



Another Stone to Carry

Seraphina Nova

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In the small Midwestern town of Bear River, soft-spoken, shy, Kassandra Hayes lives a very sheltered life governed by the church and her goal to become a missionary. Things drastically change when she is sexually assaulted and her life begins spinning out of control. To numb the pain she runs away and finds herself homeless in Chicago. For years, she embraces a life of exotic dancing, drugs, and sexual bartering until an unexpected encounter with an old friend lands her back home where she is brought back to the fold. Her congregation embraces their prodigal daughter, and she acts and dresses the part, but her story is just beginning. Torn between desire and conventional morality, she goes on another journey of self-discovery and finds love in the most unexpected place, shocking the town and herself.

Another Stone to Carry Details

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From Reader Review Another Stone to Carry for online ebook

Amy says

I received this book as a Goodread's Giveaway.

This was one of those books that, when I had to put it down, it was with reluctance, because I was so anxious to find out what happened next in the story.

Ms. Nova drew an amazingly accurate picture of an angst-ridden and misunderstood teenage girl in Kass Hayes; any reader would be able to reach back in her memory and say "I remember feeling JUST like that!". This story is definitely not full of flowery romance and happy school days...we feel Kass' every worry and disappointment, her terror and hopelessness, as she runs from her dysfunctional family home to the brutal and unforgiving streets of Chicago, and then as she finally comes home again, having been "rescued" by an old friend. The ending here is a happy one, and I was silently cheering for her, glad that she'd finally found her way.

Bravo Ms. Nova, I'll definitely be looking for more works by you.

Diamond Drake says

Unfortunately, I decided to stop reading Another Stone to Carry after the eighth chapter. The author actually has a compelling voice and I was initially very curious to find out how Kass had ended up in her situation. However, it was the excessive descriptive detail that weighed down the story and made it difficult for me to stay interested. I'm just not a reader who enjoys being told a bunch of information which doesn't add value to the overall story. That's merely a personal preference and I'm sure other readers will feel differently.

I received this as a free book. And even though Another Stone to Carry wasn't my cup of tea, I'm still grateful for the offer to read it. I wish the author much success.

Kim says

This book hooked me from the start. The writing is engaging, the story--oof, talk about jumping into a "can't stop reading" plot. It's dark. But, never hopeless. I find a lot of books that trend into darker materials, get to be "too much,:" or somewhat unbelievable, not with this one. I was with Kass from the beginning, and even when the book takes you to sinister places, that I had to take a bit of a break from, I always returned, and needed to know how her story turned out. Seraphina Nova has written a story that takes you into a world I was ready to roll with from the get go. I look forward to what's next from this author. She has a way of making you feel the despair of the main character, while continuing to root for her. And even when the "right" decisions, still feel just a little off for Kass, I was there, turning pages (swiping screens on my kindle version), waiting eagerly to find out what was going to happen.

As a woman, this book resonated in my heart. A highly recommended, wonderful read.

Melissa Costanzo says

Awesome book about a young girl who is finding herself after a series of tragedies. I love the book!! I couldn't put it down definitely a page turner!!

Ashley Walsh says

Well written and engaging.

Lanny says

"Another Stone to Carry" is at its heart, a story about finding your place in the world, and the often tumultuous journey that occurs in the discovery of self. We meet the main character in this story, Kass, as a young teenager who is full of the naive hope and innocence that often accompanies youth. I don't want to spoil anything in the book, but Kass suffers an unspeakable tragedy that completely shatters all of her previously held paradigms, and as a result, goes into a tailspin that lasts well into her adult years.

This story is a beautiful telling of her climb out of that darkness. Of the bravery it takes to truly embrace what you need in life to make you happy, despite what anyone else may think.

Seraphina Nova does a wonderful job navigating this dark story. It never feels self indulgent. There is always the hope that things are going to be all right, and then they are, in a very unexpected way. Highly recommended, and a great first book! I look forward to more.

Becky Swanson says

So many thoughts about this book! First it is a shame the editing was so poor. The lack of attention to detail made it difficult to track dialog in many places. Are quotation marks really so hard? But I suspect that is more of an issue of the e-publishing conversion software and the publisher than the author. Still, it made the reader experience less.

As for the story, I found myself engaged with the characters. I mostly wanted to take Kass aside and give her a good talking to. To get her some real friends. It is a story about the need for real and healthy community, because on our own we can quickly become disoriented and confused. It also speaks to the danger of a simplistic theology although I'm REALLY tired of the "malpractice of church people" plot device.

As strong and resilient as Kass shows herself to be I found some of the plot unrealistic. I've never been in Kass' situation but somehow I think one knight in shining armor with a savior complex isn't going to suddenly make me able to get clean and sober on my first try. Still, I cared about the characters until the very end and the story elicited a rousing conversation in my head, so there's that. For what it's worth, I'll read her next book.

