



Invincible

Alana Albertson

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I'll be honest with you—I'm no hero. Sure, the media tries to brand every Navy SEAL as some kind of Batman dressed in cammies. There's even a line in one of our cadences: Superman is the man of steel, he ain't no match for Navy SEAL. You've seen the movies—we're infallible, invaluable, invincible. But that night, the one you read about in the papers ... all I really wanted to do was get laid.

One harmless fuck with an Aruban whore, no strings attached. I picked her out of a lineup—wild, dark hair, long legs and a crooked smile. After she sucked me off, I relaxed back onto the creaky, cum-stained cot, thankful for the blissful moments she gave me when I actually forgot for a second the faces of my buddies who died because I made the wrong call, the tears of the children I couldn't save, and the eyes of the enemies I slaughtered during their last seconds of life.

But before I left, her hazel eyes peered into my soul. She whispered in a distinct Californian accent, "My name is Annie Hamilton. I'm an American citizen. I was kidnapped on spring break five years ago. You're my last hope. Please save me."

One desperate plea. This wasn't a Hollywood blockbuster or a New York Times best-selling thriller. I knew this time there was no room for excuses, no margin for errors. I had one chance to put on the cape and be her hero.

Invincible Details

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From Reader Review *Invincible* for online ebook

~ Becs ~ says

"My name is Annie Hamilton. I'm an American citizen. I was kidnapped from a cruise ship five years ago. You're my last hope. Please save me.

Well, I truly do think that the blurb is one of the most exciting and tantalising I have ever read. I saw that synopsis and knew that I had to read it. In fact, I bought it the second it went live on Amazon and started it straight away, thoroughly captivated by the thought of a tough, alpha, Navy SEAL heading off to rescue a kidnapped girl, forced to work as a prostitute. Who doesn't love a Navy SEAL right?

In the end it really saddens me to have to say that while I liked this book, I didn't really love it anywhere as much as I thought I was going to. It was just an okay read for me.

As the blurb states, Patrick realises the hooker he's paid for is an American citizen forced into prostitution against her will. A little research on the internet reveals that she's been missing for a number of years and is from a wealthy and high-profile family. Patrick enlists two of his SEAL buddies and they head out on a unsanctioned, under the radar rescue mission.

At this point, I was kind of losing interest in Patrick a little – he was a bit too hooyah and was constantly quoting the SEAL code of conduct but he seemed to have very little identity of his own. I never felt that I knew Patrick other than that he's a SEAL and his character was never fully developed enough for me to be able to connect with him and identify with him in any way.

Annie, the girl he sets out to rescue, also fell a little flat for me. I think the rescue and the detox was done well (she has become addicted to heroin) but after that the story seemed to lose direction and Annie's recovery from her ordeal, to me at least, seemed a little unreal and far too rapid. There was a great opportunity here to explore how someone like Annie adapts and re-integrates back into a normal life but, somehow, this felt like it was pushed under the carpet so we could focus on Annie and Patrick's relationship and we never really got to know Annie that well as we never heard her POV – this is all told from Patrick's standpoint.

The book's relatively short and I really think we could have done with a hundred or so more pages to really flesh out the characters and delve a little deeper into the emotions that they all experienced which were largely rushed past. I feel so sad to write a review like this – I so very much wanted to like this book but, on reflection, it felt a little shallow and disappointing. The blurb had massive potential which, sadly, the book never really lived up to.

3 disappointing stars

Read this review at [Sinfully Sexy](#) | [Follow us on Facebook](#) | [Follow us on Twitter](#)

Sandra says

Review exchanged for an honest review via Netgally!

REVIEW ON THE NEW VERSION.

Note: The author edited and re-published this book due to reader's feedback. The new version will re-release in late May, and will include the female lead's POV, 15,000 extra words, and a new twist - now making *Invincible* stand at over 200 pages.

This is a dark NA read, and it's the first (stand-alone) book in The Trident Code series.

Invincible follows the story of Patrick, a Navy SEAL, who meets a girl in a brothel, whilst on holiday on an island. He pays her to give him head, even though he suspects she ain't there willingly.

"My name is Annie Hamilton. I'm an American citizen. I was kidnapped from a cruise ship five years ago. You're my last hope. Please save me."

Annie's last words haunt Patrick after he leaves, and not being able to rest until he does so, he searches for a 'kidnapped Annie Hamilton'. Sure enough, he finds all the proof he needs that it's the same girl. With the help of his other Navy buddies, they come up with a plan to save her.

