



Dare Me Once

Shelly Alexander

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Love is a risk worth taking in this sizzling romance about secrets and second chances...

Scarlett Devereaux's life on the Gulf Coast went from riches to rags so scandalously fast that she barely had time to kiss her Jimmy Choos goodbye. Now, with a new alias (Lily Barns), a new budget (tighter than a pair of Spanx), and a new job on the vacation island of Angel Fire Falls, she's daring to reinvent herself.

Single dad Trace Remington is devoted first and foremost to raising his young son, who has Asperger's. With flying his floatplane and salvaging his family's island resort too, he has time for little else. His brothers think he needs a break from his all-work-no-play lifestyle, so they goad him into action. In response to their dare, Trace asks a sexy tourist for her number, only to discover afterward that she's the resort's brilliant new hospitality manager.

The sparks of flirtation soon ignite into a flame too hot to ignore. But Lily and Trace both have pasts that threaten to tear them apart. Now, they'll need to admit their secrets to each other...or risk ending their relationship before it really begins.

Dare Me Once Details

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From Reader Review Dare Me Once for online ebook

Joanne Swinney says

JoandIsalovebooks Life Lesson #1

Don't think about reading this book just do it. You won't regret it.

Lily Barns had many life lessons, I took this journey with Lily, Trace Remington and young Ben Remington. There is one word that instantly pops into my head while trying to sum up this beautiful story, heart-warming. It was quite simply a soul-stirring read.

Lily left her past behind to start a new life. A life that wouldn't involve criminal Father's, alcoholic Mothers, overbearing reporters, and unsupportive ex's. Definitely not a list of people you'd want around you when trying to hide your true identity.

Lily might be hiding the truth, but she's a good person with a big heart. She shouldn't be held accountable for other peoples transgressions just because they are blood related.

Trace Remington, tasty little, okay big treat of a man who can send Lily's pulse beating double time with just a look. He's a single parent, if that was difficult enough, his son has Asperger's. If you are unsure what this means, it's a developmental disorder characterised by significant difficulties in social interaction and nonverbal communication, along with restricted and repetitive patterns of behaviour and interests.

This story gave incredible insight into the life of someone not only dealing with Asperger's, but also those who get affected by it. Some people can be terribly cruel, it's usually the ones that actually don't understand others that are different. For a Mother who is supposed to nurture her child, to love unconditionally it was emotional for me to comprehend how Ben's mother wasn't a part of his life.

Trace is one in a million. He's the guy we all want our son's to grow up to be. He's the man you want by your side. I'm a little in love with Trace, and Ben. These men now own a piece of my heart.

Lily is completely driven to make a success of her new job. Nobody could ever say she didn't try, but the hidden truths are weighing her down. Everyone knows the truth always comes out. Angel Fire Falls resort needs Lily as much as she needs to be surrounded by all the beautiful Remington family.

I want to hear each of their stories, this was an epic start to a new series. I can't wait to read the next book.

Isha Coleman says

Moving forward is never as easy as looking back. The key is to take the wisdom gained and use it to find what makes you happy. Dare Me Once, can be summed up in one sentence. Don't sweat the small stuff. In a world full of negativity, it's easy to forget to look on the bright side, but it's the memories we make and the people we hold dear that can brighten up the darkest day. Alexander uses a father's love and the innocence of a special child to remind us that the worst moment is just a stepping stone to guide us to our best ones. A sweet story about the power of love and the beauty of hope.

Dianne says

Ahhh, the webs we weave because of the sins of our father, because when the truth comes out, it can be heartbreaking...Scarlett has packed her Gucci bags, created a new identity and taken a job far from the nightmares of her past. Maybe she can rebuild her life on the small island of Angel Fire Falls at a family-run resort getaway. Lily Barns is born, determined, talented, and with a heart of gold.

Trace has a full plate, no time for the frivolities of love or romance. A single dad raising a young son with Asperger's, a hands-on businessman trying to breathe new life into the family resort, there is no time to chase skirts or just have fun.

Shelly Alexander's **DARE ME ONCE** is "that" romance that makes you laugh, want to cry and wish to Cupid that, for once, two people will take a chance on trusting another just enough to be honest about who they are, what makes them tick and what dark secrets hide in their pasts! And maybe they could be a little more accepting, too, hmmm, Trace?!

From page one, I adored Lily! The meeting between her, Trace and some little ducklings was priceless! Watching Lily interact with Trace's young son was so heartwarming. Trace, now here is a man was many moods, many faces and often, a little too much starch in his shorts. He took brooding to a whole new level.

