



Stolen Chances

Elisabeth Naughton

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Even second chances can be stolen...

Archaeologist Maren Hudson lost everything when a member of her team was killed during a routine dive. Nine years later she's rebuilt her life, but a secret from her past forces her back into the career she left behind.

Salvage expert Thad Leighton has been in an emotional void since his brother's murder, but when the opportunity for revenge arises, he can't say no. Especially since it means being reunited with the one woman he's never been able to forget.

Passion sparks between Maren and Thad as they work the dig together in Mexico. But when Thad uncovers Maren's secret, the second chance they both thought they'd found is suddenly in jeopardy. Because Thad will have to choose between the vengeance that's driven him all these years, or a love that has the power to heal them both.

Stolen Chances Details

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From Reader Review Stolen Chances for online ebook

Suzie Weber says

I enjoyed the first three books in the series. When I learned of a fourth I couldn't figure out how the characters from the first three would play in. For those of you who read the first three Lisa is in this book but a very secondary character. Her husband Rafe, is there and there is a spin at the end of the book that could have been enlarged to bring the whole cast in but.....

Maren has a love hate relationship with her father a treasure hunter/archeologist. He has found, so he thinks, again, what he has been searching for all of his life and drags her back in. Of course he also drags in Thad who she loved 9 years ago. Maren is cold because, as we learn early, she has an eight year old daughter that Thad knows nothing about.

So hunt for the treasure, get entangled w the bad guy, some deceit, lying, kidnapping and you have a story. I only gave this a 4 stars because when Thad and Maren are sort of starting back up there were a few pages where Thad reverted to a teenager who is God's gift to women and a super stud. That almost had me stop reading. Those kind of arrogant guys really turn me off. So I flagged the page and gave her a chapter to redeem herself for writing that and Thad acting his age. Thad did see the light.

All and all a very fun series. I would recommend all 4 books.

Emsy Van Wyck says

Elisabeth Naughton steals our hearts once again with a new addition to her Stolen series, Stolen Chances

I first got hooked on Elisabeth Naughton when I read Stolen Fury, the first book in her Stolen Series. I quickly devoured the next two books - Stolen Heat and Stolen Seduction, then moved on to her also addictive Eternal Guardians series. I had no idea she'd expand on the Stolen trilogy, but was absolutely delighted when her publisher offered a review copy of book four in the series, Stolen Chances.

We first met the heroine of book four, archaeologist Maren Hudson, in Stolen Fury, but now she's back with a storm. Blackmailed into going on a dig with her father in the Yucatan, Maren encounters the last person she wanted to ever see again, salvage expert Thad Leighton who had thrown her love back and deserted her after a tragic death on the last dig she'd been on in the Yucatan.

Maren's keeping a lot of secrets from Thad, including one that they both should have been sharing, but can her secrets kill her? What seems on the surface to be an exciting deep-sea archaeological discovery turns threatening and who's on whose side in this race for a precious statue keeps changing.

Naughton delivers a fast-paced, suspenseful novel that also offers a little magic and a whole lot of HOT romance. It's definitely a page-turning, stay-up-all-night read!

If you haven't already read the first three books in Naughton's Stolen series, you can get them together in the Stolen Series Box Set: Stolen Fury, Stolen Heat, and Stolen Seduction. I'd highly recommend reading these first, even though book four could be a stand-alone, as there are just really great additions to your romantic suspense library.

<http://www.fabfantasyfiction.com/2013...>

I received an eARC from the publisher through NetGalley for use in this review.

Sunny says

4.5 stars.

Full review at:

<http://loveaffairwithanereader.blogspot.com/2013/07/stolen-chances-by-elisabeth-naughton.html>

Maren and Thad were hot and heavy 9 years ago when they are reunited for the search of an artifact that took the life of Thad's brother during the first search. But for Maren, she could not put that episode behind her. She now had a daughter from the relationship and a dangerous treasure hunter hounding her to try and find that artifact.

I've been reading a lot of new authors lately and although I have liked many of these books, it is a real pleasure reading work from a veteran writer. Elisabeth Naughton has outdone herself with book 4 in her Stolen series. She is at the top of her romantic suspense game with this book. It is suspenseful and emotionally engrossing. She writes the stories of reunited lovers so well. There is a certain yearning that comes with second chance stories and she manages to hit the right notes. Maren and Thad are wounded after their first relationship and now bring both maturity and baggage to this adventure. The plot is well thought out and there are plenty of twist and turns to keep me from going to bed on time. I was hanging on the edge throughout the story and absolutely did not want to put it down.

