



Translucent

Erin Noelle

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Sometimes you reach a point where you just can't take any more — a breaking point, some call it.

The day I watched my husband murder the woman who was pregnant with his child, my point didn't just break, it exploded like a full magazine's worth of hollow points firing through the barrel of a fully-automatic AK-47.

Literally.

I am no longer his American Princess, nor am I his slave.

Now, I'm a murderer in hiding. My name was Bryleigh Carter Oliveira, and that was my story.

Translucent is one woman's story of breaking free, starting over, and learning to trust again through willful submission.

Translucent Details

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From Reader Review Translucent for online ebook

Brenna says

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This has a really intriguing synopsis, when I stumbled across it I knew I had to read it. Right away I could tell this would be an intense story and it definitely lived up to that expectation.

At seventeen, a naïve Bryleigh was swept off her feet by an older, charismatic, powerful man. Being young and innocent, she thought he was perfect and rushed into a very serious, very adult relationship with him right away. Not long into their marriage she discovers he is not who he seems and once its out in the open, things couldn't get worse for Bryleigh. Her husband, Ishmael is a sick, sick man – some of the things he does in front of her and makes her do are truly revolting and hard to stomach. After one especially horrible act, she knows she can't take it anymore and does the only thing she can, she kills the bastard.

At the beginning of the book, we're briefly introduced to Bryleigh's horrible situation with her husband but within a few pages things quickly shift to her new life. Now twenty-two, living as Blake Martin in witness protection, she's trying live a normal life, working and just being a regular person. Within the first few weeks at her new job, her company is hired to consult for Decker Enterprises, where she meets the enigmatic Madden Decker, CEO.

Madden is intense, he commands attention and knows what he wants. After their introduction at a work presentation, Madden starts pursuing Blake rather quickly. Honestly, I didn't really like the insta-lusting going on between them at first. Madden wants her so badly and Blake is completely confused – as was I. He knows she has a rough past, but her timid nature draws him in and once he sees there's more to her he's even more intense about proving to her that they should be together. I decided to go with the flow and just see how things go with them, not overthink it too much and I'm so glad I did.

“If you can fins it in yourself to allot me the tiniest sliver of faith, I will do everything in my power to help you break free from these demons holding you hostage.”

Blake has some very traumatic events in her past, as I said, her husband was a total psycho. Even though he's dead, she may not be in the clear from his family and not only that but she's haunted with night terrors and violent spells triggered by flashbacks. Her episodes are super intense, often physically doing harm to herself without her even being conscious for it. They really kind of broke my heart and that's what made me finally get on board with Madden and Blake as a couple. Madden is so convincing and genuine in his feelings for her and his need to help her overcome her past. I really came to respect how he cared for her and the way everything plays out. He's incredibly patient with her, doesn't force her to share her past with him, and just supports her 100%, although at times he's a bit alpha about it (which I kinda loved).

“He made me forget everything and every else in the world, past and present, and nothing mattered except him and me... nothing but us.”

Erin Noelle did an excellent job of depicting the dark past of a troubled woman through vivid flashbacks and

with such great emotion. Even though Blake is in a weakened state many times throughout the story, she's such a likeable character and her strength through it all still shined through. I loved the overall feel whenever Blake and Madden were interacting and wow... there are some really well done sex scenes. Unique, descriptive, hot, hot hot, these two definitely had some off the charts chemistry.

After the ending of this, which had me madly flipping pages to make sure I was really reading "The End" and not hallucinating, I am *dying* for the next book!

ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review.

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Brianna at Renee Entress's Blog says

5 BRILLIANT STARS!

EPIC. BRILLIANT. GRITTY. REAL. RAW. SEXY. BEAUTIFUL. DARK. UGLY. SECRETS. LIES. YES SIR. CLIFFHANGER.

I don't think that words or stars can do this book justice. This book was brilliantly written by this author. It is a romance that has a dark twist to it that come with Bryleigh's flashbacks. I am not going to reveal any spoilers because this book is one that needs to be experienced. It spoke to me on so many levels but be warned... it does end on a cliffhanger. BUT if I could give this book 10 stars, I totally would!

Bryleigh is broken. She was in a loveless, abusive, demeaning, horrible relationship that she got out of the only way she could- by killing her husband. Now she is in witness protection and on the run. But still trying to pick up the pieces, Bryleigh moves to California and starts over. She has a new job. She has a new home. She has a new life. Just as she is starting to get the hang of things and adapt to her new life, in walks Madden.