When he finally rescues Annie, he can't wait to get rid of her because he doesn't want to get 'attached'. Afterall, she is 'just a mission' to him.

Throughout the book he was all like...

'Patrick has one chance to be Annie's hero'...or will he be an insufferable ass instead? (<---- lol, i'm hilarious).

Annie: In the beginning, she is a depressed drug addict. We do get to hear about some of her 'costumers', and see what it's like in the brothel she is in.

I did not like her, nor did I hate her. Annie was very glingy, pathetic and at times a rather naïve protagonist; she constantly threw herself at Patrick when she wanted something, but I guess this could be backed up by the fact that she might not have known another way, as she spent a few years as a, ermm, prostitute. She was also coming off drugs.

I found it ridiculous how the author tries to portrait her as a 'strong' female lead, and even Patrick constantly describes her as such. Does a 'strong' woman think a man superior over her? Rely on him completely for everything, by choice? BEG a strange man - 'don't leave'? If she was the character that the author wanted her

to be, I think she would be her own 'hero'. Though, I do admit, she did need Patrick's help to get her out, but after that?

She'd do just fine if she really wanted and tried.

Patrick: I didn't like him either. He was a total asshole.

Patrick has been cheated on by his girlfriend whilst deployed, so now he doesn't believe that those sorts of relationships will ever work. On vocation, all 'he wanted to do was get laid' with no strings attached. I thought of him as an average asshole most men are on a daily basis; being rude, disgusting, and just full of shit - mostly the latter.

Patrick always states that 'he ain't a cheater', I find that amusing since he obviously wants to – every time there are 'hot chicks' around, he just stares and admires their 'sexy asses'. He even did that when he introduced Annie to his mother during a barbecue or something. No to mention how he couldn't stop thinking about fucking Annie, after she gave him a BJ in the brothel and he left.

He was not only full of shit, but full of himself too. I lost count how many times he said something along the lines of 'I'm a Navy SEAL' or 'being a Navy SEAL...'. **WE.GOT.IT.THE.FIRST.TIME. Thank you.**

The premise of *Invincible* was fantastic, however the actual book didn't reach it. I'm scared to think what the old version of the book was like, since this one wasn't great either.

Invincible was the sort of book that 'tells', not 'shows'. Alana Albertson tells us Annie and Patrick 'love' each other. Tells us that he is a 'good man', and she is a 'strong woman'. But that's all there is to it.

However, I gave it 3 stars because I was impressed by the knowledge/research about Navy SEALS (my brother is one so I know what i'm talking about), and so did the author. The book, though badly written, wasn't boring. I was mostly entertained and kept turning the pages...and for some reason, I WILL read the next one.

Sincerely – The Critic.

Alana Albertson says

Jenny - TotallybookedBlog says

J&G : 2.5 Stars

We are U.S. Navy SEALs.
There's no need to thank us because we don't exist.
You never saw us.
This never happened.
-ANONYMOUS. '

Gitte: Ahhh Jenny, this breaks my heart writing this review. I was absolutely gagging to read this story after a fantastic sneak peek at chapter one a while back on our blog. It had such potential and looked as if it was going to be just our kind of read; the premise sounded FAB. The hot Navy Seal 'kick arse' rescuer and the dark and horrific fate of a girl kidnapped and forced into sex slavery.

"My name is Annie Hamilton. I'm an American citizen. I was kidnapped from a cruise ship five years ago. You're my last hope. Please save me."

It just never really came to anything did it? It never peaked; there was never that dark and gritty tension and it felt so rushed with barely any detail. I just couldn't connect to the characters though I did feel Patrick had a heart of gold, real strength and courage of convictions. It could have been an amazing read; it really could because the writing was strong and the premise fabulous. However, it was almost monotonous and as we moved through the story Patrick came across almost robotic in actions and thoughts.

'I would not fail Annie. I don't fail. I am never out of the fight.'

I don't know what to say without sounding really harsh so I apologise in advance; but parts of this story felt almost unbelievable in light of the fact we were dealing with a woman kidnapped; kept as a sex slave and drugged up to her eyeballs; the behaviour of Annie was mind boggling and I just didn't understand her character.

"You aren't invisible – you're invincible."

I did think the writing style was good, it flowed really well and it vividly placed the images of the story in my head at times. However, with great writing you still need a great story as well as the emotional aspects and sadly this wasn't it for me; I felt detached throughout.

