



Shatter

Erin McCarthy

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From the *USA Today* bestselling author of *True, Sweet, and Believe* comes a tantalizing New Adult novel about finding love in the most unexpected ways...

Kylie Warner prides herself on being optimistic, but after finding her best friend in bed with her boyfriend and flunking chemistry, her upbeat attitude has taken a dive. Even an impromptu hook-up with her sexy new chemistry tutor only brightens her mood slightly. After all, it's not like she'll ever see the tattooed scholar again...

While he's a whiz at complex equations, Jonathon Kadisch has trouble when it comes to figuring out women. So when Kylie tells him that she's pregnant after their night of passion, he's at a complete loss. He's prepared to be a good father—unlike his own deadbeat dad—but he's less prepared to fall for the genuine and alluring blonde bearing his child.

With emotions running high, Kylie wonders if Jonathon's devotion is out of growing love or looming obligation. And when heartbreak threatens to tear them apart, Jonathon will have to fight for the only girl who's ever made him feel whole...

Shatter Details

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Author : Erin McCarthy

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From Reader Review Shatter for online ebook

Jennifer says

There will be minor spoilers from the previous books in this series.

Shatter is the fourth and final book in the True Believers series.

The main narrator of this book is Kylie (Robin, Jessica and Rory's friend from the previous books). A new character, tutor Jonathon is the other narrator.

These books are standalones in that each book is about its own couple. But many characters from the other books are supporting characters in this book.

Kylie is in college. She has been devastated by her ex-boyfriend Nathan having a one night stand with her best friend. The book starts with Kylie meeting a tutor to help her from failing chemistry.

Kylie is very pretty and social. But she hasn't really been herself since her break-up. She isn't very good at sciences and because of it she is always doubting herself and thinking that she is dumb.

Her tutor is Jonathon who is cute and tattooed, but who is also a chemistry genius.

There are a lot of twists and turns in this book. And even though this book follows a familiar New Adult romance formula there were still at least two events that surprised me a lot.

I liked Kylie. She was a very sweet girl. The book was a very quick read and quite enjoyable. It was a good ending to an enjoyable series. I also liked how the end the book went forward a year and told us what all of the characters from all the books were up to.

Thanks to netgalley and PENGUIN GROUP Berkley, NAL/Signet Romance, DAW for allowing me to read this book.

Geri Reads says

4 color me surprise stars!

Despite the low ratings it got from GR, so far, I ended up liking this one.

Kylie got cheated in the previous when her best friend slept with her boyfriend. As a result, Kylie had been feeling out of sorts with her life especially with her friends pairing off and riding off into the sunset with the hero of their dreams. She's also struggling with chemistry. Her struggle led her to Jonathon AKA Darwin, a hot nerd who tutored her so she could pass her chemistry exam. They hit off and hooked up. But their brief night together resulted in pregnancy. Shatter navigates the balance that Kylie and Jonathon must tread while deciding whether or not their attraction towards each other can lead to something more.

Surprisingly, I really liked Kylie. Despite the betrayal she suffered, she was really able to move on. Of course, she has her moment but for the most part, she's got a great attitude even with what happened. I, of course, adored Jonathon. He's hot and he's a genius. What's not to like? I liked how he was there for Kylie and I liked how he quickly adjusted his perception about Kylie and the situation.

Overall, I really liked this book. It's a very easy read and it's very low on angst.

ARC provided by Intermix via NetGalley.

♥Rachel♥ says

It's no secret I've enjoyed Erin McCarthy's New Adult series, **True Believers**, but **Shatter** is my favorite so far!

Kylie had her world shattered when she found out her longtime boyfriend cheated on her with her friend, Robin. Not only did he cheat on her, but he tried many times to hookup up again with Robin, while he was still supposed to be with Kylie. Having lost her focus over all the turmoil, Kylie is struggling with her classes and she's in danger of flunking chemistry. To help, she's enlisted the services of a school tutor, Jonathon, a grad student who happens to be a genius. She expects Jonathon to be the requisite braniac nerd, not the geek hottie she meets with. They have an easy, fun banter back and forth and even though Jonathon isn't her usual type, Kylie is completely taken with him both mentally and especially physically. Jonathon attributes the physical to "the chemistry of attraction":

"A female instinctively responds to the scent of a male and she is subconsciously drawn to the specimen she thinks will ensure her progeny's survival."

