



Evil of Love

N.L. Echeverria

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“I can’t take it! I’ve been craving you ever since I saw you the other day. I haven’t stopped thinking about you since you disappeared ten years ago! I need you Steph. I’m sorry...” ~ Eric Sutherland

Stephanie Wilcox never saw it coming after giving up that life ten years ago of constantly being verbally and emotionally abused by her drunken father. She didn’t run, but when she left, she never looked back. Forced by her abusive father to live with her Aunt Elizabeth, she had to leave behind the one person that had shown her true love. In her mind, Eric Sutherland, deserved so much more and being with her would only bring him down. She never stopped loving the sun-kissed boy who held her hand and touched her kindly.

It was years later when Stephanie met Travis Barnes, a young self-made billionaire who swooped in and helped mend some of her loneliness. However, after marrying Travis, he began to show who he really was and he was the type of man she was accustomed to, after growing up with an abusive father, and regardless of his flaws she still loves him. After all, why would she deserve any better?

Eric broke, his kindness, his pure heart, it all fell apart that day Stephanie left. He did all he could to reach her, but it was hopeless. All the sadness, anger, and sorrow built up inside him over time and no one could replace the love he had for Stephanie. Fighting has been his outlet and now as a well-known UFC undefeated fighter, his career is all he has, but no matter how hard he tries to forget her, he can’t.

Ten years later he comes face to face with those large brown eyes that belong to the one girl he’s always loved and everything changes. This time he won’t let her get away.

Evil of Love Details

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From Reader Review Evil of Love for online ebook

Stephanie- The Boyfriend Bookmark says

You know that moment when you finish reading a book and let out a breath that you didn't really even know you were holding? This is that kind of a book. I found myself finding it hard to breathe until it was over. It was not only an adrenaline rush of a read but something that is hard to wrap your head around. I think my head may have actually been spinning with this one and I am just now finding the air in my lungs again.

This may take a lot for me to describe because it is so not what I was anticipating. First, let me start by saying that Stephanie is so emotionally broken, I am not sure she really knows what love is. She grew up in an abusive household and I think it was just as emotionally abusive as physically. It is a lot to stomach just thinking of that. But then when she finally leaves that situation and is on her own, she marries a man that she adores.

Travis is successful and driven. But he doesn't want that same drive or success for his wife. She is there for one purpose. That purpose is determined only by Travis and can be changed at any given moment based on his day, mood or alcohol consumption. But Stephanie doesn't know any different. When they first were married, everything was just as it should have been. He was thoughtful and attentive. But it seems the longer they stayed married; he became what every woman hopes she never ends up with. Controlling, mean, abusive and just ugly. Travis may be a pretty face, but he does not have a pretty soul.

Stephanie's only escape from her home is a trip to the market every now and then and one day while enjoying her bit of freedom something happens. She is brought face to face with the one man who has only ever shown her love and attention. The one man who loved her unconditionally and with no strings attached. But it was also many years ago that Stephanie walked away from Eric when her dad shipped her off to live with her aunt. It was many years ago when Stephanie knew that she had to let him go because he deserved so much more than she would ever be.

But now, after all this time... something sparks, something clicks in Stephanie's head. She knows now that not only wants more from her life, but maybe just maybe, she deserves it... but the best laid plans... you know how the story goes...

Can Eric bring Stephanie to a new place of love and can she finally escape the tormented life she has led? Can she truly trust him after all of these years apart? And can she walk away from the only relationship she has known since they departed all those years earlier?

This book was agonizing. I found myself forcing myself to breath and just when things start getting to a good place for the broken Stephanie, everything switches gears and changes so drastically. This book was emotionally draining and then when you hit the happy for now at the end, I have to admit, I cringed.

Though Stephanie was so completely broken and knows so much abuse in her life, I found so much strength in her character. I wasn't cheering for the guy in this book, but for her. That's not to say that there isn't the hot guy in the book. He basically comes in just like a fairy tale. He's just plain pretty... inside and out. But in the end, I wanted Stephanie to succeed... I wanted her to break free from the chains of her past and learn to live for herself.

This is a well written book with a dark, dark edge to it. It's kind of hard to admit that I liked the book when it was filled with so much darkness. So to say I enjoyed it is not something I can do because of the subject matter, it's the same dilemma on Facebook, you support a post, but hitting the "like" button is nearly the

same thing as enforcing the negative or depressing thought, some things are just better left un-clicked. But I can say I didn't put it down. I had to make sure that Stephanie was safe as much as Eric. So though it is hard for me to call it a "good" book or even a "great" book just doesn't seem fitting.

