



The Shadow

Sarah M. Anderson

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Nobody Bodine is a nobody who came from a nobody and will always be a nobody.

He disappears into the shadows—no one sees him if he doesn't want them to. He exists in neither the white man's world nor the tribe's, dispensing vigilante justice when he sees fit. There's no other place for a man like him in this world.

Until Melonie Mitchell shows up on the rez. From the first moment he lays eyes on her, he can tell there's something different about her. For starters, she's not afraid of him. She asks where his scars came from, and why he has so many. But more than that, she sees him. For the first time in his life, Nobody feels like a somebody in her eyes.

Melonie has come west to run the new day care on the White Sandy Reservation. She's intrigued by this strange man and his tattered skin, and when she discovers that he's a self-appointed guardian angel for the boy in her care, she realizes that there's more to Nobody than meets the eyes. But how far will he go to keep the boy safe? And will she be able to draw him into the light?

This book was previously published as Nobody.

TW: This book contains graphic fight scenes, descriptions of childhood abuse, hot sexy and light, sensual spanking.

The Shadow Details

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From Reader Review The Shadow for online ebook

Erin Burns says

I received an ARC of this book from the Publisher, via Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review.

This is the third book in the Men of White Sandy, and while I did read it first and it stands well on its own, if you can get hold of the previous two books, Mystic Cowboy and Masked Cowboy I'd highly suggest it, because it takes a little something away from those two books to read Nobody first, in my opinion.

Now on to the review.

Oh, this story is just lovely, lovely and heart wrenching and heartwarming. Nobody Bodine is tall, dark and enigmatic. He's a vicious fighter and a protector of horses and children. He's also the invisible man...except to Melinda Mitchell. SHE can see him, even when he doesn't necessarily want to be seen. Melinda is Madeleine's sister (she's the heroine from Mystic Cowboy) and she's just about as opposite to her uptight doctor sister as is humanly possible. She's artistic and empathetic, and to put it not too kindly, something of a flake. But she can SEE Nobody in both a physical and a metaphorical sense. And their dance back and forth between each other and their own issues was something I adored watching unfold.

I'm torn between labeling this contemporary and paranormal because the paranormal aspect of this is really light and not a major focus of the story, but it is in there so I suppose it isn't a strict contemporary either. What I loved about this story is how clueless and sweet Nobody is (and his inner monologues can be quite humorous) behind that gruff exterior. He's just a rough, tough, cream puff and that's my favorite kind of hero. And I really enjoyed that Melinda is a strong capable heroine while still managing to be understanding without being a doormat. There is no "big misunderstanding", just the logical sort of miscommunications and difficulties one might expect from their backgrounds. And the way that Melinda learns to be the grown up and make the hard choices for the right reasons, and the way that Nobody learns that trust comes in a thousand different daily actions rather than one big gesture is just perfect.

Only two things didn't work for me. One, I was really hoping for that ooey gooey sweet real name reveal that never happened (I cracked up when Melinda was screaming "Nobody" during intimate moments). I mean I suppose it is acceptable that it supposedly doesn't matter since he's a someone to Melinda, but dang I wanted it. And I really wanted an epilogue of some sort. But that may have been more a function of how much I wanted more of their story than any actual need for it to complete the story. This will definitely be going on my re-read list.

Cross-posted <http://erinsburnsbookshelf.blogspot.c...>

Kathie (katmom) says

I was intrigued by this blurb. Although it's not listed as paranormal, there is a certain mystic quality to it. And Nobody can hide...in shadows. I liked him from the start. I haven't read the first two stories in the series, but this book can stand alone. One is quickly caught up in Ms. Anderson's world.

Nobody had a very hard life. A life that includes a lengthy time spent in jail. While a spirit guide spoke to

him in Lakota, so he doesn't know what the guide said, he's found himself as a guardian to those weaker and younger than himself. Somehow he knows when they are threatened. He's focused on their care and safety. But then he meets Melinda and she knocks him off kilter for sure.

