



## Beautiful Scars

*Shiloh Walker*

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Some scars cut right to the heart.

Three years after her divorce, Chaili Bennett is over her ex. Her only problem now? Of the few men she's dated since, no one "gets" her. Not like Marc Archer—a man who's never seen her as more than a friend.

Marc Archer needs a date for a last-minute charity event, and he needs it fast. Not that women aren't throwing themselves at his world-famous face and body, but sometimes it's less messy—as in less personal—to use his sister Shera's escort service.

The last woman on earth Marc expects to see in his sister's office is Chaili. There's something different about her, but nothing pleases him more when Shera sets them up. That simple date quickly evolves into much more as they both discover the other fills a deep, secret need they've shared with anyone else.

Though Chaili insists one night is all she wants, Marc isn't walking away now. Not until he discovers what put the shadows in her eyes. And the scars on her soul.

## Beautiful Scars Details

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## From Reader Review Beautiful Scars for online ebook

### Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Kitty's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

5 Stars

Nothing gets me more than a tortured soul – especially a man. And, wow, did Marc Archer sweep me off my feet and break my heart and have me panting.

Marc is living a very famous but lonely life. A musician with a deep, dark secret and a heart that a true gem award has been abused. Is there anyone out there that could understand him, love him for him and not his fame and fortune, just be with him? He's tried and lost in the past and is at a point where he feels that there is no one out there for him.

Chaili has loved Marc for as long as she could remember. Problem – he's her best friend's brother and he looks at her as “just a friend”. An opportunity arises that finally gets her that date with Marc and allows her to spend some time with an old friend that hasn't been around much. By the end of the night, her life is turned upside down and she is even more confused about her feelings for Marc. Her biggest worry – how would he feel if he knew the truth about her? How would he react to her “defects”? Would he run away as fast as her ex-husband did? She can't take that chance; she wants her one night of making-love with Marc; she'll hide her defects.

Marc's secret – he's a sexual dominant. He finds his girls at “Blue's” which caters to his cravings. It also a place where he could find a woman to fulfill his needs with no expectations and no promises. He can't have a relationship after Lily's betrayal and now, there's Chaili and her secrets. He knows she's a sexual submissive just by the look in her eyes when he “takes control” of the kiss. But, will she submit to him the way he needs her, why does she have that wall built around her, what are her secrets? Why is she so insecure?

Chaili's secrets – She likes it rough. Yes, she's sexually submissive but is not a submissive in the true sense of the word. She will never give up her freedom to a man, she will never allow a man to run her life, she has no want to be a slave – as her ex-husband expected her to be. She wants nothing more than to have a relationship with Marc, but she's afraid of what he will think of her, her needs and her body.

Marc and Chaili ... what a beautiful, heart-wrenching love story of two people who finally find each other but are afraid of what the other is hiding. Not only from themselves but from each other. When Chaili finally opens up to Marc and he realizes all that he has missed in her life, he makes it his mission to help her, love her and give her everything that she deserves. Especially the love and understanding of the man that she has loved most of her life. As he plays and sings “True Believer” to her, he realizes just how much she means to him and now it's time to get her to stop hiding, stop running from him and give him a chance.

I was blown-away by Beautiful Scars. Ms. Walker had me at “hello” as the old saying goes. I fell in love with Marc Archer in the first chapter. He was funny, loving and caring. His compassion for Chaili as he found out about her scars was what every woman would dream of after facing a total mastectomy. His acceptance of her and her body was beautiful. She wrote a love story that takes your breath away and has tears in your eyes throughout the story for both of the main characters.

Review copy provided for an honest review.

## **Stephanie Collins says**

Shiloh has a knack for bringing characters who have major flaws and issues to light. Both of our leads have problems but under everything is a love that has been simmering for years hidden behind friendship and distance.

I just have to start by saying - Marc is a complete and utter ass. Ok that's out of the way, we can move on and explain why you'll still fall in love with him and why Challi has always loved this amazingly frustrating man. He's an amazing musician who is back in his hometown for a brief respite before doing what he does best and running back away. He's convinced that he is somehow only able to hurt those closest to him and keeps avoiding the people who love him and know him best for fear of driving them away. He's got to go to a party and his previous arrangement has decided to leave him the morning of the event to go after something that could be a real relationship rather than an itch scratch arrangement. He visits his sister who runs a respectable escort service to get someone to act as the buffer for him at the event and that is where the story takes flight.

