



## Personal Experiences

*Tracy Lee*

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Elleny Barker and Trevor McHale have loved each other since the second grade. Growing up in a small Georgia town, they had the same group of friends and they all had dreams of leaving Richland. Elle's life was perfect; going to the perfect college, had the perfect life plan of becoming a doctor and had the perfect boyfriend going to college on a full ride football scholarship. Until the day Elle's life was turned upside down; making a decision that she thought would be the best for both her and Trevor, she turned to the one man she thought would be willing to help her, Trevor's best friend, Willie "Bear" Jackson. Seventeen years later; Elleny is a changed woman, and it's not a good change. She has locked her heart away and refuses to give it to anyone. Then it happened, a millionaire, whose company just bought out the local plant where Elle's husband is a foreman moves into town; or should I say BACK into town; turns out that it's Trevor McHale. Secrets have kept them apart for seventeen years; will they end up keeping them apart for the rest of their lives? Life teaches us harsh lessons; Personal Experiences teach us life's true meaning.?

## Warning

*This e-book contains sexually explicit scenes and adult language and may be considered offensive to some readers. And are intended for sale to adults ONLY, as defined by the laws of the country in which you made your purchase. Please store your files wisely, where they cannot be accessed by under-aged readers.*

*Please be advised as part of this story the main character endures spousal abuse before escaping and setting off into a new life and grows to overcome her past. Some scenes contain some graphic, dark scenes that are not for the light-hearted; including rape. Readers discretion advised.*

*(Contains: Adult language, sexual MF participation, some violence and explicit scenes of arousal).*

## Personal Experiences Details

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## **From Reader Review Personal Experiences for online ebook**

### **Roxanne Smith says**

This book was terrible! Do not waste your time or money! The plot is so stupid. Supposedly, a very wealthy girl, Elle, gets pregnant in high school. The father of her twins, TJ, is the love of her life, but she wants him to not get tied down and have a bright future, so she marries another guy who immediately abuses her. She doesn't take her millions and leave the sick jerk no, she stays with the "Bear" for 17 years taking terrible abuse. The spousal rape scene was so gross it made me sick. The real baby daddy is so upset after trying weakly to get her back, that he goes off never coming home to see his relatives in the small town where they live. Yet, when he finally comes back 17 years later and accidentally sees his son, he knows immediately that it is his child, because the young man looks just like him So, his relatives never mentioned that to him? Another example of the dumbness of this book is at one point, Elle, the lead female-I'm not calling her a heroine-is told that the state of Georgia, where she lives, does not allow abortions, which is a crock, but to compound it, later she says Bear forced multiple abortions on her. And, the baby daddy, TJ, is described in some reviews as an Alpha....but he finds out about the abuse then lets Elle and his kids stay with the abuser for 3 more weeks until Bear almost kills "the love of his live." I just read Remy before this one and can you imagine that from him or any other real book boyfriend? No way! To top it off, an editor is badly needed! Writing several pages in all caps is just annoying plus it has numerous misspellings and grammatical errors! This is a rare bad review from me. I usually just move on, but I had to warn my fellow romance readers to avoid this one!

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### **Jennifer Griffin says**

I had the honor of beta reading Personal Experiences and I want to start off saying that this book is not for the faint of heart. Author Tracy Lee doesn't pull her punches with her details in her book, so if you have problems with reading about abuse and rape, this may not be the book for you.

Personal Experiences is the story of Elly. It takes you on a ride from her first love with TJ (which starts in the 2nd grade), through very difficult decisions that she makes that lead her away from TJ and to a very abusive relationship with someone she had thought was a friend. It details the struggles that Elly has trying to keep everything together and protect the people she loves and ultimately, it shows the path that leads Elly back to TJ and thankfully a HEA.

Personal Experiences made me feel a lot of different emotions, I laughed and cried. I wanted to bash Elly's husband's head in. I cheered at the end. I know all the hype about leaving abusive relationships but this really made me think about the dynamics that are in play in abusive relationships and why Elly didn't just walk out. I commend Tracy Lee for taking this subject on in such a graphic way.

I guess all I can truly say is that:  
Personal Experience is an experience.

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### **April Herbster says**

Ok so this book deals with some tough issues that some readers are not going to like. There is some very graphic and descriptive violence and rape if you can't handle that then maybe this isn't the book for you. This book took me on an emotional journey I was angry and heartbroken over some of the choices the Elleny made but who knows in her situation what I would have done. My emotions ran the gamut I was angry, sad, frustrated, happy, joyful and at points I wanted to jump into the pages and tear Bear apart with my bare hands. I don't fully understand what made him feel that way about TJ who was his best friend so I do wish we had gotten more insight into what made Bear how he was. This book started with a beautiful pure love between Elleny and TJ and it ended with well just read it to find out!! I look forward to the next book from Tracy Lee! Thanks for the ride!

