



# Renegade

*Brynley Blake*

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## **Renegade** Brynley Blake

Gemma Ward, an outgoing and strong-willed wedding photographer, goes through men like she goes through thongs, forever looking for a guy who can handle her. She's about given up on love when she meets Declan, the sophisticated father of one of her clients. He's perfect for her, if only she can convince him she's not too young and inexperienced to meet his singularly erotic tastes.

Then, like an answered prayer, Walker Kincaid shows up, looking for a place to stay while he investigates allegations surrounding the death of his SEAL brother, Liam Prescott. If anyone can tutor her in the art of the kind of power play Declan wants, it's Walker, her best friend and partner in crime since high school.

But what starts as friendly lessons in forbidden pleasure soon turns into something more...leaving Gemma to wonder if the lover she's been looking for has been right in front of her all along.

## **Renegade Details**

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Author : Brynley Blake

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# From Reader Review Renegade for online ebook

## Ofelia says

Omg what a cliffhanger. This is the first book I've read from Brynley Blake and I am hooked. I started reading this book and I couldn't put it down. It had a bit of everything romance, mystery, very kinky steamy scenes and trying to cross certain places in a bucket list. Brynley Blake did a beautiful job in grabbing the readers attention from the very beginning and making you binge read Renegade until the very end. I honestly can't wait to read more of the Phoenix Rising series and read what happens next with Liam. A must read!!!!

Received an advance reader copy in exchange for a fair review by NetGalley, Entangled Publishing, LLC.

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## Isha Coleman says

I'm all in favor of strong women, Gemma came across as neurotic. She's a boss in business, but a disappointment in love. Her need for control has left her in a dire romantic drought. Will her thirst ever be quenched? Renegade has a Sex in the City vibe with a splash of mystery thrown in. More funny than sexy, Declan and Gemma encourage getting your feet wet, before diving in to romance. Cute meets tempting. (3.5 stars)

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## Kodie Mackay says

So this is my first read in a hot minute!. A week of camping craziness with no signal has had me feeling deprived. I must admit I'm super happy that this is the first book I read after what felt like years. Dramatic, maybe. But for me who reads everyday without fail it was torture and this was exactly what I needed.

Having not read anything from this author I jumped right in at the deep end reading the second book in this series. I can happily say that although I'm definitely going to read the first story. This author has managed very well to write this story so that I can keep up with what's gone on without having read the first book. I can't say that the base of the storyline is super unique because if I'm being honest it's pretty generic. Friends to lovers, using the bf to gain sexual experiences for another guy. They fall in love but try to hide their feeling.. etc.

But! The way Brynley wrote this story makes you believe it's your first time reading this type of storyline. She made her mark with it and added the element of suspense/surprise. Not only are you on edge waiting to see how this romance plays out. You're also hanging on to the tiny threads of information on Liam. Needing to find out what happened.

The story is fantastically written at a great and believable pace. The romance is so believable. Completely relatable and utterly adorable. I hung on to their story and rooted for them the whole way.

Gemma's a great heroine. She's every woman who's searching for utter satisfaction in the bedroom and out. Completely relatable, absolutely lovable .. just A badass. I can't honestly think of one thing I disliked. The fear of rejection and the hope for more made her human.

I loved that she didn't take herself seriously. She took charge of her life and held her own but with Walker she gave herself completely to him. I also appreciate that she didn't make any drama.. when she realised who she wanted she made it clear.

Walker is an absolute beauty and I need one of him. He's so real and a typical protective brute. I loved that he felt like he had to protect her and in doing so offered himself up like a buffet. (As if that was a sacrifice (; ). He had me chuckling at his research antics and utter hilarity. He was the perfect type of hero!. Alpha Through and through but he had that sensitivity that made you melt to the core. Again there was zero drama with him. He was a dream book boyfriend.

Their story had me hooked from the first chapter which might I add was freakin hilarious!. It was absolutely seamless, the chemistry was off the charts both in and out of the bedroom and Both as friends and lovers. The characters are great, relatable and loveable. The storyline everything included was intriguing and exciting aswell as entertaining and heart racing. It took you on a rollercoaster but I loved it all. I couldn't think of a better read after a long week of no books.

Thanks Brynley for giving me a few hours of book satisfaction.

I will for sure be reading the first in this series and Most definitely keeping an eye out for the next one because that sneak peak was absolute brilliance/torture.

I kindly received this ARC from netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Mindy Lou's Book Review says**

3.5 Stars!

Renegade is a friends to lover story that has a suspense plot started in the first book of the Phoenix Rising series. Each book is focused on a different couple but continues the same plot of discovering what really happened with Liam, a brother, a friend and a navy seal. I would recommend starting with book one.

