



Hidden Ink

Carrie Ann Ryan

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The Montgomery Ink series continues with the long-awaited romance between the café owner next door and the tattoo artist who's loved her from afar.

Hailey Monroe knows the world isn't always fair, but she's picked herself up from the ashes once before and if she needs to, she'll do it again. It's been years since she first spotted the tattoo artist with a scowl that made her heart skip a beat, but now she's finally gained the courage to approach him. Only it won't be about what their future could bring, but how to finish healing the scars from her past.

Sloane Gordon lived through the worst kinds of hell yet the temptation next door sends him to another level. He's kept his distance because he knows what kind of man he is versus what kind of man Hailey needs. When she comes to him with a proposition that sends his mind whirling and his soul shattering, he'll do everything in his power to protect the woman he cares for and the secrets he's been forced to keep.

Hidden Ink Details

Date : Published January 12th 2016 by Evil Eye Concepts, Incorporated

ISBN :

Author : Carrie Ann Ryan

Format : ebook 124 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance

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From Reader Review Hidden Ink for online ebook

She Hearts Books says

When an author shares her heart about how much a story impacted her as she put words on a page, you can't help but fall in love with the people she brings to life. Hailey and Sloane were so easy to fall head over heart for in their story. I loved that they were broken and scarred, but still stepped out to open their hearts to each other. They had been dancing around each other for way too long and they both needed to come into the light. Together. My heart broke for each as they shared their past with each other and even more so when Hailey gathered with her friends and they surrounded her with such love. This is a story about healing in the most beautiful of ways and I loved every bit of it.

I give Hidden Ink 5 hearts!

booklover4life says

3.5 Stars!

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review!

This was a short novella in the Montgomery Ink Series! I was able to read it in just a few hours, so if you are looking for a quick afternoon read then this would work well.

I was proud of the author for addressing such difficult topics in her book. This isn't just a love story with some sex, it's about coming to terms with your past and being comfortable in your own skin. It's about realizing your own worth, and the affect you have on other people without even knowing. It's about taking the time to get to know someone deep down, and accepting their "scars" as a part of who they are, rather than dismissing or judging them for it.

I liked that the main characters were deeply "flawed" either physically and/or emotionally, because it really added another level of complexity to the characters. It made them more realistic and intriguing to read about. I especially loved that by finding someone they could truly be themselves with inspired confidence in them. That it allowed for them to come to terms with things from their pasts and to move forward in a positive light.

I thought overall that this was a solid story. The deeper lying issues were more what fascinated me than the love story in general, but I think that many people will enjoy this addition to the series.

Dar says

The story premise wasn't a new one, one party staying away from the other because they feel they aren't good enough or worthy. The reasons for thinking this weren't even a novel concept, so why was this book so good? The characters and the writing, oh, they were awesome!!!

Hailey is torn between who she is, who she was and how to be more than the sum of her past. She has been living in the present, so she hasn't shared her past, even with her closest friends, and it bothers her. Then

there is Sloan, who she has got to know, and is madly in love with, but he doesn't seem to reciprocate her feelings. There is a spark there, and she can't move past him

As if the dance around each other never happened, Sloan abruptly asks her out. They begin a relationship, in which she shares all parts of herself, but he still holds back. She senses when he starts to pull away, but is still shocked when and how it happens. Not to be cast aside, she takes on her man to make him see he isn't the only one with choices here, and she wants what she wants

There are a lot of big topics dealt with here, and deep emotions that go with them, but, the story isn't soaked in a dark cloud. It pulls the characters into the today's while not forgetting their yesterday's and the importance of making it to today

Another solid story and wonderful characters getting their HEA in the Montgomery Ink family!

Eve Recinella (Between The Bookends) says

This was an Ok read for me.

Hailey is a breast cancer survivor, and Sloane is ex military with PTSD. I liked Hailey, she was a strong character and didn't let her past cancer bring her down. Sloane I didn't like as much, he spent the vast majority of the book being "woe is me", and "I am not good enough for her" The push/pull angst was a bit much, and lasted a bit to long for me considering this was just a novella.