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## **Alpha Possessive Heroes says**

*"Baby, I will be anchored to you forever and always."*

Wow this was a roller coaster ride! I was hooked from the first page! I'm a sucker for childhood romance or second chance love story so I was really looking forward to this book!

I loved the premise of the book but Elleny pissed the shit out of me! I have mixed feelings towards the heroine.. I don't know if I want to hug Elleny or help Bear beat the sh\*t out of her! She started off as a strong heroine- sassy and confident but throughout the story she became weak and stupiiiiid! I really wanted to like Elleny, I loved reading helpless-abused heroine but her decisions, unnecessary dramas and the way she handled everything was too much for me. She was stupid, weak and selfish (and yes, I put SELFISH!) I had to put my kindle down and calm myself coz seriously, she gave me a headache! The abused was well written, it triggered so many emotions on me but it also made me hate her. I wanted to strangle her for being once again, stupid for putting up with that shit for years!! Some might think that she's an amazing mother for sacrificing and protecting... *yadayada!* I know she has some reasons **WHY, WHEN, WHERE, WHO, HOW**

but to exposed your children from all these? Soooo not worth it woman!

The part (view spoiler)*gosh...* I felt betrayed!

*"Babe, you're not broken your just damaged. Remember... bendable...not breakable"*

I guess the only good thing about this book was TJ! He knew since second grade that Elleny was the one. He's awesome and once again, I felt like stragglng Elleny for this! I just really wished we could get in his head too. I wanted to know why it took him YEARS to come back! What happened to him in those years? There was a small glimpse that he had a gf (seems serious) but he ended it all of a sudden.. WHY? There were so many unanswered questions. :(

Bear on the other hand is.. er.. BEAR. I actually liked him from the beginning and it kinda broke my heart that he became like a monster. I know he's the villain in this book but I couldn't help but feel something for this man.

Other than the heroine, I also didn't like the flashbacks and sex scenes.. It was good to see their past but the flashbacks were too many and slow. I wanted to just move forward and focus on the present.

Now the sex scenes...

Don't get me wrong, I felt their love from one another but the sex scenes felt so forced and scripted. I love me some passionate humping but all the yelling "TJ!! Ahhhhhh!" was awkward and just didn't feel right.

Sorry for my mini rant... I just finished the book and I have so many emotions running through me right now..

Despite everything, I honestly enjoyed this book! lol. I know right? Doesn't make sense with all my bitching up there. But Elleny and TJ's love story was painful yet beautiful. I loved reading something that would make me feel.. and god I felt everything!! Yes, I didn't like the heroine but I wanted to see her HEA. After all the crap they have been through, TJ and Elleny deserved it! I was totally emotionally drained but in a good contentment way. The epilogue killed me.. it was so perfect!

I highly recommend this to anyone who's looking for some gripping love story. Just grab some tissue and prepare yourself emotionally and mentally... Lol!

Can't wait for the second book and it will be in TJ's POV. OMG!!

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## **Lauren says**

This book was AMAZING!! The Plot was so different and there is NOT a Cliffhanger!!The story is told from Past to Present. Normally I would be so confused but it was easy to follow since the writing was fantastic.

Expect to be on a Roller Coaster for the majority of the book. Strap in Ladies it's going to be a bumpy ride. But don't fear because a HEA is on the horizon. You will feel so many emotions: hate, love, sadness, joy, excitement and maybe wet panties. ;)

I don't want to give anything away. "Some Thing" happens and Ellie makes a choice that alters the next 17/18 years of her life as well as TJ's. I disagreed completely with her decision but she thought it would be best for TJ. See, he had a four year football scholarship and she didn't want him to turn that down and stay in this small town and never amount to much.

She really hurt TJ. I felt so bad for him and he DID NOT deserve it.

TJ was THE perfect man. Super Alpha with a heart of gold. I don't think that I have EVER read about a man that loved his girl as much as he loved his Ellie-Bean. His love for her was UNCONDITIONAL!!

I don't know why Ellie didn't realize that, dammit!!

Over the years I don't believe TJ ever for a moment forgot about Ellie and he comes back to Richland to take back what was rightfully his and punish the one person who he felt took his "anchor".

I really wanted to be inside of TJ's head and I wanted to know why after all of this time he decided to come back. SO lucky for us we get to find out in Personal Possessions.

I highly recommend this book and Kudos to Tracy Lee for a fantastic story that I can't wait to continue reading.