Challi has always known she loves Marc, truly deeply adores this man with all that she is including all his flaws. She has always buried it except for 3 disastrous times she asked him out. Unfortunately for her his inability to see what was under his nose caused her to settle for a man who isn't even worthy of mentioning by name. This jerk leaves her at a time where she needed him and this has left her extremely scarred and doubting her own self-worth. She has shadows that haunt her both physically (not telling you why physically as it plays a part in the amazing transformation Marc helps her through) and mentally. She hears that he needs a date for this party and persuades Shera to let her do this. When the two of them spend time together again it erupts in to an amazing night that ends with Marc doing his trademark foot in mouth.

I'm not going to give away the rest as I think you need to go out and read this one to see a beautiful story of love and healing for two very flawed individuals. My only wish was to see more of them in the future but at the same time I loved the way it resolved and wanting more is just testament to how Shiloh can draw you in to loving her characters.

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## **Francesca the Fierce (Under the Covers Book Blog) says**

### **This review was posted at Under the Covers**

Great story, great writing, great author, great book. But I'm left also in thought and a bit conflicted. I'll try to explain. Lets start with the cover. When I first saw it I thought, ohhh cool piano will have to do with a musician. I thought it was just stunning. Then someone mentioned that the girl looks anorexic and they thought it was horrible. This is where sometimes it's not good to judge a book by the cover because, as it turns out, the heroine is not anorexic but she has dealt with health and life issues that have left a mark on her body.

First of all, I love this trope. The girl the hero has known his whole life and they've always been best friends but he's never seen her like "that". I loved the easy friendship that was already there between Marc and Chaili. He's a hot shot musician and she's always been in love with him. She's been friends with him and his sister since forever. Now that Marc's date for a charity fell through and he went to his sister's escort business

for a last minute date, she offers her services. And that one night opens Marc's eyes to what has always been there. How perfectly Chaili fits him and how much he really wants her.

The book had the perfect amount of sexual chemistry and compatibility, it was really sizzling off the pages! Marc has a bit of a kinky streak, not full on Dom but definitely dominance and some BDSM games. It just worked perfectly that Chaili has been into that herself in the past. As far as the romance, this was a winner! Marc was amazing, once he figured out he wanted Chaili he was relentless in his pursuit. I always love to see a hero like that. He stopped at nothing to have her, he went above and beyond to make others respect her. Just the perfect guy, if you ask me.

But this book is also emotional and it hit a little close to home for me with the "scars" aspect of the story. Without giving it away, I'll just say that for me this is a subject that always sober me up and makes me think and reflect. I'm not sure if that's necessarily something I wanted to read about in a romance novel. Although, I do think the author dealt with the subject well and maybe at times it almost brought tears to my eyes to see Chaili learn to accept herself. Marc was more than wonderful in that respect.

This is a hot but also sweet story that I think you will definitely love!

\*ARC provided by publisher

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### **Tammy Walton Grant says**

3.5 stars.

Good, but ultimately I felt like there was too much going on, and not enough time for the author to address it all. The reason for her scars alone would be enough fodder for an angsty romance, but SW has thrown in rock star thing, the best friend's brother thing, and a hint of the BDSM thing.

Too many "things" for me. :)

It's worth a read, though, for the subject matter (and the steamy bits). I'd definitely read more by this author.

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### **Lexxie (un)Conventional Bookworms says**

\*I received a free copy of this book from the author in exchange of an honest review\*

This and other reviews can also be found on my blog (un)Conventional Bookviews.

Marc has known Chaili since they were kids, and for the most time, he only saw her as his sister's best friend. Chaili on the other hand has loved him since she was a teenager, and finally, they find each other again.

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### **Under the Covers Book Blog says**

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Reviewed by Francesca

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### **Amanda Fiore says**

This one was absolutely phenomonal! I am in love with Shiloh Walker even more now. A woman devastated by her loss of her "womanhood" struggling to find the beauty that still lies buried inside her. A twisted musician re-enters her life and makes it his mission to put the fire back in her eyes. Amazing, heartfelt and captivating. A must read for any woman, breast cancer affects too many women and we all know someone who has or currently is struggling with this battle. I commend Shiloh for writing such a touching book, that allows us to remember that hope, will, and courage are the sexiest part of a woman. I simply cannot say enough about this book though I wish it didn't have to end.

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## Laura (Kyahgirl) says

[ The fact that Marc worshiped Cailli 'as is' and was not put off or otherwise turned off by her mastectomy scars was probably the only thing that convinced me to keep reading after the disappointing first 50 pages or so. (hide spoiler)]

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## Aly is so frigging bored says

The ending was really rushed.

