



An Ordinary Girl

Barbara Elsborg

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Ash is an ordinary girl, leading an ordinary life, but behind her smile she hides a secret so damning she's sure no one could ever love her.

Noah is a war photographer who's come back from Afghanistan with a secret so dark he can't escape its smothering grip.

Both need redemption.

Ash looks for it by making people happy.

Noah seeks it under the whip of a Dom.

They're damaged souls, drowning in guilt, unable to escape the legacies of their pasts.

Then their worlds collide in an explosion of fireworks so strong it sings not only them, but those around them.

It's said love heals all wounds, but sometimes before love enters the heart, the intense fire of passion has to burn a path, lighting the way.

An Ordinary Girl Details

Date : Published March 12th 2017 by Barbara Elsborg (first published April 6th 2011)

ISBN : 1370078722

Author : Barbara Elsborg

Format : ebook 376 pages

Genre : Romance, Adult Fiction, Erotica, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance, BdsM, Erotic
Romance, Adult, M F Romance, Dark, Sociology, Abuse

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From Reader Review An Ordinary Girl for online ebook

Christy says

Ash appeared to be an ordinary girl... but appearances can be deceiving. Ash has a past that to no fault of her own that haunts her, as does Noah. These two come together by chance. They have a link to each other that was a twist in the story I didn't see coming at all!

Overall a really good read. Ash was strong, caring, and kind. A great mc. Noah was great at times. I also really loved Ronan (Ash's roommate/friend) and Noah's dad. After the first 60% of the book I was up all night reading to see what happens next.

Louise says

And still "**Strangers**" is my BEST book on Ms. Elsborg novels Hands down:)

4.5 stars:)

Nothing on this book was Ordinary..everything is so complex both characters are dynamic you can't escape with the demons their hiding.

The story behind the story...oh my God...it made me shiver, shudder and gasp for air..and not only that..my memory of the film "Changeling" keeps on hunting me again because of this book...no no no no...terrifying? no! its horrifyingly gruesome!So Amazing..

I had a hard time liking Noah...I don't know, because of his PTSD.. and Ash is the only one who can light up the book with awkward and hilarius jokes to make me happy:D and the romance is Exquisite...and I really hate the people who hinders their relationship...

I like Ronan..gay or dom or bi, he's a best friend you can rely on..

my first time to read a m/m scene, and I don't know what to do..gladly I did not flinch on the scene,..but I went wide eyed reading it and my heart keeps on thumping 0_0

there's something missing on the relationship of Noah and Ash, maybe they should get to know more of each other on the first few chapters,...anyway its still Great book, so unique ..lots of steam..its loaded:) and the drama..and a little bit of a THRILLER point.

I wonder and hope that the children's of the murderers will do better for the world just like what Ash did:)

Tokies says

[what he went through was really bad but i get the feeling it was more the first wrong thing n his life and he reacted badly to it where as the girl had a series of wrong and living though it. so i find i cant respect the guy and if i cant respect the guy i cant swoon if i can swoon the what's the point of this book .. if you ever had to deal with major guilt..

Mo says

[I mean seriously of all the guys in

~☆~Danni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

If you want a well-written romance for a guilty beach read, then skip the drivel that is 50 Shades of Grey. I read this one on my Kindle in two days; it's no literary masterpiece, but the characters are fairly well developed, and there are some funny and sensual parts.

Kim Bailey says

What an extraordinary book! **5 Stars**

This story was just one twisty, turny, mind-fucky roller coaster of exhilarated angst and drama and I **LOVED** every second of it!

The whole story had me a little like this ...

and this ...

and a whole lot of this ...

Thank goodness the whole thing wrapped up nicely. I am in love with Barbara Elsborg and her fabulous writing not sure how her mind works to come up with these scenarios, but very glad that she does.

Amazing!

edzkie♥\$*.*\$♥ says

An Ordinary girl is an Extra Ordinary Book!!! READ THIS!

Ms. Elsborg is now my new fave. Actually she has been since strangers but now she level up!LOL. So far all the book I've read of her involves two broken souls. And this one is not an exception. Noah is a war

photographer in Afghanistan with a past that still hunt him. Ash was trying to live an ordinary life. Doing good deeds to make people happy especially her 3 housemates which she considered as family. Two souls need redemption. Noah who suffering from PTSD and Ash who's trying to to help him. With the manipulative brother, the conniving friends they fall for each other. What i like best on this book was the past. Its really creepy especially on Ash part. But i really love the ending. Ms. Elsborg was an extra Ordinary Writer!!!i ♥ her!:)

Karla says

4 ½ stars!!! Just EXTRAORDINARY!!!

