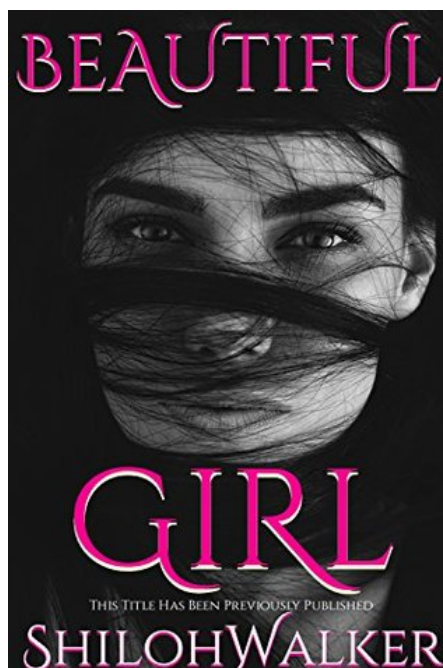




Beautiful Girl

Shiloh Walker

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Twelve years ago, Del Prescott was the *It* girl.

You name it, she had it. Money, charm, looks, personality...and the perfect boyfriend to boot. Then Del disappeared to 'study abroad', giving no warning to friends or even Blake, that aforementioned perfect boyfriend.

TShe's back now, and not just to celebrate what would have been her ten-year high school reunion.

Del's come to face down her monsters once and for all...and to see Blake Mitchell, the man she never stopped loving.

But Blake isn't the boy she left behind. Twelve years can change a man, and not just because he spent twelve years wondering about her, worrying about her...missing her.

Still, as he looks into Del's eyes, he doesn't see the smooth, polished world traveler he would have expected. Rather, she's quieter, darker, sadder and she carries herself in a way that says she's ready for fight or flight. It's a look he's seen before, too. Blake is now the sheriff of the small town where they grew up and the look in her eyes is one he recognizes all too well.

But Del is guarding her secrets close and getting her to open up is turning out to be harder than he could have expected. **Time is running out and Del must decide on whether to place her trust in the one person who owns her heart and soul.**

Note: This title has been previously published.

Beautiful Girl Details

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From Reader Review Beautiful Girl for online ebook

April Brookshire says

I hadn't read a Shiloh Walker book in awhile and this one had been in my Nook library for awhile. It was a really good book, but the author's emotionally damaged characters are always so sad. Especially when they are separated from their first love for so many years.

Auntee says

This was a pretty good quick read, although I was worried at first because the subject matter was dark, dark, dark and it was starting to depress the heck out of me. But how can you write about abuse without making it dark? The heroine, Del, was a young girl (16) who seemed to have the world by the tail--great looks, wonderful friends, wealthy family, to-die-for boyfriend--and in one summer her world was shattered. And when she tried to seek help, the person who every young girl should trust the most betrays her. So it wasn't a stretch of the imagination as I read what happened to her next. Some really sad and typical stuff happens, which was hard to read, and it takes years for our heroine to turn her life around. It's been 12 years but she's finally ready to take the steps to reclaim her life, and her first order of business is to attend (what would have been) her high school reunion. Of course you know she's going to run into her old flame Blake, who as it turns out *never* got over her, and he's had to live through a few tough times himself. Blake's now a sheriff's deputy, and one look at Del's skittish reaction to him and with his years of experience it doesn't take him long to figure out Del didn't just suddenly disappear twelve years ago because she was at a European boarding school. Some serious stuff must have happened to her. But what? And will she let him get close enough to help her?

The rest of the story revolves around Del and Blake reconnecting, Del discovering if she's ready for a sexual relationship with her first love, and Del finally facing down the despicable people from her past. Some pretty good material there, but for some reason I kept thinking "Wow, this would have made a great TV movie".:) You had your beautiful heroine and her sexy lawman boyfriend, a couple of good friends thrown in the mix, the southern setting, the diabolical villain(s), and a sexy, dark lawyer who introduces an interesting twist to the story (and who definitely needs a book of his own).

I was a bit surprised how the author sort of glossed over Blake's own somewhat tragic past--I thought we'd at least get a long conversation between him and Del about what all that he went through, but really there wasn't much. I also thought that Del was ready for sex with Blake rather suddenly. I realize that this was a rather short book but after all that she went through and the state that she was in when she arrived back in town, I thought there would be more of a wait. But no matter, the scenes were tastefully done, emotional and a bit erotic too.