Have to say, I wasn't fond of Melinda. Yes, she's been a bad judge of men for years. But she's also bitter and not very nice. She did finally grow on me once her jealousy kicked back a bit. I enjoyed watching her grow up.

There were several scenes with horses and I applaud the author for how right they were. Red was a particularly sweet animal.

Reading the advance reader copy was hard on me. There are random letters strewn throughout the manuscript. Thankfully, the letters have disappeared in the final copy (I downloaded the sample just to check) and I didn't take any rating points away for the messy copy. But there are typos galore throughout the book. A proof editor would have been helpful. Two characters' names were misspelled so often, it was almost amusing.

Nobody, and his growth, too, was a nice way to spend an afternoon. I'm curious enough about the Men of the White Sandy, that I will be checking out more from this author.

*Thank you, NetGalley and Fido Publishing, for the opportunity to read Nobody

Baba says

2 stars. DNF @40%.

I really do like to read about a beta hero once in a while but Nobody was a special case. I liked that he was physically scarred but it didn't appeal to me that he depicted himself as an absolute low life with no self-esteem or self-confidence whatsoever.

Just not my cup of tea. Onwards...

Sarah Anderson says

Hands down, Nobody is my most tortured hero ever.

Heather andrews says

I loved Nobody, I really did he was just so cute at times, "I know you're there, you know." She was still

admiring her pile of metal. Not looking at him. "You're stealthy, but you're not invisible. Come tell me what you think." Sh**. She was talking to him." I mean he's really adorable when he wakes up disoriented and finds a woman on him, "...Hell, he wasn't even alone. There was a head in his lap. A head with wildfire hair that was spread out over his jeans - over his groin. Melinda. He went hard in an instant, the overwhelming desire pushing the pain back so far he didn't feel anything but where she was touching him." Melinda that girl, she's a take charge kind, "she grinned at him as she leaned down to kiss him. He took the kiss, pressing her against his chest. "so much," she whispered against the skin of his neck. "I'm going to ride you now." I loved how Nobody cared for Melinda he's so gentle, "I didn't...I didn't hurt you?" His hand skimmed the surface of her bottom, where he'd smacked her three times." I haven't read the other books in this series but I may have to I liked this one so much.

Jennifer Leighton says

Loved this book just as much as the first in the series...I was so excited for Nobody's story since meeting him in book 1 and I wasn't disappointed. If you like the strong silent type, the tortured hero, you'll love Nobody.

I also appreciate that the author chose to write this series on an American Indian reservation, as I think that setting is pretty rare.

Dianne says

Do you think NOTHING can break through your armor and put a tight squeeze on your heart? Read **Nobody** by Sarah M. Anderson. I love a good, tension-filled romance, add a dark and mysterious hero, give me a good and feisty heroine and I'm on board! What I didn't expect was how deeply I would get involved in Nobody Bodine's story. Huge, scary, and able to blend into the shadows, Nobody has few friends, lives in a world of loneliness and secrets, he is almost like a ghost, a nobody. What nightmares from his past have made him feel less than deserving of living a full life? Why does he do endless good things for people under the cover of the shadows?

Melinda has made a mess of her life, always making bad "boyfriend" choices, getting hurt, and never quite able to fit into the mold the world has prescribed for her. Needing a fresh start, she comes to the White Sandy Reservation, where her super successful, super confident and super in love sister is the only doctor for miles. Melinda is determined not to fail this time as she sets out to open a day care for those on the reservation. What she hadn't planned on was Nobody or her reaction to him. What Nobody hadn't planned on was the beautiful woman who actually "saw" him, treated him like a man, a somebody. What she saw was a scarred man, desperately alone, who would risk his life for an abused boy, and be his champion, all without the glory of notoriety.