Madden is the CEO of a company that has hired Bryleigh's company for consultation. The minute he sees Bryleigh he has to make her his. So he pursues her but little does he know how damaged or secretive Bryleigh is. He knows something horrible happened because of her harmful behavior to herself but he sees something in her that calls to him.

As Madden and Bryleigh embark on a relationship that is built on learning to trust and submit, you see Bryleigh begin to open up and blossom. But Bryleigh is keeping secrets from Madden and he knows it. But these secrets are deadly ones that Bryleigh may never be free of. And Madden is not without a past- his brother and his "friend". She is a serious piece of work. He is also a non-commitment guy but that totally changed with Bryleigh.

I loved this book. It was so beautifully written. Yes it has dark moments from her flashbacks (which are seriously disturbing) but this book is about Bryleigh and her learning to heal from the abuse and torment she suffered. I loved Madden and he has become a BBF of mine. He was so kind, patient, and totally there for

Bryleigh though he has no clue what she has been through, only tiny snippets that she told him.

Now, that ending. WTF! It is a serious cliffhanger that is going to want to make you throw your kindle across the room and then stalk the author for any teasers, snippets, or a release date for book two. I don't know if this book is a 2 book series or a trilogy but what I do know is I need book 2 now!

ONE. CLICK. THIS. BOOK. TODAY.

You won't be disappointed. It is going to be the book of 2014... I just know it. It is one of those books that sticks with you LONG after it is over.

Jan says

This story was so good. Kind of unputdownable. A bit of horror, drama and angst.

It starts with Bryleigh killing her husband. He was a bastard son of a cartel boss. No need to say that she needs to disappear after that. So, she goes under witness protection getting a new identity and life.

In her new life she struggles to cope with the episodes and flashbacks of all horror she had been through and is at this point where we get to know her past.

She meets the hero, a very protective 35 years old guy (she is only 22) and so far so good. Until the "you call me Sir in the bedroom". I just feel so disappointed :(

Are all the books like this now?

It would be a 5 stars book for me IF wasn't for that.

Nevertheless, I will be waiting anxious for book#2 because even felling a bit disappointed with the "Sir" thingy I enjoyed this story A LOT.

Warning: a massive cliffhanger.

♥? Diana ♥? says

3.5 Stars

Overall the story was good. I enjoyed it but didn't love it. Though the story flowed and her writing Drew me in. Madden?? Love him. Gosh though you wonder why he wants to even get involved with Blake?? Lol. Blake is a sweet girl who experienced much too much at such an early age. Gosh those flasbacks?? Ish is one crazy motherfucker who is very brutal and just plain nuts. I must say if you are squeamish than these scenes will bother you. It did make me realize just how fucked up she was. I'm rooting for this girl, cause she deserves an HEA so I will defiantly continue with this story.....somehow I feel Emerson is involved with that ending!!she's a witch!!! It ended kind of suddenly so I was a little likeuhm , what just happened???? But as I said I will defiantly read the next one. Very enjoyable book!!

Gloria Herrera for As You Wish Reviews says

"Translucent is one woman's story of breaking free, starting over, and learning to trust again through willful submission." This is a great description of this book.

Bryleigh/Blake is now in witness protection with a fake identity and trying to rebuild some sort of an existence. The horrors her now dead ex-husband made her go through still haunts her. After intensive psychiatric help, she still succumbs to these horrible flashbacks and nightmares that paralyze her.

This is also the story of a man learning to trust and love again. Madden has been deeply hurt by the woman he was about to marry. Now some ten years later, his life is full of one-night-stands and no feelings, other than his deep love of his family - mother, father, and reprobate brother.

Blake and Madden meet and an explosion of chemistry happens. Taking it slow, they both agree to give this new feeling a chance to grow and what ensues is a sensual, loving courtship worthy of the best romantic novel.

The author has given us a story here full of turmoil and the horrors of a past that no young woman should ever have to experience. Well written, our story also gives us a haunting heroine who we love and cheer to fully heal and begin a new life. Be aware this is only book #1 in this series. The ending has a cliffhanger. Sometimes we cannot fully out run our past. Transparent (book #2) is due out this Fall.

Melissa Brown says

Dark and disturbing yet passionate and sexy---Erin Noelle delivers a hot romance with incredible depth. I can't wait to read the next book in the series!!! Hurry up, Erin!!!! ;))

Joanne says

I was fortunate enough to receive an advance copy of this book and it blew me away!! I won't post spoilers, but I will say that I fell in love with the story and the main characters.