The ending...well, it did get a bit melodramatic (making me think of the whole TV movie thing), but I could appreciate it since the bad guys got theirs.

All in all, not a bad read, even though I think Shiloh Walker has some better ones out there. It certainly wasn't a waste of time by any means, and I was entertained. And if you don't mind a little dark subject matter, I think you'll enjoy it too. 4 stars.

Mspink says

What a lovely story. This author's stories never fail to move me. They inevitably invoke a lot of emotion. This one is no different. Delilah returns home after 12 years right back in to the small town life she tried to forget. The horrible things her mother and step father put her through forced her away. Now she's back and she is stronger and determined to face her fears. In the meantime she runs in to the love of her life, Blake. He's different too and has had his own troubles. But the bond and love they shared is still there and just as strong.

I really appreciated that the author had Del confessing her secrets to her best friend and Blake pretty early on in the story instead of leading everyone on the whole time until the end. It allowed them to face the obstacles together and become stronger together. It allowed her to face her fears of intimacy while also facing the villain(s) in the story. Blake was a perfect mate for her and was nothing but supportive and loving. Sizzling, romantic love scenes along with an intriguing story made for a very satisfying book. I really can't complain. It satisfied on every level. Well done...

? BookAddict ✍ La Crimson Femme says

Shiloh Walker tends to write stories infused with trauma and overcoming painful pasts. I believe this is why I enjoy her books so much. Her writing voice representing the fears of a traumatized person are so accurate it throws me at times. I just picked up Beautiful Girl and enjoyed it thoroughly. I know that if I am moved to tears, the author accomplished a feat. Since I'm pretty jaded, a book moving me to emotion is a book I enjoy.

This book was a quick and enjoyable read. The female protagonist demonstrated great strength which is something I like to read. I can honestly recommend this book for my friends to read. It definitely isn't for the faint of heart.

Tracy *To the point Reviews* says

I love books about going back home after many years of estrangement. And this one is a perfect example of one.

The heroine up and disappeared for 12 years after some horrible things happened to her.

And as the story develops, we get to find out what exactly made her run off without ever contacting anyone, not even her mother, for all those years.

I liked the story, but I found it lacking in making her hometown a real place. There are only a few descriptions of her home and childhood town so we never quite get a feeling for where she is. Many authors have a way of making 'back home' a character in a story. And I love when that happens because it hunkers you down into that world, place, city... Enveloping you into a world of memories for the character. But I didn't get that here. And I also found that there needed to be more of a 'reaction' from the close knit community due to the fact that the town 'golden child' had returned. But this seemed to be barely acknowledged in the story. Even at her high school reunion, we hear and see of no one but the hero. NOT A ONE! So it kinda felt like there were only the book's characters living in this town.

I was also thrown by the way the story shifted points of view from the hero to the heroine, sometimes from one chapter to the next. It was distracting and jagged to me and gave the story a 'rushed' vibe.

All in all it's a sweet story with sweet redemption in the end. However, this is not one that will stay with me, if you know what I mean.

Katie(babs) says

After twelve years away, Deliah Prescott has come home. Deliah recently started an email correspondence with her former best friend, Manda, who wants Del to come back for their high school reunion even though Del didn't graduate. Del is very different from Deliah -- the perfect rich girl who had everything handed to her on a silver platter. But then one summer, everything changed. Del's innocence was stolen by someone she should have been able to trust above all others. Instead, she ran away and suffered in ways no one should. Del has overcome everything from drug abuse to attempted suicide. She is the ultimate survivor. Even though Del is scared to death, she has come back to Prescott as a form of therapy and possibly to regain her soul.

Everyone in town assumes Del went to a fancy bordering school up north to finish her high school years and never looked back. How wrong they all are. Del was known as the pampered princess of Pike County and was the one true love of Blake Mitchell. Mitchell has also been through hell and back. Blake recovered from Hodgkin's disease, lost all his hair, and has become the deputy sheriff. A small piece of himself died when his Dee Dee (Blake's nickname for Del) went missing, and now that she has come back, he wants answers. But he is in for quite a shock because the Dee he knew is no longer there. A woman who goes by the name of Del is in town and her eyes are so empty. Blake notices all the signs of abuse and needs to know who harmed his precious love.