When things get out of hand, Nobody becomes a wounded fugitive, and Melinda is determined to make things right, but at what cost? Can she turn her back on him when he needs her the most? Hinged on her actions, she has the power to save the young boy, but possibly kill that last ember of hope in the man's heart.

Sarah M. Anderson dug deep for this one! Nobody is probably the most damaged and misunderstood hero I have ever read about! And Melinda? Talk about a hidden warrior woman unleashed! Wonderful writing from the heart, filled with amazing characters, a twisted plot and an awkward romance between two completely

different people. If you like romance with heart and grit, pick this one up, you'll be glad you did!

I received a copy from the author in exchange for my honest review.

Series: The Men of the White Sandy - Book 3

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Available from: Amazon | Barnes & Noble

Saly says

Rating 3.5 stars

Lyn says

I hope the author at some point writes a novella continuing Nobody and Melinda's story. The ending left much to be desired. Their story feels incomplete.

Duchess Nicole says

I just...I have to...just look at that cover! Here's a closer look:

Nobody Bodine...shivers!! He's a BETA hero, folks...not my normal favorite. He's also very insecure, very much a loner, and is one of the most tortured heroes you'll come across. Literally tortured as a child, he's been a complete recluse his entire life. His name is Nobody, and it fits. He has no friends, trusts no one, cares for no one. Except for Jamie, a boy who also lives on the Lakota Indian reservation. Jamie is living the same life that Nobody grew up with, and aside from Nobody's herd of horses, he's about the only thing the big, dark, scary Indian man cares about. When Melinda Mitchell, sister of the new reservation's physician, comes to White Sandy to run the new day care center, Nobody no longer cares for nobody. Haha...I can't help it...that's funny.

My friends, this was a phenomenal story. Nobody is such an atypical hero. And Melinda is truly the kind of heroine that I usually don't like...she's bubbly, somewhat flighty, and a bit aggressive when it comes to romance.

"She might have crazy hair and whatever, but she was still a rich-ish white woman who would be afraid of him, once someone saw fit to tell her all about the nothing that was nobody."

And yet. And yet somehow, I loved this book! There is something about a confident, modern woman with a heart of gold teaching a hesitant, social outcast hunk of man what the value of love and patience is. It is magic. It was alluring and enchanting. There's a sweet abused little kid who stole my heart, and the fact that Nobody literally sits outside his house at night to protect him from his own parents gave me a bad case of insta-love. What a wonderful guy!! The fact that he's this protective stems from his past experiences. Those experiences are written all over his body in a horrible miasma of scars.

" The man looked like he'd come straight from the UFC cage fight, and she honestly couldn't tell if he'd won or lost. He had a long scar down his left cheek that didn't look old and burn marks on his right arm that spoke of nothing good."

Not only is there a fantastic love story set amid the spiritual world of a Lakota Indian reservation, but there are some social awareness issues that this author is very good about bringing up without being preachy...things that happen in the US even today that many people aren't aware of. Midwestern residents should have some knowledge of the way things are today for many Native Americans but this series is told with such heart and insight that there's not any finger pointing OR victim blaming. It's just bringing issues to light. And I really appreciate that. Not only is this one of those obscure and unique romance series that I WISH more people would read, but there's enough humor and passion and mysticism for the most random of readers to enjoy it.

"For the first time in his life, he was tired of lurking in the shadows - never seen, never heard. Melinda saw him like no one else did.

If it were just that, it wouldn't be so bad.

But she forced everyone else around her to see him, too. She dragged him out of the shadows and carved a place for him around the fire by sheer will."

But still...it's romantic as hell. So good. Soooo good.

Copy provided by the publisher via Net Galley for review

Shawnie says

Down 1 star for the idea of manipulating law enforcement at your whim or for the story.

Mei says

I loved Nobody in the previous book very much and I'm disappointed by how he was depicted here... I had so many expectations...

The main complaint is that Nobody come out a retarded child.

His inner thoughts, his reasoning, his actions are soooo childish. I didn't want to believe that Nobody will

reason in that way!

