



Somebody Like You

Beth K. Vogt

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In this beautifully rendered, affecting novel, a young widow's world is shattered when she meets her late husband's identical twin—and finds herself caught between honoring her husband's memory and falling in love with his reflection. Haley's whirlwind romance and almost three-year marriage to Sam, an army medic, ends tragically when he is killed in Afghanistan. As she grapples with widowhood and the upcoming birth of her son, her attempts to create a new life for herself are ambushed when she arrives home one evening—and finds her husband waiting for her. Did the military make an unimaginable mistake when they told her that Sam had been killed?

After a twelve-year estrangement, Stephen hopes to make things right with his brother—only to discover Sam died without revealing Stephen's existence to Haley. As Haley and Stephen struggle to navigate their fragile relationship, they are inexorably drawn to each other. Haley is unnerved by Stephen's uncanny resemblance to Sam, and Stephen struggles with the issue of Haley loving him as Stephen—and not as some reflection of his twin. How can Haley and Stephen honor the memory of a man whose death brought them together—and whose ghost could drive them apart?

Somebody Like You reminds us that while we can't change the past, we have the choice—and the power through God—to change the future and start anew.

Somebody Like You Details

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From Reader Review Somebody Like You for online ebook

Emilee says

This was an amazing read! Compelling. Refreshing. Maybe even weird. All I know is I could not put it down. I wish I could better articulate my feelings on this book but this is the best I can do. I will be reading more by this author for sure.

Gretchen says

I have probably gotten this book from the library about three times, and I have finally read it. I was not disappointed. The conflicts going on in both Haley and Stephen's heads was so interesting. It was also kind of annoying because you as the reader know what the other is thinking and yelling at the other "follow your heart! Don't be afraid just do it!" This book was the first I have read by this and I plan on reading another.

Loraine says

Rating 4.5

In this poignant story, Haley is dealing with the grief of her husband's death in Afghanistan as well as being pregnant. She feels lost, alone, and disheartened. When a knock sounds at her door, she opens it to find a man who looks and sounds just like her husband and discovers Stephen her husband's identical "mirror" twin brother whom she knew nothing about. Stephen is dealing with the loss of his twin brother and the 12 year estrangement between them.

This is definitely a story that will bring out the kleenex a time or two. Following Stephen's journey as he finds out about his brother's missing years and comes to grips with his part in their estrangement was a tale of forgiveness and growth. Haley had to learn that she could keep a part of her heart for Sam and his memories, but it was okay to move on. They both had to realize that their only obligation was to live up to God's expectations and not the world's.

I have to admit that the 4.5 rating is due to Haley's character. She drove me crazy so many times. First, why would a pregnant woman who supposedly cares a great deal about her baby make such POOR food choices over and over. Second, why would a pregnant woman be working and practicing at a gun range when studies have shown that repeated loud noises can affect a baby's hearing. Finally, what right did she have to judge Stephen so harshly at times when she didn't know the background of the estrangement between he and his brother.

Overall, the book was a compelling read and I would recommend it for those who enjoy modern Christian romance.

Teresa Snyder says

4 - 4.5 stars. Great storyline, but have your Kleenex handy. The beginning is a little slow, but things pick up at the halfway point. I enjoyed Stephen, but had a hard time getting close to Haley. She was so determined to be one of the boys, that it was hard for me to relate to her; at least in the beginning. The storyline was fresh, not something that I've read in prior books. The ending was good - my required happily-ever-after - minus an epilogue.

Susan Snodgrass says

I discovered Beth K. Vogt's books quite by accident and that is one discovery I am so glad I made. Her first two were wonderful and her novella, recently released, was as satisfying as a full novel.

Haley Ames is a recent widow, her military husband killed in Afghanistan. She is also pregnant and alone. Haley grew up with brothers, so she learned to be tough and take care of herself. But this pregnant widowhood is not for the faint of heart.

One day a man shows up on her porch and turns her world upside down. Is she dreaming? Has Sam returned from the dead? No, it's his twin brother, Stephen, whom Sam neglected to tell her about. She runs him off her property.

Sam and his brother Stephen were estranged for many years and Stephen just wants to know more about his brother, but Haley doesn't want to cooperate. Stephen continues to come around, saying it's to help Haley with needed house repairs, but he is beginning to fall for Haley. How can this be? Is it right to love his brother's widow?

Haley, too, is having issues. She has always been tough and strong and able to take care of herself, but she enjoys the way Stephen treats her. Like a lady who means something to him. But to Haley, this new world is way too weird.