Ms. Alexander spices things up with an attraction that sizzles, turmoil that boils over and ghosts from the past that come back with a vengeance. Fabulous family dynamics abound, but the tsunami of conflict created could sink the Titanic and even Cupid will have his work cut out for him. A quick and fun read that had me hoping that love COULD conquer all!

I received a complimentary ARC edition from Montlake Romance!

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Claire - The Coffeeholc Bookworm says

A chance to rebuild her life after the mishap that had happened to her, that was Scarlett Devereaux's new mission in hopes of a better future. Now called Lily Barns, she found solace in one remote place, wishing for anonymity, safety and solitude. With ducks and wheel cycles, a charming smile and charismatic attitude, Lily's life became so much better.

Especially after meeting and dealing with Trace Remington and his son with special needs, Ben. OMG.. Trace is soooo swoon-worthy! I don't know about you, but the last three books I've read always had me sighing and rooting for the male characters. But this time, I'll stick to Daddy Trace, whose main priority is

his child (who has Asperger's syndrome). Lily was so adorably compassionate with everything, too, most especially to Ben, and I couldn't really find fault about their relationship, if not for the secrets that Lily had buried deep inside her. (Something about her felonious father, drunk mom and ridiculous ex-lovers).

Dare Me Once is a beautiful read, filled with familial love, hope, dedication, acceptance and forgiveness. A beautiful read with many life's lessons, one that include this tip: Never date a man who can't make you moan louder than your masseuse can....O. M. G. I definitely want to meet Yin, Lily's personal masseuse and experience all that wonderful, relaxing and sigh-inducing retreat.

I think this is my first book by Shelly Alexander and I am now a big fan! I need to check out and read her other stories and next books soon!!

Kim Vanravenswaay says

I loved Lily and Trace's story. It sets the scene perfectly for this series. I can't wait for the next book.

KFForever says

kfforever

Reviewed by Anna Green of behalf of KindleFriendsForever

This is the first book in the series featuring a hot pilot and a young woman who is trying to start a new life incognito, a fun contemporary romance that can be read as a standalone.

Trace Remington is a single dad to eight year old Ben who has Asperger's Syndrome. Trace is the eldest of three brothers who all came back to the island to help out their elderly father run their family holiday resort. With an ex wife who didn't want anything to do with a special needs son, he had to make Ben his priority and give up his career as a pilot in LA and also try to rejuvenate the family business. He barely has time for himself let alone get involved with another woman, but when wilful and independent Lily arrives at Angel Fire Falls, everything changes.

Scarlett Devereaux escaped a family scandal and wanted to build a new life as Lily Barns. She arrives in the island to become the new hospitality manager of the Remington Resort; she's good at her job, dedicated and focused, she sets things in motion. After being dumped by her fiancée and going incognito she vowed to steer clear of men, but a very interesting first meeting with Trace set her knickers and heart on fire.

This light-hearted romance is set in a picturesque town with lovable characters, cute animals and a smart and adorable eight year old boy. I liked the author's narrative style: the scenic imagery, humorous situations, entertaining banter and the crackling chemistry between Trace and Lily. Although this story is light-hearted in tone, there is some drama involving the main characters' families. The dialogue between Lily and her parents on the latter part of the book showed a different perspective to the family scandal. I must admit the minor characters made the whole plot more interesting and I am sure Trace's younger brothers Elliot and Spence will have their own stories. Trace and Lily's romance was fun to read, a feel good tale with a lot of heart and soul, you won't be disappointed.

Heather andrews says

I loved a flirty Trace, "he followed her into the bathroom, where she swiped on mascara. He placed a hand on her hip. "Yes, I've seen every inch of you, and I gotta say . . . you've got some prime real estate under that towel." Sometimes Lily has to get a little physical, "he nipped at her bottom lip. "Those shorts are very persuasive." She pinched him. "Ouch." He flinched. She pinched him again. "Ouch." He laughed. "I take it back." I liked this book, I fell in love with Trace.

Kathy Rouchelle says

Her life fell apart quickly and in a harsh way leaving her no choice but to take her profession, change her name and leave her home for a small island resort in the hopes of rebuilding her life, at least until the sins of her father would die down and not effect her anymore. With that, Lily Barnes was born and Scarlett Devereaux was placed in a box and pushed to the back of her mind. The place was remote and with any luck, her past would not find her at Angel Fire Falls.

This is a wonderfully written book with a storyline that will not only grab you and bring you through her journey, but it will also entertain you, make you smile, sigh, and hope with all you have that Trace and Lily will be able to make things work between the two of them. Oh, there are a few bumps in the road for them, but when the secret comes out, will love be enough to hold their love for each other together or will a past that was not her making ruin her life for good?