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## Deelylah Mullin says

In the synopsis for Beautiful Scars, the reader is warned, “This book involves soulful songs, soulful sex, a soulful singer and lots of heartbreak...” Thanks for the warning, but I still wasn't ready for the emotionally-charged story into which I was plunged head-first. When it feels like an author takes a peek into my soul, reaches for the strings of my heart, and plucks them like a skilled harpist, that's exactly when I know that this is one of the titles that will be on my top list for 2013.

The synopsis for Beautiful Scars gives us a concise overview of the plot. There's a lot that happens, but one of the most important over-arching themes in this title is that of meaningful relationships developing from truly knowing a person on the INSIDE. I'm so sick of the porcelain doll, or even the reluctant butterfly, that is pure perfection snagging the rich, hottie. We ALL have scars we bear. In this day and age, we all carry baggage into our relationships.

What ensnared me the most with Beautiful Scars is the way it seemed to speak to me. It was almost like Ms. Walker picked my brain and wrote the book. I am Marc. Anyone that has been in a relationship that has ended with them being walked all over can surely agree that his behaviors, while eccentric, were totally warranted. Marc, however, isn't off-the-charts strange if you add in the fact that he is a gifted composer and lyricist. Everyone has gifts and talents, and his happen to lie outside the conventions of acceptable, SIMPLE human communication. Marc is able to communicate through song, and for me, this is a much more powerful medium than simply chatting up important people at a social event. Marc seems to relax when he is playing piano or singing. Typical for an artist. We tend to find comfort and a 'centering' effect when we are able to additionally express ourselves through our chosen artform. Here's one of the first quotes I ran across that I felt embodied Marc's feelings when he was allowing himself to just FEEL: “He forgot about the people around him. The only one who mattered was Chaili. From the corner of his eye, he glanced her way and his heart banged against his ribs as he realized she was watching his hands.” (Kindle ed., Loc 562) Besides feeling Marc's emotions, this was an extremely hot passage for me. Chaili is appreciating Marc's music, and symbolically, watching his hands – the instrument of the music's creation.

When Marc found out about Chaili's scars (spoiler-free!), my heart broke. Been there, done that, got the t-shirt. I'm glad Ms. Walker didn't take this part of the storyline any further, because it's something I think about every day. I will admit, I had to put the story down for awhile after reading this section. It was painful for me, and re-opened some feelings that I simply thought I had under control. It's good to know that I'm still working on them. Also, Ms. Walker did a wonderful job handling this sensitive and emotional content. Again, from Marc's perspective, I thought that everything was quite realistic, and until and unless one has to deal with this or a similar topic, they have no idea how they'd handle it – from either perspective.

Chaili is a fierce woman. That's my take. She survived a couple terrible events in her life, and has come out the other side a bit weathered, but emotionally whole... eventually. At least she learned from her mistakes! So, Chaili married a jerk & got divorced. Happens every day, right? I'm pretty sure you'll completely hate her d-bag of an ex-, much as I do, once you read Beautiful Scars. I think that Chaili's journey of self-discovery began before Marc returned to the scene, however. To me, it felt like she'd been looking for herself at every turn. Her former marriage didn't provide anything to improve herself. She continued to look for more, and her thoughts always seemed to return to Marc. He truly 'got' her. He saw her for who she was, and never tried to make her into something she wasn't. Even once they crossed into 'relationship' territory, he still saw her for who she was. Here's Chaili's 'turning point' quote: "She even felt ... whole, in some ways. Some part of her felt real again. She felt wanted – she hadn't felt that way in years." (Kindle ed., Loc 817) So, to me, this expresses the way Chaili had been working on herself, but never totally connected with the changes she was making. They were superficial until she realized that being wanted was something that she needed in her life. We ALL need to feel wanted. The basic human need for acceptance can over-ride pretty much everything. Additionally, Chaili does a lot of work from home; she doesn't necessarily have to meet with her clients face-to-face as a web designer. The positive feedback via phone/internet communication is no where near as satisfying, for most, as in-person positive feedback. The need for positive reinforcement, positive experiences and interactions is a basic human need.

Marc didn't mind Chaili's baggage, and was willing to work with her on her baggage. That, in and of itself, is the big reason I think Marc and Chaili work for me.

