



Clean Break

Abby Vegas

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Lane Haviland can't seem to catch a break. She's dead broke, barely functioning as an adult, and completely alone in New York City. Her so-called "apartment" is a six-by-nine cell in a Brooklyn basement. And her new boss hasn't ever met a personal or professional boundary she can't bulldoze through.

Still, Lane's determined to at least attempt to claw her way back to respectability. But she can't seem to get her mysterious handyman, Viktor, out of her apartment – or her headspace. Maybe that's a good thing: Viktor's easy on the eyes, and that deep-voiced Russian accent is beyond sexy. But as he and Lane grow closer, he can no longer hide his connections with a dangerous criminal underworld – where secrets can be deadly.

Clean Break Details

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Author : Abby Vegas

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Genre : Romance, Suspense, Mystery, Contemporary Romance, Humor, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit

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From Reader Review Clean Break for online ebook

Laura.125Pages says

This review, and many more, was originally posted on 125pages.com

Clean Break by Abby Vegas was a read I did not expect. I was thinking it would be a straightforward girl meets bad boy story, but instead it was a nuanced tale of a young woman struggling through heartbreak and depression who meets a man that is much more than he seems. Lane is struggling through life, almost destitute, her every day life is a never ending cycle of hunger and exhaustion. After getting scammed, she moves into a tiny basement apartment. There she meets handyman Viktor, a brooding and sexy Russian with dark ties. What follows is a true tale of redemption with a surprise ending.

The plot of *Clean Break* was a fresh take on a contemporary women's story. Full of dark humor, struggle and redemption, it was a nice change of pace. Abby Vegas' writing was spot on. She crafted a detailed and touching read that made me laugh and cry. The pacing had a few bumps, but they did not detract for the story as a whole. The world created was not super vivid, but this was a true character piece, so that was not needed. The emotions were strong in this one. The vivid descriptions of mental anguish, hunger and exhaustion really made this read. The characters were real and I was able to connect with each of them.

Clean Break was a read that I really enjoyed. Full of depth, humor and genuine heart, it was a great story. Abby Vegas crafted a very real tale that resonated with me. The ending was a bit cheesy and almost too perfect, but I still enjoyed the entire read.

Favorite lines - It is my firm belief that I wasn't always a miserable fuck-up. There are people I used to know who would disagree with me on this, and it's getting harder to remember what I was like before everything bad happened — but I was normal once, or close enough to pass for it. Then I was not-normal, and then I sort of vanished. For several years I was putting one foot in front of the other — existing, basically. But I was doing it in grand style.

Biggest cliché - I'm not allowed to be happy.

Have you read *Clean Break*, or added it to your TBR?

This book was most likely received free from the publisher/author in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Jillian Quinn says

First, I want to mention that I received a copy of Clean Break from Abby Vegas in exchange for an honest review. I found Abby on Twitter through the indie authors hashtag, and when she sent me a link to her website and I read the synopsis of the book, I had to read it. I have a lot of author obligations so I was hesitant to take on another review, but I'm glad that I did. I instantly connected with this story. But here's the thing... This book is nothing like what I'd expected, not even close. I went into it, thinking I was in store for the Russian version of The Sopranos with a hint of romance. I love anything to do with the mafia, so of course, I flipped through the pages until my hand cramped up, desperate to find out about the criminal underworld promised in the synopsis.

Clean Break is so different from anything I've ever read, and I guarantee it's unlike anything you've read. If you're not raving about this book by the end, I will be shocked. And if you've read my reviews, you know that I only rant or rave, so a review on my blog has to live up to the hype to make an appearance. When I finished the book, my mind was still reeling from how wonderful it was, and I wanted more. I even sent Abby a tweet, telling her I needed more and she obliged. The bonus content I received from Abby tied everything together in such a way that I liked the book even more after reading the material. And I like interacting with the author, which is so important to me as a blogger. From your first interaction with Abby until the second you finish the book, you will not be disappointed.

Read my full review on my Rant and Rave About Books blog @ <https://rantandraveaboutbooks.com/201...>

Andrea says

I wasn't sure what to expect when I started this but I quickly found I could not put it down. Very well written. The author really captured the feeling when you don't want to fall for someone but you can't help it.