Bryleigh is a strong woman who has been through hell (understatement) and is trying to put her life back together while constantly worrying and looking over her shoulder. Then there is Madden....I love him! Definitely swoonworthy and someone you won't easily forget.

This book made me feel so many emotions. There were parts that were very dark and I had several "Oh my God that did not just happen" moments and I love that in a book. When I read something that makes me feel what the characters are feeling is the best and Erin Noelle did that! Congrats on a great book!

?Flo? the coffee addict says

4 deliciously slow burning STARS

Translucent was not at all what I expected and I liked it even more because of that. It is a dark read as well as a sweet as sugar romance novel and that's just not what I was counting on when I started reading. I sure as

hell didn't expect to like such a thing. But there you have it.

“If you can find it in yourself to allot me the tiniest sliver of faith, I will do everything in my power to help you break free from these demons holding you hostage. I want you to willingly turn it all over to me- your pleasure and your pain.”

This book is basically the definition of slow burn and if that doesn't float your boat you might be better off reading something else, but for me strangely enough it was just what I needed.

It's a common story; a naïve seventeen year old girl falls for the wrong man and finds out far too late in how much trouble she is and what kind of fate she has brought upon everyone she loves.

After enduring far too much for her young age Bryleigh breaks and sees only one way out. Kill her husband - the Italian mobster.

Fun times!

Now that is where I thought the book would turn into a bloody revenge story, mixed in with some kink...and it really isn't. But let's not get ahead of ourselves.

“Sometimes you reach a point where you just can't take any more — a breaking point, some call it.”

Bryleigh Carter Oliveira killed her husband and in order to survive the wrath of his family she has to go into hiding and become a different person...namely **Blake Martin**.

Thank god the bastard was a wanted man and some people in law enforcement wanted him gone or she would have been in even more trouble. Just sayin'.

The story follows 22 year old Blake struggling and adjusting into her new life in witness protection, a new city, a new job, a new man and gives us small glimpses into her past with flashbacks.

Now her new job is interesting. She has no qualifications or experience, but she is hired (with some help from the law I would guess) in a graphic design firm in the marketing department (I wonder why I even study...). Anyway, her first client turned out to be the obligatory love interest.

Oh, I love romance novels.

Madden Decker is the 34 year old CEO of the Decker Enterprises a family firm that trades in security something...or another and they want to expand into video gaming. Yeah, I didn't get that part either. :D

But the important part is that in a pitch meeting for this new endeavour Madden can't keep his eyes off the obviously shy and probably submissive Blake, and right off the bat asks her out. Well, he doesn't so much ask as he tells her that he will take her out for dinner. Gotta love a domineering alpha, right?

"Something tells me I'm biting off more than I can chew with her, that I'm not strong enough to help her through whatever it is that terrorizes her, but for some reason, I can't walk away."

I have to confess, I love Blake and Madden together. As mentioned above, this book is a slow burner, but when it does catch fire it lights up the whole house.

Madden is sweet and caring man under all the alpha-ness and he has the patience of a saint. Blake has, and this is quite obvious from the beginning, huge issues with her past and has even bigger problems with handling those past nightmares. But Mr. Decker just goes with it. *sighs*

Question is, can he help Blake deal with her issues and what happens if/when her past catches up to them?

Translucent is written in 1st person narrative, from both Blake's and Madden's POV and it helps a lot in understanding both characters and gives the complex relationship a good foundation.

This book is also described as a bdsm novel. Now, if you want to call it that...it's vanilla-bdsm from top to bottom. Yes, there is some 'Sir' calling and even blindfolds, but nowhere near a real kinky situation. I hope it gets a bit more risqué within the next book(s?), but for now, it's not much. But that's not to say this isn't insanelly hot.

The flashbacks are why I also put this book on my dark-read shelf and let me tell you, they are dark. Sometimes even overly so. I'm not sure if the story needed such descriptive scenes, but what can you do?

To finish this off, I'm pissed as hell about the cliffy. Damn you, Ms. Noelle. And stopping at 92%...not cool. Is it fall yet?

BR with the Canaries

Elle the ClosetRomanceReader aka Leftie aka Shoebelle says

3.5 ★

Reading the blurb, I guess what I read was not what I was expecting, which ended up being a good thing. I was expecting to be fully immersed in Bryleigh/Blake's horrific past, but I wasn't and all the gladder for that. Because judging from her "episodes", which is how her past unfolds, I'm glad I was getting only a glimpse of her past in small doses. It was just violent and harsh. And to put such a young heroine thru that? Just really horrible...