Two people are drawn to each other, but there's someone in the middle that they don't know what to do with. Will they find their way out? Will they truly believe that God works even in the hard times, even when things seem like there will never be any good times?

Beth K. Vogt has written a precious story of two people who learn to let God have His way in their lives even when they don't understand what's happening around them. This one is for the keeper shelf.

I am already eagerly anticipating her next novel. This book was provided to me by the publisher, which in no way influenced my review.

Renee says

“Sometimes that’s all God is asking us to do: make the right choice—over and over again. And before you know it, you’ve walked into the future and hope He has waiting for you.” ~Beth Vogt, Somebody Like You~

A kind truth-teller shares these words with widow Haley Ames, the main character of Beth Vogt's latest novel.

As the story begins, Haley's army medic hubby Sam has been killed in Afghanistan, and Haley finds herself in survival mode—simply doing the next right thing to make it through each day. God seems far away, and Haley admits, "Praying feels like trickles of water coming out of a hose when somebody has tied a big knot in it somewhere."

A childhood spent keeping up with her brothers has made Haley fiercely independent—no whining, no asking for help, and absolutely no crying. But soon Sam's brother Stephen makes himself practically indispensable in Haley's life. The man cooks, fixes fences, cleans garages, and somehow always shows up exactly when she needs him.

As Haley struggles to navigate this new chapter in her life, she discovers there is no shame in weakness and that sharing your life with others is a beautiful part of God's plan.

What I especially loved about this story was how the simple testimonies of believers living their everyday lives—showing kindness, making tough emotional choices, and going out of their way to consider others better than themselves—makes such an impact on Haley's life.

So at a time when she can barely form a prayer, she is still able to see and know that God is good.

To me, this story seemed very true-to-life in the best ways. Haley's and Stephen's struggles and emotions pulled me into the story. And watching how they lived out their subtle inner changes through some BIG events kept me turning pages.

Somebody Like You is a poignant story of life, loss, regret, reconciliation, and second chances. Don't miss this one, friends!

What I liked best . . .

The scene when Haley first meets Stephen (both heartbreaking & humorous)
Stephen's strong and tender heart
Haley's penchants for junk food & John Wayne
Haley's supportive, insightful, I'll-rejoice-even-while-you-get-what-I-want best friend, Claire
The final confrontation with Mr. Shelton (Yeah! Take that!)
Stephen's special spaghetti & meatball dinner (Read with tissues)
Big, beautiful tree house trees
The when-Stephen-and-Sam-were-young stories
The creative business Stephen & his partners start up (Don't skip to the end just to figure it out!)

My favorite quotes . . .

"The funny thing is, you walk forward to find what you left behind."

“Am I not the God of more? I’m past all your boundaries. Stop limiting Me. Stop limiting yourself.”

“He teetered somewhere between regret and acceptance. Somehow he had to learn to shoulder his choices—the good and the bad—and keep living.”

Andrea Boyd says

I really enjoyed this one.

Carol (StarAngel's Reviews) Allen says

Book – Somebody Like You

Author – Beth K. Vogt

Publication Date – May 13, 2014

Type – Stand Alone

Genre – Christian Romance

Rating – 4 out of 5 Stars

Complimentary Copy provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Review

When I first requested this book from Net Galley, I had no idea it was a Christian Romance until I started reading a few pages and realized that between “God and prayer” being mentioned...I was stuck reading this. I didn’t give up though...I trudged on and how surprised I was when I got so engrossed in the book that I couldn’t put it down.

I wanted to know what was going to happen next but yes, I did some eye rolling with the mention of faith and religion. Don’t get me wrong, I’m a believer but I don’t do the preaching and pushing faith in a person’s face. This book wasn’t like that but maybe 2 instances where I didn’t feel a bit overwhelmed with the mentions of faith. But as a wise woman once told me ‘*Chew the meat and spit out the bone*’, I followed her advice and read the story for what it was – a romance with a fantastic storyline.

My emotions were drug through the ringer with this little story between the heartbreak of Haley and losing Sam – then Stephen’s guilt and sadness over never making amends with his mirror twin.

I can’t give too much of the story away – just remember this is about a woman who loses her husband in Afghanistan – and never gets to tell him that she is pregnant with their child. It’s also about a man who finds out his twin brother is dead but left behind a pregnant wife who knows nothing about him.

He just wants to learn about his brother and figure out why they couldn’t forgive each other after 12 years of separation – he wants answers that Haley can’t give him.