Lol! Jonathon was certainly showing his nerd with that comment, but *trust*, he certainly doesn't act nerdy AT ALL with what follows! They have a heated and steamy one-night stand (or so they think) and wow, was it ever HOT!! I think **Shatter** is the hottest book of the True Believers series for sure. And let me tell you, Jonathon doesn't just put his brain to use with equations and lab experiments! He was very much all about Kylie that night; so very different than her douche bag ex-boyfriend, as you'll discover.

Anyhow, this one-night stand turns out to be much, much more when Kylie discovers she's pregnant. They don't know each other beyond that one night of tutoring and passionate love making, but that's about to change.

Shatter was sweet, heartbreaking, and I felt a realistic take on the situation they faced. Both Kylie and Jonathon struggle with the repercussions of their one-night stand. They were very attracted to each other with oodles of chemistry, but doubts surface about any relationship now. Kylie wonders if Jonathon is truly interested in her beyond the obligation he feels, and some of the doubts created by her failed relationship with Nate color her perspective as well. Also, Kylie has insecurities about her IQ in comparison to Jonathon's. He's a genius and she is most decidedly not. I did not like the fact that she sold herself short in that area for much of the book. Just because someone doesn't have book smarts doesn't make them stupid. Everyone has their own individual strengths, but I think this was something Kylie had to figure out on her own. In the end, Jonathon and Kylie made a good match because where one lacked, the other excelled. I think a lot of great partnerships, marriages included, are made up of opposites that complement each other.

Jonathon worried about trying a relationship with Kylie, the mother of his child because if it didn't work out

it would screw up all their future interactions. His father was never involved in his life until he hit college age, and he doesn't want to be type of father at all. It could turn into something completely adversarial if things don't work. But Jonathon really, *really* wants it to work with Kylie. She's so sweet, generous, and beautiful, and it would be heaven if a little happy family came out of all this.

Jonathon was a completely different male lead than the others, they were manly men, and Jonathon was a geeky genius. Swoon-worthy for sure, but so very literal and analytical at times, I had to laugh! He was also kind, considerate (most of the time), and *very* attentive! Yum!

“I never believed in destiny, fate, soul mates. It was illogical to me. Then I met you.—That you and I were drawn to each other not by evolution, but by something that can't be measured. Love.”

Shatter was my favorite in the series so far, full of tender and HOT moments, but also with realistic situations, emotions, and reactions. Erin McCarthy captures what New Adult should be, beautifully and with heart! I'm not sure if more are planned in the series, but a girl can hope!

A copy was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

You can read this review and more at The Readers Den.

Andrea says

Wow! Where do I even begin with Shatter?

If you've read the series, you know Kylie Warner is due for some happiness. Betrayed by her boyfriend who slept with her (black-out drunk, meaning unconscious) friend, Kylie has gone through so much and seems so lost. Her grades stink. Her new apartment kind of sucks, and she's semi-avoiding her best friends. Enter her tutor, Jonathon Kadisch.

So now, if you've read the synopsis-and I'm going to assume you have, Kylie and Jonathon get into more than just some simple chemistry. A moment's misunderstanding leads to a Surprise Baby! Jonathon and Kylie are barely more than strangers and now facing unplanned parenthood together. Now they're facing getting to know each other, facing bringing a new life into the world, how it will affect their futures, and at the heart of it, doing the right thing. Big, big stuff.

But Shatter is so much more than Kylie and Jonathon having a baby together, as if that wasn't enough. Shatter was such an honest, realistic story. We have each character's disappointment with the action that got them into the situation. Trying not to step on the other's toes when it comes to the big decisions, wanting each other, but not knowing if that's the right thing. Jonathon worries being like his own horrible father, and sometimes overcompensates. Kylie worries about work and insurance, how to be the best mom possible. She fears stifling Jonathon's dreams, knowing he will always take full responsibility.