Which then makes the unfolding of the H&h's love story tender and heartwarming, I thought, especially under the context of a D/S relationship.

There were things that niggled at me a little, like some of the cheesy lines and the almost-formulaic feel at times, but Ms. Noelle did hook me in with the story. This being the first of a series, the relationship has just started building up, it kinda gives you an idea where the future conflicts will arise from, and it does end on a cliffie. Definitely looking forward to the rest of it, for sure!

BR with CD Canaries

PJ says

3 Kinda Disappointed Stars

This was a big MEH for me. It read like the characters were on meth and every chapter was so spazzy--like the author needed to rush through this book to get to the second. There was absolutely NO cliffhanger for me as I KNEW that was going to happen. And Madden was like this inverse of Ish personality-wise. His temper flared easily, he was extremely possessive and he had a huge sexual appetite. Hell, she'd have been better off with Greg.

Now, the flashbacks were well written. They were enough to fuck a person up for life. Only Blake waffled between being majorly messed up and then absolutely fine, kicking her up as she ran through the sandy beach, and being chased and tickled. I'd be clawing at the walls and screaming if a man approached me, HOT as sin or not. I loved the idea of the book, I just think other writers have handled the stress of surviving a horrifying time like that and making it out okay on the other side.

Oh, and wouldn't the people, who helped place her vet her new beau very carefully? I was very confused by that.

S.M. West says

3.5 STARS

This was my first book by Erin Noelle and she did >**an excellent job of depicting the brutal realities of one recovering/escaping from severe emotional and physical abuse.** This story was very graphic about the abuse at the hands of a violent criminal and while Blake certainly has her issues and weaknesses, I could not help but like her. I totally understood and felt for her and while, at times destructive, understood her coping mechanisms to deal with the devastating horrors she endured and what pushed her to her breaking point.

Her relationship with Madden was what I expected but also kept me intrigued as to where it was going to go. Their chemistry was rockin' and the sex was HOT.

Of course, this book ended on a cliff hanger and I am hooked enough to want to find out where Ms. Noelle is going to take this.

This was a BR with the fabulous Canaries!

Ashley Suzanne says

Well ... what can you say about this book ... WOWZA ... that about sums it up.

This story ... I'm just over here like .. WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON!?!?! This poor girl lived a terrifying life with a monster ... a real life, lives under your bed and haunts your worst nightmares, M.O.N.S.T.E.R. After finding a way out, she starts a new life. Well, as new as it can be when you're technically on the run from the worst of the worst.

I was feeling all scared for this girl until she meets Madden Decker .. and let me tell you girls ... y'all though CG was hot YOU ARE WRONG MADDEN TAKES THE CAKE

I'd like to be HIS .. yep .. I belong to Madden ... forever .. and a day.

Sexy hot dom style man and broken and battered girl ... THIS BOOK WINS!!!!

I'm not going to get into a lot here because ... you need to go in BLIND. This book is mysterious, sexy, HOTTTTTTTTT, edge of your seat and unputdownable.

When this sucker goes live BUY IT and THANK ME.

You're welcome!!!

Ena May - Swoon Worthy Books/Enticing Journey Book Promotions says

HOLY MONKEY BALLS FLIPPIN SHIT HEAD MOTHER TRUCKER WHAT A BOOK! Okay okay okay okay..Listen up very carefully. I could go on and on and on and on about how wonderful Translucent was but I can't because I don't want to give anything away. I want you to experience it for yourself for the very first time without any knowledge of it from me. To be honest I read so much I don't even read blurbs anymore so I didn't even know what Translucent was about, all I knew was I have heard great things about Erin's previous works and the cover was smoking hot so I was like okay Translucent is going to be my very first Erin read and holy shit what a way to start off – she literally blew my flippin mind apart and than put it back together. After killing his husband, in which I think she was way to easy on him. Personally for me I would have shot him but not killed him right away than cut off his pecker and fed it to me than killed him - but hey that is me. But anyway got sidetracked now back to the review. So after killing her husband she is now on the run and has a new life and this is where the story begins.

“Start over. Forget about everyone you care about and everything that's happened in the past. It's your only chance to stay alive.”

Blake blew me away from her dark and disturbing past to her strength and will to survive. She is true survivor who will do whatever it takes to make sure she is safe and from her past, living in hiding and watching her every move is the only way she knows how to survive.

