally thought about sex, but it wasn't all-consuming, which is refreshing.
4. There was a happily ever after for one of the side characters that really pulled at my heartstrings and got me all teary-eyed.

Now with what didn't really work for me:

1. Landon ran pretty hot and cold. While part of me understood why he was messed up, the other part of me found it annoying that he kept snapping on Gina. Based on his reactions, you would think that she was a lying, vindictive user. She was dealing with her own demons and she didn't need him to add to her pain.
2. Gina wanted to be a lawyer, but she seemed to impatient for that type of job. When they'd interview people, she'd always jump in with some question if it seemed like the witness was taking to long to get to the point for her. She was also a bit judgmental for that job. One of the witnesses, who was an abuse victim, had information that she didn't realize was important at the time of the investigation, so she never shared it. Gina was kind of judge-y about it. (view spoiler)
3. While the writing was good, I was kind of bored. It took me longer than normal to get through this book because I kept losing interest.

Despite the fact that I didn't *love* this book, I would still try another book from this author.

Krazybooklady says

After Gina and Landon meet by chance and have an instant attraction, they realize that they are on opposite sides of a very important issue. Gina is convinced that the man in prison for killing Landon's mother is innocent, and she is working to free him. Landon is sure the right man is behind bars because his eyewitness testimony when he was 9 years old is what sent him there. Landon is, of course, very upset when he finds out Gina is trying to get the man released, but he decides to stay in touch with her in case he can get to the information she has about his mother's murder. As the relationship and the investigation progress, Landon starts to have doubts about what he really saw that day.

I chose to read this book because of the plot of someone working to overturn a wrongful conviction. For the most part, I thought this was done very well in this book. Throughout the entire book, you are wondering if he did it or not and if they will be successful in getting answers. Trying to not give any spoilers, I have to say that the wheels of justice never turn so quickly in any case but especially not when the person has already been convicted. But I understand this was necessary for this story, and it didn't hurt my enjoyment of this book. Speaking of things that bothered me, I am going to point out that Key Biscayne is not part of "the Keys." No big deal, but it irked me.

Overall, I did really enjoy this book. I really liked how Gina and Landon's relationship progressed. As Landon started having doubts about what really happened with his mother's murder, Gina was there for him. She understood what he was going through because she had testified against someone and then found out she was wrong. I liked both characters and thought they were well developed. Gina was determined to help others wrongly convicted because of her mistake even though she hated going into the prisons. Landon was still just a little boy inside, feeling all alone even though he was a celebrity to most of the town, and still looking for love from his father. This story was well-written and had a great mix of romance and mystery. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a sweet falling-in-love story with a lot of suspense thrown in.

Copy was provided for an honest review.

Jenn Cunha says

I really, really enjoyed this book. Gina and Landon were so real. They had serious problems, but they were both doing their best given their situation. They were sweet and caring and I loved the premise. I enjoyed the intrigue of finding out who really killed Landon's mom and I liked Landon's standing up to his father. I also really liked how he challenged Gina to stop trying to make amends for something that happened so long ago. Athens could have let it go, but I liked that he wants to help her get past this.
