



## **Beautiful Delusions**

*Ember-Raine Winters*

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Kaylee

One night was all it took. One accident and I could no longer outrun my past. The terror I'd escaped was hot on my trail and the only person I could turn to was the man who'd hurt me the most.

Griffin

One moment was all it took. One wrong word and she was gone from my life. Fifteen years later, I had a chance to make things right. I could even make Kaylee mine...

If the monster didn't destroy her first.

## **Beautiful Delusions Details**

Date : Published February 8th 2017

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Author : Ember-Raine Winters

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## From Reader Review Beautiful Delusions for online ebook

### Tracey says

**\*I have volunteered to share my review and all the opinions are 100% my own.\***

This is the story of single mother Kaylee who has been having a rough time, with a drug addict father of her two children and being in a very traumatic abusive relationship with her second partner. The trauma from this has caused Kaylee to have PTSD flashbacks and it doesn't help that her immediate family is not very supportive.

Then we have Griffin, he had let Kaylee go fifteen years ago and now being back posing as her PTSD therapist, his only ulterior motive now was to keep her safe as he is former Special Forces and owns his own security firm, so with the help of his team Kaylee and the kids couldn't be in better hands.

With lots of action and suspense this story will keep you on your toes to the end and the character development was just right and I liked how the PTSD was dealt with.

Looking forward to the next instalment in this "Pride and Honor" Series by Ember-Raine Winters.

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### Badass Bloggettes says

4.5 Stars

Beautiful Delusions by Ember Raine Winters is a realistic story of survival and love and the first book in the Pride and Honor series. It is one of the few books that I know of that deals with PTSD that is not associated with combat and the military.

Kaylee Robbins is a young woman who made some bad decisions—the worst is the abusive relationship with her ex Tyler. He beat her regularly until she finally reports his behavior to the police and then escapes. The typical response of most people, including family, when she explains her PTSD is "move on" or "get over it." Only she can't get over it when she has triggers that cause flashbacks that put her right back in the deadly situation.

Griffin Thomas is a strong alpha hero—ex-military, psychiatrist, security entrepreneur. Griffin (Griff) needs control. He has a big heart. Unfortunately, years ago, he made a mistake and hurt Kaylee deeply. His actions pushed her down a road of self-destruction. Now he is back in her life with one goal help Kaylee (Kay-Kay) learn how to deal with her PTSD. Kaylee is going to bring any more issues than PTSD.

Both main characters are developed well and grow significantly between the covers of this book. The complexity of Kaylee and Griff and their relationships are the heart of the story. Ms. Winters does an excellent job with the intricate plots and subplots used to drive the story and build interest in the series.

Beautiful Delusions is written in the alternating points of view of the heroine and hero giving us the insight into the flashbacks and how they totally take over Kaylee when they happen. The flashbacks are also insight into the horror of Kaylee's past. Griffin, her former school friend, and current psychologist reveals his emotions, regrets, and feelings from his point of view.

The secondary characters are used well in telling the story. The members of Griffin's team are good, loyal, and damaged. They focus on their mission and pique the interest of the reader to learn more about them. We learn enough about these men and women to want more in the future. Tara, Kaylee's sister-in-law also deals with non-combat related PTSD. I love her. She is a good friend, defender, and confidante. We also have a heavy dose of "bad" guys. Both of Kaylee's exes leave a lot to be desired. They are scum and show their true colors as the story unfolds. There is nothing better than good characters to hate in a story. We need someone to throw daggers at while reading.

I like the way Ms. Winters uses the PTSD, the characters, and other events to build the tension. It is painful how family, friends and the legal system can be so closed minded or ill-equipped to handle some mental illnesses. There are a couple scenes with Kaylee's mother that almost made me throw my Kindle, one in the beginning after her car accident. Beautiful Delusions shines a light of some of the misunderstandings and roadblocks the illness places in people's path. To be honest, parts of the story shocked me, and I'm sure the personal stress is realistic.

The story is fast-paced and filled with action that feels authentic for the most part. Sometimes my heart ached for Kaylee as one thing after another is thrown at her in a short time span. Beautiful Delusions isn't a book of continuous sex scenes, but when they happen, they are appropriately placed and hot.

I did feel that Tyler getting into the penthouse did feel off or a little unbelievable, especially since she was in a secure building. My other criticism is the unexpected "sort of" cliffhanger. I wasn't prepared, and that is my fault. I found myself getting excited about the ending and looking down too late to realize there isn't enough left to the end. The reason I say "sort of" is because the sneak peek for book two ends the book in a satisfying way. It isn't the end of the story but a good stopping point for a hopeful future.

I highly recommend Beautiful Delusions. Ember Raine Winters is a new author for me. She is an author to watch-- an excellent storyteller. I can't wait to see what she has in store for the future.

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### **Maryann Mckain says**

This book was full of very emotional situations that most people do not understand. The story was a great read. Cannot wait for the second book. 10

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### **Paula Genereau says**

Oh my!!! This book was amazing. I'm so addicted to this series. I'm starting Book 2 today.