Invincible was an okay-ish read for me as I didn't at any stage want to leave it unfinished, but that's all really. You felt the same didn't you Jenny?

Jenny: Sadly, I share your sentiments Gitte and like you I'm gutted to have to write this review. If you had asked me a week ago to name one of my most anticipated books, it would have been Invincible, without a

second thought. How could I not be excited for this book after THAT synopsis and THAT first chapter preview? Wow! I was chomping at the bit to read this one. In fact, we were so excited about the release of this one, we discussed it with the girls and decided it was going to be our next Bookclub read . We normally don't get the chance to read along with our gorgeous Bookclub girls so we were excited and put this one up sight unseen, which is something we never do. Honestly, we couldn't see how it wouldn't be a hit. It certainly had all the makings for a kick arse Navy Seal book and we were all salivating whilst impatiently waiting for release date.

'I had one chance to put the cape on and be her hero.'

The premise of this story was fantastic and my thoughts were "this can't fail", so it pains me to say, that it did. I didn't experience any kind of connection to any of the characters and actually found the sex scenes to be a bit uncomfortable at times and some felt decidedly awkward and out of place. There was one scene in particular that made me shudder at Patrick's physical feelings and internal monologue when Annie was suffering. As I said...awkward.

As you said G, I did love the hero side of the story and I do love a good Navy Seal story, throw in a rescue and love story and I'm there. This did have the odd moment that I enjoyed, but the actions of Patrick and Annie had me shaking my head at times and the story felt rushed and unfinished. I agree this author has a great writing style and only wish she had executed *Invincible* better because it had the scope to be an amazing read.

"I've dreamt of you. I just knew you were sent for me. You are my only hope."

Like you G, I did HAVE to finish it, I couldn't not, and that is something I guess because I felt I needed to see it through to the end. Unfortunately I didn't experience the drama, suspense and passion the way I had hoped I would.

G&J: So it is with a heavy heart we say this was a bit of a fizzer for us. The author had brilliant ideas and on some levels the story did play out satisfactorily but it didn't wow us. We felt aspects of the story weren't explored enough and there quite a few inconsistencies. In fairness, we have to say that some of the readers in our Bookclub loved this book and can't wait for more which goes to prove that reading is subjective and everyone will experience different feelings after reading *Invincible*. It's with a heavy heart that we didn't experience this story the way they did and that this is a case where, for us, the story didn't live up to the synopsis.

ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review.

Ashleyjo says

Really, really bad start that just never climbs out of the gutter.

Okay, so the MC going to a prostitution ho in the wall didn't exactly sit well with me, but it didn't make me *hate* him the way some of the other reviewers did. He explained his reasoning, and although not particularly a chivalrous act, I can accept his reasoning, rationale for going there. Moving on...

What did immediately make him an unlikable character for me was that his "prostitute" tells him she's a

kidnapped American named Annie & asks for his help escaping sex slavery. He leaves, intent to forget her. What an ass! His character is immediately in the dumpster for me.

Later, his conscious spurs him to look her up on the internet to see if she's really WHO she claims. His inner monologue is all about how beautiful she was in her pictures, that she came from a nice American family that's wealthy, she was an all American college girl, blah, blah. He resigns himself to help her IF she is who she says she is, that being this particular American girl. What if she wasn't? What about the other girls there, the ones not American? Not beautiful? Not kidnapped college girls?

Look, I'm not saying he should've been all super hero r us & vow to save the world's sex slave population, but fu€k there's just nothing swoon worthy or honorable about a guy a) supposed to be a badass SEAL but runs when a sex slave asks for help b) is only willing to help THIS American girl, WITH NO CONCERN for the other girls there. Again, his character is in the dumpster and more shit is being loaded atop him by the page.

And, yes, when the rescue takes place they "herd" the other girls into a different room and LEAVE THEM THE FUCK THERE.

This book hit a nerve with the SEALS and Annie never trying to help the others, even if that was just to tell someone about the other girls.

I continued reading because I really prayed that somehow the author could redeem this book, these characters. Maybe they'd realize the error and go back, but no. He goes on a mission and she goes to a posh rehab.

Six months FF...

Sadly, it just never redeemed itself:(

The way Annie throws herself at him is just a huge red flag. He pushes, she pulls. I can't count how many times she grabs his crotch and begs him to screw her. She's broken and this is versed like a damn love story.