It is just a heavy topic and "liking" it just seems to reinforce the negative behavior in the book... you kind of get where I am going with this right? It is definitely worth every star it got even though I can't find the right adjective to do it justice.

I received a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for an honest review

Melanie Charlesworth says

Weak. Depressed. Submissive. These are all words that describe me. They describe who and what I am. - Stephanie

Stephanie has been abused her entire life. First verbally by her father, then by the man who promised to love and cherish her. Travis was the perfect guy when they are dating and she thought that she had found her prince charming. Handsome, sexy, loving and wealthy he was every girls dream. That all changed after she became his wife. He slowly began breaking her down, bit by bit. He became verbally abusive and controlling. He wanted to control everything about her. She had to sell her car and quit her job. She was there to please him in every way he desired.

He wants to control every aspect of me. If he thought about it, he'd probably even tell me what I should and shouldn't read. He picks my clothes, my wine, what and when I can eat.... How can a man so gorgeous, so smart and rich, be so ugly? He's cruel and it's completely intentional. I can't even laugh it off as if he doesn't know better. He uses his intelligence to control me and to belittle me. I'm silent, unresponsive to his remark. Drunk or sober he's still an asshole. - Stephanie

When Eric sees Stephanie at the outdoor market, he can't believe his eyes. He has not seen her in ten years but he still feels the pull because he never stopped loving her after they fell in love when they were in high school.

We were seventeen, just kids and after all these years I couldn't find a single woman that could compare to her and the way she made me feel. The way she still makes me feel; she's so damn innocent, beautiful and a heart made only for love and yet she marries this asshole who fucking hits her! How can I make her realize she's better than that? She doesn't deserve that bullshit. - Eric

This book is disturbing at times and it is sad that Stephanie doesn't feel that she is worthy of being treated any other way than he husband treats her. Eric sets out to save her. Save he from herself and her husband who is getting increasingly violent towards her.

He is saving me more than he knows. He's saving me from myself. I'm weak. My dad made me this way. He made me fearful of men. He made me believe all I ever deserved was to be treated like shit. I've never known any different, except with Eric. - Stephanie

Becky says

I have to admit that this book evoked emotions in me that took me to a whole new level. I have not read a book like that in a very long while. I like the books where it is all lovey dovey and a little someone happened and there is a happy ending at the end. Every once in awhile it is a good to take a turn in a new direction. This book was that for me.

As a warning, if you are very sensitive to weak woman who are abused by controlling people in their lives this is not the book for you!

Stephanie has a very rough life. Her father is an alcoholic and pretty much blames her for any and all problems in his life. After her boyfriend sees his evil ways, he ships her off to live with her aunt leaving behind the one person in her life who would not hurt her.

Eric has wondered what happened to Stephanie since she abruptly left him 10 years ago. To fight off his anger, he gets into UFC fighting. He is shocked when walking at the local market and runs into the one he thought he would never see again.

Like I said before- I am not one for angst. I will admit that there were times reading this book that I had to put the kindle down and step away from the book. I totally felt why Stephanie was as screwed up as she was. When you are at your lowest and someone shows you a little love, you are bound to be attracted to that person. Travis was that person for her. He was the perfect gentleman when they dated, but once that ring was on her finger the controlling jerk came out. The problem is, she thought that everything that he did to her was her fault. That tended to get on my nerves. It was just too hard to take. I love that Eric is the opposite of what Travis is to her. The fact that he still feels the same way about her seeing her for the first time in 10 years as he did the day he lost her was so heartfelt.]I thought the ending was a bit abrupt. You knew what was going to happen- I mean there was only one way this was going to work out. It just seemed that for all the emotions that went through me as I read it that I could have had a little bit more of an ending. It said The End (For Now), so who knows what is in store for this series!!

N.L. Echeverria says

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<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00H...>

BARNES AND NOBLE LINK:

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/evil-...>

Rachel Hicks says

Stephanie has grown up in a life that is nothing short of hell. Her father is a drunk who likes to beat his wife. He also enjoys mentally beating his daughter. Stephanie hides her home life and lets no one on the inside of her home or mind for fear of what they will find out. One night Stephanie changes that and lets her boyfriend Eric in her home to study. The events that follow that night will change both of their lives for good.

Eric is in love with Stephanie. After sharing something with her that he thought would bring them closer together Stephanie disappears and he has no way of finding her. He becomes angry and withdrawn. The anger he feels within causes him to get into fights. Eventually all the fist fights turns him into one of UFC's champion fighters. A mid afternoon stroll to unwind before working out leads Eric right back to the girl he has been fighting for all these years, all though she still looks the same she is not the same girl and now she is married.