I'm not sure what to say about Shatter without giving too much away! But I can say it went in directions I truly didn't anticipate. Even though it's a surprise baby story, it's truly about Kylie and Jonathon, as individuals and a potential couple. I admired that McCarthy really tackled the issues between them, rather than letting the problems become easily resolved or dismissed. I think I should leave it at that.

I'm so sad the True Believers series has reached its conclusion. But I do believe it was a great conclusion. I loved seeing the former couples together, and the group as a whole. I won't lie, I kind of sobbed a little at the

end. So gorgeous.

With it's raw, honest approach to these characters and the issues they face, I truly believe this is a series that stands above many others. From these girls, Rory, Jess, Kiley and Robin, who went through so much together. And the guys, starting with the Mann brothers Tyler and Riley, their cousin Phoenix, then Jonathon, who all fell for the most amazing girl, when they weren't even looking. This is a series tied together by one strong, true, thread of friendship and love.

Ugh, I am so sappy. :-)

Favorite Quotes

Jessica waved her arms in front of her face like she was overheated. "What the fuck?" she said in a stage whisper. "Girl, I think you hit the baby daddy lottery."

"I wasn't even planning to play that lottery!" I protested, creeped out by the way that sounded.

"Which makes it even luckier. He's like the sweetest thing ever. It's disgusting."

"But I just want you to know that when I'm with you, my glass is full."

Jen says

This was a 3.5 star rating for me. It was not one of my favorites out of the series; but I still enjoyed it. Review to Come!

Thank you to Net Galley and Penguin Group Berkley for providing me a copy of this ARC, which is due out in September 2014...

Maria Angelica says

Eu peguei esse livro para ler porque nunca tinha visto um New Adult que tocasse em gravidez não planejada. Gostei dos personagens e da estória, mas um NA bem basiquinho, nada de emocionante. Na metade do caminho eu tinha perdido o interesse no romance e comecei a achar a progressão meio entediante. Terminei o livro porque é uma leitura rápida, mas ele não trouxe para mim aquele soco emocional que estava procurando.

Valerie says

The feeling that I have when I turn the last page of a book is always telling. If I've been counting the pages and just waiting for it to be over, then I'm not satisfied. If I wish there were more pages and I can't believe I

just sat for like three hours without even noticing the time, then I am satisfied. This book, it's the satisfying kind.

In a bit of a reading slump, every book I picked up lately got put back down. Then I picked up Shatter. I was half way through it before I came up for air. I looked around and thought, dang...I have to go to bed. But I finished it off the next night.

I love these characters. Jonathon is a nerd. He's scary smart but he also sports hipster glasses, an arm full of tats and some sexy muscles. A total cutie. Not sure what the sexy Kylie sees in him, he's falling despite the logic of the matter.

Kylie has feeling for Jonathon too but can she ever be enough for him with her average intellect. Throw in her crushed heart that her ex stomped on and the little bun that accidentally ends up in her oven and she's a confused girl.

Here's the important part...I guessed some of the story but I wasn't sure how she was going to resolve all the very real issues between these two. A twist I didn't see coming was a catalyst for some serious soul searching and a resolution that felt genuine.

I have loved each book a little more as this series has progressed. Erin McCarthy threads real characters with some sexy scenes and creates such satisfying stories.

If you've read the rest, then don't miss this one. If you have read this series, you should. It's some of the best New Adult out there.

Sarah says

"I'm pregnant."

This was an NA contemporary romance story involving an accidental pregnancy.

I felt quite sorry for Kylie in this story having just found out about her boyfriend cheating on her with her best friend, and then falling unexpectedly pregnant after a one-night stand, things were really not going to plan for her.

The storyline in this was about Kylie falling pregnant after one night with her chemistry tutor, and trying to make plans as to what to do next, knowing that she wanted to keep the baby. I liked the romance between Kylie and Jonathan though, and it didn't seem like they were only together because of the baby.

