



Halfway Hidden

Carrie Elks

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Halfway Hidden

Carrie Elks

Halfway Hidden Carrie Elks

When fear mixes with desire, who can you trust?

Rachel Stone is stuck, contemplating that very question. Spending her time as a bartender in an isolated West Virginia town, she hides behind dark hair and an assumed name. She exists from day to day, trying not to let her past overwhelm her.

When a tall stranger walks into the bar at closing time, her attempts at hiding turn to dust. Muscled and intense, he is attractive enough for Rachel to ignore her instincts and listen to her baser desires. As a storm brews in the skies of West Virginia, confusion builds in Rachel's mind. What begins as flirtation explodes into a darker, more primal passion, leading her to question everything she thought she knew.

While snow blankets the outside world, they are forced to remain inside, confronting their demons and the sizzling attraction between them. Submitting to their urges is easy; learning who to trust is anything but.

This 30,000 word novella contains references to past abuse and rough, consensual sex.

Halfway Hidden Details

Date : Published November 11th 2013 by Mayhem Publishing After Dark

ISBN :

Author : Carrie Elks

Format : Kindle Edition 79 pages

Genre : Romance, New Adult, Adult Fiction, Erotica

 [Download Halfway Hidden ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Halfway Hidden ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Halfway Hidden Carrie Elks

From Reader Review Halfway Hidden for online ebook

Desiree Gorman - A Love Affair With Books says

“Halfway Hidden” by Carrie Elks is the exact reason I try to get a few novellas on my iPad at all times. Serving as a perfect filler between heavy novels, these short stories have a way of capturing your attention with their drama, action, romance and suspense.

In “Halfway Hidden” we meet Rachel Stone, a bartender at a local dive in the backwoods of West Virginia. Based upon her inner monologue, you know she isn’t from around there and is using the place as a starting over from something pretty tragic in her life. She keeps to herself, not encouraging or allowing herself to hope in the advances of any of the local guys that have shown interest.

To read the rest of my review, please visit the blog at [A Love Affair With Books](#).

Brandee (un)Conventional Bookworms says

This is the first installment in Ms. Elks' Halfway Hidden series and it was a good introduction to the characters, the world they inhabit, and Ms. Elks' writing.

Rachel is a young woman hiding a few secrets. She's been living in West Virginia now for about a year. She has a job and people who care for her. She's almost feeling safe. So when a handsome stranger begins frequenting the bar - and flirting with her - she thinks maybe life might be looking up. Murphy, the handsome stranger, is an enigma. He seems willing to flirt and share a little about himself but he's keeping secrets himself. These two have a connection. And it seems more than just physical. But when his true reason for being in town is revealed, it felt like a sucker punch.

Halfway Hidden is well-written and evenly paced. I liked the way in which Ms. Elks laid out Rachel's story for us. Rachel is a strong young woman. She's experienced horrible trauma, but she's a survivor. I really enjoyed the interactions between Rachel and Murphy. Once Murphy learns of Rachel's ordeal, his protective instincts kicked in. I liked that Ms. Elks made us aware of some of his backstory so that his actions were more genuine. And the sex scenes - well, let's just say Rachel and Murphy were definitely keeping one another warm during that snow storm! They both seemed to enjoy a little kink but it's relatively mild. The sexual chemistry between them though, was not! Although there was some suspense in figuring out Murphy's motives, the suspense is really just building towards the end of the book. I'm anxious to see what comes next for Rachel and Murphy.

Ms. Elks has written a compelling beginning to a series. I was drawn into Rachel's story - wanted to know more. The ending isn't a cliffhanger - but it did its job. It left me wanting to know where Rachel and Murphy will go from here.

**I received an eARC of the book, from the author, in exchange for an honest review.

†† ?aisy ♥ †† says

Carrie Elks, congratulations hunnie on your first book!!!

Am so excited for her!! <3 <3

Halfway Hidden is very interesting, delicious story. Thumbs up to Carrie, it is really well- written.

Rachel works in the bar and enjoys her quiet life. One day, a hot hunk in the name of Murphy shows by the bar.

What Rachel doesn't know is Murphy comes in the form of her past that she wants to hide!!!! With the attraction that is going, what is gonna do?

Those two are really steamy!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

And hello Carrie, you definitely make me screaming now..... I need more!!!!!!!!!!

ARC provided by author

Christina Lyn says

I've read this as soon as I can. I supposed to read this next month for my Christmas break but then again I couldn't wait.

I enjoyed reading this today and what a total cliff hanger. Hate what happen to her and thankful that Murphy found her and in way he make her feel safe till the end of the story. So now I can't wait to know if Lucy will do the honor of killing her husband? Definitely looking forward to it.