There is some hardcore physical violence and abuse so be Warned.

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### **Lisa says**

4.5 Stars.....

This was really close to a five star book for me. I'm not sure why it is getting some really bad reviews, because I thought it was extremely good.

It certainly can be considered dark and raw, and most certainly disturbing but the storyline is very unique and the characters captivated me.

Give this book a shot...

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### **Lisa Guzman says**

I don't know where to start with this. I will say that before you start be prepared to experience A LOT of emotions - love, happiness, sadness, and anger just to name a few. This book is definitely not for the faint of heart that just want to read a happy go lucky book. This is far from that. The story topic is focused around a decision that an eighteen year old girl makes with the devil. Literally! She thinks she is making the best decision for herself and the love of her life only to end up living in hell. If you can not read about abuse, rape, and torture then this is not for you. Or if you are a victim of it, then it suggest depending on where you are in your life I would think twice beforehand reading. I would not want someone to read this book and have their personal experiences relived again. I guess the name of the book is very fitting - Personal Experiences.

The writing is amazing. Tracy Lee wrote scenes that made me feel that I was actually experiencing what Elle was not only feeling but experiencing. I felt like I was right there with her. The story is written all in Elle's POV with the exception of the last chapter which is in TJ's. The book switches back and forth from past to present day. Normally I don't like books that do that. I usually get lost in the present and don't remember what had happened before the switch; however, in this book it worked flawlessly. Each transition from past to present fit in perfectly and gave a better understanding of what had happened with TJ and Elle as early as second grade. I loved the friendships developed in this book with Rachel and Lilly and Curtis and Bear.

As I was transported back in the past and learned how each of the girls and guys had become friends and loved each other and had plans for the future only to have one couple still stay together after all the years. Rachel had become the glue to Elle as well as Elle's daddy. And unbeknownst to Elle her stepmom who she

originally did not care for become a source of support for her and gave her excellent advice in dealing with her douche bag jack ass husband.

Elle suffered through seventeen years of abuse and rape from her so called husband. Everything she did she did for her children. Some may feel that she had the support of her family - daddy, Mona, and Rachel to escape the abuse but she felt the opposite. I think this is the key that many people that have not experienced this before may not understand. Her husband made it very clear that he would take her kids and she would never see them again. As a mother, I could relate to this. I would do anything for my children. Even if that meant suffering silently. She did everything she could to protect her children. She set up code words, alerts, and what to do if she didn't meet them in the morning.

Now the best part... TJ comes back and decides that it is time to make her his. He more or less makes her an offer that she can't refuse. She is to spend eight days working with him in another city and he will pay her an ungodly amount of money. Now Elle has money that was left to her from her momma and daddy. But this money she thinks she can do something with it for her children to make their lives better. All she has to do is survive eight days with TJ. TJ does not make it easy for her. He actively pursues her instantly and never let's up. He makes it known that even though she is a married woman he knows that she still loves him and he still loves her.

This book sent me on an emotional roller coaster with so many loop da loops, twists and turns, and drops where my stomach literally did feel like it dropped. Have tissue ready for this book. It will be needed. And keep your iPad, nook, or kindle fully charged when reading. You don't want to get cut off because of low battery.

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### **Sabrina says**

Well that was exhausting!!!!

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### **Christina says**

It is hard to believe that this is Ms. Lee's first novel; and it is incredibly admirable for her to take on the very sensitive subject of domestic violence on top of that. Yes, this book is violent at times; however, is domestic violence ever warm and cuddly? Does real life ever censor itself? As a reader it can be hard to digest, but it also gives us a glimpse into what a victim/survivor has to deal with on a daily basis. If you've never been in an abusive relationship, it could be easy to discount the decisions made by Ellen (our heroine) in her fight for not only her survival, but for her children as well.

I love how Ms. Lee wove the back story and history throughout the novel. You could really get a sense of the depth of the relationships that each of the characters have with each other. Even though we had flashbacks throughout the book, it was easy to follow along. The dual POV was very effective. In the past I have not been much of a fan of having more than one voice in a book, but the relationship and storyline is so complex in Personal Experiences that I think the addition of a viewpoint really adds to the story. Yes, there were some grammatical/spelling errors, but guess what? Even mass marketed authors have things that make it past editing every once in awhile. Spell check does not find the difference between then/than or you're/your, and

often times spell check is the closest thing to a copy editor that an indie/self-published author has. I am in awe of anyone that can sit down and craft words into a cohesive story. Not just anyone can do that.