IN A NUTSHELL:

Loved. Loved. Loved. Best in the series.

Shauni says

Elisabeth Naughton has a talent that really speaks to me and as yet, I have not read a book she has written, that I did not love.. Stolen Chances just adds to the list!!

Stolen Chances is book four in her Stolen Series and in a way only a great author can do, Elisabeth nods to the past while making this book all about these two characters. Sure we see a couple of people from previous books, when and if they fit in. We get a mention on a couple of others so we have that connection. But the main story is in your face Maren Hudson and Thad Leighton.

That's not to say this book is all about the present because it's entire story is steeped in history. The history of these two dynamic individuals the history of the Americas and in a very real sense the history of women scorned everywhere.

Maren Hudson is a brilliant archeologist who is temporarily guarding her mother's legacy (nice way of saying she is taking care of mom's business) but when she gets a call from her father saying he is injured and she is needed, Maren drops everything to go to him. Even her daughter is left behind as Maren travels to a

place where her world stopped.. Not having a clue that the love of her life and the one man she never wants to see again will be meeting her at the airport.

Thad Leighton had a moment in time where he had it all but when his brother was killed Thad lost it. Literally, everything.. even parts of himself. Now nine years later he has been called back to help the team find a missing statue that is cursed. And part of Thad believes it. After all the last time they went looking his brother died and he turned from the only woman he had ever loved.

I feel for Maren, she is manipulated by just about everyone and yet she manages to stay strong. To do what needs to be done and to be able to seriously love.. Her strength and integrity plays an important part saving not only herself but those she loves. But when she is faced with Thad day after day it gets harder and harder to remember all the times she has been hurt by love. The promise of what if is tantalizing as ever!

Thad on the other hand is more in your face gorgeous.. sure he has that love em and leave em vibe going on but we know there is so much more under the surface. We know this man feels deeply. He has just buried it all under layers of control.

But when the two connect.. yep! Fireworks!!

Elisabeth tells a wonderful story wrapped in legend and placed in the now. Complete with an insane bad guy and bit players that are good, or bad or.... yeah not sure where everyone will land until the final pages..

A Wonderful story about yesterday and today.. with promises of forever!

Shauni

This review is based on the ARC of Stolen Chances, provided by netgalley

D.C. says

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Nine years ago, Archaeologist Maren Hudson lost everything when a member of her team was killed during a routine dive. Now she's been drawn back to Mexico and the career she walked away from in order to protect the most precious thing in the world: her daughter.

One desperate phone call brings salvage expert Thad Leighton back to Mexico. For his murdered brother, he's ready to settle the score, but one look at Maren and everything changes. Years may have passed, but she's still as mesmerizing as she once was, and a few days on site together have him questioning his priorities and why the hell he walked away from her so long ago.

Sparks between them reignite, but Thad knows Maren is holding something back. Thrust together in the middle of the sweltering Yucatan, Thad is more than willing to strip away her layers. But while the truth might offer the second chance he's been searching for, forgiveness may be as elusive as the relic they're both hunting. Because when Thad unearths Maren's biggest secret and discovers who she's really working for, suddenly it's not just about a life that was stolen from both of them, it's about staying alive and outwitting a madman who will stop at nothing to get what he wants.

MY REVIEW:

Thank you to Netgalley for the opportunity to read and give an honest review in exchange for an ARC read. I will admit, and probably have to run in hiding, that this was my first Elizabeth Naughton read. I have to say, it definitely won't be my last.

I try to not give away too much in my reviews, but I have to say, I loved the amount of deception that had to be included in this piece. You have several different pieces of the pie that don't match up perfectly until the very end.

Here we have Maren, who is a single mother trying to protect her daughter and doing everything she possibly can to mend a rift between her and her father as well as be the role model her child needs. Then, enter in Thad who stole her heart nine years ago, mix in some danger, and a lot of jealousy and HELLO hot, intense story.

I have to say there was a lot of background here and a lot that I typically would just skim over, but seeing as clues were given at every opportunity they could, each word had its grip on me throughout.

I highly recommend this story to anyone looking for a different take on suspense, and a whole lot of heat. Four out of five stars.