The characters are well written and so very likeable that you wish you were a part of their lives. The entire family are wonderful and people that you would love to know. Trace is a single father with a little boy who is Autistic, on the higher side of the spectrum, and is just a delightful little boy. Trace is handsome, built and has a wonderful heart. But his heart belongs to his son until he gets to know the enchanting Lily, who has come to work for the resort to help get it back to the way it was years before, to bring the vacationers back. She's smart, inventive and has a way of getting people to do what she needs them to do for her ideas to work. And she manages to get Trace's attention, not only by her looks, but also by the way she deals with his little boy. He has never had someone to treat his son the way she does for being someone that isn't family. Their relationship builds even though they decide not to pursue it because she is his employee and she's been there and done that..it didn't end well. Their rule soon crumbles to the ground as their feelings get the best of them. But you know, things don't always run smoothly in these things and Trace has to deal with his ex-wife who is now wanting to take Ben (his son) from him.

This is a wonderful book, a wonderful love story and one that I highly recommend.

Ruthie Taylor says

~~I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads ~~

This is the first book in a new series, and I think it definitely promises some fun reads ahead. There is an element of world building, but in an organic and relaxed way.

Having worked in hospitality myself I am always interested in how a hotel/resort is used in the furtherance of a romance. Here Shelly Alexander does an excellent job of finding plenty of opportunities and fun events to

weave into the story of Trace and Lily, and very importantly his son Ben. From the very first incognito meeting at the airport, to the mercy dash to the vets, we get a sense of the chemistry between these two characters, and it is delightful seeing how they cannot avoid succumb to the pull. Both of them have issues which make them wary, and concerned for each other's best interests, but luckily the attraction and a dose of honesty help resolve the issues eventually.

Mr Remington senior struck gold when he hired Lily, as she not only restores the resort to its former glory, but brings a new lease of life to his eldest son. Who will come along for his two other sons? I am guessing we will find out in future books!

Ayekah says

Great start to a new series. I really liked the story. Lily is hiding and what better place to escape her checkered past, through no fault of her own, than changing her name and moving to the Pacific Northwest. Moving to an island and using her skills in hotel management, bringing this family resort into this century should be an easy putt for her. Were in not for Trace the oldest of the Remington brothers and single dad to a young boy with Aspergers. Trace meets Lily in the airport although he doesn't realize it until they meet again on the island. He's a pilot and her ride to the island. Though they cross paths and Lily finds her own way, come heavy rainstorm on a three wheel bicycle or high water. Oh and hauling a motherless flock of newborn ducklings. Trace isn't happy about his father hiring someone to help bring the resort up to speed, he isn't happy about Lily or the ducks. Despite the fact that his son takes to her like glue and understands that the ducks are only temporary. Dealing with his lunatic ex wife who now wants custody of their son, for her new TV show, the woman who can't spend an hour with him, Trace is missing out on the simple things. But Lily picks up the slack. Lily keeps her past private, ashamed at what her father has done, while trying to field drunk calls from her mother who is enjoying her own pity party.

There are great characters in the story, starting with the Dad and the brothers along with Trace and his son. Shelly weaves a great story line here and I held my breath in a couple places waiting for things to come crashing down and what the fall out would be. This is a great read and I look forward to the next book!

4.5

arc from NetGalley and publisher for an honest review

Bookgyrl says

I quite enjoyed this book about Lily (real name Scarlett), whose life has taken a turn for the worst after her father is jailed for fraud and her fiance dumps and fires her. She lies on her application at The Remington, a resort on a secluded island, and gets the job as the new Hospitality Manager.

The Remington is owned by the Remington family and Trace is one of the brothers who have returned home to help their father with the resort. He is a pilot, but after his now 8 year old son was diagnosed with Asperger and his wife left, he came back to the island.

When Lily and Trace meet... a romance is in the works. But Lily must still tell Trace about her past and the lie she told to get the job.

I loved the family dynamics and Trace's son (the ducks... awww). The only reason I did not rate higher is because it had nothing quite new for me. Plus I don't really like ex-wife drama (this was kept to a minimum).

The writing is good though and if you love family stories this is for you. It's the first in a series about these hot brothers on the island :-)

I requested and received an ARC via Netgalley and this is my honest and voluntary review.

Susan McClintock says

Scarlett Lily Devereaux's life is coming apart. Her father is in prison for bilking investors out of millions, her mother is in a drunken denial, the press is dogging her and her fiancé fires and dumps her since he only wanted to marry her because of her family's reputation. She decides to reinvent herself as Lily Barnes (her beloved grandmother's name), and take a job as hospitality director at the Remington Angel Fire Island resort. Trace Remington and his brothers have all come home to help their family's ailing resort. Trace is a single father with an eight year old son with Aspergers. This is a great beginning to a new series. The development and pacing of Trace and Lily's romance is realistic. Lily's secrets are always bubbling under the surface threatening the relationship. I cannot wait for the rest of the Remington family's stories. I was provided an ARC by NetGalley for my honest review.