Elleny's evolution throughout the book from victim to survivor was inspiring. It was fraught with emotion and if rape and domestic violence are triggers for you it would best be wise to steer clear of this book. And while the book is chock full of pain and heartache, we do get a HEA at the end, that makes the pain all the more tolerable.

Again, this was incredible for a freshman effort and I'm very much looking forward to the next installment of the Personal series! (Please keep us updated on TJ and Elleny too!)

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## **Jenn says**

### **1 Violent Star**

#### **Why I didn't like this book?**

1. More violence than I would have liked.
2. Too much in the verbal, physical and sexual abuse.
3. Too many crass words and cussing.
4. Book started off great until it fell apart at chapter 3.
5. Couple doesn't get together officially until the end.
6. Cheating.
7. No second chance real romance or sweet swoony moments.
8. Trevor (TJ) was very angry and he even had a bad temper a lot, to me at least. Sometimes I understood why but to do the things he did around an abused woman? I would have been scared if I were her. He definitely didn't change for the better.
9. TJ and Elle fought too much. They didn't really have a healthy affair.
10. Bear made me uncomfortable with his abuse, which it should, that I had to skim or skip those parts. He was in the book too much for me.
11. Elle keeping her big secret for way too long.
12. Elle's reason for the secret wasn't a great reason to me even though I do get it. But come on... At some point hiding it was just dumb for so long.
13. Not enough interaction with TJ, JoJo and Luc.
14. Bear's reason for the things he did and for what he did to her parents. Not good enough for me.
15. I didn't like how certain people knew the secret and kept it from TJ.
16. Bear went from a likable guy to a crazy bat @\$\$ guy all over a love for a woman and the hatred of her parents. (Far fetched to the degree it went. Not saying some of that stuff couldn't happen in real life but come on!)

#### **What I liked**

1. TJ getting to know JoJo and Luc.
2. Changes TJ made towards the end of the book.
3. The funny reason JoJo got community service.
4. The prologue and first chapter.
5. TJ's letter to Elle.
6. Epilogue was funny.
7. The kids: Harlee, JoJo and Luc.



## 8. HEA

Otherwise this book was unbelievable and over the top with drama, ridiculous scenarios and violence.

I want to read to escape the world and enjoy a semi Fairytale, you can say. But to deal with so much violence the whole book? Sigh.... I can handle a little but this was over kill.

I felt no sweet love story or swoony moments. I didn't feel like this was a great second chance at love either. She was lucky she got that at the end but its not a great one at that.

Yes, I get love and life isn't pretty and can be as ugly as this story was but honestly, I need more pretty than ugly in my books. I felt the synopsis is misleading. It should include that there is a lot of violence and abuse.

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### **Dianne says**

With a leisurely warm up in the beginning and careful world-building to set the mood, **Personal Experiences** by Tracy Lee will hit every nerve and emotion you possess. From the cringing disgust of graphic physical abuse to tear-worthy moments, Ms. Lee slams her words down with force and confidence in where she is taking her tale.

Trevor and Elle's story begins as children, their relationship sees them through school, until college makes Trevor leave their small town. Elle is hiding a secret from Trevor and to spare herself the wrath of small town gossip, marries his best friend who spends the next seventeen years brutalizing her, and seeking ways to get his hands on her family's money. Through it all, Elle still hangs on to the love she shared with Trevor, their past giving her the strength to endure what her life has become.

Trevor returns after all those years and his love and devotion to Elle is still there. But has her misguided sacrifices years before damaged her beyond repair? Will Trevor avenge her suffering? Will they get their happily ever after?

Tracy Lee spares nothing in this emotionally draining tale of young love that matures and endures, even through the miles and years of separation. She creates so much tension that it hums like high voltage wires throughout this tale. Guiding her characters to make questionable decisions that will affect their futures, Ms. Lee doesn't ask for the reader's permission to be controversial, she boldly colors her world in her own way, brilliantly drawing us in, as we try to understand the moves of each character.

Riveting, nail biting tension, and raw romantic feelings, **Personal Experiences** is a diamond in the world of romantic drama.

I received this copy from the author as part of the Personal Experiences Tour.

Series: Personal Book 1

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### **Natalie M says**

4 solid, INTENSE stars!! Wow, where to begin? It started out great...sweet and fluffy with steamy sex scenes. It was sweet reading about this group of friends that were close in high school and the couples (TJ and Elle especially) were so cute. While TJ was always very alpha when it came to Elle and their connection, they were all just normal seniors looking forward to college. Then the string of bad decisions leads to a huge twist in the story and this is where I needed to take breathers. It took me longer to read this book b/c it was so intense and the abuse was so disturbing. To say I hated Bear is really an understatement! Although I didn't agree with Elle's decision, my heart went out to her for what she endured as a result. I was happy to have a HEA for TJ and Elle, but I was sweating there for a bit when I was at the very end and it still hadn't come!!