Overall though it was an OK read.

Kami Dodson-Perry says

Hailey & Sloane

Hailey owns Taboo the cafe next to Montgomery Ink. Hailey loves to bake and has the best coffee around. She is always taking tasty treats over to Montgomery Ink. The Montgomery family is a tight family but if you are friends of them then you are family too. Hailey falls into that category.

Sloane is a tattoo artist at Montgomery Ink. He works for Maya & Austin Montgomery but Sloane is family as far as they are concerned. Sloane has a secret past that no one asks about. They assume he has been to war and may have PTSD. They would be right but the depth of that PTSD and self loathing goes very deep.

Hailey has a secret past of her own. She has chosen not to share the information with anyone because it was such a long time ago. She was 20 when the news of a medical condition changed her life. She does not want her friends to see her differently. But Hailey is different now and will be forever changed.

Sloane and Hailey have been dancing around each other for over a year. They are friends but know that they have a chemistry that goes beyond friendship. Both are scared to cross that line into the romantic area due to their secrets. Hailey is willing to cross the line but knows that Sloane won't make the move.

When Sloane feels like Hailey might be interested in another guy and given up her desire for him, he kicks it up a notch and shocks Hailey by asking her out.

Sloane's guilt of his past and the war he was part of keeps telling him that he is not good enough for Hailey and Hailey has to reveal the one secret she knows she will not be able to hide from Sloane.

With their friends and family the couple might manage to make it through the tough times of their rocky pasts to have a future together.

Rating: 3 1/2 Stars

Darcy says

I loved this one, but found myself reading through tears for most of it. I've loved the bit we've gotten to see with Hailey so far in the series, but this...this makes me love her even more. I loved that Sloan finally stepped up to the plate, that he didn't run when he learned Hailey's secret, but wanted to bash him over the head when he did run later. It was a good thing Hailey didn't let him. If I had one complaint it was that we didn't get to see what the tattoo looked like, I would have really loved that!

Mandy says

I absolutely adored this book. It went straight to my heart and I loved every single minute of it. Even though I am new to this series and am jumping in the middle of the overarching story line, I did not feel like I was lost one little bit. Carrie Ann Ryan was more than able to portray the strong emotions of longing and unrequited love between Sloane and Hailey.

Hidden Ink is the story of two physical and emotionally scared souls who meet and find they are kindred spirits. Sloane is a former military man who has made it back from the war with a tired, battered, and weary soul. He also has a major case of PTSD with soul screaming nightmares. He's been working as a full time artist at Montgomery Ink which seems to be helping to heal him and integrate him back into society. Hailey owns and runs the bakery Taboo next door to Montgomery Ink and has become apart of their family since the two buildings are connected by a single door. From the first moment that Sloane and Hailey laid eyes on each other, they have had an intense connection and amazing chemistry. But Sloane has refused to make a move because he doesn't think that he is good enough for her. He believes that he will taint her good with his "bad soul". Little does he know that Hailey has deep and dark secrets of her own.

"And until he could know for sure that the darkness within him wouldn't touch Hailey, he had to hold himself back. He'd known he was playing with fire by waiting, by watching for years and never doing more. But she'd held back, too. She'd know it wasn't the right time yet."

I was brought to tears when Hailey's secret was revealed. This book deals with tough, relatable, and real life situations and I think they were handled perfectly. Carrie Ann Ryan's writing is lyrical, profound, and just hits you right in the gut. I loved how strong each of her characters ended up being, even when they didn't feel strong themselves. I loved that they kept persevering and had hope for the future. I will easily be adding the rest of the Montgomery Ink series to my TBR.

For more reviews please visit: <https://bookspieandcoffee.wordpress.com/>

Sabrina says

Now LIVE!!!