Kathryn says

From the moment I started reading Clean Break, I found myself easily entering the story and wanting to stay with it. The opening interested me as I wanted to find out why the main protagonist was needing a clean break and why she seemed to be really down and out in her luck. A little naive, a sense of 'don't care' and susceptible to being scammed. What was causing it? How was she going to develop as a character - would she grow a spine? Too much of one as it turned out!

Clean Break is told in first person with a writing style that was engaging and easy to read. Sometimes when I pick up a book from an author unknown to me, I am a little unsure - will this be able to hook me, will I like it? Then answer is yes it did hook me, yes I did like it?

Early on I made a prediction that turned out to be correct. So is the story predictable? It could be said that it is. However I don't see that as a fault. As a teacher one of the skills of comprehension I taught was prediction. So ... we can expect readers to make predictions, sometimes correct and sometimes they have to be reworked!

Lane becomes involved with a family - the mother a little needy and her children a little lost and over looked. I liked this aspect of the book and followed the fortunes with interest. The mother especially highlighted the insecurity of so many women today over how they look and how easily they can become derailed by it.

A few times I felt change came for a couple of characters too quickly, but it was a small quibble.

It's a fun story, some romance, some family drama, some suspense and very likeable characters.

Jill Frederickson says

Mm. This book was delicious. I slowed myself down part way through to properly enjoy it. It was an engaging protagonist who is emerging from a tough time with lots of complications that add interest. I enjoyed the details and pacing very much.

Maggie says

A fun, quick read. It is a perfect page turner for the beach. The ending was a bit implausible, but still satisfying.

Sienna Cash says

Fabulous sense of place. Original story that keeps you guessing. Not the same-old, same-old. Great debut from Abby Vegas.

Angela Smith says

Once I started to read this I had a hard time putting it down. I liked the style of writing, witty as well as sharp. The story is not overpowered by sex as other books I have read in this genre. It relies more on the chemistry between the male and female protagonists which is a refreshing change. Other things I liked was that "Lane" and "Viktor" were not these shining beacons of emotional and physical perfection (although Viktor sounds pretty sexy ;)) and in being so it made them more believable.

Lane Haviland is at a crisis point at the beginning of the story. She's just lost her last \$800 to a rent fraud scam and is staring homelessness in the face. She reports the crime but is left with very little options. Through a cop, she finds a small basement apartment. It's not much but it's a lot safer than living on the streets.

Kindness comes from an unexpected source, in the shape of Viktor, the Russian maintenance man who works in her building. He's a man of few words due to the language barrier but it doesn't stop an attraction developing between Viktor and Lane. Actions often speak louder than words. Both have baggage and in a way, they are perfect for each other.

Living on mostly Ramen noodles Lane needs to make some more money fast if she is to make the next month's rent. She ends up being a PA to a neurotic, married mother of two. It's a challenge but it's a pay cheque. Gradually over time, they become more than just that to her.

What really keeps you reading is the storyline and not knowing what will happen next. Lines are blurred and it becomes harder to know who to trust and who to fear. People are not always what they seem or what you think they are...

At the end of the book, there is a handy translation of the Russian words and phrases used occasionally in the story.

Jane Stewart says

It kept my interest, but I have some complaints.

There is a happy ending, but it was too fast. I wanted more showing the couple together at the end. What was their life going to be like?

There was a bad guy threatening and hurting Lane and Viktor. The author did not say what happened with that. It was left hanging - unfinished.

I wanted to know more about what happened to Lane before the story begins. She had been grieving and suicidal. She foolishly spent all her money. Now she has no money for food or rent. That is where the story begins. Later in the story we learn briefly what happened before she spent all her money. But I had to make assumptions about what she did from then until the story begins. I wanted more about that.

The story begins with Lane looking for a job and a place to live. She finds a job and does a good job at it. Her life slowly improves and she meets Viktor, a Russian handyman. It was a good story and kept my interest.