This book will definitely stay with me as it was one of those books that you can't stop thinking about long after finishing it. I keep having to tell myself "it's just a book!" An awesome book :-)) I looked on GR and there will be other books in this series in addition to Personal Possessions, which is TJ's POV. I love TJ and I look forward to reading what was going through his head all those years!

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### **Marcie says**

4 stars

I liked this book. It's hard to say that I loved this book just because of the horrific abuse that Elle went through. It was very graphic too. So for me it just doesn't seem like to say I loved this book doesn't an right. Elle endured 17 years of abuse in all forms verbal, physical, and rape.

I did love TJ though. He was amazing. The only thing I don't understand is why it took him so long to come back and claim his "anchor". The love that Elle and TJ shared was a beautiful thing to read about.

So if you can handle a book that has very graphic abuse in it . And you love to read about a beautiful love that is "bendable but not breakable" then this one is for you.

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### **Lisa says**

\*ARC Given to Blog for Honest Review\*

\*DNF\*

1 Kiss

I knew within the first few pages that this book was not for me. But I wanted to feel like I gave it a fair shot. That was a mistake. My opinion didn't change, it didn't get any better for me, in fact it got worse. I make it

no secret that I hate writing negative reviews but I am very frustrated because this book did have potential...but the way it was executed was just so off base for me.

The characters, the way they are all intertwined, the plot/story line...all of it had great possibility and promise. But the way this book was written was just really not for me. We are in Elle's POV and it jumps back and forth from past to present but it wasn't just the line of the story that was jumpy...it was her train of thought. It would jump between what was happening in the scene to her describing something...sometimes describing someone's looks could go on and on, it was obvious and broke the flow. Actually, there were lots of points when I felt the flow was broken...I just never really got into a groove with this book. I guess that was just part of another issue because I was not connecting to Elle, in fact part of me did not like her at all and I **really** have to like the girl. I didn't enjoy being in her POV which was not good because...that's all we get.

Another thing that really got to me was the dialogue and the way they talked – sometimes this would carry over into Elle's thoughts, which made it even harder for me. I could literally hear the characters and the way they were talking in my head and it was like nails on a chalkboard. I know what the author was trying to go for, playing up the fact that they are southern and from Georgia, I get that but it came across as uneducated and frankly a little demeaning. There was one scene in a hospital with an African American nurse that frankly embarrassed me. The time period was the 1990's not the 1950's! But you wouldn't be able to tell the difference with the way the author wrote the dialogue of the nurse. I understand it's the south, but I am from Texas...it doesn't get much more southern than that...I've heard it all and then some and I am very tolerant of most things but that irk'd me, big time. Plus a lot of the scenes when the characters were younger or growing up...the dialogue was just...dumb'd down, I don't know how else to put it. I know it might be somewhat realistic but it felt juvenile, forced and fake.

When I finally figured out what the plot line was...I skimmed to confirm and then decided I didn't care enough to know the rest because I was so frustrated with the plot line. I am **never** a proponent for taking choices away from a person...and that's exactly what Elle did to TJ. I didn't have to read any more to figure that out - I don't agree with what she did and so I stopped caring about what happened. That combined with all the other little things that bothered me made the decision that much easier to stop.

I really think this book needs an editor, badly. The over use of the semicolon drove me to insanity (I might have threatened to kill a semicolon...that's how bad it was)...and the improper quotations – just blatantly obvious things that even someone like me knows not to do...and I'm no queen of grammar. The biggest eye roll for me was when the author called The University of Texas...Texas University. There is no Texas University. Google it. You will not find it. Because it does not exist. I'm willing to bend and give on a few minor slip ups on details but blatantly calling one of the top Universities in the US by the wrong name...nope – I'm not going to be okay with that. At all.

I feel bad...I did want to like Elle...I really liked TJ and I didn't even know him that well. All of the other characters felt very superficial to me and of course I hated Bear without even trying. I'm sorry this one didn't work out for me...because I really did have high hopes – it's an extremely emotional tale...just not the style for me.

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**JoJo - JJJ (Jo Anna) Janesko says**

This book is a hidden gem. I am shocked more people don't know about this one. I think this book will stick

with me for a long time to come. There are still many brutal scenes that I can't get out of my head. What the heroine endured was awful. I am pleased to say though that this book does have a happy ending. There were several bumps in the road but we got through them. I will say this book isn't for the faint hearted. I would highly recommend it to those who can endure violence, abuse, rape, etc. So glad I read it.

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