From the blow job scene forward, the rescue withstanding, theres always this hint of asshole selfishness that just never goes away. Even his "respecting" her and wanting to take things slow isn't really about her; it's about him. He admits to himself how he's bothered by picturing all the men she's been with as a sex slave. He doesn't want to get cheated on. He begrudges she comes from money. Blah, blah. He talks about how she's not ready emotionally and the next sentence is how hot she is. He reads her the riot act about texting Chris and accuses her of being a cheater, but the very next morning he is admiring another girl's ass and reminiscing about how he and his buddy would be knee deep in Playboy mansion cooch... ~If not for Annie, of course.~ He talks a great deal to himself about her needs, but his actions are ALL about what he wants and needs.

In warp speed fashion this goes from him not even wanting her as a one nighter or a girlfriend to him damn proposing marriage! Wtf? There was no in between story at all.

The writing itself was subpar. The convos just weren't believable, authentic. At times, the characters just had diarrhea of the mouth where they'd spew toms of info in one damn quote. At other times, it was simply the phrasing of things that was out of place; for example, she often referred to herself as a sex slave... "Is it because I was a sex slave?" Who would say that in that way? More like...' Is it because of my past,' 'what

happened to me,' ' what was done to me,' 'all the men that have rapped me?'

The mystery plot, which wasn't so mysterious, just wasn't logical. Think of the hundreds of thousands spent covering this shit up and then ask why wouldn't that money have been used to have her simply removed and offered a new life away from any potential embarrassment, or even killed. Hell, the same thing could've been done (cover up) as it was when he rescued her 3 yrs later. A rich, former Annapolis grad wouldn't have left loose ends, wouldn't have thrown money all around the problem.. He'd have solved that shit or buried it in money.

Bottom line:

The MC is NOT a likable character for me. The way Annie lusts, chases, and bends to him & the way she didn't even look back for the other girls in her same situation made it very hard to even empathize with her, much less like her. The moral compass of this book is off. The writing is lacking. The story moved at warp speed. And the secondary plot just wasn't believable.

***J* Too Many Books Too Little Time says**

2.5--**Took a Nose-Dive**--Stars!

Hmm....well things were really going along fine until towards the end of the book.....and then I had a big

moment. And things never recovered from there.

I noticed that I was getting close to the end. And I started to think it might have a cliffy ending--which would have pissed me the fuck off--but then BAM everything comes together and The End!

Yeah, not good.

And quite frankly the whole sex slave, captive, captor, rescuer scenario....yeah I'm

So Patrick is a Navy SEAL, which we are reminded of repeatedly. And I get it....you're a badass, SEALs are awesome, but it was almost overkill.

Patrick is on break, or whatever you call it, after his latest mission. He doesn't do girlfriends or relationships after being scorned by his last one. So instead he pays for sex.

His latest brothel visit, lands Patrick in "Star's" room. Where he gets the best bj of his life. As Patrick is

leaving Star whispers in his ear....

"My name is Annie Hamilton. I'm an American citizen. I was kidnapped from a cruise ship five years ago. You're my last hope. Please save me."

At first Patrick doesn't believe her, but a little internet research tells him she's telling the truth. And she's been missing for five years. So now Patrick makes it his mission to save Annie.

I thought the whole rescue was packaged too nicely. It was like they just waltzed in and took her. (view spoiler)

Once Annie is rescued Patrick returns her to her family and he is off on another mission. And since he's a SEAL and is on mission's nine months out of the year a relationship would never work. Which he keeps reminding us. Over and over and over again.

So then it makes NO SENSE to me how, once Patrick and his mission are complete and Annie shows up to greet him, the relationship could escalate at the rate it did.

And when Patrick (view spoiler)

The rest of the book was a whirlwind. And I just didn't get the whole "side" story involving her dad.

I know this is Trident Code #1.... but really this was more of a novella length book. Are the other books about Kyle and Vic? Or continuing Patrick and Annie's story? Do I even care?? I don't think so.

Too many holes, too rushed at the end, relationship wasn't believable, insta love.

~ Cariad ~ says

~ UPDATE! ~

What a difference a re-write made for this one!

The book has a much better flow. Both Annie and Patrick's POV's, some great new sub plots and a mostly slower pace making big necessary changes. PHEW!

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For me, it could still have been a little more intense and a little slower at times.

The brothel scene at the beginning is a critical one; I'd have happily read another dozen pages on that alone. Taking that whole scene slowly and giving it a more all consuming intensity was (I felt) essential. This was the blowjob that was going to save her life, it would have been an incredibly desperate scene but I thought that it just missed the mark on that.