There's some things that might bug some readers – like Marc's perceived lack of knowledge of some events. Totally possible when you're in the public eye and have managers & handlers taking care of your affairs. When one decides they need a break from reality for awhile. Totally possible. When one feels like they'll simply f'up if they have contact with those they love. Totally possible. Very realistic representation of someone, although they've achieved professional excellence, who still struggles with the small things, such as maintaining close bonds with those that truly matter in their lives. None of these things bothered me one iota. I know they can happen. Highly creative people oftentimes live IN THE MOMENT. They are driven to complete projects and tasks so they can move on when the next muse strikes. I know that compartmentalizing things is the only way that truly creative people can maintain their sanity, and I think Marc did that for himself.

Beautiful Scars brings the reader some touching, emotionally-charged sex scenes. They. Are. Hot. Although, I think the emotional connection between the characters made it hotter for me. Light BDSM, done in a tasteful and respectful manner, was an unexpected twist. Worked well with the characters, and wasn't over-done.

If someone had told me that Beautiful Scars would make me laugh, cry, and reflect upon my own life, I would have shaken my head in disbelief. After finishing this title, I'm glad I had the opportunity to look back and see how far I've come, and how glad I am that I've survived the adversity, much like Marc and Chaili. Only the most gifted of authors can claim to authentically move people in a positive manner. Today, I thank Shiloh Walker for nudging me toward the realization that 'I got this'.

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## Readsalot81 says

\*\*\*\*Review posted as guest review over at Paranormalhaven.com\*\*\*\*

2.5 Stars

I picked up Beautiful Scars by Shiloh Walker while not having the slightest idea that it would become one of the hardest reviews I've written to date. I'll expand on that a little later. Marc Archer, a famous musician, needs an escort for a party he's supposed to attend. His half-sister Shera runs a companion service and sets him up with an old friend, Chaili Bennett. Chaili has been friends with Marc for years and has long since had a crush on him. She uses Marc's dateless opportunity to have Shera set her up as his date. Marc goes along with the date and things quickly progress from there.

Part of my unhappiness with this story is the trope of friends to lovers. There's a really big part of me that gets frustrated with men having the "light bulb moment" after they see their girl "friend" dressed to the nines in a party dress or some such nonsense. It annoys me because I perceive the guy as not having any sort of observant qualities and they only take notice of her because of the way she's dressed! The other problem with the friends to lovers idea in this story is I never really bought into the idea of them being friends. He's always away touring and makes a note to contact her, but never follows through on those particular thoughts. I have a name for friends like those. They're called acquaintances. I thought the book illustrated more lust than friendship, and I was never fully convinced that Marc was a swell guy. While Chaili and Marc are busy slaking their lust, Marc discovers information that's pretty pertinent to Chaili's need for more cash and takes it upon himself to fix her situation. I will admit that Marc's reaction to what Chaili went through (relates to the title of the book no less) is probably the biggest redeemable aspect of this novel. His unreserved acceptance of her, her body, and what she went through really did go a long way in making me finish the book when I was borderline DNF'ing.

Because I never bought into the developing relationship between the two of them, the love scenes felt more gratuitous than not. It struck a chord, because while I do see myself as pretty open minded, a couple of the scenes kind of made me flinch and hurry through them. And then I had to re-evaluate why this book caused me to have this particular reaction, but other books have not. It's not badly written, but Beautiful Scars touched on several hot button items for me (including having a woman threaten a man with telling everyone that he assaulted/raped her when he's done no such thing) that made me unable to like the story more than I did.

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## **Kim says**

I've read most of the stuff that Shiloh Walker (J.C. Daniels) has written. I like most of it, even if stuff about a particular story bugs me. This is like that. I liked the characters. Marc is a musician and a bit of an ass. Self-absorbed, but not a bad person. Chaili is a web designer and a semi-recently divorced cancer survivor, which I guess sort of explains the boney cover model (I can't express how much I want to give her a sandwich). Chaili has been friends with Marc and his half-sister, Shera, for years. Shera runs a "companion" service. Recently, Marc has been traveling and making it a point to not visit home often or keep in touch with Chaili. But, he's home for some reason and his "friends with benefits" cancels on him the morning of a charity party he has to attend. So, Marc visits Shera's office to schedule a companion for his charity party and Chaili happens upon him while visiting Shera to discuss some web design stuff for the companion service. She gets Shera to agree to let her be Marc's companion for the charity party. It goes from there.