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### **Sharon Kallenberger Marzola says**

A realistic story of PTSD not associated with combat. It is easy to forget that some women are in domestic situations that are just as mentally detrimental as combat. Kaylee Robbins is one of these women. Griffin Thomas is an old friend who becomes her therapist and helps her learn how to live with her past and work to make a future.

I highly recommend Beautiful Delusions. Ember Raine Winters is a new author for me. She is an author to watch. She is an excellent storyteller. I can't wait to see what she has in store for the future.

Full review on Badass Bloggettes: <http://badassbloggettes.blogspot.com/...>

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### **Stacey says**

This book was very emotional and eye opening. As someone who has suffered through some mild panic attacks (mild, in comparison to Kaylee), I know how scary and debilitating they can be. So this book and Kaylee's experiences definitely resonated with me. My anxiety is not derived from the same reasons as her, but I can definitely empathize with her. Especially coming from an abusive home and having to witness this as a little girl. Like I said, my attacks are mild in comparison to hers, and I can only imagine the full extent of her attacks. I think Ember-Raine did a fabulous job putting a spotlight on a very dark topic, that so many seem to sweep under the rug and ignore.

I think for the most part Kaylee had a great support system with her sister-in-law, at least someone who understand and believed what she was going through. So many people, like her parents, don't understand and tell them to "just get over it and move on"...well little do they know, sometimes you just CAN'T! And they will never understand unless they, god forbid, go through it themselves; and I don't wish that on anyone!

Thank God for Griffin. He seemed to really understand her and was patient with her, without treating her like she was going to break at any moment. He definitely knew how to protect and take care of her.

I can't believe all the things she had to endure prior to this time in her life and then to hear all the things that happened during our time with her...Jesus! There is only so much a person can take before falling to pieces; and while all this is going on, Kaylee is definitely pushed to her limits. But, I don't think anywhere near breaking. She is a strong and resilient woman and when backed into a corner will come out fighting!

Beautiful Delusion was a great and insightful read and I would highly recommend reading it. I am looking forward to the next book, Beautiful Sacrifice, where I hope to witness just how fierce she really is!!

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### **Cecily Wolfe says**

This is a very realistic portrayal of the difficulties of living with PTSD, especially as those who do not understand it respond in ways that are harmful, even when they mean well. Kaylee has a hot temper and isn't waiting around for someone to rescue her, but Griffin, in true hero style, does just that. Their chemistry is hot hot hot, both on a physical and emotional level, and their troubled past only escalates both. Griff is tough and protective, and Kaylee struggles with how much she should allow him to help her - I think this is a struggle many women, PTSD-challenged or not, face.

This reminded me of Sidney Halston's Pull Me Close, which is the only other book I've read that handles PTSD realistically, and has a romance with passion and affection as well. I'm definitely looking forward to book two in this series!

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## **Giselle says**

Review copies can be requested here: closed - other review opportunities found here]

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## **Minx -The Genre Minx Book Reviews says**

I cannot say that before reading this book I really understood Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Since this story revolves around this disorder/illness I did do some research into it. In order to really judge the realism that the author is trying to convey I needed to be familiar with the subject matter otherwise I would not be able to fairly review this book. If you want a quick info bite on PTSD I have included a link [\*\*HERE\*\*](#).

Kaylee Robbins character has been through what I cannot ever fully imagine. She has been beaten and victimized. A past filled with drugs, broken promises, and betrayals that have left her compromised. She was in a relationship with a man named Tyler who was chronically abusive. It became so bad that he almost took her life. After surviving that last terrible beating, Kaylee had Tyler locked up for domestic violence. Even with that monster locked away Kaylee's nightmare was only starting.

Ten years have passed and Kaylee suffers from PTSD due to the abuse that she suffered at the hands of Tyler. Yet, through it all she has struggled to move forward. Until one night it appears that Tyler is free and has finally found her. She cannot be sure because she has no proof that he is back but she starts to have episodes more frequently. These episodes result in consequences that lead Kaylee to Griffin. Her childhood friend, a friend who turned his back on her with no explanations. One of her greatest sources of hurt and he is to be her PTSD counselor.

Griffin is a man who has his own demons. He has served in the military and seen what war can do to his brothers in arms. He has made it his mission to offer what he can to Vets who may need help adjusting to civilian life or who may suffer from PTSD. It was not just helping Vets that brought Griffin into the specialty of treating PTSD. He learned what had happened to Kaylee, the woman he owed a thousand apologies to, and he hoped that one day he would be the one to help her heal.

Things are never that simple! Someone is after Kaylee and they are terrorizing her in every imaginable way. It will take everything she has and the protection of Griffin in order to survive the onslaught of violence that is threatening to destroy her and her family.

This story is a roller-coaster of emotion. There are highs and there are lows but there is no point in which you will find yourself bored. The pacing is fast! The characters in this story are written well. You feel that they really care about each other. The flashbacks that Kaylee experiences are descriptive, realistic and convincing. It is a high emotion story with lots of exclamation marks! There are strong feelings throughout this story by all characters.