Shirley says

4 1/2 Stars.... Now I need to go back and read the 2nd and 3rd books in this trilogy turned series. *sigh*

I received Stolen Chances in exchange for a fair and honest review.

It is almost guaranteed that if I pick up a book by Elisabeth Naughton I am going to love it and I will not be able to put it down. The first book I picked up by her was *Marked*, the first book in her *Eternal Guardians* series. I've been hooked ever since. Contemporary or PNR, it doesn't matter. Her characters and her writing style are fantastic regardless of the genre. As expected, *Stolen Chances* was no exception.

This is the 4th book in the *Stolen* series (which actually started out as being the *Stolen Trilogy*.) Even though I've only read the first book in this series (*Stolen Fury*) I didn't feel like I was missing anything by skipping books 2 & 3. It was actually kind of okay because the featured couple from *Stolen Fury* was in this book as well. Just that connection gave me a frame of reference I may not have had otherwise, but I think that this book would have worked just as well as a stand alone.

As for the book itself? I loved it. I liked Maren from the beginning. I liked how the secrets about her past were slowly revealed. I liked her devotion to her daughter and her passion about her work. Her situation was heartbreakingly sad and as much as I loved Thad I totally understood her reluctance to let him in.

And then there was Thad... I wasn't sure about him at first but I ended up really liking him and hoping that he could get through Maren's wall. Turns out they both had secrets that proved to be major turning points.

The supporting characters were also great. Her friends were fun and fiercely loyal. Her parents were interesting, in many ways and her daughter was perfect. I loved her personality. I like it when kids are

portrayed as strong a character as their adult counterparts. She wasn't around much, but when she was her presence wasn't just a plot device, it was a great addition.

The bad guys were ruthless, there were moments when you weren't exactly sure who you should trust and the sizzling heat between Maren and Thad kept things more than interesting. Even though this is a contemporary romance there was still an element of 'magic' and mystery that was an addition I loved. Basically, this book had everything I love in a good romance – which, as you may have already guessed, came as no surprise at all.

Jerianne Fisher says

DNF SPOILERS

When a mysterious Mayan artifact resurfaces, two former lovers/archeologists get reunited and have to settle the argument that split them apart. Now normally this is an adventure story I like and I was enjoying the book until I reached a plot point that probably needs a trigger warning. SPOILER BELOW.

SPOILERS

Spoiler.

In the intervening years, the heroine became coerced into a sexual relationship with the antagonist to ensure the life of her daughter and heroine is still guilt ridden and traumatized over that encounter. (The Hero doesn't know he has a daughter). Antagonist continues to threaten heroine & require regular "get togethers" where he debriefs her and reinforces his sexual dominance over her. Author doesn't call this rape and even has heroine denying that it is rape when she finally tells the hero about her experience!

I like adventure romance. I love black ops military stories, too. I read a lot, some gritty authors like Elle Kennedy, who really puts her characters through rough times. I draw the line at rape and the implication that the hero or heroine remains sexually involved with anyone but each other being a central plot point. (willingly or unwillingly). In my book, using coercion and threats to get someone else into a kinky, "willing" sexual affair IS RAPE and needs a trigger and ruined the story for me.ii

Tory Michaels says

When I requested this, for some reason I thought I'd read at least one of the prior books in their entirety, though I knew I hadn't read all of them. But now, I seriously question that belief. I remember checking them out from the library, but actually reading them...not so much, it seems. However, for the most part, that lack

of reading the rest of the series, didn't impair my enjoyment of this book. Since reading it, I've read one and a half of the other books and while the characters are connected, the plots aren't entirely.

Now, for my thoughts on this book. I loved Maren, and her daughter, while constantly in her thoughts had very little screen time. One of my favorite scenes in the entire book came near the beginning when Maren gets a call from one of the hotel's groundskeepers (she's running a hotel for her mother when the story opens) about an excavation being done on one of the sand traps. Maren's daughter loves archaeology like her mother, and had recruited some hotel guest kids into helping her dig for artifacts in a sand trap. Hilarious because I could see a kid doing that.

Thad was strong in his own right and not an arse even when he discovers Maren has a child...his child. Oh, he's pissed, but can you blame him? He works through that issue and comes right back in supporting Maren as they struggle to protect her and everything around her from Evan Declan, a sinister man who wants the statue that Maren, her father and the others throughout the book are searching for.

There was a secret society in this book, focused around protecting the statue and descendants of the one who originally cursed the thing, which I found a nice little subplot.

