



Never Let Go

Cynthia Eden

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He was more than just a man...

Dr. Elizabeth Parker didn't like wild, dangerous men...yet she still found herself falling for sexy Navy SEAL Sawyer Cage. He was her exact opposite--a man she should definitely stay away from, a man who lived for the thrill of danger...but he was also the man she found herself wanting more than any other.

But their secret relationship ended in heartbreak when Sawyer was killed on a mission. Grieving for him, the last thing Elizabeth ever expected was to find Sawyer listed as a test subject for the top secret government project she was heading--a project called Lazarus.

For years, Elizabeth had worked feverishly to unlock the secrets of life and death, and with her Lazarus formula, she finally thought she'd made a breakthrough. Only she never expected to use Lazarus on her lover.

But the choice is taken out of Elizabeth's hands...

Sawyer is given the Lazarus formula, and he's transported to a remote government facility. At that facility, Sawyer wakes once more, only he's not the same man. He's stronger, he's faster, his reflexes and his senses are ten times better than an average man's. The government calls Sawyer a super soldier... Elizabeth still calls him...hers.

Unfortunately, Sawyer has no memory of his life before Lazarus. All he knows is that something about the sexy doctor awakes a primal response in him. He wants her, and he'll do anything to possess her. Soul-deep, he feels that she was meant to be his.

Death waits in the darkness.

But something is wrong inside the Lazarus facility. The test subjects are holding back secrets, and danger seems to lurk in the air. The Lazarus subjects are super-human now, and some of those subjects have a very, very dark side. Twisted cravings drive them to the very edge of sanity. Can Sawyer keep Elizabeth safe from the madness around them...or will the growing darkness consume them both?

NEVER LET GO...a gripping new romantic suspense from New York Times and USA Today best-selling author Cynthia Eden.

Never Let Go Details

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From Reader Review Never Let Go for online ebook

Carvanz says

I love a strong, dominant protective hero and Sawyer is all that and more! He's a super soldier, enhanced, and gifted with special abilities that will enable him to keep his woman safe. But does she need to be protected from him?

While working on her Lazarus project for a secret government agency, Elizabeth falls in love with Sawyer. Their relationship must remain hidden and so they find stolen moments to be together. He is everything she never thought she'd want in a man and he belongs to her. Just as she belongs to him.

When Sawyer's mission goes terribly wrong, Elizabeth faces the worse horror imaginable. Suddenly, her project is being fast forwarded and this book takes off like a shot. From that moment on there is no slowing down. The action is fast, the drama is high and the suspense is intense.

Through it all is the struggle this couple face as they attempt to hold tight to what they once had. Elizabeth's greatest challenge, in my opinion, was learning whether she could trust Sawyer while discovering if he were the same man she once knew and loved. Sawyer is consumed with one thought. Elizabeth belongs to him and he must not hurt her.

This is an amazing read that will keep you on the edge of your seat while causing your emotions to riot. If you like your hero a little damaged even as he's protective, jealous and possessive of his woman, you're going to love Sawyer as much as I did. There were times my heart just hurt for him. I knew Sawyer would never deliberately hurt Elizabeth, but I wasn't sure how far the darkness in him would take him down.

This is very fast paced story with incredible secondary characters and plenty of room for more awesomeness from this author. I loved this book and can't recommend it enough!

This is an honest review of an advanced copy provided by NetGalley and Hocus Pocus Publishing.

Dual POV

Safe

No apparent triggers

Marta Cox says

Four and a half

When I pick up a book by this author I know it's going to be well written and full of steam and can I just say from the first scene the chemistry shared by this couple is off the charts ! There's no slow buildup here but an explosion of passion that completely surprised me but then again this new series is a whole new departure. Yes I'm used to her marvellous paranormal stories and I even occasionally read the romantic suspense books but this time it's kind of a fusion of both genres and boy does it work beautifully.

