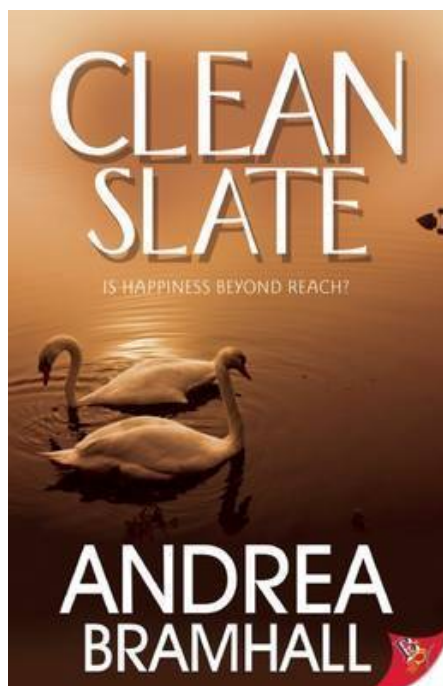




Clean Slate

Andrea Bramhall

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After a vicious attack, Morgan Masters wakes up to find that nothing is how she remembers it. John Major isn't the prime minister anymore, the Millennium has been and gone, and it's been a very long time since she was in college.

When Erin's worst fears become reality and her world crumbles around her, she has to pick up the pieces and start all over again.

Can losing everything actually be the best thing that ever happened to Morgan? Can Erin learn to forgive the sins of the past and let her heart lead her head for a change?

Or is happiness beyond their reach?

Clean Slate Details

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Author : Andrea Bramhall

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From Reader Review Clean Slate for online ebook

Kara says

“Clean Slate” has a lot going for it, but also has some very annoying flaws.

I loved the narration; Victoria Aston did a remarkable job conveying emotions, and she did a great job creating voices that were appropriate for the varying ages of the characters. Author Andrea Bramhall worked hard to convey the relationship between love and trust, but fell down on the execution throughout the story.

For me, love is not about issuing ultimatums, it's not about an inability to forgive hurts and it's not about refusing to give the benefit of doubt enough to discuss confusions, uncertainty and even fears.

39yo MC Morgan abruptly abandons her family (wife and their two children, a 10yo girl and 13yo boy), giving no reason. There is no communication from her for three weeks, until she turns up at hospital as the victim of a violent attack. She awakens thinking she's 19yo, and has no memories whatsoever of the last 20 years.

With the divorce proceedings not yet final, her wife Erin remains next of kin and is called to hospital to give permission for surgeries. Erin has been terribly hurt, of course, and is terribly angry at Morgan. At first, she certainly seems to be the more sympathetic character in the drama, despite the physical injuries to Morgan.

Yet as the story progresses, I found myself very sympathetic to Morgan, and frequently annoyed with Erin. Morgan exudes sincere love for her children whom her 19yo self is just now meeting, and she truly loves Erin. Her instalove for Erin is actually almost too much; Morgan is now a 19yo virgin who's not yet out of the closet, feeling an intense instinctive emotional and physical attraction for a woman twice her age. Yet she never questions her love for Erin, and never once falters in wanting to do what's right for Erin or for her children.

Erin, though, confused when a clearly traumatized Morgan walked out, issued an angry ultimatum that she would never ever allow her back if she walked out. Throughout the book, even as Morgan time and time again demonstrates by words, actions and later by police evidence that she is deserving of trust, Erin continues to delay giving her trust beyond the point of reason. At some point, love is having faith in another person; expressing love while denying trust is inconsistent. Erin's cognitive dissonance at loving Morgan without trusting her went on too long and became insupportable.

Without giving a spoiler, I want to also say I was disappointed at 13yo Tristen's role in bringing the book to a finish. Again, Tristen's love for his parents should have involved some level of benefit of doubt and communication before the events that unfolded.

Finally, I was very disappointed with the procedural elements of the mystery, and the characters reactions to clues and events. Early on, Morgan described the letter in her pocket, and it's importance for her decision to abandon her family. Yet it took forever before the letter came back up, it's importance was ridiculously minimized for awhile, and once it's importance was recognized it was never provided to the police. Arrrgh. Once Erin and Morgan recognized its importance and accepted why Morgan would have abandoned her family (for a good and honorable, if not misguided reason), they don't think that the reason for concern weeks ago might not yet be a reason for concern today? Really? Really Really? Aaaaarrghhh. For an attack victim with a date rape drug in her system, you'd think the police would quickly canvas local bars, and you'd also think your loving family would give you a bit of benefit of doubt over any surveillance camera footage, wouldn't you? Aaaaaarrggghh. The inability of the police to link the attacker with the person who hired

him was completely inexcusable once the link was finally revealed. AAAARRRRRRGGGGHHHH.

