



## Embattled Ever After

*J.M. Madden*

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Duncan Wilde has avoided long-term relationships very well since his fiancée left him wounded in the hospital years ago. That one harsh lesson—that he needed to guard his heart—has lasted him for years. Besides. He's a beat up old Marine well past his time for love. The fiery young doctor from Kansas seems to think otherwise though. She worked on one of his men months ago and they had a bit of a connection. Too bad she's so damn young.

Alex Hartfield grew up as a military brat, but she sees something in Duncan that makes her think of permanence and starting a family. She wants someone to come home to every night and love, and he's the first man that makes her guarded heart race with hope and excitement. Now to convince him that opening up to love doesn't mean taking on responsibility for the other person's life.

## Embattled Ever After Details

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Author : J.M. Madden

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## **From Reader Review Embattled Ever After for online ebook**

### **Laura says**

I've waited ages for Duncan's book but it left me disappointed. The other couples feature a lot as does a story for a character in the next book. I wanted to read more about Duncan and Alex's romance but they ended up just being side characters. The author could have done a lot more with their story than she did after fans have waited so long.

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### **CC says**

I will keep this short

I LOVE this series. I appreciated some of the follow ups with other couples in this book. Especially John and Shannon.

The romance between Duncan and Alex pretty much sucked. As in there wasn't much of any. He pushed her away the whole book. She tried too hard.

It felt like the author was not feeling it but she was writing something to appease the fans of the series demanding a book about Duncan. So she wrote a TON of catch up stories about the others and sprinkled in the push/pull of Duncan and Alex. Disappointing.

But I still love the series.

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### **Lisa says**

I loved Duncan and Alex's story! This book tugged at my heart and in the end made me so happy!

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### **Leo (Queen of the Rants and the Crazy) says**

3.5 stars.

No OW/OM drama.

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### **Darcy says**

This is one of my favorites series. While the men often see themselves as broken the women don't, they see

them as the good men they are, just with some extra things to deal with.

I loved that the Lost and Found people wanted to do something good for Duncan and they brought Alex around to see if the spark was there. With how Duncan reacted I wanted to slap him and had the weather not come into play that would have been the end of it.

It was interesting to see how Duncan reacted when Alex came along with him during his work trips. He kept waiting for her to judge, instead Alex understood what he was trying to do and caused him to see a different side of things.

Once again towards the end I found myself wanting to punch Duncan when he said words he knew hurt more than any physical touch. The worst thing was that Duncan knew it too as soon as the words were out of his mouth. It didn't help that in the aftermath Alex ended up hurting more. Due to all of this I wasn't sure that we would get a HEA, but of course there was one.

There was some drama at the end, drama that came out of left field that didn't really match the rest of the series. I see there is going to be a spin off book with that character. I'll read it, hopefully it will help connect the two in a better way.

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### **Opinionated and Brutally Honest Reviews says**

I have been highly anticipating Duncan's story. But this was like, so totally not cool like no. Like it was like written by like a teenager and stuff.....Seriously! This book has an identity crisis. Way too much going on. Everyone else has their own stories but the one we are all waiting for barely has one. Duncan and Alex were in about 25%. I liked catching up with everyone but why not make the book after Duncan and Alex a "where are they now" story??? I did not like that Alex was always the aggressor. She was always coming back to him. I really wanted him to chase her down in the end especially after what happened. I was waiting for the whole 'I want a kid now, too late it's already dead' scene where he has an epiphany and wants her back but she throws it in his face. I don't think that situation was handled very well at all. No one would get over that that fast and want to get back with the guy that firmly said he didn't want a baby. I would be pissed! This author also needs to do more research on the medical facts. Editing was kind of annoying. I can overlook a couple misspelled words but when it is the wrong name or pronoun uh uh no way. Referring to my second sentence.....Based on the other books this writing just seemed rushed. I obviously feel that "like" was used too much/unnecessarily.

There is a ton more I would change but I would be here for at least an hour trying to type everything. This is one of those reviews where it's like word vomit and can't stop it from coming out.

Apparently I have some very strong feelings about this book that is going to take time to get over.

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### **Rita C says**

It felt a bit like the epilogue for the series, more than the story for Duncan and Alex. Their story was in there, but the book was just as much about John and Shannon, with some chapters devoted to Chase and Lori and Mercy as well. There was lots of content about all of the protagonists from the previous books. So in a way it was a love letter to the fans. I did enjoy it, I just wished we had a bit more of the protagonists for this book. Looking forward to the spin-off series.

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### **Joan says**

First things first. I read book one in this series some time ago and found the box set to download as a freebie the other day. I remembered the first one was okay - not mindblowing, but a decent read - and thought I would get some light entertainment out of the series. All was going well until this book

Dear god. What sort of people are you? Read this: (the men are discussing small daughters)

*“Don’t give in to all that stereotypical bullshit. She plays with cars and stuffed animals Give her a Barbie doll and she turns her nose up at it. I can’t wait to take her shooting at the ranch. I found this awesome little .22 caliber rifle called a Cricket. Shorter barrel, shorter stock. Totally made for a little girl.”*  
*John looked at the picture Chad had saved on his phone of the little pink gun. Huh...okay. That was pretty cute.*

**WHAT THE FUCK! I mean SERIOUSLY WHAT THE FUCK???** What sort of moron/idiot/psycho thinks a **LITTLE PINK GUN for a small girl is OKAY?????????**

Just how many people in the US are shot each year by children??

There are no words to express how utterly appalled and sickened I feel having read this. If that is the moral and intellectual level of so-called US Marine heroes, then I don’t, ever want to read any more. I am not one for gender stereotyping either - all I can say is CHILDREN DON’T NEED GUNS.

This is SO wrong on SO many levels.