The author has taken a disorder that is known but maybe not so well understood and fleshed it out through the character of Kaylee Robbins. I feel that she stayed true to what is known of PTSD and tried to show how it might feel to suffer from it. She showed the misconception from family members, how little they really understood the illness and how hard it could be to deal with the effects when the symptoms can manifest themselves without warning. This was an emotionally provoking story with humor, romance, and perseverance woven throughout the telling.

This review is based on a complimentary book I received from Author, Ember Raine Winters. It is an honest and voluntary review. The complimentary receipt of it in no way affected my review or rating.

\*Thank you to Author Ember-Raine Winters for this eARC of Beautiful Delusions\*

Find this review and more at The Genre Minx Book Reviews

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### **Vicki says**

4.5 outstanding stars

Well what an amazing introduction to this new to me author. This book although dealing with issues many will never really fully understand unless you've been part of it really broaches the subject with sensitivity and compassion, this book will not be for everyone, the triggers are there and yes at times it was hard to read and your heart broke along with the character and you wish you could reach into the pages and throttle the living beejees out of certain characters but this is what keeps a grip on your attention and you are unable to put this book down because you just need to know what happens next.

This is a story of love, survival, second chances and the sheer strength to never give up.

An outstanding introduction and first read from Ember and omg I seriously need the next book...

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### **Jessica Jesinghaus says**

Check out this review, and many more, on my blog <https://jessjesinghaus.wordpress.com>

Man-dango! This book gave me whiplash... in a good way. Beautiful Delusions follows a single mother, Kaylee, through a very turbulent time in her life. Kaylee's had it rough. Her first partner, and the father of her two kids, was (is still?) a drug addict. Her second relationship was to a man who beat her and abused her, both physically and emotionally, to within an inch of her life. Kaylee's resultant PTSD plays a major role in this story as she tries to cope with multiple crises: custody disputes, a possible stalker, and the questionable 'support' of her immediate family.

When a figure from Kaylee's past, Griffin, resurfaces in the guise of her new therapist (he's a legit PTSD therapist, but he does have ulterior motives) it's just one more obstacle Kaylee has to overcome. Griffin is a great guy! As a reader I liked him right away. Former Special Forces, he helps vets back on their feet, employing many in his security firm. Good thing too, because with the help of his younger brother and a handful of Army buddies, Griffin's gonna have his hands full keeping Kaylee and her kids safe.

The romance aspect of this book was a tad predictable, but did that detract at all from my enjoyment? Hell no! There were so many other curve balls flying toward Kaylee that I appreciated the steadfastness of their burgeoning relationship. Kaylee's PTSD flashbacks were incredibly well written and portrayed. As someone who works in the women's healthcare field, I applaud Ms Winters for taking on such a challenging topic as domestic violence induced PTSD. It couldn't have been easy, but it was portrayed with aplomb. Beautiful Delusions is part of a series, however the book tidies up well, and includes a sneak peek at the next

installment, thereby avoiding the dreaded cliffhanger. Needless to say, I will be reading the next book in the series soon!

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### **Aimee says**

Well, this was one big hot mess. Before getting this, I had read a lot of reviews that praised this book and the light it shows on PTSD. Which I think it does a good job of showing how something like this could severely disrupt a life. But that was about the only good thing I could say for this book.

There was a lot in here that left me either laughing inappropriately or groaning (and not in a good way). The dialog was something terrible. It was cheesy and never felt natural between the characters. It felt like a bad lifetime movie romantic drama. It was enough that it ruined the romance for me completely, not to mention the bullheaded alphaness the author set up for all her heroes.

The characters were something else. The supporting characters, such as Kaylee's mother, infuriated me. It felt like an inconsistency in the story. Kaylee is trying to flee an abusive relationship and her mother, who knows she's fleeing, somehow manages to let the guy know? That she all of a sudden has forgotten the trouble the father of her grandchildren caused? The only real feeling I got from Kaylee's family is their need for her to just "get over it". It being the PTSD. The rest? The rest felt like some convenient cheap shot at Kaylee for story sake.

So much happens in this book. So much, in fact, I was yelling at my book "come on! Seriously?!" Because, for real, how could any of this really happen? It felt like way too much for one book and other things felt completely unreal. (view spoiler) Even worse, the story doesn't even end. It just cuts off. Please buy book 2 to find out what happens! Yeah, no. Probably not.

It seems I'm the minority in not liking this book. Which is fine. For me, it was riddled with issue after issue and it was a chore to get it finished without straining my eyes from the constant eye rolls.

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### **Suzy Baba says**

4.5???'s

Highly entertaining packed with full on drama that will keep you glued to the book. And boy oh boy with the Alfa male in this book!!!!

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### **Jamie says**

I am so hooked on this gang. Kaylee has been to hell and back being battered and almost losing her life from her Ex. She just wants to raise her two kids and be left alone but her ex is out to get her back and vows to stop at nothing until he has her. Griffin has known Kaylee since they were young but something happened all those years ago to tear them apart. So when she is in trouble he makes sure he is there to help her. This story has so many twists and turns that you don't want to put this book down. If you want an adventure this is the book.

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**Jessica says**

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I really enjoyed reading this book very suspenseful throughout.

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