So, as with too much of lesfic, a lack of openness and communication about one's past leads to misunderstanding and mistrust in the present time. Yawn...trope #23462 in a series. Sometimes miscommunication can work well in a book, but not here. Morgan's past was well-known to everyone but her friends and Erin; why would she be able to keep her parents a secret from them even if she had wanted to? Erin's brother Chris chides Erin because she too had kept dark secrets....but we never learn what they are. Huh?

"Clean Slate" tried to be a book that explores trying to be a better person than the one you don't remember being, and how love can transcend miscommunication and hurt. It didn't really work for me because of my frustrations with Erin and with the efforts, and lack thereof, at solving the principal mystery of why Morgan was attacked. 3* for "Clean Slate"; I wanted to rate it higher because of the narration, but I just can't.

M says

Clean Slate surprised me by being a major change of pace from Ladyfish, Andrea Bramhall's previous book and debut novel. I loved Ladyfish and I love this book as well, although they are very different beats, Ladyfish sitting firmly in the thriller category, while Clean Slate deals much more directly with the emotional trauma of a break up, near death incident and life altering injury.

I enjoyed the emotional honesty of the characters, their trials and tribulations felt real (within the context of the story) and at no point did I call bullshit at their responses to the circumstances within which they had been placed.

Having read this novel I wonder where Andrea's next story will take us, where ever that might be I am sure that I will enjoy the journey.

Highly recommended.

Lexxi Kitty says

Shesh. Looking at the tiny snippet I wrote last time I finished the book I wonder if I had actually read the book that time. What with calling Morgan 36 when she was/is 39 and stuff like that.

Bah. I still have the narrator's voice in my head. Reading what I am writing to me. Hmms that gives me thoughts. (Me breasts were poking out of my shirt again, aren't they? With my nipples hardening ...) right. Enough of that.

Interesting to hear this book instead of just read it. Well, mostly hear. I used my eyeballs on occasion when I couldn't use me ears.

That reminds me - since when do Erin & Morgan come from Ireland? The narrator was giving them an Irish accent. Weird when characters don't sound the way I heard them in my head. No matter.

Liked the book again and liked the narrator. Book doesn't make it to my top rating shelf, though.

Rating:

Narrator: 4.78 out of 5

Story: 4.88 out of 5

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Tinything says

I like this book. One of the reason is because one of the main character has amnesia. I think i am fan of it though i couldnt find many of this kind of book. I found one, well include this book so its two and another one that i cant wait until it release on kindle.

I like almost everything about this book. I like how it is about family, about the already established relationship and how Morgan tried to get back into her family after she walked out on them even though she didnt remember anything about them anymore. And i like how Morgan, Erin and her children interact with each other. Maddie is a cute kid and her brother is kind of sensitive and protective toward his family. They both adorable. Nikkie is funny as well. Especially the part, when Morgan texted her and said that she's a virgin and asked for some advice. They both chatted back an forth like a kid.

the problem.. hmmmmm.. i think i'm not happy with the reason that made Morgan walk out on her own family. And Morgan and Erin had been married for 15 years, and they couldnt tell each other in full details about their own painful past when they talked about it.

Well i still enjoyed this book. Alots :)

Lexxi Kitty says

Woman of about 36 is viciously attacked. Wakes up in the hospital. Asks for her mum. Mum's been dead these past 17 or so years. Morgan Masters has lost the memory of everything that has happened since she was 19. She does not remember her life, wife, children, nor why she walked out on them three weeks before that vicious attack. A quite good book.

Pin says

Strong characterizations, a great plot... A very good book that goes on my re-read list.

--- *Updated* ---

Second reading changed my rating from four to five stars. I really like this book and will certainly read it again.

Alexis says

This was definitely a page turner. The chemistry between the two leads was good but I feel like it could have been a lot better. The reason for Morgan making a certain choice that led up to her being attacked just isn't

convincing to me. At least not after 15 years of marriage.

I did like her introduction to a world of cell phones and social media, there were some very amusing moments that made me chuckle. As for her relationship with Erin, I expected more. I can't tell you exactly what it is that was missing but it just felt off for some reason. Partially I think it was because I felt that Erin was being unnecessarily harsh on Morgan. My last point of critique was the amount of drama involved. A book like this really doesn't need a mustache twirling villain yet that's exactly what we end up getting. Overall rating ends in a 3,5*.

Jhosy says

While reading the synopsis of the book and some reviews I decided to give this book a try, so I bought the paperback version. It is interesting to note that the version of the book that I have has 304 pages, but here in the goodreads is informed that the book has 264 pages. I didn't understand this, but anyway.

The reading was an interesting one.

One can see the talent of the author, even not agreeing with some things I managed to finish reading because of the smooth development of the narrative.

However I just can't give more stars because I couldn't believe that a character who has lost the memory of her adult life declares that she loves her children without even knowing them ... Much less declare her love for a wife she has never seen before.

