



Merciless

Sybil Bartel

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Bodyguard.

Mercenary.

Gun for hire.

I didn't care what you called it, the end result was always the same.

You paid me for a job, you got results. The Marines trained me to shoot, but life taught me to aim. Working for the best personal security firm in the business was a stepping stone. Put in my time, build the resume, then move on. I didn't do attachments, on any level.

Until a smoking-hot former one-night stand crossed the street in front of me, holding hands with a kid who was my spitting image. She tried to play it off, deny he was mine. She said she didn't even remember me, right before she picked her kid up and ran. She thought she'd made a clean escape.

But she was about to find out how merciless a bodyguard could be.

**MERCILESS is the second standalone book in the Alpha Bodyguard Series.*

The Alpha Bodyguard Series:

SCANDALOUS – Tank's story

MERCILESS – Collins's story

RECKLESS – Tyler's story

RUTHLESS – Sawyer's story

Merciless Details

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From Reader Review Merciless for online ebook

Lissanne says

I have never come across another romance author who can create alphas quite as well as this one. Her alphas are hot, unrelenting, bossy and dominating. I found Collins to be a little softer around the edges than his fellow bodyguards, but that made him all the more endearing.

The story starts three years ago. Collins is back in Miami for twenty-four hours to see his ailing mother and he drops in to see a friend, Dax Tyler, (the brother of the Tyler who stars in the next book, Reckless) at his bar. It's there he meets Brookelynn, a homeless, bruised young woman who Dax found going through his garbage. He gave her a job and some food, but she doesn't talk much.

Collins finds himself intrigued by the woman, and when they hear a loud crash out back, they race out to find her surrounded by shattered glass and injured. It's clear that she's being abused by someone, but Brookelynn refuses to tell him anything. Despite the fact he's about to be shipped out again, he follows her after she leaves the bar and sees she's staying in some seedy motel and using a rusty bike to get around.

He eventually coaxes her into coming to his condo for a meal, and they end up in bed together. Collins will only be gone for another three months, so he offers her his condo and asks her to stay. To wait for him. However, during the night, the man Brookelynn was running from shows up at Collins's condo, and Brookelynn feels she has no choice but to go with the man she's been trying to escape for years – but not after taking the keys to Collins's car.

Collins is determined to find Brookelynn, and he spends the next year looking. Not even Andre Luna can locate her. She's a ghost. He tries to forget her, but can't. Three years later, Collins has left the Marines and is working for Andre in Miami. He's on assignment one day when he literally walks straight past her – and this time, she's not alone. She has a small child with her. A child who looks exactly like Collins did at the same age.

Now that Collins has found Brookelynn again, he's not going to let her go – especially now he knows they have a son. He manages to find out Brookelynn has been living with a man who is known for money laundering for a powerful cartel, and this is the man she was running from when he first met her. Getting her away from Nathan Lewis isn't going to be easy, but Collins isn't going to leave his son and the woman he hasn't been able to stop thinking about for three years in harm's way. Oh, he's plenty annoyed with her, but when he realises the situation she and their son are in, he knows he has to get her out.

With the help of the always cheerful and flirty Talon, the gorgeously dominant Neil, and a few other familiar faces, Collins manages to extract Brookelynn and their boy safely – but not before he is mortally shot. Once he recovers from his injuries, he stays with them in a safe house where he and Brookelynn must decide if they have something between them worth fighting for.

This book has all the hallmarks of Sybil's delicious writing – hot bodyguards, strong women, incredibly hot sex scenes, and two characters who have a connection that runs deep. Another fantastic book.

Elizabeth (Liz) says

3.75

Jeriann Fisher says

I Couldn't Put It Down.

Merciless is Sybil Bartel's new stand-alone & nobody does alpha United States Marine heroes and lightning-paced romantic suspense quite like her. Garrett Collins. Remember that name. He's a tough but tender Marine home on a very short leave when he has a one-night stand with a mysterious, troubled young woman who tells him her name is Brookelyn, but he senses something phony about that. He doesn't care because she pushes all his buttons, if you know what I mean. She wants desperately to forget her awful circumstance for a few hours with the tough and good-hearted Marine.

Brookelynn & Garrett connect and it's practically spontaneous combustion. Wow! But she disappears. And takes his truck. And his heart. He knows she leaves with a man & the unanswered questions haunt him.

Fast forward 3 years and Garrett sees Brookelyn on a Miami street but she's not alone. The individual she's with makes Garrett chase her down & call in his favor from his boss, Andre Luna. But does Garrett want revenge? Does he want to rescue Brookelyn? Will she even let him? Things with Brookelyn are not what they appear to be. Will that make a difference?