A bond starts to form and ice melts, smiles appear and hearts mend.

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Pepper Basham says

What would you do if your deceased husband's twin (a twin you didn't know existed) showed up on your doorstep? Well, if your Haley Ames you pull a gun and ask questions later.

In Beth K Vogt's newest novel, *Somebody Like You*, Haley is faced with her deceased husband's mirror-image who has come into Haley's life to make amends for the way he and his brother parted ways. Add into the mix the fact that Stephen is her husband's identical twin, a gentle, charming, and compassionate guy, plus Haley is about to give birth, and you have a story worth a double take.

Seriously, I think chapter 15 was one of my favorite chapters in the book. Send a poor man home to gather supplies for a woman in labor? Hilarious! Poor Stephen Ames. (And Beth, you couldn't have picked a better model of super hero. BRING ON the Captain!!)

And chapter 16 was hilarious too. Oh my goodness. Again...poor, poor Stephen Ames.

I think this might be one of Beth's best yet, partly because she includes some pretty amazing kisses and partly because of the healing process which leads to a much better second chance than the first ever was. The wounded-but-tough heroine, Haley, plays her part well, but Stephen steals the show. If you want to figure out if Haley finally 'sees clearly' or not, check out Beth's beautiful new novel, *Somebody Like You*.

Kara says

The idea that this story is based around could so easily have become quite a different story than it did. But Ms. Vogt took such care with her characters and her storyline that I never doubted the gentle way she led them around to each other. Instead of huge dramatics and constant angst, it felt real. Both Haley and Stephen grappled with understanding themselves, how their pasts had shaped them, and where they wanted to go in the future. And as I journeyed along with them, I could appreciate the confusion of emotions they both felt, yet their connection was undeniable. It made me grin and sigh happily once they were finally able to be on the same page! Such a sweet story. (On an extremely shallow note though, I just have to mention that the more I looked at the cover, the more I wanted to push her hair out of her face! Or at least make her turn around so the wind could blow it away from her eyes. :)

Hannah says

This book is delightfully written...and you'll probably need a tissue at least once before the ending. It's unexpectedly deep in many ways, facing the definitions of family and what it really means to love someone. It feels like you're right there with Haley as she fights through the grief of losing her husband Sam, the

emotions of becoming a mother, and the questions that remain after a mostly long-distance marriage.

Add to that Stephen, who is ready to reconnect with his lost brother just weeks too late, and who feels desperate to find out who his brother became before his death. Is there any hope for this splintered family to find peace and harmony?

Rissi says

Stories that take "normal" and cast it aside for their 300+ pages are a sure way to win my heart. With renowned author Beth Vogt's latest, that is exactly what *Somebody Like You* sets out to do... and accomplishes.

Books like this cannot be summed up in one word or really justified in the average words that will make up this review. The story is unique, poignant, heartbreaking and in-between the tears these emotions will invoke, inspiring. For some readers I understand that this is a story that may not work well for them, and I get that. A brothers-falling-in-love-with-the-same-girl doesn't always compute or "feel" authentic yet under the skill of Vogt's pen, it's wonderful. It reminded me of another oldie favorite, *Tender Vow* only if possible, this story was written with more care – both for the characters and for us, the reader, who are given the chance to have this novel experience. What Beth does with her perception of the story is marry two hearts who are hurting beyond just what they physically lost while trying to navigate the complexities of growing into the people they want to be – or the person they didn't know existed inside themselves. The characters of this story are... beautifully human. I loved seeing Haley blossom into a new version of herself, and coming to realize that regardless of a romantic, whirlwind romance, she and Sam weren't the best for each other. (For Haley, Sam would always be a special part of her life, but he wasn't the only man she could love – and contrary to the impression of him I'd developed, he wasn't a man who easily "settled.") Then there was Stephan. I'm pretty sure that I had an image of him in mind more akin to how Sam was written – instead it was the twin left behind who tenderly cared, who wanted to be a part of someone's life fully – the good, bad and messy. Stephan was... wonderful. He gave Haley space while still not letting her retreat without explaining herself or giving him a chance to prove to her what he could give. Surrounding these two is also a cast of secondary characters that sparkled with great personality and also emotional purpose; some family members are put in stories just for the point of giving more colorful scenes to books, these are there for so much more.