While the background plot is about Liam, the forefront story is about Gemma wanting to learn BDSM in hopes of catching the father of her client. She's tired of playing with boys and thinks that since Declan is older and more experienced, she'll get what she needs from him, except he only wants a submissive. He's leaving town on business and asks her to look into what it takes to be a submissive and decide when he gets back. Gemma turns to her best friend in hopes that he will teach her the ropes.

There is a lot going on in this book for being on the shorter side. It's paced well and I enjoyed the overall plot with Liam. I do wish I had started with book one and the epilogue was a great teaser for book 3. ARC provided by NetGalley.

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### **Natalie Johnson says**

This is book 2 in the Phoenix Rising series. Walker is best friends with Gemma. He introduced her to his best friend Liam's sister and they became roommates in college and partners in business since college. Walker is a Navy Seal and his best friend Liam was killed in action. Now there is rumors that Liam was running guns for the drug cartel and Walker wants to clear his name as well as keep Liam's sister safe.

Noah and McKenzie are still working on Liam's bucket list half way around the world. Walker flies back to the States on leave to follow the bucket list there. Hoping to find proof that will clear his name.

Gemma travels with Walker to California to follow the bucket list and to meet with the aide worker -Dr that he died rescuing' s family. They find out that after the meeting that Gemma and McKenzie had with the Dr he was killed in a freak car accident after dropping them at their hotel.

This story is awesome and I can't wait for the next book in the series to see how it ends! It keeps you on the edge of your seat with twists and turns, hot steamy sex, and a HEA!

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### **Ivy Deluca says**

-The sitch. Best friends Gemma and Walker are drawn into the search for what really happened with their friend Liam (set up in the first book), and along the way, Gemma decides she wants to learn about submission and wants Walker to teach her. Um, yes please. Then romance happens.

-Friends to lovers is my jam. Sign me up. Every time.

-Works as standalone. There's plenty of detail to catch you up on the overarching storyline.

-Love scenes were smoking. There's good chemistry between the leads as well as some BDSM, but it's pretty light, just enough to up the heat factor.

-Not a super safe read. If you're into absolutely no OW/OM contact, there is some in this book. It's all on the heroine's side and it never leads anywhere, so I was able to get past it but I know some folks won't, so there's your warning.

-A tad repetitive. It suffered a little from the constant reminder of "he/she couldn't/doesn't want/love me THAT way." Could have cut some of that out.

-I would read the next one. The teaser at the very end lets this chapter of the overarching storyline wrap up and entices the reader to continue on. I was intrigued enough that I would be willing.

It was an enjoyable friends to lovers tale that, while a tad repetitive, made up for it with the sexy and the overarching storyline is one that caught my attention. I'd like to see how it all wraps up.

**\*\*ARC provided by publisher via netgalley for review\*\***

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### **Elizabeth Neal says**

**\*\*3.5 Stars\*\***

Gemma, a wedding photographer, makes her living from capturing special moments of other people's happiness, yet her own has remained elusive to find. But she's still searching, determined to find her one, and when she believes she's met him, she refuses to let their age difference stop them. She now has her sights on Declan, a client's Dad, and when her best friend Walker needs her help, she asks for his in schooling her on how to show Declan she can handle him, and his tastes.

Walker, a SEAL, asks Gemma if he can crash with her while continuing to investigate the death of his best friend and fellow SEAL, Liam. He can't contain his surprise, nor how her request impacts him, when his best friend since high school asks him to essentially help her, learn with her, sexually, so she can then use it on someone else.

Neither are prepared for the changes this new, even if only temporary, dynamic will bring to their friendship, as their feelings for one another start to shift.

Will Walker and Gemma get any closer to discovering the truth in regards to the rumors about Liam and his death? What happens when Walker and Gemma, best friends since they were kids, realize how explosive they are together? Will there "lessons" help Gemma find the one for her in Declan? Or will she realize her soul mate has been there all along? When their time together ends, will they be able to let go? Can they go back to being friends only? Or will they admit their love for one another has grown into the forever kind?

One-click now and follow along as two friends help each other out, while discovering they were always meant to be more. Though each book features a different couple and their HEA, there is an overlying storyline that began in book one, Rogue, and will be continue throughout subsequent books.

**\*\*I voluntarily read and reviewed an Advanced Reader Copy of this book.\*\***

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## **Ayekah says**

I am officially hooked on this series after only two books! Renegade is all consuming and hard for me to put down. This is Walker and Gemma's story.

