



## Alex

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**Alex** Angela Verdenius

On leave from the Australian Army, Alex Lawson has arrived in the little country town seeking answers from generously-curved Harly Bentley. She's kept a secret from him for years, but he's here now, he's furious, and nothing is going to stop him from getting the truth.

But will the results be what he expected?

## Alex Details

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## From Reader Review Alex for online ebook

### Amy says

#### 3 Take it or Leave it Stars!

Why, oh why am I such a sucker for a good set of abs? It's like as soon as I see some smoking hot abs on the cover of a book all rational thought leaves my mind and I am suddenly tripping over my own tongue in an effort to pound the buy it now button on Amazon without a moments thought or consideration for what the book is actually about. Now, sometimes this method works in my favour. I head into a book "ab blind" and enjoy the ride it takes me on, but sometimes, like in this case I find myself struggling with a book I just can't connect with and berating myself for my temporary insanity.

I feel it important to state that whilst I did not love this book, I certainly did NOT hate it. In fact there were elements of the story I really enjoyed. I love it when writers create "real" characters that are relatable and believable. I liked the fact that Harly wasn't a size 2 and struggled with the insecurities that plague most women when it comes to body image. I also loved the fact that the things Harly felt insecure about Alex loved and cherished.

That being said, I feel that too much emphasis was continually being put on her figure. I think it is safe to say we all understood she was a plus size girl after the first, I don't know, hundred references to it. Yes, her figure was a part of who she was but she also had other fantastic attributes and I feel the constant referrals to her size made it my only focus when it came to her and that sort of frustrated me.

My other main qualm with this book was the language. As a loud and proud Australian, I get very excited to read books set in Australia, even more so when they are set in small towns. But honestly the overuse of Australian slang had me rolling my eyes, I'm surprised Alex wasn't referring to Harly as his sheila! We don't talk like that and I think overworking the slang in actually detracted from the story slightly.

Its not that I didn't like the book, its just that the story was very hard to get invested in. I had trouble connecting with the characters and I don't know if this was just me, but the story didn't flow smoothly for me.

The characters were likable enough and the story was okay but this wasn't a stand out read for me. I may read Marty's story at some point in the future, but for now I am shelving this series, it just didn't quite hit the spot for me, unfortunately.

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### Vampress Bathory says

"You're not a big woman, Harly. You're not a little woman, you're not a skinny woman, you're not a fat woman, or petite, or any other word we've all heard to describe a person. They're just labels. You are a woman." Okay, mr. Alex I think you just stole my heart !!!! So, yeah I read this a long time ago but never actually had the time to put it on my 'read' shelf here on greads, but today I just came across my memorable quotes notebook and I had this quote right under self-esteem. And I told myself hey you have to rate this on greads because it's just a perfect way of thinking, you're not just a bunch of labels, you're you and you're unique and perfect just the way you are!

I'm not going to tell you about the plot or the characters, because there are plenty of very good reviews who

tell you that, I'm just telling that you have to read this!!!

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### **Marianne says**

Some weak/repetitive spots but a likable couple and a good "showdown" between the hero and the heroine's parents.

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### **Melissa says**

In Ms. Verdenius' book *Big Girl Lovin': Vet's Delight* we met Cindy Lawson's two brothers, Alex the career Army man, and Marty the playboy. Both managed to find a place in my heart as they help tend to Al, her newborn kitten she was adopting. I am pleased that they found a place in her heart also and that each gets their own book with their very own big girl heroines.

Alex was first. He comes home on leave, hurting from the death of buddy of his who never knew his wife had just given birth to their first and now only, child. Just before the tragedy Alex had gotten a letter from home, two years old, from the grandmother of a girl he slept with once sixteen years ago. The letter had implied that Harly had gotten pregnant and then aborted the baby, without ever telling him. He was back in Whicha to see her and get her to confess.

Harly sees Alex for the first time in sixteen years and deep down she knows he knows about the baby, but she keeps a straight face and figures she just imaging things because she told no one and she knows her parents told no one. But when confronted, she admits that she lost the baby, and no she did not tell him because he was getting ready to enter the army and she didn't want to mess that up for him.