Sandra Shipman ~ Two Book Pushers says

4.5 Hearts.

4.5 Hearts

Dare Me Once is the first book in Shelly's new, Angel Fire Falls series. I loved her last two series' so I just had to have this book. I love being introduced to new characters. It's like finding new friends within the pages.

Lily needed a new start. Away from the drama her life had become. So, she found a job on the other side of the country where nobody would be looking for her. No, she wasn't on the run from the law but she was tired of the people following her around in New Orleans. A small island of the West Coast was going to be her new home. If she could stay under the radar and work for family-run vacation resort that was where she was hoping for a new beginning. What she didn't expect was Trace Remington. His son, Ben.

Trace's top priority has and always will be his son. Just as it should be. He was a single dad to a special needs eight year old who attached quickly, loved fully, and had a difficult time with change. Trace didn't date. He didn't really even go out. He worked for his father's resort as a float-boat pilot and raised his son. That's all he needed. He didn't need complications. He had enough in his past. That was until he saw her. Lily Barnes. He didn't know who she was at first but she drew him in with just one moan. Then he got to see her determined side and he was done. But, he had to stay away. He was her boss. They needed to keep things professional for both of their sakes and Ben's. Who knew if she would stick around for the long haul. He didn't want to hurt anyone. But, what happens when two people can't stay away?

Everything.

Passion. Laughter. Fun. The problem is this though...what will happen when he finds out who she really is?

This was a cute story! I fell for the characters. Lily is one determined, supportive, fun-loving, and strong

woman. Trace is one handsome, strong, and loving father. And Ben, I just loved him. He is freaking adorable, smart, and loving. Together, Lily and Trace made me laugh and swoon. I also loved the relationship between Ben and Lily. Their bond was fantastic and so sweet.

Overall...it was a wonderful start to a new series! The Remington Brothers sure are so kind of special. I can't wait for Elliott and Spence's stories. Yum!

P.S Quack, quack.

Quotes:

It was the kind of face that made a girl look twice. Made a girl sigh all over. Made a girl want to do stupid things . . . like search his body for tattoos, then outline them with her tongue.

"You seem like a decent person." His piercing eyes licked over her face and down her neck. "I don't mean to be rude."

"Oh, but you're so good at it." She lifted her chin.

"You play dirty." His voice was hoarse with desire. She shrugged.

"Maybe, but something tells me you won't mind."

Yvonne says

I am fairly new to this author, and when given the opportunity to read this book, I took it.

While it's the story about the oldest Remington son, Trace and Lily (Scarlett) the new hire, it's really much more than that.

It's a story of how the actions of our parents, affect us. In this case, Lily, a talented hospitality manager has to escapes the sins of her father, and even change her name, in order to get a job as far away from home. Trace and his brothers have left their lucrative professions and come home, each with his own personal reasons. Trace, to give his son Ben , a boy with Asperger's , a better life and one surrounded with love and support.

It's also a story about how love can blossom when you least expect it. How a child like Ben ,is just as precious and wonderful as any child, just different. And aren't we all just different?

You will fall in love with the Remingtons, the cousins and Angel Fire Falls. At times you will laugh out loud, at others cry and even want to get into the pages of the story to give them a hug.

Kudos to the author for writing that even though at times is heartbreaking, it's also heartwarming. Can't wait to see what else she has in store in her next book.

I was entrusted this copy by Netgalley. The opinions expressed are solely my own.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

4.5 stars

Dare Me Once is the first of a series by Shelly Alexander. The author is new to me but I enjoyed her at writing style and loved her take on this single dad romance. She was able to bring reality and romance to the tiny little town. I'm excited to see what else she has in store for the Remington men.

Trace and his brothers have returned home, one by one, to lick their wounds and start anew. They have slowly been take over the family resort from their dad but they all realize that they need a little help. I liked the dynamic between the brothers, their father and especially Trace's son. The strong family bond that was created between the characters made it hard to set the book down.

Lily was a breath of fresh air. I loved the different sides of her. She was smart, funny, caring and determined to make her new job a success. I found myself wondering what she was going to do to make a difference and become successful in her new roll. I loved her transformation from her Jimmy Choo's to the hiking boots.

Trace and Lily had immediate chemistry. The moments they shared while parenting and also behind closed doors were realistic and made the book more enjoyable.