Travis is a arrogant banking millionaire. He has good looks, a cocky attitude, and more money than he knows what to do with. When he meets Stephanie he immediately sweeps her off of her feet. It only took him nine months to get her to agree to be his forever. Travis holds a dark secret though and its one that is kept entirely for Stephanie.

This is a book about how far you will go when you love someone. What you will endure to show your love and then the limits that break you. Stephanie is a broken girl who really has never been whole. Eric is broken without Stephanie and will go to any length to keep her safe, even losing a career setting match. Travis lives off of how other people perceive him and uses Stephanie as his outlet for his drunken anger.

This was a great book. It hit home for me. When Stephanie was living with her parents I literally knew the pain that she endured and wanted to go into the book and hug her. This is not a gushy love story this book is raw and unfortunately a reality for many women. Your dealing with real issues of abuse and alcoholism in this book. There is a lot of HOT sex in the book as well. Not all passionate love, but some HOT violent sex. This was definitely not a typical romance of boy meets girl and they fall madly in love there is a hard sad backstory that goes with this book. The book does leave you in a bit of a cliffhanger. I cant wait to read more from N.L Echeverria.

Michelle Catlin says

3.5 stars! I liked this book a lot! The storyline kept me intrigued and at some parts, gritting my teeth. I felt a little jipped with the ending though. That's not to say the book did not end well, I just felt like I needed more. Overall, it's a good read.

Books&Dreams says

Book Worms was given this book as an ARC for an honest review.
We gave this book 4.5 Stars.
This book Review was left by Rachel a Book Worms Reviewer.
Thank you Rachel.

Evil love review.

I gave it 4.5 stars good read, but raw and emotional.

I wasn't actually sure how I felt after reading the book but was really good!!

Stephanie has grown up in a life that is nothing short of hell. Her father is a drunk who likes to beat his wife. He also enjoys mentally beating his daughter. Stephanie hides her home life and lets no one on the inside of her home or mind for fear of what they will find out. One night Stephanie changes that and lets her boyfriend

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Jinx says

3.5

Lindsay says

Not my cup of tea.

The blurb only hints at it but the reality is, the book was pretty much about Stephanie living in an abusive marriage and still being in love with her high school boyfriend.

If I had known that the book was mainly focused on the abuse, I wouldn't have picked it up. But, I can definitely see other people liking it.

Stacey Medak says

ARC from the Author for an honest review

4 STARS!

Wow - What a book! Evil of Love definitely had its moments of evil, that is for sure.

I am not a fan of controlling relationships. To me that is not a relationship. It's about one of you having control over the other. A relationship is a partnership.

It makes me angry that there are people out there that think it is ok to control someone just to get them to do what they want. They have serious issues.

No I have never been in a relationship like this, but I have seen people in them. I am sure being scared and being brain washed makes you think you can't get out of a relationship like this, but there is hope.

Stephanie was so beaten down emotionally that she felt like she didn't deserve being happy. Well the hell with that. You need to make you number one.

Travis is an a\$\$ and I wanted to shoot him myself. I did not like to read the parts of the book with him in it. No fault of the Author of course. She did a great job portraying a controlling and abusive man.

Eric thankfully came back into the picture and things went back to where they left off. I am happy that Eric showed her love and affection and continued to tell Stephanie that she deserves more. He really saved her life.

Wow - it just makes me so mad to hear about this type of thing. Raw and emotional.

Way to go! This is a great story!

Confessions of 2 Book Lovers Blog (Co2BL) says

Lindsay: Well, I can't say that I loved this book but it definitely evoked strong emotions.

Nikki: I am in 100% agreement with you there, Lindsay. The blurb sounded amazing and I was really interested at first. Unfortunately, once I got in a few chapters, I quickly saw things were not as they seemed.

Lindsay: I agree. I'm not a huge fan of angst and abuse in books so this wasn't what I was expecting. The blurb sounded awesome and I was really looking forward to it but it was like getting the wind knocked out of me once I realized the focus of the story.

Nikki: I felt the same way. Abuse is a serious issue and while I don't negate that, I would rather not read about it. That probably sounds bad, but when I read, its for entertainment purposes and I don't find abuse entertaining. It just makes me sad and depressed and I felt awful throughout this book. The one saving grace, was Eric. He was hot and a MMA fighter, which I love.

Lindsay: I have to agree. I know some people like them and while I saw that the author had talent. And Eric was the absolute best!

Nikki: This brings up a positive on the author though. It takes talent to write in such a way as to evoke such strong emotions. And while I didn't care for the topic, this author did a great job evoking those emotions and getting me to feel.

Lindsay: I agree with you. This definitely had my stomach in knots.