The ending to this was pretty good, although there were sad moments during the book.

7 out of 10

Rose says

[I still think Robin was raped

Anne says

2.5 stars

Also reviewed for Addicted2Heroines

Even though I didn't particularly *love* this one, I didn't *hate* it, either. Normally, anything by McCarthy is a winner, but this was, for me, one of her weakest romances.

That doesn't mean **Shatter** is a stinker, by any means, it's just sort of *meh*. I'm sure lots of other readers will enjoy it, but I had several *problems* getting into it.

And here's why:

Kylie has no real *problems*.

Her family is beyond wonderful, she's well-liked, and she even manages to get knocked up by a nice guy. The only 'bad' thing that seems to have happened to her is that one of her best friends (*during a blackout drinking episode*) slept with her (*now*) scuzzy ex-boyfriend.

Um, *ok?*

Oh, and she's not super-smart when it comes to math and science.

*So? I still **add** on my **fingers**?!*

Maybe if you're a genius who's never been cheated on, you might feel bad for her.

The unplanned pregnancy that was supposed to be the big *THING* didn't really evoke much of a reaction from me, either.

And speaking of getting pregnant...

Kylie gets knocked up because Jonathon touched her with his wiener for half a second without a condom. Not a full thrust, just an *Oops! Thought you were on the pill! Let me move my penis away from you!* kind of thing.

Could you get pregnant because a boy's naughty bits 'touched' your naught bits?

It's possible.

But not likely.

I guess McCarthy wanted to paint them both in a fairly good light, hence the condom use. But let's face it, that's not why/how most unplanned pregnancies happen for college age girls.

Stupidity happens. Irresponsibility happens. Unprotected sex happens.

I'm not hating or looking down my nose at those girls. I am one of those girls.

*My stupidity led to the biggest and **best** mistakes of my life, and I happen to love that **Little Oops** with all of my heart. There's nothing like looking at a squishy-looking goo-covered infant that you didn't want, and realizing that you just lost all of your heart a human being for the first time.*

It feels something like getting punched in the throat, quite frankly.

However, I didn't get pregnant because his biological father 'accidentally' touched my vajayjay.

And, as a charter member of the Irresponsible Club, I'm a bit insulted that the author copped out on this subject.

So, Kylie getting pregnant in some After School Special kind of way, turned me off big time. It felt like

McCarthy was writing some *Oooga-Booga-Booga!* pamphlet for an evangelical church.

If the boy's penis comes near your vagina, God will strike you down with PREGNANCY!

Obviously, this wasn't McCarthy's intent, but I felt like she took some easy 'magical' route in order to save her characters from looking culpable.

Of course, with all the baby drama, they have to decide whether or not they actually love each other.

****spoilery stuff happens****

After some time apart to figure out what they want, Kylie decides...

She *really* wants, is to be a Homemaker.

I should be jumping up and down, right?

Hey! That's me! That's what I do!

Except when she decided this, she didn't have any kids, so it felt sort of...odd.

Yeah, she loves Jonathon, and realizes that she wants to make a home with him, but...

Ehhhhhhhh.

In all fairness, it looks like she maybe plans to finish college.

It's just...?

I don't know, it felt *off*.

Housewife is a valid life choice, but if either of my girls end up going that route, I want them to have a really solid backup plan.

The romance lacked any real (*can't believe I'm going to say this*) angst. I know, *I know*, that should have been a good thing, right? But their love story seemed to play out a little too blandly for me to get all worked up over them.

Sure there were a few obstacles and misunderstandings, just not anything that made me hold my breath or worry.

They were both nice kids. And they both acted in a fairly responsible manner.

Sooooo.

I guess their romance played out more like a *side romance*, and less like a *main character romance* to me.

Does that make sense?

This was an easy read, and I had no problem finishing it, but there were a lot of things I thought were either too vanilla or too iffy, for it to be truly enjoyable.