This book was full of emotional high and lows, it was a thrilling ride. I was sucked in from the beginning and couldn't put it down. I loved both these characters, no so much her parents, who seemed to treat her like a child still, but all the rest of the characters in the books were great. Ms. Verdenius has created a small town that would fit in any country peopled with characters that you would meet anywhere, nosy, gossipy, filled with friendship and caring. All were pulling for these two to get together, even if Harly couldn't see it. As an independent woman, Harly didn't need a man in her life, but she had always loved Alex in one way or another since they were teenagers. As a matter of fact her very independence was one of the things that drew Alex to her; she would need that as long as he was active in the army.

I give this book a five star review without any hesitation and wait on pins and needles for Marty's story. This story was great, another triumph for Ms. Verdenius without a doubt. Thank you for sharing your worlds with us.

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### **Rachel says**

The hero of Alex is now at the top of my list of favorite leading men in books.

Alex has learned secret about his past and the only person that has those answers is Harly, this secret comes at a time where he's battling loss this leads him back to the small town he used to visit in the summers 16 years ago.

Once he comes home he finds Harly is now a woman, a woman who is content to live her life alone and is avoiding Alex at all costs... will he be able to get her open up?

Alex was a military man on leave, he comes home to see his best childhood friend Paul, he's a man with heart, humor, and compassion.

Harly is content to live her life alone, but not really, inside she's still the shy girl that Alex knew all those years ago. She has chosen to live alone in fear of being rejected and battles her own self doubts when romance appears on the horizon.

I enjoyed this story, because it felt real, as if this could very well happen in real life and the heat that generated off the pages when the hero and heroine came together was papable.

Wonderful read, Angela you've done it again!

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### **Anna D. says**

Alex is the perfect guy. If women were allowed to create the man of their dreams, I think it would be Alex Lawson. Which means have a great hero and we also have a very likeable heroine. Harly is the kind hearted next door neighbor type who you would want to be your best friend for life. I really like all the characters in this book and everything that happened, but for some reason I wasn't satisfied..I WANTED MORE ..there was something missing...

It just seemed like the story needed a conflict that wasn't incited and resolved within a short conversation or in one quick breath. Because that's what it felt like to me with how they addressed the (view spoiler) issue when they were teens and Alex's problem with how Harly's parents treated her. These conflicts were too mild to be the main event – so to speak- and because our H/h are such nice people, they didn't let the heartache stretch long enough for my emotions to be tugged and for these two, I wanted my emotions to be tugged, to strongly feel for them for other reasons than what was brought up. I wanted to read about a conflict that was more intense like maybe Harly's insecurities, fear of abandonment – again, or for Alex to have doubts from any number of sources (his friend's death, being lied to, commitment issues since he's going back to serve in the army) – whatever! As long as it illicited a deeper more passionate response from the H/h. I think I really just wanted a little more angst before everything turned sweet and gushy with declarations of their undying love to each other. All said and done, I felt like we were sort of served the HEA too early.

I just want to reiterate though that I thoroughly enjoyed this book and I'm in love with Alex. The fact that I wasn't satisfied is really meant to be a complimentary comment more than anything because it means I loved the characters so much that I wanted to read more about them.

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### **CandyCorn says**

It was sweet, an ok read. This is my second book from Angela Verdenius. I also read Doctor's Delight. These are both rated the same, but I did like the other better. Doctor's Delight was a more fun read and this one seemed to be a more realistic one.

Her books seem very similar and a little repetitive, but I think I will still read the next book in this series.

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## **L says**

Liked Alex, Harley was ok, the story was fairly weak plotwise, but the interactions and dialogue was cute. Quick read, found myself skimming it a bit, but I do enjoy the 'plus size' heroine aspect - and Alex was hot!

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## **Jollychick says**

That does it!!

I'm irrevocably in love with Alex. The hot military guy who loves women on the fluffier side of life and has a great sense of humor, what's not to love?

Favorite scene:

**Alex** - "See, when I say strip, you strip. When I say come here, you come. When I say kiss me, you kiss me. When I say you're walking around in my presence in nothing but silk stockings and a garter belt and a red satin bra, you will do so."