Sawyer is badass and honestly I can't think of any other way to describe him. Well I could say he's brave, determined oh and very possessive but that possibly sounds like so many other alpha type heroes so I'm

sticking with badass but I will maybe add dead ! What ? Yes Elizabeth is this brilliant scientist who has managed to create a serum that can do the impossible and reanimate the dead but you've probably guessed by now that there's a few side effects. A huge rise in aggression is just the start of the problems as these super soldiers are faster, stronger oh and enhanced psychically too. Now I'd like to say that everything works out ok but where's the fun in that as this story takes us deep into murky waters with psychotic killers, greedy manipulating money men and of course a romance that is intense.

It's the first book so other characters are introduced that will no doubt be brought back to further expand this story. For now though there is some closure for Sawyer and Elizabeth as they reforge their bond but things will never be quite the same. A must read for those who enjoy this authors work and not too long to wait for the next book *Keep Me Close*.

This voluntary take is of a copy I requested from Netgalley and my thoughts and comments are honest and I believe fair.

Claire Robinson says

5 - **"Intense is an understatement."** Stars!

Nothing gives me more pleasure than starting a new series by Cynthia Eden, given that this is RS, with a bit of a paranormal twist, I was hooked from the first chapter of Sawyer and Elizabeth's story.

I suppose you would say the romance between this couple is built around amnesia of sorts, Sawyer literally returns from the dead, and what follows is a race against time in all sorts of ways. Sawyer on a subliminal level immediately recognizes something familiar about Elizabeth when they are reintroduced after he has been given the Lazarus Formula, but having had his memory effectively wiped out from the process he struggles to remember anything. Something that breaks Elizabeth's heart for a second time, first she loses the man she loves, and now he has no memory of her.

"Something is between us. Something about you gets to me. And I can't hurt you. I won't hurt you."

But all is not well with the Lazarus Formula, and the side effects are more far reaching than Elizabeth and the rest of the people involved are aware of, something Sawyer and the rest of his team have made sure of, and as the book progresses you realize that these men are now more than just Super-Soldiers. But someone at the facility is killing people, and the finger is immediately pointed to Sawyer and his team.

"I think I'm Frankenstein."

As always, I devoured this book, the author set the scene well, and started the series off by giving Sawyer and Elizabeth their reconnection as well as introducing the rest of the players to the game. I think there are likely to be a few more books to come, bearing in mind what has happened so far and the amount of questions that are still left unanswered.

"It's not over yet."

Keep Me Close; Flynn and Cecelia's story is due at the end of October, and I am looking forward to seeing where the author takes us with this series.

ARC generously provided via Netgalley, in exchange for the above honest review.

Bev says

Loved it. A hot, growly alpha male, a strong heroine, a brilliant plot with a hint of paranormal and twists and turns galore and nary a virgin in sight (thank goodness!!).

This kept me riveted from word one. This is how you write romantic suspense, it was bloody perfect.

Sabrina says

Get it here:

Amazon US * Amazon UK

Cynthia Eden always keeps me right on the edge of my seat and I love that about her writing. This book wasn't full of suspense but it had some very shocking moments and it was very intriguing. I can't wait to see what will happen as the series continues.

MsKingsPens says

3.5 stars

This was a fun start to what I hope will be an enjoyable series. It's the rare second chance romance where the author gives you a real look at the couple before everything goes belly up.

I really liked Elizabeth. Sawyer was just okay. Elizabeth was much more developed than Sawyer. She had personality and I felt like I got to know her. Sawyer was one dimensional from the start. Cynthia Eden kept telling me how cocky and swoon worthy he was but she showed me that he had a limited vocabulary, great upper body strength, and loved the word 'mine'.

Naturally, things didn't get better after he lost his memory. He was saved by his connection to Elizabeth. They worked well together but I wish they'd talked as much as they had sex, lol.

The secondary characters were up and down. The villains were fun and completely irredeemable. Flynn was set up to be a great lead. Jay and West were interesting. I hated Cecelia but maybe her book will make me change my mind.