Overall, this was a great book and got me very interested in reading the rest of the series. As usual with Elisabeth Naughton's works, I couldn't put it down once I seriously started reading it. Five-star rating from me!

Kathy (My Nook Books and More) says

4 Stars

4 Words for Stolen Chances – romance, adventure, suspense, intrigue

Stolen Chances is the fourth book in Elisabeth Naughton's Stolen series. This can be read as a standalone but you do meet characters from the previous books. It is easy to follow and once you experience this adventure you'll want to start the series from the beginning.

For the past nine years Archaeologist Maren Hudson has been working at her mother's hotel. But being behind a desk isn't where Maren desires to be. When she receives an urgent call from her father Patrick she rushes to his side. Maren realizes all is not what it seems because when she arrives she comes face to face with Thad Leighton, the man who broke her heart 9 years ago. Sparks fly and they both can't ignore their feelings for each other but Maren has secrets that will shatter any chance of a future together. On top of all this they are on a dangerous mission to uncover an ancient relic that is rumored to be cursed. The exotic setting of the Mexican Yucatan is perfect for a steamy romance with danger lurking around the corner. Stolen Chances was an exhilarating ride.

I love Elisabeth Naughton's books. I'm a huge fan of her Eternal Guardians series. I know that with her books I'll be taken on an adventure and Stolen Chances did not disappoint. The well-developed characters, sizzling romance and edge of your seat action are what this author delivers. My only complaint for Stolen Chances is at times the pace was slow. But I did love the clear details of action scenes and I can imagine these in a movie.

Overall Stolen Chances is the complete package (romance, action and drama) and I recommend this book to

everyone looking for a new adventure.

Missy says

A fascinating read.

This read was full in intrigue, awesome local, cool characters, and drama.

The chemistry was sweet between Thad and Maren, showing them what they had shared years before was true. A few years has managed to dull that heartache a bit but Maren is hiding some secrets that could cost them their lives.

I really thought the historical legend was interesting and the danger that surrounds it adds to the suspense of book.....along with a true evil villain. All these make for an entertaining read. The author has an unique and enjoyable way of adding suspense to her books making them one of a kind amazing.

Gretchen (About That Story) says

3.5 stars

Overall I thought this was a really great book. The main characters had a strong chemistry and there is adventure entwined in the story as well as romance.

I liked Maren and Thad a lot. I really enjoy learning about their past together and how the story unfolded and them coming together again. They share a history, have a pull towards one another, and their attraction is obvious. They're still drawn to one another after all this time – I could really get a sense of longing from both of them. There was a slow build in the heat department and then bam! *major hotness!*

I enjoyed the treasure hunt aspect of the story that they were on, it reminded me of Indiana Jones in a way and that extra element of danger and intrigue made for a really exciting story. I think I might have enjoyed that a bit more than the romance part. I thought the other characters were well developed and I was left with no lingering questions.

The ending was fantastic! It made the book for me. All the drama and then how everything played out – *perfect*. It was a great movie type ending, I could totally picture it.

I will say that I really enjoyed it but I never felt fully connected. I did think there were parts that were a little drawn out. It had all the key elements that make for a great story, I just never had that *couldn't put it down* feeling. There was chemistry, attraction, and major intrigue throughout and I thought it was a solid book, definitely worth the read.

This book can be read as a stand alone book.

ARC provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Margreet Asselbergs says

<http://ripeforreader.blogspot.ca/2013...>

My rating: 4 of 5 ?

When salvage expert Thad Leighton and archeologist Maren Hudson are both conned into returning to the Yucatan in search of an elusive treasure that cost a team member's life nine years ago, neither is particularly happy to be there. They certainly would have gladly avoided seeing each other. Things were not left very friendly when they parted ways and both held secrets they were eager to hang on to.

Maren's treasure hunting father had feigned illness to force Maren's hand, leaving her daughter behind in the care of her mother and her assistant. She quickly discovers the ruse and prepares to make a quick turnaround home, not prepared to get sucked into her father's destructive obsession once again. But one late night phonecall convinces her to stay, albeit unwillingly.

The murder of his brother, nine years ago, is what propelled Thad to return to the same hunt in the Yucatan. He still carries guilt over what happened to his younger sibling and would like nothing better than to see the hunt through this time and perhaps get some closure. He had not expected that seeing Maren again would knock the wind right out of him. Her effect on him had not changed one bit, if anything, she was more beautiful now than before and he had a hard time remembering why it was he had been in such a hurry to run from her.