That is all I can say about Blake because I don't want to give anything away but you will fall in love with her strength and determination. For someone so young she had no choice but to grow up fast with the cards that life dealt her and my heart broke for her over and over again during the read. She challenged me to not break down and cry for everything she had been through and everything she goes through daily just to stay alive.

Okay now moving on to a man that literally made gave me the need to just remove the panties all together, Madden. Holy shit on a stick he is every woman's wet dream and than some. From the moment Madden met Blake he knew she was different and for the first time in a long time left him wanting more than just sex. The mystery behind her and her past pulled him into her and left he knowing he had to find out more that was Blake. He wanted her and wanted her badly and knew he had to do everything slow and steady.

She can't let her guard down, ever. Constantly looking over her shoulders she questions everything including Madden's perusal. She quickly finds herself revealing more and more to Madden but never telling him her deepest and darkness secrets. The secrets that sometimes haunt her dreams and leave her immobile. The past that will always haunt her and have her questioning everything and everyone.

You know what they say sometimes your past will eventually catch up with you? Well, if that is true for Blake that means instant death and death for the ones that mean something to her. Can Blake finally let go and bury her past once and for all and have a future with Madden or will her past catch her and end everything leaving her basically Translucent?

Oh Erin Erin Erin, I love you but oh shit what have you done to me? Translucent was a page-turner for me.

Blake broke my heart and Madden melted my panties. The storyline was genius and the delivery was flawless. Some flashbacks of the past literally were hard for me to read because the writing and descriptions were very detailed but they were executed perfectly. There were many what the hell just happened moments and what the hell is going to happen moments. The end gutted me leaving me craving and needing more. Not wanting – there is a HUGE difference between need and want. Nope I need more like yesterday Erin so I hope you are busy in your writing cave to bring us more. Brilliant! One of my favorite top reads in 2014!

Ashley Lenderman says

I was hooked on this book from the blurb! I was so tied up in it I didn't want to put it down!

Bryleigh Carterd was seventeen when she met the devil himself Ismael. Bryleigh thought she found the love her life so young and was ready to marry him. Just a week before their wedding EVERYTHING changed. Little did she know that her husband had a secret life in the Italian Mafia. One day she witnessed something so horrific and that was the turning point of her life.

“Start Over. Forget about everyone you care about and everything that’s happened in the past. It’s your only chance to live.”

Several years later Bryleigh is in the witness protection program and is now Blake Martin. She is trying to start over and live a happy life. But with all the hell and demons from her past, it's by far not easy! She is in a new place and starting a new job. When she lands a big project with Decker Enterprises, Blake meets the CEO Madden Decker. Madden is instantly attracted to Blake and he doesn't hesitate to ask her out. Blake is thrown through a loop and not sure how to respond to Madden. She doesn't trust anybody and she is so broken and has so many issues going on, but Madden ends up getting her to agree to dinner.

I need to take a moment and gush over Madden Decker! OMG!! I am not afraid to admit it, but I'm absolutely in LOVE him!! He is so sweet, caring, and attentive when it comes to Blake.

He is also sexy, dirty and can be a little dominant in the bedroom, but no complaints here! ;)

He is definitely on my top favorite Book Boyfriend list!!

Blake is so shocked how Madden responds to her. He is wanting to get know her more and wants to help her and protect her. He knows she harbors a dark past but he doesn't push her.

“If you can find it in yourself to allot me the tiniest sliver of faith, I will do everything in my power to help you break free from these demons holding you hostage. I want you to willingly turn it all over to me- your pleasure and your pain.”

He does exactly what he said he would. He fights and helps her so much! Your heart will just swoon over what lengths he goes for her. Madden has introduced Blake to a life of freedom and happiness.

You can't help but be so happy for them! As I was getting towards the end I knew there had to be some bad coming soon but I was not expecting it to end like that! AHHHHHH!!!!

I need the next book like NOW!!!

This story was amazing! It was so raw and heartbreaking and was dark in some areas, but then there was the beautiful love story that transpired before your eyes. It's also a story of surviving and finding love and happiness again! It was EPIC! I must say your heart will break in two when you see what Blake went through with her ex-husband. You will cringe and cry and think OMG! There are a lot of WTF moments!

I highly recommend this book! Mrs. Noelle did a phenomenal job with story and she leaves you wanting more!

Laci says

I liked it. I have fallen head over heels with the author. This is my fifth book of hers.

This has an ending that makes you want to read the second book. I hope I don't miss it as there's not another book listed.