<http://confessionsof2booklovers.blogs...>

Ikelia 'Bookoholic Anom' Francis says

Well I knew a bit about what this book was about prior to reading it because of the great teasers NL Echeverria shared during her Facebook Release Party a week or so ago. Most of which were very hot and steamy [insert break for cold shower]. However, after reading the book I now realize the teasers were just that teasers and she shared the perfect ones to get you interested in the book, but not give away too much for you to think you know what the story will be about or any major details. I mean that's what a teaser is right..just a freaking "TEASE."

The premise of the story is mainly about 2 people; Stephanie Wilcox/Barnes and Eric Sutherland. Stephanie comes from an abusive home where her Father reminded her everyday that she was worthless and didn't deserve anything good in life. Even though Eric was her boyfriend (while they were in high school) she never revealed her living situation until she was forced to one night. The very next day her father shipped her off to live somewhere else with family and did not allow her to contact the one good thing/good person in her life that never hurt her, Eric.

Years pass and Stephanie is married to a wealthy man named Travis Barnes. Except the marriage isn't blissful at all. Stephanie is living in a nightmare that seems to be a very similar nightmare she experienced with her Dad growing up with the exception that this man she is married to takes punishing Stephanie to a whole other level. Seems as though Stephanie has walked right into the one thing she promised Eric she would never allow herself to be apart of again. However, it was done unknowingly.

One day while Stephanie is at the market she runs into no other than the handsome, Eric Sutherland. All her feelings come back, well rather resurface for Eric and even though she is married to Travis, she can't help but want to be with Eric. Eric never gave up hope of finding Stephanie and now that he found her he doesn't want to let her go, but Stephanie is now to afraid of what her husband may do if he ever found out about Eric so she decides to keep Eric and their meetings a secret. All is going well and then in just a split second all goes wrong.

Even though I have read stories similar to this Evil of Love was still very enjoyable and not too predictable as I assumed it might have been when I began reading the story.

Eric is that one guy all women want and dream of one day meeting and sharing a life with. All he wants to do is protect Stephanie and make her see how beautiful, worthy, and special she is and that she doesn't deserve to feel anything less than happy everyday of her life. Characters like these make women like me raise our standards to an impossible high when we are on the prowl, but I think rightfully so to some extent. No one should have to go through the abuse that Stephanie with through with not only her Dad, but her

husband as well. Two men that were supposed to love, cherish, and protect her. She was so beat down that they had her believing that she was exactly what they called her. But even though Stephanie was weak at times she did find a way to get her strength back and not allow Travis to completely break her and I think that had a lot to do with Eric coming back into her life.

There are a lot of people out there that don't agree with books like this because of the abuse that is portrayed in it, but I feel as if these kinds of books should be out in the universe especially if they show triumph. This allows for someone who may be going through such a thing maybe give them the courage to stand up and realize that the behavior put forth to them is not normal or okay. Words are very powerful and can do a lot of damage or a lot of good, as you will see when you read this book and that is one of the main reasons why I love reading. One book whether it's fiction or non-fiction has the power to change a life for the better.

Now even though I enjoyed the book there are a few things I didn't like. For instance, I love the different POVs, but for Eric and Stephanie only. I feel as though the little that we did get of Travis' point of view may have been unnecessary only because there were not enough of them. Had there been a bit more POVs for him it may have fit better to have them in my opinion. One thing I like about books like these are that when there is a villain and you don't get the POV of that villain it makes that character even more horrible because you don't completely know why they do such things, or you learn that information through the main characters bit by bit. However, it was good to know why Travis was the kind of person he was.

I also felt like the climatic event could have been drawn out a bit more or had a bit more chaos added to it. I think it ended way too fast for all that happened or what was building up to that particular part of the story. Just felt a bit rushed and with Eric being a MMA Fighter, there should have been a fight between the two male characters or a beat down. Something to put Eric's fighting abilities in action outside of the ring because throughout the book he mentions more than a few times that if he ever hurt Stephanie he would beat the hell out of him and there was nothing even close to it.

I can see as to why NL Echeverria decided not to go that route, but I think it would have wrapped the story up even better.

Ciarra Walker says

So this book was a ride if I have ever been on one! Stephanie grew up in a crappy home life and her only bit of sunshine was Eric, but of course that couldn't last long because her father sent her away to live with her Aunt and she knew that if she was to start over there would be no room for Eric. She would just bring him down with her and she loved him too much for that. So when she left she left him behind with not a word and no way to contact her.

She ended up marrying Travis a man she thought was sweet and loving, that is until they were married. Now she lived day in and day out walking on eggshells waiting for her husband that man that is supposed to love and cherish her tear her down and abuse her.