Gemma is best friends and business partners with McKenzie and Charlotte. It's Kenzie's brother Liam a Navy SEAL who is KIA'd during a rescue in Afghanistan. Even though his best friends are there, his SEAL team, things aren't adding up. We meet Noah in book one who also knows Liam and Kenzie's is off working on Liam's bucket list. His list may contain clues as to his purported gun smuggling for a Mexican drug lord that has endangered the girls lives. Hard to tell who the real enemy is in this series and this book unfolds a little more of the story, but mainly focuses on Walker and Gemma.

Walker and Gemma have known each other since they were kids. They are best friends, he's her protector and was on Liam's SEAL team. He was there when Liam died. He and Gemma are also tracking down clues on Liam's bucket list. The girls run a wedding planning business and while being hired for a wealthy young woman's wedding the girls father takes an interest in Gemma. He's a dominant and wants Gemma as his sub. Gemma doesn't, never has and never will have a submissive bone in her body. Walker doesn't like the guy, so takes it upon himself to "break in" Gemma. The steam between these two is off the charts and that's without any sex. Clearly what little self talk we get from both, they are both afraid of losing the friendship

they have and their real feelings for each other begin to surface. It's a great thing to watch this unfold. Gemma allows herself to be vulnerable, something she's never been able to do and Walker is just crazy about her.

They travel to California to follow up on a few things on Liam's list, Walker taking her for a motor cycle ride up the coast north of Big Sur and neither one want the days to end. They go back to San Fran to meet with the Dr's wife the SEAL team rescued. Read book one because you should read it, but I can tell you without being a spoiler the Dr is successfully rescued only to wind up dead in a bizarre car accident after he returns home. The wife spills a lot of details to Walker and Gemma and they have a little more info to go on, also on his bucket list was a visit to a BDSM club in the bay area where they will meet someone who will further help them along. The scenes from the club are very benign so no worries there. They return to their hotel to spend their last night together and another steamy night between these two, knowing in the morning Walker has to put her on the plane back to Charleston and likely back into the arms of the jerk who wants her as a sub. Neither of them want to say what they need to say before she goes.

I'll end it here and trust me, there's plenty more story but no spoilers here. I'm only going to say the Epilogue blew me right out of my chair!! Brynley!!! Better be on book three pronto!!

I loved this book, Walker and Gemma and the story as it is unfolding. The suspense is great and the plot is tightly woven. As I said, you don't know who's on what side, in fact we're not clear what the sides are at this point still. Which drew me in even more. You won't want to miss this one and won't be able to put it down. It's a must read.

5 tight stars all the way! Great book Bryn!!!

**\*\*arc from NetGalley and Entangled in exchange for a fair review\*\***

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## **Nerdy Dirty & Flirty says**

This is the second book in the Phoenix Rising series and we while I know we are closer to the uncovering of the secrets behind the "bucket list" I still feel like there are so many pieces still missing. The overall story arc is unfolding around Gemma and Walker. We met them in the last book but I don't think I realized that these two characters are actually best friends.

Walker is back to help uncover more of the clue left by Liam. Walker is actually a really fun character to read. He has the restraint of a saint and who does love a military man??? Gemma, having gone along for other bucket list escapades is all too eager to help Walker with a few more.

Gemma is a girl about to give up on love because she can't find what she is looking for anywhere. Until a proposition has her all too excited but nervous and who better to help the nerves and teach her the ropes? Her best friend Walker of course. Well lets just say he "attempts" to help her. Through some super sexy pages we move through a few more bucket list items and Gemma is figuring out what she has been missing from past relationships.

And then comes an ending I didn't see coming and now I can't wait for the next book to see how it all plays out.

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## **Selma says**

4 kinky stars

Renegade is the second book in the Phoenix Rising series by Brynley Blake. I would strongly advise you to read Rogue, the first book, prior to this one in order to understand what's going on. This book is romantic suspense with a little touch of BDSM. While the first one was heavy on the action and mystery side, which I've personally loved and enjoyed very much, this story was more centered around the friendship between the hero and heroine which suddenly turns into a sexual affair. The plot was straight-forward without any surprising twists and turns. The pace in the beginning was a little too slow for my taste but it certainly got better with time.

Gemma Ward is a strong-willed wedding photographer who knows what she wants and is looking for a man who can handle her and satisfy her needs. She's been trying for years to find the right guy but without success - until she meets Declan, the sophisticated older father of one of her clients. He's perfect for her, if only she can convince him that she's not too young and inexperienced to meet his erotic tastes. He goes on a business trip and thus gives Gemma a few weeks to get acquainted with the BDSM lifestyle before they decide if they are compatible.