K. says

In the words of Mark Darcy, "I have to say, this really is the most incredible shit." I knew going in that I wasn't going to like this book. I probably shouldn't even have bothered reading it, but I'd bought the whole series on my Kindle for like \$7, so I felt like I had to get my money's worth. I'm not convinced my brain cells will ever forgive me.

Frankly, this wasn't as bad as book 2 (featuring Jessica, the most annoying person on the planet) or book 3 (in which Robin is raped by her best friend's boyfriend while drunk but it's never referred to as rape and everyone slut shames her). But it was still stupid from start to finish. For the sake of simplicity, let's do this as a pro/con list, shall we?

Cons:

- Kylie blames Robin for breaking up her relationship, even though ROBIN WAS RAPED OH MY GOD HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT.

- This quote: "This was no 20 year old jamming his fingers into me like he was scraping a peanut butter jar." Endless cringing.
- Kylie's inability to use the word "vagina" correctly. It's her vajayjay or her vajingle. Not sure if that's better or worse than Ana Steele's "...down there".
- Actually, anything relating to Kylie's vagina is on the con list. She has a clit piercing, which Jonathon refers to as "your love button with bling". She got said piercing because her ex-boyfriend (the one who raped Robin) saw a porn star with one and thought it would be cool. SO SHE OBLIGED. She also informs us that she shaves her pubes off because "I like to have a clean surface to set the table". She also fails to understand how they do a vaginal ultrasound. Girl. It's in the name.
- Kylie gets pregnant from Jonathon putting the tip of his dick in her for a red hot second before he pulls out to put on a condom as she requested. Why not just have the condom break??
- This quote: "I promise when then morning sickness is totally gone I'll give you head"
- Kylie has a miscarriage and proceeds to sleep hugging the bloody sheets on which she lost her 10 week old foetus. Look, I get that grieving is to be expected. But GIRL, NO.
- There are some serious bordering-on-assault moments in Kylie and Jonathon's relationship. He fights the urge to shove her into the wall but stops himself because you can't do that to "a girl fresh out of the hospital". He takes selfies of him and his lesbian BFF at a bar to make Kylie jealous days after she has a miscarriage (she doesn't know the girl's a lesbian). And when she turns up at the bar angry, he tries to kiss her anger away.
- Kylie refuses to go on the pill because it gives her acne, but won't consider any other form of birth control.
- Jonathon fingerbangs her on a public footpath.
- Jonathon gets accepted to a post-doctoral program (despite not having his PhD?!?!) and asks Kylie to move half way across the country with him despite having a year of university to go. She does because it's twu wuv.
- She ends up pregnant again despite them using two forms of birth control, and we're given this brain bleach requiring quote: "My eggs just want to be fertilised by his sperm."

Pros:

- Jonathon asks for consent.
- Kylie reports her professor, Jonathon's father, for sexually harassing her, thereby preventing him from raping other women the way he did Jonathon's mother.
- An unplanned pregnancy doesn't turn into a pro-life lecture.
- I finished it in a couple of hours.

In short, this series has murdered a good number of my brain cells, and the ones that are left are deeply scarred as a result. As far as this book is concerned, I didn't care about either of the characters or their relationship. And I won't be reading any of Erin McCarthy's other books in a hurry if only because this kind of tripe gives the new adult genre a bad name.

Miss.lilly says

Für mich mit Abstand der beste Teil der True-Reihe. Obwohl ich das Thema Schwangerschaft für gewöhnlich nicht so spannend finde, hat es mir gut gefallen, denn die Story von Kylie und Jonathon ist schön geschrieben und kommt ohne unnötiges Drama aus. Und Jonathon ist wirklich ein echt guter bookish Boyfriend :)

Sarah says

1/7 - I read this immediately after finishing the first book in the series, *True*, which may have contributed to this not getting a slightly higher rating. I disliked Jessica and Kylie so much in *True* that I just wasn't in the right mind to accept either of them as sympathetic heroines. It's probably lucky that I didn't go straight to Jessica's book as she seemed to be the more objectionable of the pair.