Lane during this story is being smart. But she was recklessly foolish before the story begins. Why did she change? What was the catalyst for the change? She hits rock bottom when the story opens. Some people do not change when they hit rock bottom. So why did Lane change?

This was told in first person point-of-view. I don't like first person because they are usually too full of internal angst, but this wasn't too bad on that score.

For readers who don't like sex scenes, you will be pleased. There are three sex scenes referred to but no details shown.

I was not happy that Russian words were used with no translation shown in parentheses immediately after. I had to go to the end of the book to the glossary to find the meanings. On a Kindle it was time consuming and aggravating to do that. I prefer the translations shown in the text next to the words.

DATA:

Narrative mode: 1st person. Swearing language: strong including religious swear words but rarely used.

Sexual content: three scenes referred to, not shown. Setting: current day New York. Copyright: 2016. Genre: contemporary romance with suspense.

Charlotte (abOOKishOwl) says

Clean Break talks about a young woman fighting her way back into life. To be honest, the first few pages was hard to get into because it all sounded too cliché for me. But after spending nights with Lane Haviland and her adventures I realized that I'm already hooked. I guess it's the authenticity of the characters that got me engaged with the whole story. What I'm trying to say is that the author managed to give the truthfulness of how things actually happen in real life and how a person would naturally react to such things.

Now, that brings me to the characters in this story. First of course is our protagonist, Lane Haviland. Before everything went south, Lane had everything in her life-a wonderful family, money and love. But, it's not life if everything seems to go by your way right? So life happened.

Now that part sounded cliché know, but hear me out. An accident happened to Lane's family that got her messed up real bad. But one thing I admire about her character is the urge in her to live even though grief claws its way back into her life. I personally enjoyed reading about her character because first: all her references (ex. Dolores Umbridge hem-hem) were about the things I love,

second: she can be so real, funny and logical if need be. I admire her growth and independence as a woman.

But of course, there should be a man. For those who know, romance genres are not really up my alley but I read some as long as it's not in its pure state. I can't handle them in the pure state.

Now this book, thankfully, is diluted. I was actually hooked with the budding romance between Lane Haviland and his Russian man Viktor. Why? Because again, it was just the right amount, there was mystery in it and it was carefully told. And nope there is no love triangle in this one. THANK GOODNESS! Yes there is a third man, Detective Jarrett but I disliked him as much as Lane does so he really doesn't count. I have an extremely negative feeling towards the man.

Maybe again that is why I connect with Lane, she kinda thinks the way I do, with respect to the events in the story of course.

With regards to the writing and the plot, you'd be expecting secrets, mysteries and plot twists! Totally got the plot twist way ahead of schedule

Arlena says

Title: Clean Break
Author: Abby Vegas
Publisher: Create Space Independent Publishing Platform
Reviewed By: Arlena Dean
Rating: Five
Review:

"Clean Break" by Abby Vegas

My Thoughts....

This was definitely one of those contemporary romance with suspense and mystery that will keep you engaged turning the pages till the end because you will want to know what happens next. This protagonist, Lane Haviland was really quite a interesting person as she is able to make it work in almost any adventurous situation that is given to her. I will say she had quite a rough road with all that happens to her from being 'virtually penniless, her part time job won't pay her bills and not having a family or a home living there in New York City.' It hadn't always been like this for Lane...for once she had everything in her life....'a wonderful family, money and love' but what had happened to her?

Wow, and as this story goes on Lane has been scammed out of money[\$800] that was to have been for her down payment for an apartment. At this point I was left wondering what all had brought her to this point in her life. However, I will say this heroine was one smart lady, but a times she handled situations a little strange to me. What did happen to her after Lane goes to the police and meets that detective [Jarrett]? What happens after that is sort of a nightmare that seems to go on and on for Lane after the detective helps her find a place to stay. Then a handyman [Viktor]shows up and will help Lane and this is where this story really starts to take off.

What will happen after Lane found her [PA]assistant job to this 'spoiled wealthy women with two kids and a husband that works all the time.' That part of the novel was very interesting and I will stop here and say to find out more about this relationship with this family along with Lane being given a basement apartment where she meets that handyman....to get the rest of this story you will have to pick up this read to see what all happens in this rich story of 'Clean Break.'