Merciless thunders towards a rousing last 1/4 featuring lots of action that include Dane, Neil, Talon, & Sawyer. Both Garrett & Brookelyn will have to forgive the other if they want true love.

I liked both Garrett & Brookelyn. Kudos to Ms. Bartel for telling this story linearly & not rely on flashbacks or storytelling gimmicks to cover the time spread.

I'm pretty sure I will have a major book hangover for a while. Get Merciless today!

ARC provided by the author.

Mikky (Nocturnal Predators Reviews) says

Originally posted at:

This was such a good book! I loved seeing characters from this author's other novels coming together to help out a fellow comrade. I like seeing the family dynamic all these grown men have with men they served with in the military.

I adore Collins. He's a perfect balance of the so-called "alpha" trope and being a respectful human being. He doesn't cross the line from "alpha" into jack*ss, which I am eternally grateful to the author for. I liked how he pushed when something was dire but respected her wishes to not talk about something when it was

irrelevant to any situation.

Brooke rubbed me to wrong way in so many instances throughout this novel. I understand the abuse victim mentality and it was portrayed well in this novel (as far as I can tell) but boy! was is annoying to have to read through it. I can respect someone running away after being offered help from a complete stranger who happens to be a huge muscled man who kind-of-but-not-really stalks you after the person you're truly running away from finds you. I know I'm asking too much but half the story wouldn't have had to happen had she accepted/asked for help from the beginning.

The ending was what I was expecting with a few twists that I didn't see coming. I liked how things got resolved. I liked seeing both Collins and Brooke happy for once. I loved seeing Neil from a different perspective. I can't wait to see what the next story in this series is going to be!

My Favorite Quotes:

"Make peace or die. [...] Fear serves a purpose. Panic doesn't."

"This isn't an obligation, duty or pity. You don't get to glorify what I am."

"If you're in trouble, I'm always an option for you."

Kate Garrard says

Another hit here for Sybil!!! I love her writing. She creates amazing stories with hot and sexy alpha men you can't or don't want to say no to. The chemistry has me hooked from the beginning. Can't wait to get into the next book.

Lager & Lefse Book Blog says

Thank you, Jaime, for the recommendation of this book. I loved this book and highly recommend it as well! Review to follow!!

Kristen Johnson says

Collins Collins Collins. I'll have to think of the words to describe your book.

Somia says

For me this has been a fab introduction to the work of Sybil Bartel.

The chemistry/heat between Collin and Brookelyn was written and teased out wonderfully.

A strong alpha male who doesn't cross the line into being an ass - perfect. Add in a resilient sassy heroine, action, and a story that flows well and you have yourself a hot engaging read.

Mindy Lou's Book Review says

If you love to read about real alpha men, you gotta read Sybil Bartel's books. Holy moly, does she really know how to bring us a hero who what I call a manly man. These men are pure Alpha. They are military trained. They are deadly. The best part, they are true protectors and so, so good to their women.

Collin is everything I mentioned above and more. Every time I read one of Bartel's books, I gotta make room for a new favorite. I love that she also brings back past heroes to make an appearance in each new book. I'm reminded to why I love all these men. They all create the odd family that I wish I can be a part of.

I started out not knowing how I feel about Brookelyn. She seemed too stubborn at first, but the more I read and learned about her situation, the more I felt compassion for her. I couldn't wait for Collins to come in and rescue her cause I knew he would.

Merciless gave me the Alpha fix I needed but I can't wait for the next book. I'm greedy like that.

Peggy says

My fav author and every book is a must read. I'm not going to specifically tell you what this book is about because you have the blurb and other reviews as well accept to say it's a five star read. If you haven't read Sybil Bartel's entire library _ you are missing out! This author writes books that make you forget everything - they are perfectly written, they flow just right, they captivate and draw you in, they are funny, sweet, action packed and emotionally tense and I guarantee not only that you can't put it down, you'll forget to make supper. I read about 250 books a year. Hundred of authors, but only I can count on one Hand my fav's and Sybil's books are at the top, head and shoulders above the rest. Sybil writes about dominating, gorgeous, pure alpha hero's and our favourite characters always have a part or parts in each new book. Each book is about one such alpha hero and the one woman who brings him to his knees. Each series is slightly intertwined with the others and I love it because I always want more. There is no other author that keeps me coming back. I've read all Sybil's books atleast 4 times and the only thing better then a brand new Sybil Bartel book is a long book. I generally let everyone know they are on their own for the next 24 hours. This is my gift to me, my time to relax and enjoy and I've never once been disappointed. Sybil is a gem, trust me - you'll want to read and savour every book and then you will be like the rest of us, patiently waiting, begging for more.

Lee Piper says

Holy hotness, she's done it again.