*Amazon US*Amazon UK*

Hailey and Sloane have been circling each other for far too long. Hailey finally decides that it's time to stop pining after the quiet tattoo artist and move on with her life. She's been through too much to not live life to the fullest. But when Sloane realizes that he's too close to losing Hailey before he ever had her, he gives up on the silent treatment and claims what's his.

I loved these characters and I was happy that I finally got to see them get their HEA. Neither Hailey nor Sloane had a happy past and they both are still suffering the aftermath of what they went through. I loved seeing them together and helping one another with their issues and insecurities.

Overall, this was a very enjoyable novella. Most of the story focused on the two MC's but we did get to see some of the other characters from this story and I liked catching up with them. If you haven't read this series yet, you really need to meet these characters!

ARC kindly provided by InkSlinger PR in exchange for an honest review.

MaggieReadsRom says

4,5 stars

Please note: Contrary to my usual reviews I couldn't keep this write-up entirely spoiler-free. So beware if, like me, you don't want to read spoilers for a book you haven't read yet.

This book! It alternated between giving me a tight knotty feeling in the vicinity of my heart (lump-in-throat emotional? Check!) and causing shivers of heat (hot and sexy? Check!).

Both Hailey and Sloan have fought battles and are still fighting them and are scarred, each one's reason/cause for that is different but deep down they are in the same kind of boat and that really shone through in this heart-wrenching love story.

Carrie Ann Ryan definitely didn't pull any punches in this emotionally heavy novella. Breast cancer, PTSD and survivor guilt are not topics you immediately expect to find in a romance novella but realistically they are topics that are part of life and I personally think Ryan handled this perfectly and admire her for having the courage to create the two main characters of this novella. I can imagine not all readers will agree with me on this but I don't care because to me it was a beautiful, emotional and realistic story. One of the most realistic ones I've read in a while.

My heart ached for the characters in this story. And it is be one that will stay with me for a while.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Slick's review posted at Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

4.5 stars

I'll admit I've been waiting for this book because it has been evident from the get-go that there was something between tattoo artist, Sloane Gordon and bakery owner, Hailey Monroe. It was also evident that they both were hiding something and secrets they didn't want to or weren't ready to share. For a novella, Hidden Ink packed an emotional punch as these two friends became the lovers they've wanted to be and found that sharing their secrets let them open their hearts to one another.

Friends to lovers has always been one of my favorite romance troupes so this book made me happy from the start. I enjoyed getting to know both Sloane and Hailey better and watch as they shed their emotional baggage and opened up to each other. I really don't know if either of them would have ever been able to do it with someone else, their long time friendship and the fact that they were already comfortable with one another and could read each other gave them the tools necessary to handle their situations perfectly. One thing that was for certain the years of want and playful foreplay lead to some intense and scorching sexy times.

Hidden Ink is a fantastic addition in author Carrie Ann Ryan's Montgomery Ink series and one her fans will most definitely not want to miss.

Review copy provided for an honest review.

Jennifer Lyon says

Loved Hailey and Sloane. Hailey's struggles as a survivor really touched my heart.

Kathleen R. says

Title: Hidden Ink

Author: Carrie Ann Ryan

Series: 1001 Dark Nights

Publisher: Evil Eye Concepts, Incorporated

Release Date: January 12th, 2016

Genre(s): Romance

Page Count: 124 pages

Heat Level: # 5 flames out of 5

Rating: # 5 stars out of 5

Blurb:

The Montgomery Ink series continues with the long-awaited romance between the café owner next door and the tattoo artist who's loved her from afar.

Hailey Monroe knows the world isn't always fair, but she's picked herself up from the ashes once before and if she needs to, she'll do it again. It's been years since she first spotted the tattoo artist with a scowl that made her heart skip a beat, but now she's finally gained the courage to approach him. Only it won't be about what their future could bring, but how to finish healing the scars from her past.

Sloane Gordon lived through the worst kinds of hell yet the temptation next door sends him to another level. He's kept his distance because he knows what kind of man he is versus what kind of man Hailey needs. When she comes to him with a proposition that sends his mind whirling and his soul shattering, he'll do everything in his power to protect the woman he cares for and the secrets he's been forced to keep.