The abuse seems to be getting worse and Stephanie doesn't know what to do. She runs into Eric out of the blue one day while out at the market.

Eric is a fighter, he is also broken from the pain of losing her all those years ago. He fights because it makes him feel and gives him something to take out all the anger over losing her. When Eric sees her after ten years it's like he is back to stage one again he loves her more than the air he breathes, but she's married and something about it doesn't seem right. It doesn't take long for him to realize it's because Travis is abusive.

Eric and Stephanie want to be together but she is too scared to leave Travis she knows what will happen and she knows she won't survive it. When she finally decides that she has to leave him that's with the storm happens. All you can do is sit back and watch when you know something horrible is going to happen but you have no clue what.

I enjoyed this book, I wish she would have got smart and let sooner but I still enjoyed it and thought it was a good read.

Dianne says

Does being raised a victim of abuse mean you will continue to gravitate to abusers? Stephanie, a teen who was literally kicked out of her abusive father's home and sent to her aunt, the one thing that tore her heart out was leaving Eric behind, never saying goodbye. Ten years later she is a beautiful, grown woman, married to an extremely handsome and successful businessman who is fast becoming a clone of her abusive father. Alcohol spurs his cruelty to new heights, but Stephanie is too afraid to leave. Was it fate that reunited her with Eric, the warm and caring boy she never forgot? Will she be able to resist the pull they still feel for each other? What if her husband Travis finds out? Clandestine meetings, the feeling of safety she feels with Eric and her lack of self-control may get them both killed if her powerful and twisted husband finds out.

Evil of Love by N. L. Echeverria is one of the most gritty and twisted dark romances I have read in a while. There were times it was painful to keep reading. Stephanie was too timid to escape; she "loved" her husband as much as she feared him. Travis had issues from his own past that haunted him, driving him to hurt and humiliate the woman he professed to love. Eric rode in like the knight in shining armor, or boxing gloves, as his method of dealing with his hurt and anger over the loss of Stephanie without even a note or a goodbye, was to become a champion fighter. He at least found a channel for his pent up rage at the loss. One other noteworthy character was Travis' limo driver, who sided with Stephanie, covered for her affair, but did nothing about what was happening to her. The mental images created by Ms. Echeverria are brutal, chilling and so well done, that the reader forgets this is fiction, the distorted world she has built is not real. Each character was pivotal to the plot, as were their actions.

I particularly like how Ms. Echeverria doesn't try to "pretty up" what is going on. Three, actually four people are in the wrong, all for different reasons. For me, there were no real heroes, but there were people who had each suffered in their own way, dealing with their problems with only the tools their mental arsenals had.

The plot is disturbing, yet intriguing on many levels as I tried to see the character's point of view. Still, whether I disagreed with many of the actions and poor choices made by all of them, I can definitely say that Ms. Echeverria can write, timing each twist well, sending out her message and evoking powerful emotions from her readers.

I received a review copy from the author as part of the **Evil of Love** Blog Tour & Giveaway at Tome Tender February 21 - 26, 2014.

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Raj says

This book evoked many emotions from me that being of anger, fear, love and hope. This story is heavy on mental and physical abuse, following the conflict and struggles of Stephanie Wilcox/Barnes. Steph had a difficult life living with unloving and abusive parents, her father was the aggressor whilst her mother was no better and remained silent in the shadows, never coming to her rescue. I absolutely hated her father because he created the seeds of self-doubt within Steph, which controlled her life, her resolutions and shattered the dreams of a future with Eric the man she adored and made her happy. I wanted to scream at her selfish parents who held no love for their daughter, they added further insult to her emotions by tearing her away and making her feel all alone in the world. Travis's treatment towards Steph was hard to read, especially when one can empathise to the story. It's so easy to say Steph get out leave him behind, never look back, you deserve better, but when the fear and guilt sits with you it holds you back from making that one move that would literally save you, until you reach breaking point. Travis was lost in his own world, not addressing his issues about his upbringing and his parents, if he had counselling or even opened up to Steph that would have been a start and may have led him confront his inner demons, where anger, control, mistrust kept him locked unleashing it all out on Steph the woman he loved. I wanted to say Steph was a strong character but for me she wasn't, her actions and how she dealt with Travis's breakdowns had me screaming at my kindle. I didn't want to see her follow in her parent's footsteps, I felt every pain and struggle as she tried to fight to have Eric in her life and breakaway from Travis's mental hold on her, who loved her but ultimately destroyed his own marriage. I loved Eric because he was the hero, so sweet, gentle and affectionate, showing Steph where she truly belonged. An emotional read which I did enjoy I can't wait to see what comes next!