Erron says

Review to follow

Amber Johnson says

I don't think it's a secret that I'm a fan of the erotica. I've been reading it since I was, like, nine. My great grandmother had every Harlequin known to man down in her basement and I'd steal... I mean 'borrow' ... them for a bit and then sneak them back before I got caught.

Though I am a fan of the genre, what I like most is an erotic story that actually has plot. There are real

reasons for their actions and desires, not just: hey the pizza delivery guy is hot, I'm gonna let him bend me over instead of giving him a tip. Heh.

Halfway Hidden gave me everything I was looking for in an erotic short. The characters are crafted in a way that I understood their motives. What I loved most about them is that even though they reacted in confusing ways to some things, the author made sure to let us know that the characters were confused too.

Now onto the plot:

Deep in West Virginia, where coal mining is a way of life, Rachel works inconspicuously behind a bar in the middle of nowhere. We know right off the bat that she is hiding from something – or someone. She's careful and guarded and thankful for every little thing that she has. She tries to fly under the radar with the men in the town, and she fights her demons in silence...Until a stranger arrives in town and she's instantly drawn to him. Maybe it's because he sounds like he's from Boston, just like her. Or maybe it's the fact that he can't stop staring at her, and for the first time in a long time, she likes it. Or maybe it's the mysterious scar on his face.

She opens up and begins to learn about Murphy, the man that holds her attention so much. And after a snow storm hits the little town, she finds herself inviting him to stay the night, under the guise that she's just being friendly.

But Murphy is not who he seems, and though I was suspicious of his intent, the reveal was done so well that I actually said, "well shit."

I won't give the rest of the story away because it is necessary to read it to understand the impact of what drives these two. I have always been fascinated by people's sexual desires and what drives them, and Carrie Elks delves into the psyche of these characters and their base needs for the kink they crave. It's just part of their DNA. It's not exactly something that they stumbled upon. And since I am fascinated by the psychological ramifications of kink-gone-wrong and then righted, this was right up my alley.

Carrie has a lovely way of writing and certain turns of phrase made me take a deep breath and sigh. She's incredibly descriptive and it lends to making this novella so much more than just a story about sexual desire. Some of my favorite lines were:

Every scar told a story; life had taught her that. If she traced it with her fingers, she wondered if she'd be able to read him like a blind man reading braille, the raised skin telling secrets his lips never could. When he tried to sleep at night, did his scar burn as much as hers?

And

When he came in later that night, the snow had really started to fall and was settling on the ground in an explosion of white. He walked through the door, brushing off the pale dusting that lay in his hair, his movement fanning snow over the dark wood of the floor.

Or

A cold wind blew in from the door as people left, white flakes flurrying and dancing in the halo of the outside lamp.

If you're looking for an excellent read in this genre, then I recommend Halfway Hidden.

Meire says

I really enjoyed reading this book and can't wait for the next installment! Carrie Elks writing captured my attention and I was intrigued by the characters on this novel. What is going to happen next to them? The story is fascinating when you know that there are so many woman just like Rachel trying to live a new life and leaving behind a dark past. And the sex was hot! I can see why she gets so immediately attracted by the dominating Murphy. Also the exploration of a D/s relationship was really written on a totally new way. They are not freaks and let their desire for each other flow. I just hope to see book 2 soon. Great debut and start!

Kelly says

Well done Carrie, I loved this and can't wait to get my hands on the second installment of this series.....I found this to be an easy and quick read, I loved the characters, I really felt Lucy/Rachel's fear and felt badly for her. Murphy is hot and the few sexcapades we read about are damn right HOT!!!!

A??ela W. says

This book was good. Rachel works as waitress in local bar, hiding from her past, trying not to attract any attention to herself. When mysterious Murphy comes into the town, Rachel is not sure what to think of him. These two have a connection. And it seems more than just physical. But when his true reason for being in town is revealed. This book was well written and fast paced. Rachel is a strong young woman. She's experienced horrible trauma, but she's a survivor. I really enjoyed the interactions between Rachel and Murphy. Once Murphy learns of Rachel's ordeal, his protective instincts kicked in. This was my first time reading this author. I also like that we got to hear a backstory and the sexual chemistry between them was hot. I hope that their is a part two with these two.

Amanda R says

Thank you to the author for providing the ARC for me to read and review!

Rachel doesn't trust anyone. She's hiding in a small town in West Virginia, hiding from what though we don't know. She doesn't like any attention on her and does her best to make sure people don't ask her questions. In walks a stranger and it seems like he sees her. He's the first man in a year to make her want to break her rule of not letting people close.

Soon though she finds out hes not only after her body, he's after her. Someone from Rachel's past is hunting her and they sent Murphy to find her.

Then her world came crashing down.