I was expecting a wounded hero, but I was left hanging. And I felt very bad about it!

Ni_kii says

Review at <http://www.scorching-book-reviews.com...>

FTC : I bought this book because I love the series.

I've been waiting for Nobody's book. The mysterious man with the bad reputation and grumpy demeanour has been on my want-to-read pile since he first graced the pages of this series and, by God, he was worth the wait.

I knew straight away that I was going to love him. From the moment he saves an abused boy from his alcoholic parents (a thing he had been doing since he had gotten wind of the boy's plight) I adored him and then, as I watched him struggle to deal with his developing emotions for Melinda, my heart just ached. Nobody is a product of an abusive parent and, partially because of this, he struggles with his self worth and emotions. He can't quite fathom that Melinda can care for him, even when he cares for her from the moment he sees her, and it broke my heart every-time he showed just how unlovable he truly thinks he is. He decides to do what he thinks is best for them both; he protects her as best as he can but, ultimately, he stays away. Yes, this does lead to more tortured angst, cuteness and general swooning on my part.... of course, Melinda decides that he isn't allowed to do this for very long.

Melinda is a free-spirit who is on the Rez to get over her latest break up with a loser boyfriend. I loved the warmth of her character and it complemented Nobody's character immensely. She never allowed him to keep her at arms length but nor did she demand that he adapt himself to her world; he was still free to live amongst the stars and be alone in the wilderness if he wanted, he just wasn't allowed to push her away. She understood him like no one else seems to and I think it was quite beautiful that she alone knew when he was around. The notes that she left him when he was cleaning her art room made me chuckle as I could see that she was trying to prove to him that he wasn't nobody, even if his name suggested it.

I adore the way that this author is completely unflinching and unbiased in her stories about life on the Rez. Cultural and race issues run through this series as the heroines start to live amongst the residents of White Sandy but this book took it that much further and it made me so sad. The tale of the young boy living with his abusive parents was heart-breaking; he would rather live on the Rez and take his chances because, if social services came, they would give him to a white family who would make him cut his hair and take a white name and he wanted to keep his heritage. Yup, the tears were flowing at this point. Please don't get me wrong, it isn't portrayed as all bad; there is a sense of community and heritage that is truly lovely to read about throughout the series. I like that it isn't a judgement of either character's culture; this is a tale of two people with different cultures accepting their differences and building a life together.

Overall, this is a wonderful book about a tortured hero and the woman who grows to love him. I loved every page of it.

Fiona Marsden says

I can't really describe how much I love these Native American heroes in the Men of the White Sandy series. I still call them Indians in my head because I grew up with Cowboys and Indians.

Nobody is a secondary character in the previous two books and he was intriguing right from the start. A kind of vigilante, who protects kids in danger but has a dark and mysterious past and spends his life in the shadows.

When Melinda turns up, the wild child sister of the doctor heroine in Mystic Cowboy, she seems an unlikely person to become involved with a man who is quite simply scary to look at. Big, scarred, definitely not a smiley kind of guy.

Yet somehow she is drawn to him. And the amazing thing is that she sees him. A man who has a gift for melting into the darkness, for watching without being seen. Right from the start, he is somebody to Melinda.

A romance between them was bound to be complicated, even before it got tangled up with saving a mistreated child, and finding out just how dark Nobody's history really is.

This book had me all choked up and in tears before the end. These guys aren't your average romance heroes. Nobody is strong in so many ways, but it is his unexpected vulnerability that catches you off guard. He brings out the best in seemingly ditzy Melinda, and she finds her strength even when it hurts.

Kame says

A 4 1/2 star

I am having a hard time to put into words how much I enjoyed this book.

The emotion behind this story will get to anyone heart.

I really didn't want it to end - I want to read more about Nobody and Melinda.

TBQ and I will be doing a review and book discussion at <http://tbqspersonalbookpalace.blogspot...>