Toward the end I think it could have been comfortably given some more pages too.

Overall though, it's a winner!  
Moving up from 3.5 to 4 stars.

Thanks very much Alana for giving me the opportunity to re-read.

ORIGINAL REVIEW:

**3.5 "guttled" Stars**

**Never, have I been so lit up by a synopsis...**

My full review at Cariad's Sizzling Page...And there's good news!

PRE-REVIEW...

<http://cariads-sizzling-pages.blogspot...> - come visit me!

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**Christine Wallflower & Dark Romance Junkie says**

**This is all I'm going to say about this book**

**Firstly, I love anti-heroes, bad guys with questionable intentions, cruel and sadistic tendencies. But, there's a huge BUT, don't give me an anti-hero and try to make me think he's a good guy. Better yet, one who recites his "seal code" and then goes on about how he'd die for his country, but then acts all contradictory by being a stupid douche nugget.**

Strike one: He goes to a brothel.

Strike 2: He goes to a brothel, knowing the women there are not there willingly.

Strike 3 : He refers to these women as whores, this all changes when he finds out the heroine is american (suddenly she's not a whore)

strike 4: His friend decides to take one for the team, this is a spoiler so I can't explain, but then chickens out because he's scared it'll be an American and he doesn't want to deal with that shit.

That's as far as I got, 25% I'm not scared of admitting it, but this was a first for me. I didn't like the hero and quite frankly I don't care if he becomes a better person later on either.

*ARC kindly provided by author in return for an honest review*

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**Lady Vigilante (Feifei) says**

**2.5-3 stars!**

**This review is for an expanded version and while I liked this version much more than the original, overall the book didn't really hit my I-loved-it buttons.**

The updated version of the book has:

- dual POVs (the original was entirely from Patrick's POV). I'm really happy to see more of Annie's thoughts in the story, especially when they're not from Pat's POV. It really helped me connect to her character better and I think out of all the characters in the book, she's my favorite.
- a couple of twists: I don't want to give it away but there is a new character in the book and this person is directly related to Annie. This twist does add a new layer to the story and it was interesting to see how well

Pat took to this character.

- the ending: I did not see that coming but I will say...I'm *really* looking forward to the next book in the series.

Normally I do not re-read books nor am I willing to give them a second chance – I'll get bored reading the same thing you know? However, I felt compelled to give this one another try because the blurb was truly like a magnetic force and out of curiosity I wanted to see if the changes would be able to sway my initial rating for the better – sadly, it didn't do too much for me.

I like this author's writing style and the book premise is extremely intriguing; however, I've realized that for me, this book was doomed from the start: a Navy SEAL going to a brothel? Really? That just left a bad taste in my mouth and the fact that this SEAL is an arrogant, cocky bastard for a good part of the book didn't really garner any positive attention from me.

I suppose if I read the new version AND if it was my first time reading the story I would've given it a higher rating but in all honesty – first impressions are important. The fact that I wasn't impressed the first time around stuck in my head and it probably did affect my enjoyment when I read this new version again. I think for those that were really interested in the book from before should give it a try as I do believe the differences were considerably effective in improving the story.

*ARC provided by Bolero Books in exchange for an honest review.*

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**Old review for the original version in the spoiler**

(view spoiler)

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## **Michelle says**

Re-read of revised story on 5/17/2014: An ARC was provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Invincible was revised recently and comes packed with not only a dual point of view but some twists to the story-line that I was not expecting at all.

Normally when an author revises their book I don't go back to read the updated version. But with Invincible,

I felt that I just needed to. There was something so magnetic about the blurb of this story and I needed to see if the revised version with the added dual point of views and the new plot twist could recapture that same level of excitement.

The gist of the story remains the same and the changes that revolve around the twist to the story-line are not something that I will touch upon, beyond that it worked – really, really well. The addition of Annie's point of view also gave a new insight into her character, although Patrick had his own emotional hang-ups, Annie was the one that had suffered. Getting into her head was much needed, it allowed a little deeper connection to the character and to her story. I think for the most part on my initial read of the story – everything felt like it was just Patrick's story and that Annie was there, but not so much a main character. Giving Annie a stronger voice throughout this story enhanced the story for me.

There were still a few moments towards the end where I felt like I was reading a book on fast forward, however the added twists to the story-line explained some of the need for Patrick to move as quickly as he did.