Safe mostly (view spoiler)

Anne Boleyn's Ghost says

3.5 stars rounded down. This would have been a 4, likely 4.5, star read if not for the heroine. No, I didn't like the heroine. Yes, I am struggling with it.

There is nothing wrong with criticizing a heroine. But internalized misogyny is a thing, and women are sometimes harder on other women. We sometimes subject heroines to double standards, raking them over the coals while giving heroes a pass. I don't want to do that, and I always second-guess myself when I second-guess the heroine. But Elizabeth hindered my enjoyment of the story.

I find Cynthia Eden's stories engaging. Similarly, *Never Let Go* was a compelling read. Eden can write, and she wrote a story **chock-full of suspense and intrigue, sex and obsession, mad scientists and super-soldiers.** The premise isn't new - bringing the dead back to life and facing the consequences of "playing God" - but Eden nevertheless made it feel fresh and fascinating.

We are thrust into an **established relationship** between the leads, the clandestine but passionate bond formed when doctor **Elizabeth** began treating Navy SEAL **Sawyer** and his team. Elizabeth has demons. One way in which she attempts to exercise them? Resurrecting the dead. While she is plagued with occasional guilt and uncertainty regarding her work, Sawyer anchors her. Until he doesn't. Until he dies, and her serum is used on him, and he returns - **not the same Sawyer she knew and loved, but also NOT not the same.**

We need more scientist heroines in romance, and I was prepared to geek out over Elizabeth. **But for someone so smart, she sure did and said and thought a lot of stupid things.** The fact that she doubted Sawyer's knowledge of Lazarus? That really got my goat. She allowed herself to be manipulated by people when she knew that they had ulterior motives. She trusted the wrong people while not trusting the right people. I also found her behavior with her **ex-lover Jay** off-putting. Allowing him to repeatedly call her "baby"? Letting him hold her while her current lover is *sitting right there and had literally just carried her to safety after repeatedly risking his life for her*? If Elizabeth and Jay had been lifelong friends, or if they had previously been married with kids, I could better understand their interactions. But they didn't have that type of bond. And when Elizabeth angrily told Sawyer that her relationship with Jay was none of his business?

Maybe it is my utter loathing of love triangles? My minimal tolerance for ex-lover drama? **I appreciate good ol' fashioned jealousy now and then, but I have no patience for a heroine or hero not setting firm boundaries.** And let's face it: people would have lost their shit if Sawyer had acted that way with an ex-lover.

As a hero, I found Sawyer more palatable. Despite his instability and volatility, every thought and every feeling was so raw. He had that fiercely protective, devoted, slightly caveman thing going for him, but he fought against it overwhelming him. Sawyer seemed to bring more emotion to the relationship.

So while *Never Let Go* was something of a miss for me regarding the relationship, I thought that the story itself was absorbing and exciting.

Read for SBTB Best Picture Quarterly Challenge: A romance with a soldier.

Alex ? says

Cool book! ?

Fei ~ BookLover~ says

"Whatever I am now, *whoever* I am, know this...you are mine. I knew it from the first moment I saw you. I just have to prove it to you." He lifetd her into his arms. "And I'm not leaving you behind. That shit isn't happening. You're staying with me. I'm not abandoning you in the desert. I'm getting you to safety."

Mindy Lou's Book Review says

In.freakin.credible!!! This book was awesome! The idea of bringing soldiers back from death and making them into super soldiers is just cool as \$hit. Add in all the enhanced abilities and I was riveted.

This author is known for my kind of Alphas so it's no surprise that Sawyer is getting added to my favorites list. He is such a badass that will do anything for Elizabeth. Even losing his memories when he gets brought back, he still felt the connection to her and did everything he could to protect her. I loved the idea of Sawyer falling inlove with Elizabeth all over again.

Elizabeth proved her worth when she fought so hard to free Sawyer. She may be the creator of Lazarus but it's no longer in her hands and now she has to find a way to help Sawyer and the other test subjects.