The reader will get a very well told story that is told in first person, showing struggle, redemption, referred to sexual scenes, heartwarming, unexpected surprises and even humorous at times, however, there will be some dark parts in the read that did leave questions especially of a certain character who turned out to be a really 'creepy dude' that was not answered for me in the end...as to what happened with him? What was up with the hero...the handyman [Viktor] as it seemed like he was tied up with 'the Russian crime element in Lane's neighborhood.' What I didn't care about this hero was the way he kept Lane in the dark? I know he had too but? Oh well...how will all of this affect Lane in the end as she tries to find out more about this situation? Will these two [Lane and Griff] get to their HEA? Again to get the answers to all of these questions the reader will have to pick up this good read to find out.

I found all the characters [Lane, Viktor, Randy, Cynthia, Jarrett] to name a few were simply off the chart being well developed, defined, portrayed and believable giving the reader one intriguing read. By the end of this read I did agree with this title and that this heroine and hero definitely needed a 'Clean Break!'

If you are looking for a read with lots of suspense, twist and turns with some romance you have come to the

right place for 'Clean Break' will give it all to you.

Sue says

This book is great -- it kept me up way past my normal bedtime last night because I was so involved in the main character, I wanted to keep reading to see if there was a happy ending for her. (If you want to know the answer to that question, you need to read this book!).

At the beginning of the book, Lane come across as a spoiled young person who doesn't know how to live life and stay out of debt. She's hit rock bottom - no money for an apartment and only a part time job. However, as we learn more about her background and see her rise above the bad things that have happened in her life, she became a very likable character. She goes to work as a personal assistant for a totally disorganized rich person and her family. I thought that some of her interactions with them were hilarious. And of course, there is a man - the Russian maintenance man at her basement apartment who is also an enforcer for the Russian mob. That sums up all of the main characters but the plot that the author has written is not what you'd expect - it's much much better!

This is a debut novel for Abby Vegas - can't wait to see what she writes next. Give it a read - you won't be disappointed.

(I received a copy of this book from the author for a fair and unbiased review.)

Melissa Feist says

Loved this story. Devoured it. I normally write more formal reviews, but I literally finished this book 2 seconds ago. Viktor and Lane, these two lost souls just captured my attention from the beginning. This is not a sunshine filled story. It's bleak, but entertaining and smart. The two main characters, including a floundering wealthy family, the Waldrop's, all need a little TLC and guidance. Clean Break is one of those great stories that keeps you turning page after page, it's witty, gritty, sexy and at times heart pounding with intrigue. Thoroughly enjoyed this and look forward to more from Abby Vegas.

FMABookReviews says

Have you ever been glad you took a chance on something? You know what I mean. When you thought, okay, I'm going with my gut and trust my instincts. Well, about 6 weeks ago I received a message about a new book called '*Clean Break*', from a new author, Abby Vegas. She enclosed a short excerpt with her review request. It didn't take me long to email her back that I was intrigued. (I think those were my exact words even.)

Once I started reading this book, I was completely taken by surprise that this is her debut book. The writing is strong. I mean really strong.

I would classify this as Chick-lit with a hint of suspense. There is a romantic angle, but it isn't necessarily a contemporary romance that most of you have come to know. The reason I am prefacing this is I don't want any disappointed readers looking for the romance (which comes later in the book, with fade-to-black sex scenes).

When the story starts, we learn Lane has just spent almost all of her money in a spending spree. She needed a "clean break" from the past, we don't know why just yet, only that she needed to move forward. Now she is virtually penniless, her part-time job won't pay the bills and she doesn't have a home or family. To make matters worse, she just got scammed out of a large sum of money from what was supposed to be a downpayment for an apartment, which she no longer has either. After filing a police report, the detective makes some calls to the manager of the apartment complex, a deal is struck and Lane finds she has an apartment thanks to the help of the detective.

The basement apartment isn't the greatest, but it is at least somewhere to sleep that's relatively safe. She only has her suitcases, so on her agenda is getting another job so she can furnish it, hopefully with a bed. Of the people she first meets, are the building's handymen. One of them is a sleazeball, the other, is Viktor, who proves to be quite helpful in a number of ways.