Once I got over my prior dislike of Kylie this was pretty good, above average. I got choked up when (view spoiler) and felt that Jonathan and McCarthy handled the situation well. I really liked the epilogue with the (view spoiler) because it was a start on the road to healing their pain as well as being a nice humorous ending to the series.

Anna's Herding Cats says

Reviewed for herding cats & burning soup.

Whew talk about a read that put me through the wringer! McCarthy didn't hold back with *Shatter* as Kylie and Jonathan tackle real life and a one night stand turned pregnancy with heart and humor and adjust to their lives being changed forever and bound to someone they really don't know.

Kylie and Jonathan's romance was a hard one. It felt real and made me ache for them as life dealt them blow after blow. They're both pretty amazing people--though very different--and absolute survivors. They're dealt some scary stuff at such young ages and they rolled with it and made the best of everything they're put through. I just love characters like that. And enjoyed them and how oddly perfect they were for each other. The social butterfly who isn't book smart but is eternally optimistic and wise in her own ways vs the utterly brilliant science nerd who's socially awkward but incredibly sweet and endearing.

The two had some excellent chemistry happening. Sex scenes were hot and steamy and sometimes a little awkward just like real life. I loved the tension and heat between them as they figured out their places in each other's lives. The achingly sweet moments when Jonathon took care of Kylie during her pregnancy to the charmingly cheesy sharing of nerdy chemistry jokes. They were just cute together.

There was so much funny happening in this one as the two got to know each other. Jonathon is very much a science guy and it so shows in the way he thinks things out. I loved it and chuckled quite a bit at his "oddness". But as funny as parts were it's also a pretty heartbreaking read. Parts I didn't see coming and had me ready to cry for these two as they fought life and the hardships it can deal out. McCarthy took some risks but I think they played out well in the end and really made for a wonderfully emotional journey.

While it wasn't a perfect read--I thought the parental reactions to things were a bit off and heavy handed both with positive reactions and negative ones to the pregnancy--it was a very worthwhile read and satisfying ending to the series. And one that'll stick with me for quite some time.

Kelli C ~ Jack Sawyer's Heart says

2.5-2.75...Not so Shattered Stars!

I first read Erin McCarthy with book one in the True Believers series. I admit that I really like her style. She has an easy flow with her writing and her characters, although not perfect, are likeable. Each character has had personal struggles and issues to overcome, and their paths have not been straight and narrow. That being said, I will say that while I enjoyed Shatter, it was not my favorite of the series so far.

Shatter picks up after the devastation that Kylie experienced upon learning that her boyfriend Nathan and her BF/roomie Robin slept together. Although terrible, it was not the act of betrayal but more the aftermath of Nathan's complete idiocy that rocked Kylie. This girl is a people person, truly good hearted and fun. So now she is alone, depressed and a bit gun-shy with the population. One tutor session with Jonathon "Darwin" Kadisch and well, her shell might have been cracked.

There is likeable chemistry between a somewhat hot, yet dorky smart chemistry genius and a bubbly blond hottie that no one would see coming! I appreciated the quick intimacy and the very realistic next day! My problem was that after hooking me into this story there was a huge lack of connection as Kylie learns her one night of pleasure is about to change her life forever! Enter a very mature Jonathon, who while sweet was a bit Meh' in his whole approach. There was a lot of back and forth activity of "I will support you," "I will be there," "I don't want to date you," "I cant stop thinking of you." I felt the path back to each other was too clean, too ok. Too predictable!

Yes, there is some angst, and heartbreak, but neither character was emotional enough for me to feel it. Things do not work out with white picket fences as planned initially. I basically liked that in the end there is a lot more to Kylie as she is stronger than she appeared. She is pretty cool all around, and her connection to Jonathon, for me, was ok. I didn't think it had the same intensity as the previous couples, but it was still enjoyable. I really think my fave part of the tale was the supporting cast from the other books. I liked seeing everyone getting what they deserved and that life was indeed working out!

arc provided via netgalley in exchange for honest review