**Harly** - "Not happening."

**Alex** - "Insubordination will not be tolerated."

**Harly** - "I'll tell my mother."

**Alex** - "I'm not scared of her."

**Harly** - "All right. I'll tell your mother."

**Alex** - "Okay, some insubordination will be tolerated."

**Harly** - "I thought so."

**Alex** - "And when I say get the bondage gear-" She guffawed right in his face.

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## **Janey says**

Oh I loved Harly and Alex what a wonderful couple, Alex so proud and honourable, Harly content in her small but valuable life. Alex sweeps back in after 16 years away totally knocks Harly off her feet and totally messes with her orderly life, secrets revealed, truths told and hearts mended, what I enjoyed about this story was the pace, it wasn't rushed, it took it's time so you got in involved with the characters and how they were feeling, I really felt for Harly and her mixed feelings for Alex in the beginning but she was brave and took a chance at something wonderful. I thought Paul and Becky were a funny couple and added some humour to the story, but my favourite part was the last chapter, go Alex!, you had to say your piece you did good. Marty's book next, yay!

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## **Raquel says**

Que livro lindo, gostei bastante. Bem água com açúcar.

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## Georgina Parkin says

As an Australian from a small town a few things left me a little confused, like some things they said (a lot of colloquialisms and stuff sounded a bit too old for the age group since they're early 30s) and I'm fairly sure the uniforms for her work aren't a thing, all hospitality workers are meant to wear full length pants not diner dresses? That sounds super nitpicky but it made it feel unrealistic to me.

There was also no real drama. There was drama from the past that lasted the tiniest bit then a confrontation with the parents near the end but I truly expected him to have to go back unexpectedly or something and her be pregnant again. I'm all for drama, I think it's a bit pointless reading something that's not a little dramatic and the 'drama' elements of this book just fell super flat. I found it slow and it didn't really interest me. Alex also came across like a controlling dick sometimes just because of how he spoke.

Also, how is unlocking someone's house for you romantic? It's not. It's weird if anything. Opening a door, sure, but not demanding the keys so they can open it...

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## Suzanne (Under the Covers Book blog) says

I am being lazy (again!) with *The Lawson Boys* you're going to get a two for one experience; one review, two books! In my defense it isn't *just* sheer laziness that motivates me, but also to stop from repeating myself, both the books in this series, *Alex* and *Marty* are very similar and what I think about one, very much applies to the other.

As I wade my way through Ms Verdenius's books I am finding this to be a regular occurrence, her books are very similar in character and tone. I know exactly what I am going to find when I open one of her books up; A very sexy hero and a BBW heroine who needs his lovin' and convincing that he doesn't mind a few extra lumps and bumps on her body. This all comes together to give you a sweet and sexy romance between two very likable characters.

If you have read some of Ms Verdenius's other books you will also recognise the Marty and Alex, this is another aspect of her books I enjoy most of the people in it have also popped up in her other series or standalones so they are familiar and you know a lot of the secondary characters. But, despite this, these books are repetitious and it can be a bit boring when you know exactly what is going to happen, especially when the vocabulary is almost exactly the same, we definitely have some word favoritism going on here.

But, this is a sexy and fun little series and I enjoyed mind oogling Alex and Marty, especially Marty, I can't resist a man with a nipple piercing!

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## Sarah says

Really loved this romance. Alex Lawson, Australian army soldier, returns home on leave with one thing in mind, but when he is to go back his life has new meaning & purpose.

Harly Bentley is a pretty girl from his past, who has a heart of gold & a capacity to forgive with her whole

heart. Harly has been through so much in her life. She has a secret that she believes is well kept & doesn't want anyone to know about. Whats done was done, the past is the past & she has come to terms with it long ago.

Alex has only just recently discovered this secret, so all of his feelings are fresh. We got to know Alex Lawson, brother to Cindy in the 'Big Girls Lovin', series. I love the concept of these books. All can be read as stand alone, but are really a treat to read as a series. The author has done well with these plus size love stories. They show us that there is love in the world for whomever & whatever size you are.

Full of emotion, drama, secrets, passion, romance, loss, heartache, love, humour, history & a wonderful future. They deal with so much in this story, any loss & grief is hard to deal with. This story touched me. Both Alex & Harly have been through so much when they were younger. But now 16 years later, they come through after all the doubts & secrets & pain.

It's quite a story to realise what someone has been through vertually alone. Then that person helps another through it knowing why & how fresh it is as they have only just found out. Harly is quite the living angel & when Alex realises this, a beautiful romance blossoms again. It was always there they both just took time to see it. Takes Harly a bit longer than Alex, but we get there in the end.

Lovely story.

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

I read the second book in this series first, and it was better than this one. The writing was all over the place, and it doesn't seem to have been properly edited - there weren't a lot of mistakes, but the mistakes that were there were quite glaring.

Full review to come soon, both here and at (un)Conventional Bookviews.

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