Somebody Like You is more than a man fighting guilt for stepping into a protective role of many hats (brother-in-law, husband, father) or a woman feeling like she was living every day with her now-gone husband in the mirror-image of her brother-in-law. It's about the fragility of human nature and the means we can draw from to rise above our own worries. Or fears of imperfection. Or our sense of being "not good enough." Everything – from the small details to the beautiful rendering of God's love, is told with gentle beauty and a sense of strength. This is one of those works of fiction that met and surpasses expectations. It surprised, enchanted in its realism, plus, Beth creates some fabulously fun dialogue that involves - wait for it, Marvel references. That's a sure way to get me all swoon-y, and that's exactly what *Somebody Like You* did.

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Sincere thanks to the publisher (Chris) and Casey Herringshaw (thank you a bunch, Casey!) for providing a complimentary copy of this book for reviewing purposes.

Casey says

You know those books that just stick with you? The kind that is beautiful in its complexity and yet it's simplicity. The kind that the characters reach through the pages and twine themselves around your heart. That book is "Somebody Like You".

From the first page to the last, Halley and Steven wound their way around my heart with their emotions, their struggles and their heart. Steven is one of those heroes that every girl wants to sigh over and prays will walk into her life. My heart yearned to patch his in the rift that has ripped through his and his twin brother's relationship.

And Haley. I don't even know how to describe her. The book does such a better job than my words ever will. There is a complex layer of emotions protecting her-but they are flimsy at best and a shallow shell that only leaves her feeling more lost. There is such a fine balance to walk in this book: can a widow fall in love with her husband's mirror twin brother?

I have to be honest: I wasn't sure it could be done. Without feeling rushed. Without feeling as though Haley was betraying her first husband, Sam. I think you can look at my star rating and see that I thought this novel is a success. Beyond a success. A beautiful mosaic of love, forgiveness and second chances and yet...so much more.

Highly recommended. Highly.

This review is my honest opinion. Thanks to the publisher for my copy to influence.

Andrea Cox says

Is it possible for a widow to fall in love with her husband's reflection?

Haley Ames struggles against that question in Beth K. Vogt's newest release, *Somebody Like You*. The young widow grieves her late husband, Sam, even as she prepares to give birth to their child. Her heartache multiplies when Stephen Ames, Sam's mirror twin, shows up on her doorstep. Will Haley be able to look beyond the image of her husband to the fluttering feelings the only living Ames brother stirs within her? Or will she push him away for fear of desecrating her vows to the brother in the grave?

Ever since I heard Beth was working on a story about a young widow, I've wanted to get my hands on this book. She wowed me with her first two novels, so I knew this one would deliver what I've come to expect from her. But she still managed to surprise me many times over. That's the signature of a great author.

"Getting lost hadn't been part of the plan." That line from the brief prologue seems to be a common theme of Vogt's books. Life very often doesn't go as we plan. Beth allows her experience of going with the flow to shine through in her fiction. The journeys her characters go through reveal ways in which we can adapt when life doesn't go as planned. Sometimes you find solutions to the problems that pop up. Other times you don't,

but other opportunities arise. In every moment, if we seek God, He will guide us in the ways He's prepared for us. I like how Beth weaves that bit of truth into her stories.

I've never been married, let alone widowed, but Beth captured the theme of widowhood so well, my heart ached for Haley Ames and her baby. Not long into the book, it dawned on me just how gut-wrenching it would be to lose a husband, only to be faced with his identical twin months later. I'm not sure how I would have handled it besides crying my brains out all over again. I'd be just as shocked as Haley was, for certain.

Somebody Like You swept into my heart and left me thinking about the relationships in my life. Each one is important for unique reasons, and I cherish every one. Only God knows how long each person will be in my life, so I'll treasure every moment I'm given.

Thank you to Beth Vogt and her publisher, Howard Books, for a complimentary copy of Somebody Like You in exchange for my honest review. Beth, it's a pleasure to be included in your group of influencers. This sweet story very nearly pushed Wish You Were Here out of its coveted favorite-Beth-Vogt-book spot. It's a virtual tie, which makes my job as an influencer that much easier. Thanks for writing such beautiful prose.

Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says

The theme of grief is the front and center theme of this novel. It's not depressing, though, I was touched more than anything. Even with the unique plot, the characters and their interactions with each other felt very realistic. Haley and Stephen both explore their regrets with their relationship with Sam and life up to the point they are at, since they are both at a crossroads. The writing is sweet and tender, raw and real. A perfect balance between hurt, healing, and hope. Highly recommend.

(Thank you to Howard Books for providing a copy of the book in exchange for my honest review)