"No thank, Lucy." He spat the words out like they were a bitter pill, enough to chill her from head to toe. He didn't sound like the Murphy she'd gotten to know, the soft-voiced guy who cleared the parking lot of snow and listen to her stories with a smile. This Murphy- the one with the edge in his voice and her old name on his tongue- was a stranger. One who scared her shitless. And he knew who she was?

Her feet were glued to the sticky wooden floor, her pulse racing. hearing her real name was enough to remind her of long, dark nights spent in agony, her face pushed down in to dirty tiles, hands bound behind her back. It made her remember pain and misery and a life not worth living, things she had buried for so long that she thought they'd disappeared. As they rose to the surface, they brought with them the fear and terror she'd tried to suppress. They wrapped around her heart and squeezed it tight.

I was sucked in and had to know how this was going to play out. Murphy was there to take her back to a life she didn't want to be apart of anymore. It scared her and she couldn't get away. There was still an edge of lust that rolled off of both of them. He was there to do a job but he couldn't help but be attracted to her. This was a easy read that I inhaled in a couple of hours. I can't wait to see what happens in the next book!!

Christine Wallflower & Dark Romance Junkie says

Review to come.

ARC kindly provided by author in exchange for an honest review

Evelyn Baldwin says

Of course, providing edits to this book Im partial...but I think this story has a sexy heart. While its always difficult to develop a steamy sex romp with class, I think Halfway Hidden hits the mark with Erotic characters and execution. There is a balance in the story between two characters trying to figure out - who and what - to trust, while at the same time still leaving a lingering mystery.

The ending is appropriate and will tie up messy lose ends, but still leaves the door open for a sequel should the author chose that route. (Yes, I keep telling Ms. Elks that a [novella] sequel is defs warrented!)

Claire Robinson says

3.5 - Pleasantly Surprised Stars.

Halfway Hidden is a short, dark and gritty tale. It completely surprised me actually, and highlighted to me just how talented Carrie Elks is. Having read "Fix You", I had high hopes for this novella, and it didn't disappoint, but what surprised me mostly was the difference in writing style and the general feel of what I was reading.

Rachel has been on the run from her husband for just over a year, settling in Nowheresville - Virginia, she works in a bar, and lives in the apartment above. Being a mining town, the prospect of out-of-towners is almost zero and she likes that. Until one evening Murphy walks in and everything changes –

His voice was like honey on a hot day.

The elusive Murphy is everything Rachel's head knows she needs to avoid, however the promise of human contact, something she has not had in over a year is something her body craves...

Everything about this guy was screaming single, a dark, interested stranger with secrets he didn't want to share.

This novella shows great promise for the beginning of what could be an explosive series, and although there isn't a huge amount of development in some areas. Murphy's reasons for being where he is, and Rachel's past being the main ones, nonetheless it flows nicely and has potential, with a lot of suspense and some

kinky-ish sexy-times thrown in. I have no doubt that Carrie will provide more development in their pasts as the series progresses, and I look forward to reading in which direction she decides to take their story.

Lucia says

My Rachel and Murphy:

*Rachel works as waitress in local bar, hiding from her past, trying not to attract any attention to herself. When mysterious **Murphy** comes into the town, Rachel is not sure what to think of him. Did he really come because of businnes or is it something else? Will he be able to see through her pretences?*

I was extremely excited for this novella and I was most certainly not disappointed. I was pleasantly surprised that even though Halfway Hidden is short novella, author didn't resolve to using insta-love or insta-connection. Plot moved on gradually, giving it natural and believable flow.

Also, I have to admit that I really liked Rachel and Murphy. She was down-to-earth mature woman and he was rough-looking but gentle man. But most of all I loved how author built up growing attraction between the two of them, it was a very enjoyable read!

I loved how **dangerously sexy** (and a little bit kinky) this novella was! It was admirable how putty I was in author's hands with all that anticipation she created! On the top of that, there was element of mystery and surprise, which added feel of excitement to this story.

I highly recommend this! Rarely I get to read erotic novella with actual storyline! I am hoping for more of Rachel and Murphy in the future :)

ARC provided by author as an exchange for honest review

MORE REVIEWS ON MY BLOG **Reading Is My Breathing**

JadeShea says

Received review copy for honest review.

Halfway Hidden begins with us seeing Rachel working at a bar. She's been there for a while, and one night a stranger comes into the bar. He seems to come from the same place she does, and she can tell just by looking at him that he has lots of secrets hidden. The thing is after her first reaction to him she soon finds herself completely drawn to him no matter the danger. She never realized how much her life would change again after meeting him.

I have to say I wasn't a huge fan of this book. It is a majorly short story, and I just couldn't get into it. At first

I thought it was interesting but then once I learned more it just got slightly boring. Then the ending just leaves us completely hanging with the story way incomplete. So this isn't my cup of tea, but for others it may be. It has major sex situations in it. And a very damaged woman with a past she's hiding from.