Sybil Bartel's, Merciless (The Alpha Bodyguard Series) is everything a reader wants in a book. There's an

alpha af hero, resilient, sassy heroine, jam-packed action scenes, and smokin' hot sex. Heck, your heartrate will double, possibly triple, in some parts of this well-crafted novel.

Well-crafted.

Yep, those two words are synonymous with Bartel's work. In fact, they represent what I love most about her writing. Sybil is a master at three-dimensional character building, at slowly teasing out their truth, one multi-layered line of dialogue at a time. It's also in the way she structures her stories, paces the action, and builds the tension that ensures the reader is in for one hell of a ride when they open the book.

Read it. You can thank me later.

Melanie A. says

4.5 STARS!

"There's more than chemistry here. I know it."

As always, Ms. Bartel delivers! I've really come to love the world she's created for her ex-Marines, many of whom make cameos in this book. Spending time with these guys is such a pleasure.

Plot in a nutshell: Brooke made a lot of bad choices when she was a teenager. Years later, she's doing her best to escape her past when she meets Garrett, a jaded Marine who's almost finished his third tour.

Though he knows she's trouble, Garrett can't seem to resist wanting to know more about her.

I didn't know if she was eighteen or thirty. Her face was young, but her eyes were old. [...] She was captivating - a gorgeous, beautiful, mind fuck of incongruity.

GAH! Merciless had everything I've come to love about this author's work: a fast-paced plot, a tortured ALPHA, a strong, yet vulnerable heroine, a nice tug at my heartstrings, and SCORCHINGLY HOT SEX.

If, like me, you love a good trashy romance, I can't recommend this author enough!

"What happened to the woman who didn't like people getting near her?"

Strong and bold, she held my gaze. "She hadn't met you."

Katherine says

We are introduced to Collins (a Marine) home from Afghanistan for only hours to attend to a family emergency. Exhausted mentally & locked up emotionally, Collins spares a few hours to visit his friend's bar to talk, drink & maybe pick up a woman for the night. It's there he meets Brookelyn, timid, haunted &

terrified of people: male or female.

Collins finds Brookelyn pulls at him as no other woman has, her beauty yes, but it is more the expression in her eyes that calls to him like a Siren.

Despite her best efforts, she ends up at Collin's oceanview condo & ends up allowing herself to have a few hours of pleasure for herself with the military male who in spite of his commanding dominance, his massive size & rugged looks makes her feel safe, wanted & treasured.

And Collins a taciturn & an emotional wasteland unaccountably finds himself trying to entice Brookelyn to wait for him for 3 months when his current tour of duty is completed.

But Brookelyn is hiding a dark past that is still grimly part of her present. And terrified it will drag Collins down, she flees the condo before the dawn.

The first half of the book takes place over the course of a few hours, I did think it went on a little longer than I would have preferred but it sets the tone for how impacted Collins is by Brookelyn's disappearance & why he feels & acts the way he does in the 2nd part of the book & why Brookelyn left the way she did.

However, the action & tension explodes in the 2nd half: Andre, Sawyer, Talon, Dane, as well as Neil (it is funny how Neil scares even Collins) all make appearances to help Collins in his laser focused goal.

But Brookelyn ripped Collins' heart with her betrayal & her deception & now Collins must decide if he'll save her, unaware of the hell she's actually in.

The author does an excellent job with her characters, we get both Collins & Brookelyn's POV throughout the story & her action & covert mission scenes are some of the best I've read.

I was very much interested in both Collins & Brookelyn, rooting for them to overcome their pasts & heartache, to have a HEA together. But first Collins must decide if Brookelyn is worthy to be saved & even Andre Luna admits the enemy they must overcome is beyond Luna & Associates abilities to take down. A rousing read with an stellar cast.

Liz Booker says

Great book! The storyline flowed very well, and quickly. A very enjoyable read.

Samantha I Love HEA Romance Book Blog says

Another 5 Star read from this amazing author! Her alpha men are just delicious, and I need more! This book so SOOOO good, I dived right into it even before I read the blurb. This book has a whole lot of action, and is definitely a very intriguing read.

Collins is ex military. He is rough, tough, and in my eyes he is an absolute sweetheart! His back story isn't a terribly happy one. Collins is an alpha just like the rest of his security workmates.

Brookelyn has secrets, secrets that could get her into a lot of trouble. She is trapped with no way out.

Brookelyn is very timid. She has had a horrible few years and Collins is her breath of fresh air. Can they be happy?

I definitely could not put this book down. It was action packed, and a really enjoyable read. I loved seeing all the past characters show up to help out. I really like when there is an interconnected standalone. There are steamy scenes and some insta love, but it all pulled together really well. The story flowed nicely and I was never bored. I can't wait to read more from this series!