Del has never gotten over Blake, but she feels she is so damaged that she doesn't deserve love, especially from the one man who can give it to her and so much more. Blake will not give up, and when he finds out about Del's past and everything she has gone through, he will move heaven and earth to bring her happiness and to make those around her who were the cause of her suffering pay, preferably very slowly and painfully.

Del is Blake's BEAUTIFUL GIRL, the one woman that completes him. If there is one hero you must read about this year, his name is Blake Mitchell. His character is so unbelievable, due to his understanding and undying devotion toward Del. Some other authors would have made Blake bitter towards a woman like Del, but Blake is written in a very intelligent way and captures the reader's heart quickly. Shiloh Walker has written one incredible man, and it will be hard for any other hero written this year to compete with him.

Then there is poor Deliah. Her story is so heart wrenching there are simply no words to explain what she has gone through. I found myself holding back tears of disgust and horror as she told Blake about that one summer when innocence was taken away from her because of a disturbing individual.

Shiloh Walker has written a very difficult story, and the tragedies that have struck Blake and Del may be a bit over the top, but the conclusion I came to is that horrible things happen to good people. When these things happen, they must be overcome. When Del is able to forgive and welcome Blake back into her life and her body, the healing has begun. There are also very amoral characters that include William and Louisa. Louisa's thoughts and actions to get what she wants are beyond sickening. But there are also some very well rounded characters that bring some nice flavor to the story, such as Del's friend Manda, and former bad boy and lawyer Sam Beaumont who has quite a shocking truth to reveal.

BEAUTIFUL GIRL packs quite a punch, and I can say that this author and this story is one of the best I have read so far this year. Shiloh Walker is making a name for herself, and she has raised the bar with BEAUTIFUL GIRL. I urge you to read this story, but don't blame me if you break down in tears. Del is a true survivor and a heroine in every sense of the word, and because of that.

Mojca says

A dark and moody story of a woman's "journey through hell on her way to heaven". Sometimes such stories of abuse are tough to read, but Ms. Walker did a good job and not overdoing things, keeping it simple, yet important and poignant.

This was a nicely woven story of drama and darkness, torment, angst, romance, rekindled flames, and love, with a nice little suspenseful sub-plot thrown into the mix.

Katie says

I am normally a very big fan of Shiloh Walker. I was however disappointed in Beautiful Girl. Del was a teenage princess who experienced horrific, repeated sexual assaults by her step father. Blake was Del's high school boyfriend who has held a candle for his lost love ever since she took up and left town without a trace while he was away for summer vacation. Del has come back 12 years later to face her demons (and a high school reunion). Blake and Del try to reconnect and get past the hurt they caused each other, and the trauma both have suffered in the other's absence.

I felt that given the tortured characters and the subject matter surrounding their torture the author should have made me as the reader feel their pain. I did not. I felt Ms. Walker left out detrimental elements that should have pulled harder at my heart strings. There were holes in the development of both Del's and Blake's emotional scars. Del was a sexually abused woman who hasn't let a man so much as kiss her in 12 years, but she's willing to sleep with Blake within a week of seeing him again after 12 years. I just can't buy that. And Blake was a tough, cancer surviving cop whose experience with fighting cancer made him... What? I didn't feel that if Blake's sickness was important enough to mention it should have played a bigger role in who he became as an adult. Besides his never being able to grow his hair back after chemo. This is very rare.

There was just not enough description in the emotions of these two main characters for me.

Brittney Musick says

Del Prescott ran away from home twelve years ago without saying goodbye to anyone in her life. When she returns to her hometown, she has to face those she left behind as well as the demons that have haunted every day since she left home.

Beautiful Girl deals with some pretty heavy issues, and rather than keep the reader in suspense, waiting to find out what caused Del to leave home, the reveal of what happened to Del comes pretty early in the book. I really appreciated knowing what had happened to Del. It was horrific and there were some scenes in the book that were a bit difficult to stomach, both dealing with rape and suicide.

Del had been through a lot, and it's said often enough throughout the book that the girl she used to be is nothing like the woman she grew up to become.

Blake was Del's boyfriend and first love when they were both in high school. Life hasn't been easy for him since Del left, but he's hung in there.