The story was completely believable and if not for the fact that the character quotes several times that she felt a connection, a love with her family (which she doesn't remember at all), I could have easily given a 4.5 or 5 stars But maybe a little less crying too

In the middle of the book I was getting a little annoyed with so many times that the characters wept and sobbed and suffered desperately. I understand, it's a drama, there has to be crying, but I believe there was too much crying.

On the plus side, this is a good choice to read on the way to college or work.

lov2laf says

3.5 stars.

This was a really interesting premise for a story...a woman haunted by her past is attacked and suffers amnesia for any time after the age of 19, for better or worse, giving her a new lease on life. Instead of being burdened with unwanted miseries, she can choose what to let into her life and start anew.

My overall impression of the book is that it started off well and then devolved into over the top melodrama which was a shame because this type of book certainly didn't *need* it. There were plenty of places to explore with real drama if the author wanted to go deeper. Instead, many of the conversations or plot points felt either too simple or too forced and some plot holes opened that left me frustrated.

At the same time, what I did like is that the story was about an already established couple and how they deal with the amnesia and lack of trust issues rather than a newfound romance that we typically find in this genre. Unfortunately, I didn't feel the relationship between the women went as deep as it could've, though. I also liked the two long-time friends from Morgan's past and especially "the virgin" phone conversation that occurs between them. That was pretty amusing. The kids were a nice touch, too.

My feeling on the book is that it's better than okay but it didn't deliver on its potential.

(view spoiler)

Samantha Luce says

Well done, Andrea Bramhall. So many feels happening in this intricately woven storyline. I really felt for all the characters. I was just as clueless as the others in the beginning and enjoyed figuring things out alongside Morgan and Erin. Very romantic, charming, and entertaining. I did the audio version and the narrator did a wonderful job bringing the characters to life. Loved it and will definitely listen to this one again in a couple years when my memory is as shot as poor Morgan's.

Agirlcandream says

Well developed characters and a clever if simple what-if plot. What if you suffer a head trauma and lose all memories of your adult life? A pleasure to read/listen.

BeniGee says

This story caught my interest back in June, at the BSB Nottingham Book Festival, when Andrea gave us a short synopsis and read one of the early chapters. The concept of the amnesia, wiping out Morgan's memory as far back as an incident that occurred twenty years ago, I found intriguing and the fact that she had no knowledge of her spouse or two children added flesh to the story. The characters I found realistic and the two children very endearing. The book relates a past history of domestic violence, not between the MCs I hasten to add, and this gave a grittiness to the story. I read the book over two evenings/nights, due to the fact that I got quite emotionally involved with the characters, this is a tribute in itself to Andrea's writing.

Corporate Slave says

Simply loved it ! Loved both Morgan and Erin and the plot was very different and interesting ! Very nice read :)

Diane says

Wow!! you know what i love reading about strong don't-take-no-sh*t female lead(Erin) and very high maintenance plus she did not put up with no bullcrap from no one,not even her wife(Morgan) and Ms.Bramhall did an exceptional job with her character in this storyline... whether it was dealing with taking care of her kids or being single again after getting the news from her partner/wife(Morgan) before the accident...this book had topics such as Domestic Violence,kidnapping,drugs issues,family drama which the author hit on all the right area and gave i think to the best of her knowledge..a fantastic read and i highly recommend to everyone.. this is my 3rd time reading this book..

Vic says

I've never been one for saying I couldn't put a book down, as I rarely (no matter how good the book is) have that problem. I can stop halfway through a sentence and pick it up again a day or two later. Even if I'm thoroughly enjoying a book, I don't feel the need to speed through it. This book, from the very first chapter I was pretty much hooked. I really did have trouble putting it down, so eager was I to find out if Erin could overcome the past, and if Morgan would ever remember the past.

Yes, it was a bit predictable, but maybe I just found something in these two main characters that really hooked me. Erin especially.

The writing had a very nice flow. Some writers seem to try to get too fancy, or lyrical, coming up with every which way to tell you something, or describe something, other than just getting on with it. I felt I was reading a real writer here, not somebody trying too hard, or too desperate to stand out. It was an effortless and compelling read.

I really don't know how a person 'should' react to the circumstances presented here. Should Morgan have been more freaked out? Should Erin have been more forgiving, or less forgiving? I guess it could go in several different ways, but I feel the author got it pretty much spot on. The confusion, the emotion, got through without overwhelming me, or overwhelming the basic story.

My only niggle (and it was actually quite a big niggle that had me poised to drop the book to a 4 instead of a 5) was Tristan. I understand what the author's intentions were as Tristan became more embroiled in the plot, I understand at that age children get easily swayed or manipulated, but really ...I seriously just wanted to pack that kid's bags and send him off to some wilderness far, far away. He dominated far too much of the last part of the book and I felt like I was missing out on more time with Morgan and Erin. He got way, way, way in the way. And that's a lot of way.

But beside that, I really enjoyed this story. I felt rather sad leaving Morgan and Erin behind once I'd finished it.