Walker Kincaid shows up at Gemma's house looking for a place to stay while he investigates allegations surrounding the death of his SEAL brother Liam Prescott. She has been his best friend and partner in crime since high school. When Gemma asks Walker to help her out and tutor her in the art of power play Declan prefers he reluctantly agrees. He is convinced that Gemma could never be a submissive and that a woman like her doesn't need to be tamed. They decide to cross off some items on Liam's bucket list in order to find out where the gun shipment is hidden.

What starts as casual, friendly lessons in forbidden pleasure soon turns into something more leaving Gemma to wonder if the lover she's been looking for has been right in front of her all along.

I loved Gemma and Walker. Their banter was funny and sexy and they had great chemistry together. Gemma was a very outspoken and stubborn person but she is also loyal and has a good heart. Walker is a hot Navy SEAL and the embodiment of a protective and possessive Alpha. He always took care of Gemma and made it his mission to never let anyone hurt her.

I've enjoyed this story and can't wait for the next installment in this addictive series. I'm very curious to find out what Brynley has in tow for the next couple and how the operation Phoenix Rising will end.

\*I've received an ARC by the author in exchange for an honest review.\*

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## **Jenny says**

It was okay. However one thing really popped out at me. The epilogue scene in India. The character is at a



doctor's house. Helping take care of the goats. And teaching his sons English. The Doctor speaks English. India has cities. But okay. He lives in a place where he can raise goats. (Not all Sikh practice Jhatka so I'm hoping he's raising those goats as pets). More power to him. Meanwhile? India has two official languages as set out in their Constitution. One being? English. Kids are taught \*in\* English in most schools. And if their father is a doctor? It is a good bet they are going to schools which would teach in English. Most kids except for the rural and/or very poor are speaking English along with their regional language from day one. A Doctor's family isn't going to need this character to teach the kids the language. They could probably teach him global internet English kid slang.

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### **Pelusa Rivera says**

Received an ARC for my fair review for netgalley. This was the second book in series, and I am going back and forth, I kind of want to know what happens with Liam which is in the next book, however this one just wasn't for me. This was Gemma and Walker, who were best friends, and since Gemma wants to be more adventurous sexually for an older man she meet, she asks Walker to assist, and you can imagine the rest, they fall in love, or admit they they always loved each other.

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### **Heather 123 says**

This is another one of those series where I'm glad I didn't give up after not liking the first book in the series. This book redeemed the series for me and I can't wait to read the next one! I'm dying to know how it all ends up!

The characters were built and developed well. I liked the back story between Gemma and Walter; their friendship and humor made me laugh several times while reading this. It also made her requesting help from him much more realistic.

\*\* ARC received from Netgalley \*\*

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### **Mia London says**

Great read-loved the romance, loved the intrigue. And what a refreshing change to read the lighter side of BDSM. Two thumbs up.

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### **Deborah says**

3.5\*

Before I start my review I'd just like to say don't make the same mistake as me, read the previous book first.

I was aware this was book 2 (obviously) and I don't generally read books out of order but I read the blurb for the first one 'Rogue' and it didn't really appeal to me and since it featured different characters I decided to skip it.

What really stood out about this one was Declan I really wanted to read about the dominant older man.

This book wasn't what I expected on so many levels and it was obvious early on that I'd misread the blurb, having been so excited about Declan I missed the part about Gemma and Walker becoming 'more' and so I had a longer than expected settling in period.

This was also more than a simple romance and the first book became relevant, yes I managed without but I would have preferred to have read it, I was more annoyed with myself than anything.

Gemma is twenty-five years old and has never experienced an orgasm with a man, she dreams of a faceless man holding her down knowing exactly what she wants and needs. Just as she's given up all hope of actually finding said man and has resigned herself to buying loads of cats she meets Declan, the forty+ father of a prospective client. He seems to be exactly what she's looking for, he's a dominant looking for a submissive and he wants her.

Gemma is given time to think about if this is what she wants meanwhile she enlists Walker into helping her become the sub that Declan wants.

Like I said I should have read the previous book first but by the time I realised that I was too far into this one to stop.

This is an enjoyable read I liked both Gemma and Walker although the he/she doesn't feel the same way went on for a little too long for my liking but it all came good in the end.

The epilogue is really good and gives a taste of what's to come in Charlottes book.

I voluntarily read a review copy kindly provided by NetGalley and Entangled Publishing, LLC.

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