This was such an exciting romantic suspense story that it had me devouring the pages. We also got to see a lot of Flynn and Cecelia who are the next in line in the series. Flynn has already proven he'll do whatever it takes to keep Cecelia safe. There is so much potential for this series. I'm going to be waiting not so patiently for the author to publish each and every book she has plans for in Lazarus Rising. ARC provided by NetGalley.

Leo (Queen of the Rants and the Crazy) says

4.5 Stars

Everytime there's a new release from this author I have to drop everything that I'm doing to read it. She's my favorite author.

I LOVED this book. It had me at the edge of my seat.

Sawyer was everything I look in a hero.
~badass.

~protective.

~completely obsessed with his heroine even when he couldn't remember her.

~perfect (at least to me he was).

I can't complain about Elizabeth, she's the usual Cynthia's heroine, badass, protective, strong woman. Anyway I've never complained about this author's heroines.

You, baby. I want you. If I can't have you and the team, then you're my choice. Always. Know that."

"I'd die again for her. Over and over...for her."

"Whatever I am now, whoever I am, know this...you are mine. I knew it from the first moment I saw you. I just have to prove it to you"

Yes that's right I'm a sucker for a hero who's main purpose in life is to protect his love.

Can't wait for Flynn and Cecelia's story!!! Already pre-ordered that baby!

Safety Note:(view spoiler)

Ann Lou says

This is one of those books that has to be read in one sitting, you know. Sleep is overrated when it comes to nail biting, keep the edge of your seat such as this book.

Dr. Elizabeth Parker is the brain behind the development of the Lazarus formula (rising from the dead). She lost her parents when she was a child and since then, has dedicated her life to create said formula.

Sawyer Cage, a NAVY Seal, who works with Elizabeth in the same secret organization. He is intense, possessive and all alpha. Fraternizing is not allowed so they had to keep their relationship a secret. They were both planning to quit their jobs so they can be together but it all went to hell. My favorite line from him is this, " I will not be without you.... I will.... not".

The plot is very interesting. A formula that can animate the dead, creating super soldiers that can change warfare. But of course, playing God or Frankenstein (depends on how you look at it), cheating the grim reaper. A price has to be paid.

Overall, it was a very enjoyable read and will be reading book 2 straight after.

Jo says

This author is my go-to when I need a terrific RS read and once again she didn't disappoint.

Dr. Elizabeth Parker has spent the last years trying to find out the secret to life and death, hoping she can find a way to stop death and she's finally had a breakthrough with her Lazarus formula. It's not ready for human testing yet, but she had hope. Until the man she loves, Nave SEAL Sawyer Cage is killed in action and the man in charge of her top secret government project uses her formula on him. When Sawyer wakes up he has no memory of anything or anyone and before Elizabeth can find a way to help him he's transported to a secret facility and it takes months for Elizabeth to gain access and the only reason is because something is wrong inside the new Lazarus facility.

Sawyer doesn't remember who he was before he became a supersoldier as they are called at the Lazarus facility. All he knows is he and his men are different, stronger and faster with better reflexes and senses. And when he meets the sexy new doctor Elizabeth she awakens something so primal in him, his need to possess her consumes him. Sawyer can't afford to be distracted and is determined to keep to his plan of getting his men out of the cage they live in, but Lazarus has affected some of the supersoldiers negatively, making them experience dark and twisted cravings that is a danger to everyone.

Now all Sawyer wants to do is keep Elizabeth safe while trying to deny the darkness in his mind.

"Because I swear, you are my sanity. I feel whole when I'm with you, and the thought of losing you..." Another step. He was right in front of her now. His hand lifted and his knuckles brushed over her cheek. "That terrifies me. Nothing else scares me. But living in a world without you? I can't."

I loved both Sawyer and Elizabeth. I really enjoyed seeing them together before Sawyer became a supersoldier, the intense chemistry between them was just as powerful back then and after Sawyer died and came back different it was just as intense and I loved that. Elizabeth fought so hard for Sawyer, trying to save him and I loved that even though he couldn't remember her, his need for her was there immediately and it consumed him.