After reading both versions of this story and looking back at my original review, I think part of me was looking to find a much darker anti-hero type in Patrick. A man that might have goodness at his core, but the kind of man that had buried it years ago – waiting for someone to be willing to work hard enough to uncover the man he was meant to be. With the second reading, Patrick seemed like much more of a cautious hero, who at the core always wanted something beyond what he had. Being a SEAL was his life and that was enough for him at the time, but he wanted to have someone by his side, waiting for him to come home. That version of Patrick made an appearance in this revised book and it worked better with the direction of the story.

### **Original Review**

3.5 Stars

Patrick is a Navy Seal, a man that has dedicated his life to serve his country. Nothing else matters. He has no woman at home waiting for him, praying for his safe return. Beyond his mother the only thing he has is his oath as a soldier and his brothers. When he walks into the brothel he never expected the words that came from her mouth, he never expected to believe her.

*"I never made any commitments - except to my country and to my men. Sleeping with a prostitute was the definition of safe sex to me."*

Annie was just a teenage girl on a cruise with her boyfriend when she was taken. Five years later she's a junkie and a whore; bought to be used. When she's done with Patrick, there is something about him that gives her hope.

*"My name is Annie Hamilton. I'm an American citizen. I was kidnapped from a cruise ship five years ago. You're my last hope. Please save me."*

Patrick knew he could face punishment if he went rogue to save her, but he also knew that if he followed the

rules, the red tape would take too much time and her life was at stake. He wished he could have taken her that night, but he had to deploy and there was no time to execute his mission. Returning for her was his only plan. But when he returns to find the brothel burnt to the ground he and two of his brothers go in search for her - to rescue her - to bring her home.

I am a little torn over this story. I absolutely loved the blurb to this story; I had my expectations set to dizzying heights. I didn't expect the story to play out quite like it did; more sweet than stubborn and damaged. I loved the dedication that he had to what he was doing and being a soldier meant that even if he wanted to erase those words from his memory; he just couldn't do it. But the breakneck speed in which the end of this story occurred had me a little disappointed. It just seemed like he went from screaming **NO** to wanting to give her everything; without really any clear idea of how he got to that point. I understood that an event in his past made him feel a certain way, but that wasn't played up enough to really explain his reluctance at for the majority of this book but it was mentioned enough to make me question the 180 towards the end. Another 20/25 pages would have allowed the ending more time to settle in and feel less rushed for me.

I loved the idea of this story. Soldier gets blowjob from whore only to discover she was kidnapped and sold into the sex trade... Soldier who never wanted more than his missions is now attached to a woman that he saved, said woman can't go back to the life she had - the people that can't look at her without seeing five years of her being used... and even the twist thrown in at the end added the drama and suspense that the first part of the story was missing - I am not sure if the next story will be based on one of the other Seals or if they'll continue on with their story, I just know that it didn't feel complete yet. There is just a bit more to this story needed to really bring it to the proper conclusion.

Overall I enjoyed this story, I was dying to get my hands on it and have to admit some of my feeling of being let down is due to the excitement over what is one of the most intriguing blurbs I've seen in a while (those things suck me in just like a pretty cover).

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**\*\*\*?Yasmine?\*\*\* says**

Invincible failed to reach any emotion or interest from me. I don't know why.

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**Lana \*Dirty Girl Romance\* says**

*This review is for the updated and extended version*  
**2- 2.5 Stars**

*You aren't invisible- you're invincible. I know you're alive. I know your name. You've survived this long and I will get you out of here."*

As much as I tried my damndest to get into this book, that's the one thing that kept running through my mind while reading. I couldn't find it in me to care for the hero, I couldn't find it in me to care for the heroine, and I most definitely couldn't find it in me to care for Patrick's "teammates".

I'm not looking for my books to be highly realistic. It's fiction. I get it. Believe me. BUT, some of the things that take place in this book bothered me even if I suspended my disbelief. So what didn't work for me? (Everything) But let me try to explain.

### 1. **Patrick**

He's a SEAL. In case you find yourself forgetting this anywhere throughout the story, worry not! The SEAL mantras will be on constant repeat to the point where you could probably recite them by memory at the end of the book. Really. Now I'm all for a bad boy, or anti-hero if you will. But Patrick? Possibly the least endearing hero I've read in a while. He's a SEAL that's all about his "code" (see above mentioned mantras). Yet he goes to a brothel and pays a whore for a blow job. Wouldn't a SEAL that's seen the type of things he has have a better idea of human trafficking and that not all of the "whores" may be willing participants? But that's neither here nor there, and I could have moved past this if not for the rest.