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### **? Jeri's Book Attic ? the Romance Bibiliophile ? says**

I am not sure where my thoughts are after reading Embattled Ever After (Lost and Found #5) by J.M. Madden. I loved that series from the beginning on and I was looking forward to Duncan’s story as much as anybody else I guess. But somehow now when it came something went wrong a little and it was something I would have never expected. It was Duncan’s age.

I never gave it much thought as Duncan was always present but never the focus of the other stories – so I am not sure how my mind got settled on a mid 50s – hell maybe even beginning 60 kind of guy ( no problems with that – non at all). BUT when he now moved into the focus, he was (for me kind of suddenly) morphed into something like a mid 40s guy. And that fact threw me of course because I had to question all my thoughts on him from the previous books. All those lines about the “beat up old Marine well past his time for love” – I am sorry but I am not able to agree with that #shaking my head.

Also while I basically loved the book it gave me more a feeling of closure to the series than it being a real book only for Duncan’s story.

But anyway I am really looking forward to the spinoff story that is on the horizon I think that will be a good one...

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### **Rae D'Achille says**

#### **Major disappointment**

Really disappointed in Duncan's story, he consistently wavered back and forth with his feelings about Alex . She wasn't any better. How many time does a man have to tell you to get lost before you show a little pride. While it was nice to read about John and Shannon, Chad and Lora I purchased this because I believed it was Duncan's story.

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### **Mirjana \*\*DTR - Down to Read\*\* says**

#### **Duncan's book FINALLY!!!!**

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### **Cindy ~ says**

Three men started out on an Embattled Road which lead to more men joining their journey and to each finding their ever after with the women who came to love them.

It seems so long ago when we were first introduced to 3 men who after their time in Iraq after had suffered severe damage to there bodies. Over the course of this series we had gotten two of those mans stories along with other disable vets who'd joined Lost and Found Investigative Services but were patiently waiting to get Duncan Wilde's story.

Duncan was a man who would do anything for a wounded warrior. He wore many hats – friend, father figure, even match maker. He had a huge heart but all the help and advise he gave to others he wasn't so good at following for himself. He ignored the need for a hip replacement even though he was in tremendous pain, and he also refused to open his heart again to love. Well his friends were tired of seeing him alone and invited the doctor he'd met in Kansas when he went to see the elusive homeless vet Aiden Willingham to Colorado for Christmas.

I thought this would just be Duncan and Alex's story but its so much more than that. A lot of the other

couples are also front and center and each going through a new life change in their lives. Duncan still races to any distress call from a vet in trouble and one of those was gut wrenching.

There is so much that went on in this book I dont know what to talk about. Duncan had a lot of old ghost he needed to put to rest (and boy it was long over due) to have a relationship with Alex. I dont know who I pictured as being the woman who would finally get through to Duncan – I dont think I would have said Alex but once they were together she was perfect him and I couldnt imagine it being anyone else.

Along with Duncan and Alex's romance and getting updates on where all the other couples were there was also the mystery of who Aiden Willingham really was – which is also the set up of a new series – WAHOO..

I seem like I'm rambling now – for long time fans of series I think you will be happy with this final book (but fear not I hear is not the last time we will see these guys) in the series and be very intrigued about the new series.

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### **Luv\_a\_good\_story says**

I was looking forward to Duncan's book, but it wasn't my favorite. I still wasn't clear why the h kept coming back. I didn't feel anything between them. I liked the Aiden story line and that kept me engaged.

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### **Sandie Grise says**

This is the book we've been waiting for ever since Embattled Hearts. Duncan Wilde finally gets his story. Ms. Madden has done a superb job at depicting real life situations for her characters in her Lost and Found series.

When I first discovered her books a few years ago I was astounded to find that she had no military background, yet she writes as though she has lived the military lifestyle. Being a military brat and spouse of a career military veteran, I found myself drawn to her books like a moth to a flame.

Ms. Madden never once downplays the seriousness of conditions such PTSD or holds back on the true to life situations that her military men and women go through in her books. It's obvious that she's done extensive research on PTSD and the various injuries depicted by her characters. She's honest and true when she describes her characters emotions. It's because of these qualities in her ability as a writer to make her characters leap off of the page and grab your heartstrings.

We get to see most of the characters make an appearance in this book. As secrets are revealed, there are more introduced. Ms. Madden has written an emotionally gripping book, one that has lots of suspense, just the right touch of heart pounding drama, heartbreak, healing and a true everlasting love. But this book, you will not be disappointed!

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### **Barbara? says**

Well, this was actually difficult for me to rate. On one hand, there were things I liked such as getting to see the other characters further in their lives with happy endings of their own. On the other hand, there were

things I thought were just "okay" such as the actual romance between Duncan and Alex. I was really looking forward to Duncan's book. He is always taking care of others and helping anyone in need. He deserved a HEA. I was just really disappointed in the romance portion. There was just so much "other" stuff going on that it detracted from the actual romance.

Alex is a great heroine and I believed she loved Duncan. However, she did a lot of the pursing and that annoyed me. Duncan was constantly pushing her away and thinking he wasn't good enough for her. While I understand him thinking things like she was too young (she wasn't really that much younger than him) or deserved better than having to live with his disabilities, it really went on way too long for my tastes. I also didn't like the fact Alex had to deal with something on her own and felt like Duncan really needed to be there for her in return. I think he was an ass for a good portion of the book. Even when she's been there for him near the end, he's still trying to push her away. I just stayed annoyed for the majority of the book.

A lot of the book dealt with other characters and it would flash to others and it was distracting. It also took away from Duncan and Alex, in my opinion. I have loved the others in the series I've read and I hate it but, this one just wasn't as good to me. There was something lacking.

I am looking forward to the spin-off series that we get a sneak peak at.

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