So, they hook up the night of the charity party, even though this companion service forbids sex in the contract. And Shera made Chaili sign a contract. Marc has no idea Chaili is a cancer survivor and someone she keeps her shirt on during sex. But how can he not tell? She seems to have had a double mastectomy and they took everything without any reconstructive surgery and she, apparently, doesn't wear forms. I'm kind of stumped by this.

Also, there is BDSM. Not much at all. He's just really controlling during sex - likes to tie her up, etc. There is a BDSM club called Blue's, though. And it just feels so nefarious when it's referred to along with his "needs". Chaili went there when she was married to her ex-husband. Marc is an active member and goes there to hook up with women who get his "needs" and will keep it private. Marc ends up taking Chaili there because he wants to take her on a "date" without the public or press harassing him (since he's a famous musician). This is where the big "I love you" stuff takes place and it bugs me. Didn't seem very special.

I think I'm just in the wrong frame of mind for BDSM type stuff, at the moment. Had I known this story contained it, I probably would've put off reading it until I felt differently. Also, I would've liked if it had continued on a little more or had an epilogue instead of ending so abruptly. I wanted Chaili to call Marc on some of his past behavior when she asked him out and he said he was tired and wanted to rest, but then she saw pictures of him in the press at a party that same night. I also wanted to hear him tell her about meeting up with Lily.

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### **Karen says**

What I loved.  
Friends before lovers  
Best friend's brother  
Steamy and Kinky - **HOT**  
Hero and heroine seeing another side of each other.

What killed me was the ending. This was an ending where the kindle said 90% so I was expecting more of a wrap up or epilogue. The ending wasn't bad but I felt a little short changed.

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### **t'irla ~The Bookslayer~ t'irla's Talk Book Blog says**

Surprisingly sweet romance with some major flaws.

Description:

Some scars cut right to the heart.

Three years after her divorce, Chaili Bennett is over her ex. Her only problem now? Of the few men she's dated since, no one "gets" her. Not like Marc Archer—a man who's never seen her as more than a friend.

Marc Archer needs a date for a last-minute charity event, and he needs it fast. Not that women aren't throwing themselves at his world-famous face and body, but sometimes it's less messy—as in less personal—to use his sister Shera's escort service.

The last woman on earth Marc expects to see in his sister's office is Chaili. There's something different about her, but nothing pleases him more when Shera sets them up. That simple date quickly evolves into much more as they both discover the other fills a deep, secret need they've shared with anyone else.

Though Chaili insists one night is all she wants, Marc isn't walking away now. Not until he discovers what put the shadows in her eyes. And the scars on her soul.

### My Thoughts:

This is a really hard one for me to rate and review..In fact I have ruminated on it for several days. To start, I don't give short stories under 150 words a 5 star, I feel that you can not world build, character build, have an indepth storyline and end the book in under that amount of pages.

### What I adored:

- SH tackles a often sensitive topic with grace and made it sexy
- Chaili's character she had understandable angst but not over the top and I totally enjoyed that. Chaili was a well rounded character and the readers really understood where her head was at.
- Marc's sudden insight into himself and his coming of age in his own skin
- the fact that neither participant was new to the "scene"

### What I didn't:

- SW tried to make Marc into a complex character but he came across as shallow and arrogant and to be honest bipolar
- the time between his lightbulb moment with Chailli and his being in love with her....too quick..needed a few more dates
- The relationship between Marc and Chailli ..I totally felt the deep friendship and her love for him, I didn't feel the chemistry between the two sexually tho not really...

This all being said I really enjoyed this sensitive touch on a delicate topic and how it made a sweet romance with an edge.

3 star read for me and a recommendation to CR readers to give it a shot, you too will be touched with SW's story of Beautiful Scars

more t'irla? see [tirlastalk.blogspot.ca](http://tirlastalk.blogspot.ca) READ RATE REVIEW your opinion counts!

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## Helyce says

When I read the blurb for this book, I was really looking forward to reading it. I was a bit worried when I read a review that hinted that there was some bdsm in it, but I'd bought it already. There were parts of this story that I found very moving. The heroine has survived a lot and is still dealing with the fall out of her divorce. When she agrees to a date with an old friend, she could not have guessed how her life would change.

Normally, I love when there is a lot of focus on the h/h in a contemporary-and I enjoyed that aspect in this story, BUT there is emphasis placed on the very close relationship of Chaili and Shera AND Marc-yet after Marc and Chaili get together, we don't see Shera at all. I found that a bit odd.

Lastly, I really disliked the abrupt ending. Our H/H say their "I love yous", you turn the page and, it's just over. Totally felt unfinished to me.