Barbara Elsborg has a most unusual way of bringing characters together that are haunted by their pasts, and then are dealing with the impact that it has on their lives. Ash and Noah meet at a wedding, he's the photographer and she is a waitress, and their first encounter is amusing and had me smiling. Noah who suffers from PTSD, has an unpleasant incident while he's working and Ash comforts him in her own unique way. You feel the instant attraction that these two have for each other. That is what this author is so good at, the connection between the characters, and the reader.

Ash has had an awful childhood, manages to live somewhat of a normal life, but is trying to compensate for the sins committed by others. Noah barely exists after his life is tragically impacted while he is on assignment in Afghanistan. She starts to bring him back to life, and he has her believing that she can find love. As the relationship develops, the magic begins and this is where the author really shines. She has a profound way of healing her characters through the passion and desire they have for one another. You feel every kiss, every touch and it warms you to the core. Barbara Elsborg's characters experience some awesome sex too! Then just as things are moving along nicely, the story has an unexpected twist and the angst starts all over again.

This is a beautifully written story about healing and acceptance, with some interesting secondary characters and lots of terrific dialogue. Ash and Noah stayed in my mind long after I finished the book.

I highly recommend this book and everything that I have read from this author.

(view spoiler)

Baba says

4 1/2 stars.

"If you knew that hope and despair were paths to the same destination, which would you choose?"
- by Robert Brault -

Everybody thinks that Ash is an ordinary girl, leading an ordinary life. She's smiling a lot and seems to be happy.

Ash is really one extraordinary woman! And ordinary is just façade. She's a very private human being but she's got very serious reasons for being this way. Behind her smile she hides a horrible secret she's sure no

one could ever love her. Noah is a war photographer who's come back from Afghanistan. He's got to deal with a dark secret of his own. This secret seems to slowly destroy him. Both of them need redemption. There are different ways to seek and find redemption. Ash is very kind and always wants to help people and put a smile on their faces. And Noah thinks that he deserves pain and seeks it under the whip of a Dom. Please note: this is NOT a BDSM book.

Ash thought that she could leave her past behind and be the person she longed to be, but she should have known that her past would merely wait until she was at her most happy to bring her down...

The author walks on the edge with this story. She could have slipped off into this corny stuff but she definitely hasn't done that. Ms. Elsborg's pulled off a feat and has written a very special and beautiful love story. Jeez, I feel a bit awkward to confess this, but I had to laugh a lot at the beginning of this book and it got more and more serious and I felt kind of guilty. The main part of this novel is so downright evil that you shouldn't laugh at all. Another insight after reading this book: it's kind of a modern Cinderella story. I am so not into Cinderella but I have to admit it did work for me here. Completely. Two damaged souls find each other and make each other happy. Both of them have to deal with issues as big as the Mount Everest. And redemption often seems inaccessible. This story is totally captivating and very intense. It is an emotional roller coaster, and the chemistry between hero and heroine is superb. The main and also the secondary characters are very well developed. There's Kay...Such an evil bitch! I could have strangled this woman. Awful! The love scenes were erotic and well written. And the dialogs were both thoughtful and hilarious. Loved it! The only two minor problems I had with this book were a) the epilogue: It was rather redundant and I didn't like it. And b) The author used some French words. They were incorrect/grammar issues. This happens quite often. It needs better editing! Use an editor who's able to speak the language!

When I was reading this book I felt that the words hope and surrender were very important. Even if you've been through tragedy and you've seen the most evil deeds there's no reason to lose hope. And you should never surrender the belief that no matter how bad things become, life will one day be happy again.

Melanie♥ says

While not quite as amazing as Strangers, this book definitely held my interest from the very beginning.

Ash and Noah are two very damaged people - Ash copes in one way while Noah is barely keeping it together. When they meet they each begin their real healing. A great character driven romance with a bit of Criminal Minds and Cold Case thrown in for suspense and drama.

An emotional read that I finished in two days. I have only read a few books by this author and look forward to reading many more.

Allison ♥?Will Never Conquer Her TBR♥? says

Three words describe this story-

BLAME

ANGST

SORROW

One word describes the ending-

HEALING

I really enjoyed this read. In a nutshell, Noah is a freelance photographer who suffers from a severe form of PTSD. He was a war photographer, and survived an attack on him and his troops in Afghanistan and some men died. He BLAMES himself. He's a shell of a person, barely working or living for that matter...