The plot with the supersoldiers, how twisted some of them had become and trying to figure out who all the villains were was very captivating and I can't wait to read the next book. This is a definite must read for all Cynthia Eden fans and all those who like their RS with some paranormal elements.

Dísir says

There's always something darkly seductive and irresistible about the super-soldier romance for me, seeing as these sort of stories are always finely balanced on the knife-edge of suspense and erotica. Depending on the severity of the super-soldier transformation however, it's also undeniable that these tales run the risk of normalising the clichéd caveman behaviour of the heroes in question as the status quo in this sub-genre, as is the expected offshoot of writing altered personalities.

'Never Let Go' isn't a new concept (Rebecca Zanetti's Sin Brothers or Christine Feehan's Shadowwalkers

come to mind immediately) though it definitely is an intriguing start, with a little twist of how the super soldiers actually get to where they are. I can't quite say it's a perfect read however, as it carries all the hallmarks of an establishing book with the same pattern of logic-deficient neanderthals who are primally ruled by instinct, libido and emotion...along with many loose ends which hint at a bigger picture that hasn't yet quite coherently come together.

I'm still glad that Cynthia Eden has jumped on this bandwagon nonetheless, even though there are unavoidable pitfalls of this particular sub-genre of romantic/paranormal suspense: the most glaring ones being the cavemen who run around and the brutal savagery that results as part of their transformation, but also several authors' tendencies to emphasise a narrowed definition of the good and the bad—no grey area of morality seems to exist apart from the questionable idea of ethics and playing god using frontier medicine and technology—which, if handled carelessly, can turn the characters into flatter and puppet-like figures.

And clearly, there were some parts where 'Never Let Go' that were grounded in those stereotypes, which tanked my enjoyment a little. As much as I liked Elizabeth's and Sawyer's early relationship before he went, well, 'monstrous', the middle bit of the story actually got quite hysterical, with parts resembling a b-grade slasher film as Sawyer struggled to fight the darkness in him and Elizabeth seemingly frozen between speechless terror and speechless desire. I was simultaneously horrified, incredulous and disbelieving, yet glued to the book while also wondering if there were going to be more mad turns and madder character deviations that the story was going to take.

That said, I'm not counting out this series just yet. Far from it, in fact. I just wish that I could have suspended my disbelief a little more, though there is cause for more cautious optimism given the hints that have already been dropped about the rest of the project and the other primals waiting in line to pounce.

Roksana says

3/5 Stars

This storyline has a little bit of "Universal Soldier" context from the film with Jean-Claude Van Damme in it, where this super soldier that died on a mission was then brought to life as part of a secret government's experiment that led to creation of a deadly assassins with other military men who died on their missions. This is exactly the plot here...the Hero is a commander of his military team involving fighting in dangerous missions and he died on his last assignment. Before that, he was romantically involved with one of the lab female scientist (the heroine), because fraternisation was not allowed, they kept it a secret. The heroine was working on a Lazarus project that with her expertise would create this formula to bring dead people to life with increased strength, speed and other paranormal abilities. However, the heroine was not ready for this formula to be experimented on humans. She only experimented it on rats and they showed concerning side effects. There is a lot of corruption within the facilities, so it was inevitable that the formula would be taken out of the heroine's control. There was nothing she could do when she discovered the Hero died on the mission and they wanted to use the formula on him. The other men who were on the mission also died and were given the formula. They were kept in secured unit, isolated from the outside world and the heroine tried to help the Hero out, and so she was brought back to the labs to work on the formula prior to the concerning side effects of the men affected by it.

I like the Hero, he was possessive, devoted and protective...even though his memory was whipped out from his brain, he still subconsciously recognised the heroine as someone he had some deep connection with. The

heroine was also likeable enough, however, I wish this book was written with more emotional depth....it kind of lacked here. On the other hand, the hero was not a manwhore and we did not have to read anything about his sexual past and heroine was not a virgin, but not very experienced either. There was very little of that in the book and I was glad It was not in your face.