Maren is hesitant to be accepting of Thad's advances, after all, he left her high and dry before, without returning any of her calls. Not only that, she had to be careful not to drop her guard around him and keep her secrets close to her chest. Her daughter's safety depended on it. But there was no denying the chemistry and they are inevitably drawn together, while Thad slowly peels away Maren's protective layers.

When a cave exploration goes awry, and the two of them are stranded in the jungle facing all types of danger, Maren lets slip the one secret she had been desperate to hang on to. But is only the first of many. As more secrets are exposed, it becomes clear how much danger really is out there.....

What a ride!!! Great entertainment, it has adventure, intrigue, drama, romance and suspense!! And it ends with some phenomenal plot twists. I even has a paranormal flavour although 'mystical' is probably a better term to use and a flavour is all it is.....

I'd say this is exactly what a good, fast-paced adventure read should be like. Hits all the senses just right and has all the required elements nicely balanced.

The characters are interesting, quite a cast actually. Not particularly deeply explored, but sufficiently so, that their placement in the story is easily understood and explained. The only one we had to wait for some context for was Maren, obviously, since we only found out the full extent of her 'secrets' along with everyone else. Once we did, things became a little more clear about her motivations, since there is absolutely nothing

any of us wouldn't do for our children. Although.....Maren's parents took a while to come to that conclusion!

The weaving of the story line with history and folklore was very well-done and an interesting deepening of the plot. It also brought out the slightly 'mystical' aspect, which was as I stated before, simply a touch here or there. Nothing overwhelming and easily dismissed for those not willing to buy in to anything not firmly rooted in science.

?A thrilling, seductive and well written page-turner that keeps you guessing till the last page!!?

ARC courtesy of NetGalley and Season Publishing in return for an honest review.

Janet D. Murphy says

Stolen Chances

Thad and Maren had worked together and been a couple when they were younger. Both loved each other but Thad had walked away for reasons unknown to Maren. Nine years later they are both working for her father looking for lost buried treasure. Secrets and old hurts are between them.

But before they can find their way back to one another they have to confront the past and stop a mad man.

This book closes this series and it was really good. Several people in the other books were included .

Another page turner and wish their were more to the series

Just love how this author writes. Please read.

Crystal says

I received a copy of this book from NetGalley in place of an honest review.

Maren Hudson never thought she would go back to Mexico. She hasn't been there in nine years. She was a great Archaeologist and loved what she did. Everything changed when someone kidnapped her daughter. It was Evan and to say this guy is psycho is an understatement. Her dad tells her he is sick and needs her to come. What she wasn't expecting when she was picked up that it would be Thad Leighton. He left her nine years ago after the death of his brother. Now they are together again and they both are keeping secrets.

I loved this story and being a mother myself I can understand a mother doing anything she can to save her daughter. This book was very interesting from the start. I couldn't wait to see how this book was going to end. The author really knew how to keep my attention and I can say that I was never bored with any of this book. I just hate that this was the first book that I read in this series. I can't wait to read the first three books.

Sonya Heaney says

Originally posted **HERE** .

I started this series years ago, and had no idea any more books were planned. The second book, *Stolen Heat*, became a favourite of mine, with an angst-filled *back from the dead* theme.

Elisabeth Naughton might be more focused on paranormal books, but I love her romantic suspense (or as I see them labelled, *Romantic Adventure*) books. Realistic characters, mystery, lost relics and exotic destinations make for interesting reads.

I had a fright at the start of *Stolen Chances*, as it involves my #1 most hated theme: the secret baby (or child, as is the case here). It was based on my faith in this author alone that I continued reading, and I'm glad I did, as I thought the excuses for keeping the child secret were acceptable.

A lot of books in this genre are more concerned with being 'sexy' than having a story, and this is absolutely not the case here. I was impressed with the intricate storyline and the author's obvious passion for the subject matter. It was such a relief to read a – you know – actual story for once!

Another thing I enjoyed was that I didn't feel the need to go running back to books I read four years ago just to understand what was going on with the characters in this, the fourth book in the series.

I hate terms like, *the thinking person's so and so*. However, *Stolen Chances* is a *thinking person's* version of romantic suspense/adventure/whatever you wish to call it!

Review copy provided by NetGalley.