Ash is a little bit of everything. She's always got a smile on her face, volunteers for a Green Piece company that builds gardens where otherwise derelict sites would be. She's also a tour guide for England Then and Now tours. She has good friends and is always there for everyone else...but she's just an ORDINARY GIRL full of her own SORROW. Her childhood was a living nightmare and she has serious skeletons she hides away deep inside her and in a storage facility near her home.

When Ash literally dumps a tray of food on Noah at a wedding he was photographing, sparks fly. Little did she know, minutes later, when fireworks went off for the reception, Noah would need that healing side of Ash. Fireworks set off his PTSD.... He's a stranger but Ash has to help him.

This is a story of two lost souls coming together, fitting those pieces together that were lost due to life events that took them away...love, acceptance, forgiveness. Ash is quirky and quick to help Noah and he's drawn to her funny nature. A perfect match.

But those ghosts from Ash's past will come to haunt them both. ANGST alert. Holy Moses the book is riddled with it. Their lives are living angst. Loved it! The book had a great balance of chemistry, mystery, and struggle to find happiness in the end.

On a side note, there's some awesome heat between the sheets, against a tree, in a cab, and everywhere else. There's also a holy hotness MM scene with a couple side characters near the end that makes me hopeful for a book of their own. Doubtful but I can wish.

I really love Ms Elsborg's writing style. She can write some awesome sex scenes and even with all the strife and angst, instills humor that's flawlessly delivered and not forced. I look forward to continuing my journey in all things Barbara Elsborg.

Awilk -never sleeps- says

There is nothing I can say that hasn't already been said by people who write much better reviews than me. All I can add is that this book is amazing. The characters will break your heart and uplift you at the same time.

This was a steamy read, but the story was still really well told. I cannot wait to read more from this author. If her other books are anywhere near as good as this one was, I will be extremely happy.

This book may be called An Ordinary Girl, but it featured an extraordinary girl, and a man whose demons broke my heart as well. If You enjoy well-written romance, I suggest you give this book a try.

Splage says

4- 4 1/2 Stars - Some initial thoughts.

Story grabbed me quick with all the mystery about the characters backgrounds and hardships. I did feel it didn't keep up the pace of the beginning towards the end, or maybe it just fell together to easy where there could have been more detail. It might have felt rushed to the HEA, but still a superb story.

Loved the characters!! Ash, the heroine was so precious, I just wanted to hug her and tell her what a wonderful person she was. A definite favorite heroine of mine. She had such a way to comfort people and was such a giver. I just wished she could take because she needed to accept how good a person she was. Noah was intense, but I loved the way him and Ash connected. They were so hot, like nobody else in the world existed when they were together.

Barbara Elsborg has to be one of my favorite authors who can write the most scorching and original sex scenes. I think she makes me swoon when I read them.

Kristen says

I liked this book but didn't love. What I did like about the book were the hero and heroine, their romance, chemistry, and the smoking hot love scenes. What I didn't like, however, was the over-the-top drama (the author's m.o.), a few of the secondary characters, and the unnecessary love scene between Ronan and Ilya. It was irrelevant to the plot.

Overall, *An Ordinary Girl* was an okay read but one I wouldn't read again.

cosmogirl7481 says

3.5 Stars

I wasn't really sure what to think of this book. I'd just read another book by this author and it wasn't my favorite, but the smut was fantastic. So, I decided to give this a try.

This author tends to have a lot of secondary characters, and for me, that can get old and tiresome. Mostly because it makes me want to skim. And if you know me at all *cough cough* (Laura and Marvar) *cough cough* You know I don't skim. Like ever. I always feel like I'm going to miss something.

There were a lot of secondary characters in this book. And while I feel like she could have done without some of them, most of them worked for me. (They didn't all work for me in *Kiss a Falling Star*) And I liked the main characters quite a bit. Are they my favorite of all time? Probably not. But they were passionate and hot as fuck with each other, and I really enjoy that.

This book had a mystery. It had two mysteries actually. And I was so busy trying to figure out Noah's secret, that I was completely blindsided by Ash's. Seriously. I consider myself capable of anticipating what's going

to happen. Well, this time I didn't. And I kinda love that she was able to surprise me.

It was a lot darker than I anticipated, and honestly, I kinda loved that, too. And I like to read smut with plot. Even if there are some things for which I need to suspend disbelief.

And the smut...holy shit, the smut was hot. I liked it. A lot. Like the book, it was a little darker...and surprising. In a good way.

Some people will love this...and some will hate it. If I had to choose one side to lean toward, I would have to go with I like it lot. Like I want to be more than friends. Maybe we don't full on date, but I would give this book a dirty blow job. LMAO

Ridiculous review is ridiculous.