2. **The 'Search and Rescue' mission.** Still find it hard to grasp at how easily everything went down. But again, I could have looked past even this.

### 3. **Patrick's friend and fellow 'SEAL', Kyle**

Now here is where I found myself going from a slow boil to RAGEY. This is a mild spoiler, so I'll spoiler it for those that want to read. (view spoiler) Enter stage right, Kyle

*Couldn't stay away from her for a day. We've been back, what, five hours? Have you already hit that?*

May I remind you that Annie has been forced to be a prostitute for the past 5 years, raped and drugged up to her eyeballs. You've now been fed every SEAL mantra you could fit into the first half, and THIS is what he asks? If you're like me, you may find yourself thinking, "Really?"

And let's not forget him "taking one for the team" in another brothel while searching for Annie. I'd suggest he look up one of those SEAL mantras, but I don't think they cover douchebags.

3. **Annie's "fixation" on Patrick.** Here's where I think my main problem was. I never truly felt that connection with Annie and Patrick. It just seemed that she fixated on him because he was the only one that 'understood her'. I dunno. At this point I wasn't really feeling much in this story.

and the final straw that broke the camel's back?

### 4. **The ending.**

A lot of buildup, more buildup, a little more buildup

BAM!

HEA

It felt rushed. I wanted...no I NEEDED more. An explanation. Another chapter. Anything. Whereas what I got was a quick wrap up with an epilogue.



**Will I read the next book in this series?** NO. Sorry. I may read Vic's book. But Kyle? HELL NO.

**Will I read another book by this author?** I think so. I can see that she has real talent and I enjoyed her writing style (just not the story...obviously). She had all the right ingredients with this book, but the delivery fell flat. That's not to say I wouldn't enjoy a different book from her.

I know I sound harsh in my review, but that's simply because this just managed to push some of my no no buttons. Don't let me deter you from reading the book. I tend to be a little more picky with my books, so some of the things that bothered me, may not necessarily bother you.

\*\*\*ARC courtesy of author in exchange for an honest review\*\*\*

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**Pam says**

*3 stars*

*That is my past-but I won't let it define my future.*

**Invincible** sucks you in from the very beginning, keeping you glued to the pages which made it a one-sit read for me. Who would have ever thought that getting a blow job would turn his world upside down, all Pat wanted was some relief on his day off and what did he get ...

*“My name is Annie Hamilton. I’m an American citizen. I was kidnapped from a cruise ship five years ago. You’re my last hope. Please save me.”*

He may be a Seal but damn, he can't just go rogue and help this drugged out whore out, but something about those eyes, the accent just keeps her on him mind...Needing more information he researched up Annie's disappearance and when things add up he knows he has no choice...

*I knew this time there was no room for excuses, no margin for errors. I had one chance to put on the cape and be her hero.*

Five years of living in hell, Annie is no longer the same person she once was, how could she pretend like nothing happened like they want you to? Physically she was free but mentally she is just as trapped, and the only one who sees you as a beautiful-surviving girl is the one who pushes you away. Unable to forgive himself for how they met, and what he made her do, he keeps her at arm's length but she didn't just get

saved to be told what she can and cannot do, especially who she is allowed to see.

*I waited for five years for someone to save me. I'd wait another five years for you to come back home to me.*

**Invincible** is about "being at the right place at the right time", "everything happens for a reason", "meant to be" and every other thing you can think of. The story started off on the darkerside of life but as it progressed things were getting brighter and brighter, ending up in the land of rainbows and gumdrops. It was pretty much two extremes. Although I am thrilled there was HEA after all the ugliness, it was a little too perfect, making it feel too good to be true. There were things I hoped that were different, the rescue and all the family drama but it is what it is. It was a read that I enjoyed but badly wanted to love, which was no fault to the author, it was just my opinion and preference. I heard there was an updated copy so this review is based on the ARC copy that is available on Netgalley.

*ARC kindly provided by Bolero Books, LLC, via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.*

\*\*\*Quotes above are taken from the ARC version of the book and may differ upon publication.

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## **Aestas Book Blog says**

**Holy hell, guys!! Read this blurb -- WOAH!!!!**

I'll be honest with you—I'm no hero. Sure—the media tries to brand every Navy SEAL as some kind of Batman dressed in cammies. There's even a line in one of our cadences—"superman is the man of steel, he ain't no match for Navy SEAL." You've seen the movies—we're indestructible, invincible, invulnerable. But that night, the one you read about in the papers—all I really wanted to do was get laid.