I absolutely love the 1001 Dark Night series [anyone who has seen some of my reviews knows this; I've done my best to read the entire set from start to finish, and I've been hooked from the very first novel I read] and Carrie Ann Ryan's *Hidden Ink* was an excellent addition. Considering that the series encompasses a wide variety of genres including paranormal, erotica and contemporary romance, I was excited to find out that our alpha male, Sloane, and our alpha woman [because she is strong and powerful], Hailey, were 'human' - a tattoo shop owner who must deal with the repercussions of his past in the form of PTSD, and a woman who survived the worst of hells and lives with the physical and emotional scars - they were relatable, passionate and characters that I could easily forget they were fictional. Taking *Hidden Ink* out of the 1001 Dark Night series context, this is the second novel that I've read written by Carrie Ann Ryan, and as the first novel, I couldn't put it down. For a novella sized story, *Hidden Ink* is anything but: it's jammed pack with enough action, drama, emotion and sexual chemistry that any reader would believe they were reading a full length novel. This is one author that knows how to write her tattoo alpha men in such a decadent way that we can't resist their story! It's a highly recommended read from not only the 1001 Dark Nights series, but also from Carrie Ann Ryan's *Montgomery Ink* series!

Find this book on Goodreads

ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review. Reviewed by Kathleen from Alpha Book Club

Nissa | Of Pens and Pages Book Blog says

3 stars!

Full Review for 1001 Dark Nights: Bundle Nine at Of Pens and Pages.

Hidden Ink is a novella in the *Montgomery Ink* series, and although I haven't read that one yet, I was able to follow along. The *Montgomery* crew and their SOs were reintroduced, but the focus of this story is about Hailey, the owner of the cafe beside the *Montgomery's* tattoo parlor, and Sloane, one of the tattoo artists. The two have been circling around each other for a while but haven't made that jump to be together for their

own reasons. Hailey hasn't told anyone she was a breast cancer survivor and that it left many scars on her body, and Sloane hasn't talked about his life before. I admire Hailey for her strength and generally positive outlook, but there were more "I don't deserve her" Sloane monologues more than anything, and it was a bit much.

**Read as part of the 1001 Dark Nights: Bundle Nine anthology*

**ARC received in exchanged for an honest review.*

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Rochelle says

I received this ARC from the author in exchange for a honest review

HIDDEN INK by Carrie Ann Ryan

Hailey Monroe has come along way since she was ill. She owns a small cafe and has a great group of friends. It's been a few years since she first saw the tattoo artist that makes her heart jump. They've been circling each other for years and with a little interference from a third party, she approaches him. Not expecting what happens.

Sloane Gordan has lived through the worst kind of hell and made it. But living with PTSD is not always living but a nightmare. His watched Hailey from afar for years and they are friends. He can't have a relationship with her, his not good enough. His kept his distance, until she confronts him.

But with their pasts haunting them and the love they share, can they get past it and heal each other.

This was an intense and emotional story. The storyline was quiet captivating and touched on some ongoing complex issues, which made me tear up on more than one occasion. I loved Sloane and Hailey, your heart just went out to them. It also shows us that sometimes the love and strength of those closest to us can help pull us out of that downward spiral. What a great book. Very enjoyable. Looking forward to the next book in this series!

Natalie The Biblioholic says

Hailey and Sloane's happily ever after was hard won. Shoot the battle had started before they'd even me.

They both carried those battle scars and the weight wasn't only physical. Friends for years, they had circled around each other and fought against their inevitability. Finally giving in to their feelings, they had to put their ghosts to rest, accept their flaws, and learn to count on each other for love, support and acceptance. The characters were endearing, their stories were heartbreaking, and their beginning was beautiful.

Release Date: January 12, 2016

Genre: Contemporary Romance

POV: Dual - 3rd person

Steam: 3 out of 5

Book Type: Standalone novella

**Read as part of the 1001 Dark Nights: Bundle Nine anthology*