When Del and Blake see each other again for the first time in twelve years, I was kind of nervous about how that would play out, but I thought it was handled so well, and I think it really set the stage for how Blake and Del would react to each other through the rest of the book.

I found Del's mother and stepfather to be absolutely deplorable people. As far as I could see, there was nothing redeemable about either of them. It made them really easy to hate.

The plot felt very straightforward. There was an element of suspense that I enjoyed. It added another layer to the story that went beyond Del just coming home to confront the past.

Overall, I really enjoyed the story. My only complaint is that there were several typos throughout the book. None of them were necessarily huge errors, but it was enough to take me out of the story for a bit, so I think the book could have stood to have another edit before going to print. Other than that, I really enjoyed the book.

Erotic Horizon says

Characters

Del Prescott – The girl who had everything, the home, the friends, the lifestyle and the boyfriend – she is also the girl who grew up into a woman who had lost so much and had not now only come home, she come home to collect on a past that she has never forgotten.

Blake Mitchell – Blake has had a hard few years and it all sort of started when his girlfriend up and left – since then nothing as gone right. Now is life is about to be turned upside down and it again starts with Del Prescott.

The Plot

Del Prescott has come home for her high school reunion, having never returned home since she left twelve years earlier she has come back a changed woman and the town had just better be prepared – because Del has also come home to fight some demons.

Blake Mitchell is a survivor, from the moment his girlfriend packed up and left him as a teenager he has been surviving one battle after another. Now things are looking up for the first time in a the long time and he is comfortable. Del has come back home and he wants answers from her if nothing else.

There is however an evil undercurrent to Prescott and only Del holds the key and she is better prepared than twelve years ago to deal with any consequences. However is Prescott prepared for the repercussion when Del has had her say.

Surprise Element

I knew from the outset that much trauma would be involved in this book. However i was surprise at how Ms. Walker brought so much different perspective together in one book to make this read stand out. Another surprise was that at the end of the book everything more or less comes full circle.

Predictability

From the blurb you know something evil had happened to Del, for her to leave town. However from that moment on – nothing happens as expected. Individual traits comes to the forefront and long suppress emotions rares it's head and Del and Blake – literally burn the pages with angst's and issues.

Smut/Ick Factor

This book was not a book catering to the up against the wall sort of smut that i have been reading lately. This is more like a getting to know you sort of love. Tentative steps to the big moment – but when it did happen it was a moment to remember.

Positive

I love the long lost love returning home theme, it grab me every time and when an author gets the mix right as Ms. Walker does with BEAUTIFUL GIRL, its a winner.

The character development was nicely down, you got to know every single person in town. You knew their habits, their faults, and what made them happy.

Ms. Walkers description of Prescott - small town Tennessee, was spot on. She touches on the secrets small towns hold, the traditions that have almost become an institution and of course the upper and the lower class of said town and the place of pride that is involved in being at the top and on the right side of the tracks.

The pace of the book was easy to follow, the story although intense and the plot was a less than forgiving one – all led to the HEA of the protags.

All the side stories were dealt with, nothing was left hanging or left for the reader to wonder at what happened to this or that person.

The emotional aspect of this book cannot be described, it kept pace, it kept on coming and it literally torn you apart and comes full circle to end in a way that was everything i could have wished for, for Del and Blake...

As much as i loved a baddy, the baddies in BEAUTIFUL GIRL were just plain evil and i love how there was clear consistency to them – there was not a nice bone in their body, no matter what they did.

Negative

This book has not exactly graphic details, but details of abusive happening to a teenager that might be a little hard to take. It is however all in hindsight and in my opinion a perfect addition to the book.

Cover

I am still a little indecisive about the cover. The setting of this book was in small town Prescott and none of that is reflected in the cover of this book. A in your face cover that is not easily forgotten.

Rhapsody says

Del's stepfather beat and raped her for 2 months the summer that she was 16. Her arrogant mother knew about it but didn't care. Del ran away, got into drugs, and lived on the streets until a social worker straightened her out. She never returned home or spoke to any of her former friends. Twelve years later, she's working as a social worker, but she's coaxed into returning to her hometown for a reunion where she is reunited with her old flame Blake. Blake is now a cop, having gone through his own hell after he was diagnosed with cancer. He's healthy now and as in love with Del as ever, although he notices her wariness and realizes from her manner that she's been hurt in the past. Nevertheless, they fall back in love quickly, but have to contend with Del's demons and her evil parents who still live in the area.