One harmless fuck with a Curaçao whore—no strings attached. I picked her out of a lineup—wild, dark hair, long legs and a crooked smile. After she sucked me off, I relaxed back onto the creaky, cum-stained cot, thankful for the blissful moments she gave me when I actually forgot for a second the faces of my buddies who died because I made the wrong call, the tears of the children I couldn't save, and the eyes of the enemies I slaughtered during their last seconds of life.

But before I left, her green eyes peered into my soul. She whispered in a distinct Boston accent, "My name is Annie Baylis. I'm an American citizen. I was kidnapped from a cruise ship five years ago. You're my last hope. Please save me."

One desperate plea. This wasn't a Hollywood blockbuster or a New York Times best-selling thriller. I knew that this time there was no room for excuses, no margin for errors. I had one chance to put the cape on and be her hero.

**RELEASE DATE: MARCH 9, 2014**

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## Wendy's Thoughts says

3 Signed, SEALed, and Delivered Stars \* \* \*

We live our lives every day and don't think about all of the horrific events which take place all around the world. Does that make us heartless... no it makes us normal everyday people. Until something happens and it is brought to our attention either through the media or because of a personal connection, we do not think of the evil which takes place every hour of every day.

Invincible by Alana Albertson addresses just that... every day people being captured; taken and turned into sex slaves. Annie was on a cruise with her boyfriend; got drunk and somehow disappeared while the ship was docked. There was conjecture of her:

Being murdered by the boyfriend

Distraught, depressed and committing suicide

Falling overboard and drowning

Her possibly being abducted and sold into the sex slave industry

The boyfriend's life was ruined and forever tainted as the guy who may have murdered his girlfriend; the parents presented themselves as heartbroken. They put out a \$300,000 reward for their daughter and was even taken by con artists claiming able to find her.

These things had been in the news and years went by. Patrick is minding his own business; he and his other SEAL team members are in Curacao on leave from their vessel and looking to cut loose. Patrick doesn't look for tourist playmates; he likes to have no ties; no feelings; just a sure thing. Sex he pays for. Is he proud of it, no.... but he knows what he needs... a quick release and done.

He finds a brothel, sees a gal with haunted eyes and asks for her.

As he gets ready to leave from the quick relief he allowed himself, the girl looks at him and quietly says she is an American citizen abducted 5 years ago from a cruise ship and he is her last hope. He leaves and is confused, angry and pulled in a few directions. He can't believe this is happening and because he is who he is.... Meaning Navy SEAL... he will decide to look into this claim from this girl. She did have the California accent he was so familiar with and in the back of his head he thought there was something nagging him about her. In addition to all of these gut feelings he is having... she had the craziest tattoo on her ankle of a cartoon character he remembered from his own life.

He goes and looks on the net and discovers all of the information he needs to verify what she said is true..... from the tattoo to the scar she had on her shoulder. Now he is in a hole... all of his training and protective urges call to him... how in the hell is he going to get her out of there... because there is no doubt.... That is what he is going to do.... Get this girl out and back to her family.... End of story.

Except there are a couple of problems.... Like it is against regs to do anything like this; he could lose his career. If he goes through channels it will take forever and the locals are probably on the take so the girl will be gone or worse...

No, Patrick Walsh, Navy SEAL will bring in his fellow brothers who he trusts and they will handle it on their own.

This story is told from Patrick's POV and he has a very distinct concept of how things are supposed to be. He has seen and even experienced cheating girlfriends and wives; this has formed his ideas of relationships while being a SEAL. They just don't work. He respects women; his mother was an amazing one but fell for the wrong men. He does have issues with women in the service and on the front lines; they can do administrative stuff and nursing but they really have no play in harm's way.

He is sure in his not getting involved until retirement.... Until Annie...

Annie has survived this ordeal for 5 years by holding onto hope.... And somehow, through all of this, has held onto some inner strength.

Was this a realistic story of how someone would be saved from this type of life? I really don't know. I do know the intent was a positive one with the imparting of the SEAL's code throughout the book. I do think the addressing of young college age women disappearing is important and anything which causes the spotlight on a terrible situation is good.

This is written with secondary characters ready to have their own tale.

A gifted copy was provided by author/publisher for an honest review.

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