Lane ends up finding a job as an assistant to a spoiled wealthy woman with two kids and a husband who works too much. She has nothing to do, but try and loose weight, keep up with other rich folks and drown herself in charity work.

'Clean Break' takes us on a heartwarming, at times funny, journey of our protagonist, Lane Haviland as she navigates adulthood. She is a strong woman who never lets her circumstances dictate her future. There is a suspense element with our hero, Viktor as he is seemingly tangled with the Russian crime element in the neighborhood.

As I mentioned before, I really enjoyed this book, the writing and the story. I only have a few criticisms; I felt at times, the story tended to get wordy in a few places and I was confused as to why Lane went on the spending spree. That is all and really, these are very small.

If there was an award for breakthrough author, I would nominate Abby Vegas. I truly believe she is one to watch in the future!

Kim says

I was intrigued when the author approached me with the opportunity to review her debut novel, and *Clean Break* was a great read! It is a story of finding family in the people who matter to you regardless of their blood relation and where the lines between good guy and bad guy are blurred.

The story starts out with a pretty bleak feel and tone. Lane is down on her luck with no money, no food and facing the cold reality that she is now homeless too since the person who took her security deposit on an apartment has disappeared along with her money. An encounter with a cop who has been there and seen it all

leaves her no closer to a solution until he helps her contact a realty office who may be able to rent her something. And by something I mean a one room basement apartment next to the boiler room, but it is shelter. When the maintenance crew arrives to connect her utilities, she is intrigued by the dark and brooding Viktor, but she doesn't have time to dwell on him seeing that she doesn't have a way to pay for the apartment in the immediate future.

Viktor is a handyman who is more than he seems. Even though he doesn't know her at all, he pays her first month rent when he realizes how bad her situation really is and starts to spend time with her with a request that she help him improve his English. Although she is wary of his intentions at first, he helps her feel safe for the first time in a long time. Lane may be down on her luck but she still has a sense of humor that I can appreciate, and soon they find themselves sharing meals of ramen noodles on a regular basis opening up about their pasts little by little. Lane and Viktor are both broken by the events that have shaped them and made them into the people they are today but they fit together well for that very reason as they move from friends to lovers.

Since losing her family, Lane has found it easier to cut everyone out of her life; attachments only lead to heartache when people inevitably move on for one reason or another. Before long, she finds herself with a support system and she isn't sure how it happened. Her boss Cynthia is a neurotic, needy mess of a socialite with 2 teenage children that Lane quickly learns how to wrangle, but they also become her new family of sorts as they transition from employers to friends over the course of the story. She also finds a friend in Randy, a woman who gave her a job and trusted her when she first arrived in the area and who quickly becomes her sounding board as she tries to sort out the craziness of her life as the cop she met at the beginning of the story suddenly becomes a bit of a menace.

Detective Jarrett has a vendetta against the Russian criminal element in the area, and he views Lane as easy prey to help his cause when he realizes she and Viktor are spending time together. He alternates between trying to persuade her to date him and threatening her if she doesn't help him- umm, can we say "creepy dude"! Viktor doesn't help his cause by keeping her in the dark mostly for her own safety and although Lane sends him away to try to sort out her feelings, she can't forget about him as easily as she would have hoped.

Remember when I said Viktor is more than he seems? That statement becomes more true than ever in the last 20% of the story as the danger element comes to head and events are happening fast and furiously leaving Lane confused and hurting in more ways than one. Cynthia becomes a new woman through it all, and the outcome of the tumultuous ride Lane has been on is one that she never could have predicted when she first arrived in that tiny apartment as Viktor's mysterious job and secrets are finally revealed.

By the closing chapter, Lane has transitioned from lost and closed off to a stronger, independent woman who has hope for the future again and new family made up of people who have grown to love her along the way too. That bleak tone gradually disappeared as the story progressed and the proverbial sun is shining by last page. Clean Break was a great first effort from this author and I can't wait to see what she has in store for her next book!