I like novels with abused heroines, but this was a pretty bad book. The author bit off way more than she could chew in a 150 page book. Neither Blake nor Del was a good character. We know what happened to Del because we're told, but I didn't truly see it in her personality. I also didn't see Blake as a cancer survivor. He was just a boring tough-guy cop with strong feelings for his old flame and a streak of machismo that got on my nerves. I also had issues with their relationship. Yes, Del was skittish and freaked out a few times. However, ultimately, she and Blake were passionate lovers within 3 or 4 days of her arrival, even though she'd never even managed to go on a date in the past 12 years. Sorry, I just can't believe that.

I don't recommend this unless, like me, you LOVE the abused heroine plot-line. But in that case, read Comanche Heart first.

Laura (Kyahgirl) says

4/5; 4 stars; A-

Beautiful Girl was a dark story for much of the book yet at the same time it was a lovely story of healing and growing up. As compared to the last book by Shiloh Walker that I read, Beautiful Scars, this one has much better character development and story line.

Anne Mercier says

I absolutely loved this book. In my opinion, this is one of the best books Ms. Walker has ever written... ranking right up there with Her Best Friend's Lover and His Christmas Cara which are my two favorite Shiloh Walker books evah.

Del is a strong heroine who has overcome so much and is still working her way back to normality. She comes home, though she doesn't want to, but after running into her cousin Vance, he passes her address on to Del's best friend from high school, Manda, who basically forces her back to Prescott, Tennessee. So, Del decides to face the past, deal with it once and for all, and hopefully move past it. She just didn't count on it being able to, after 12 years, bring her to her knees.

After 12 years away, Blake still pines for Del, not really knowing the depth of that emotion until he sees her. But the Del he once knew is no more. This is a harder Del, a cautious Del, and the fear he sees in her eyes makes him want to pound something or someone into the ground. Oh how I love him. He is a sigh-worthy hero, one that touched me and had me falling in love with him from the first moment of introduction. By no

means has his life been easy since Del has been gone. Oh, no. He's had his own issues to deal with, but now, she's back, and he wants her to stay... with him. He makes no qualms about his feelings for her, no excuses. He's a man who admits to his feelings and doesn't pussy-foot around, hemming and hawing, and that to me makes him a unique hero as of late. When he finds out what happened in Del's past, he really wants to kick someone's ass, and who could blame him? But instead of doing that, he's there for Del, supporting her, helping her work through her issues, and giving her the one thing she needs: Love.

Beautiful Girl is Shiloh Walker at her best. The characters in the story come alive from the first page, and the emotions... This book is packed with emotional intensity that is so vivid, so real you can't help but want to protect Del and hug her, and fall in love with the amazing man that is Blake. God, what Del has had to deal with. The intensity of it broke my heart. I'm not ashamed to tell you I cried for her and with her. I also, like Blake, wanted to beat the hell out of someone, and also hug her and protect her from the horror that has haunted her since she was 16. I felt Del's pain, her fear, her torment. I felt Blake's anger, rage, and love.

I recommend this book to anyone who is looking for more than a superficial read, for someone who is looking for a story with substance, grit, and emotion. I recommend Beautiful Girl anyone and everyone. This story IS. THAT. GOOD.

The only thing I would liked to have seen was for Del, just once, to have had the chance to belt Louisa Prescott Sanders. God, just once to give that amoral witch a good fist in her face would have had me clapping aloud.

Go buy the book. You're going to love it!

MuchAdo says

Wonderful book. If you like your plots insipid and sweet look elsewhere, but if you like them hard-hitting and beautifully written then this is a keeper. The story is at times harrowing but the hero and the heroine are very exciting characters (and are free of all those stupid moments that populated romantic suspense) and I couldn't get enough of them. Deeply passionate and scorchingly sexy it is a book I will most certainly re-read.

Tina says

I liked the story here but it was a little slow to pull me in. It picked up the pace around half way through and that's when I really began to like the book. This is definitely a sensitive topic and I think the author did a really good job with it. I was also pleasantly surprised by the really good character development for a novella. There was defiantly great steam as well but it did not take over the story, there was a good balance.