



Operation: Endgame

Christi Snow

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It's been six months.

Six months since Jake Madsen let Chris Robertson die.

Six months since the passion between Jake and Cassie, Chris' sister, stepped over the line.

But now Cassie's being stalked and it's time for Jake to swallow his guilt, grief, and lust so he can save her life, even if it's a life without him. He owes it to his dead friend and he owes it to Cassie. He's fallen in love with her, but she doesn't have to know that for him to keep her safe.

Operation: Endgame Details

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From Reader Review Operation: Endgame for online ebook

Musing says

Operation: Endgame by debut author Christi Snow was the first book in a Contemporary Romantic Suspense Trilogy, set in Lubbock TX. All three books feature former active duty Air Force officers and the women they love. This was an excellent opener to what should be a fabulous series.

Establishing character credibility and history adeptly is always a plus in a series. Christi Snow, accomplished this brilliantly, shifting through time, allowing the reader to become familiar with Colton, Cassie and Chris Robertson, who from an early age were orphaned through the death of their parents. Endgame primarily focuses on Cassie, twin of Fighter Pilot Chris; enduring his tragic death, and her traumatic experience with a crazed stalker. We also met the supporting characters, Jake, the hunky best friend of Cassie and Chris, vivacious, highly intelligent Penelope, and sweet, serious Julie.

You cant but love a heroine who is intelligent, beautiful, sassy and fiercely independent! Cassie, a Military Professor is someone used to control. She maintained a full, busy life determined to keep her fears at bay for her 'boys', all involved in active duty. Due to her proficiency as a Military Strategist, she drew the attention of a nefarious stalker, hell bent on making her, his. Cassie grew up knowing she was loved and cared for by her men, but one man in particular held her heart, and had for a long time.

Honorable, luscious and delectable Jake Madsen had been friends with the twins for 20 years. With grief constricting their hearts on the night of the funeral, and dormant passion stirring, a night of sex realised a fantasy for Cassie, and caused Jake to become assuaged with guilt, risking their easy friendship.

Jake was extremely likeable. He was sexy, gorgeous, courageous and a wonderfully tactile man. He needed to overcome many obstacles to restore peace to his mind. Admirably moral, almost to his detriment, his life has come to a crossroad in both his career as a Pararescue Jumper (PJ) and his relationship with Cassie. He knew he loved her, but until her life was at risk, had not acknowledged the true depth of his feelings. Was it lust, love or guilt motivating his actions?

You will definitely want to see Jake and Cassie become a couple, but i wont give away secrets....

Endgame was what I would call a light suspense. There were twists and turns, which kept you guessing, funny interchanges, and enough sizzling chemistry to keep you panting. It read like a Television mini series, with all the characters, wicked and virtuous being introduced, and the perpetrator easily identifiable. Despite being a little predictable, the pace was good, the characters strong, each adding significant dimension to the book, and the action/suspense, arresting. The author balanced the intensity between the mystery and the romance effortlessly. I feel there could have been more probing into the dreams Cassie experienced, and a less conspicuous villain, but otherwise, it was an engaging, promising start to an excellent series. Just wait till you read the second book Operation: Endeavor.....

I received a complimentary copy for an honest review.

Marlene says

Originally published at Reading Reality

Operation: Endgame is a marvelous friends-into-lovers romance which manages to have both an alpha male military hero and a kick-butt heroine who not only rescues herself in the end, but also rescues the hero of one of the later books in this When the Mission Ends series. Not a bad day's work, all things considered.

There's a reason that the friends-into-lovers trope is a tried and true one. When it's done right, it gives the love story a whole lot more depth than the insta-love connection that's much too common in romance these days. Operation: Endgame does a terrific job at filling in the long story of Jake and Cassie's childhood bonding. Along with Cassie's twin brother Chris, they were the neighborhood's Three Musketeers. Those ties still run deep, even though adult responses have put a little distance between Cass and Jake, they are still best friends. They're both too afraid to let their attraction to each other ruin the most important relationship in their lives.

But Chris' death behind enemy lines changes all that. Chris and Jake are both in Air Force Special Operations, but Chris' job was to infiltrate, and Jake's duties are in the Pararescue Jumpers. Jake gets soldiers out after everything goes pear-shaped. But because bad weather moved in, he wasn't able to rescue Chris. The Air Force declares Chris dead based on his dog tags, his uniform, and not much else.

One thing this reader has learned after many too many of the right (or wrong) kind of books--if the body is burned beyond all recognition, it's never the right body. So when Cass starts having "twin dreams" that Chris is being tortured, it was obvious foreshadowing that he was alive and being tortured.

Two things happen in the wake of Chris' death. Jake and Cass finally spend one glorious night together. Which Jake, being an idiot, believes is the result of him taking advantage of Cass in her grief. He leaves in the middle of the night.

And someone starts stalking Cass, naming himself after the main villain in the military strategy video game that Cass consulted on (Cass is an expert on military strategy). As the stalking escalates, Jake realizes that he has to come back home to protect Cass, no matter how he feels. He thinks she deserves better than the man who wasn't able to save her brother.

Of course, he never asks her what she wants, or what she thinks she deserves. And that stalker has some pretty fixed ideas of his own on that score. Potentially deadly ideas.

Escape Rating B+: I loved the friends-into-lovers part of the story. Jake and Cass' relationship, and the twists and turns in how they got from childhood friendship to adult partnership, were very well done. While I referred to Jake as an idiot, his idiocy was completely understandable within the context of the story.

On the other hand, while the suspense was fun, I found it fairly predictable. As soon as it was revealed how Chris' body was identified, I knew he was still alive. That plot device has been used many too many times, including last week's NCIS episode.

Likewise, it was blindingly obvious who Cass' stalker was from the first moment the character was introduced. I will admit that his reason for stalking her turned out to be a surprise. Also a bit "over-the-top". Someone that completely unbalanced would have had a hard time maintaining the kind of extensive criminal enterprise this guy was running.

But the mix made for a terrifically fun story. I had a fantastic time reading it and I can't wait for book two in

the series, Operation: Endeavor.

Amy says

I love a good steamy romance with a Kick A\$\$ heroine and lots of suspense. Operation:Endgame has all of this in spades, plus more. It's a friends to lovers story that grabs you by the throat from the first page. It's so important to me when reading a romance that the heroine can hold her own and the author definitely does not disappoint on this score. Jake, our hero, is absolutely lickable and a strong Alpha who, of course, has a weakness named Cassie. The romance and heat between these two is the best kind, because it's been on simmer for years and when it hits boiling point, you're going to need to turn up the air conditioner, I'm just sayin'. The author does an excellent job of turning up the heat with both the suspense and the romance, which is perfect because so many times you have not enough of one or the other. This promises to be an excellent series..and if I can be honest I am crushing hard on Book 3's Hero (Operation:Endurance) Chris. Back off ladies, he's mine. Although I'm sure Book 2, Operation:Endeavor will be able to keep me warm until then!

MsRomanticReads says

This review can also be found on my blog.

Operation: Endgame was my first read by author Christi Snow, and I can say with certainty that it won't be my last. I like the (best) friends-to-lovers trope. There's already an established relationship that just needs the right catalyst to push them that extra step. In the case of Jake and Cassie, it's the news of her brother's death and later on, her problem with a stalker.

Cassie was my type of heroine – fiercely loyal and devoted to her family, intelligent, and a gamer geek. As a child she was a tomboy; running around playing war games with her brothers and Jake. Since all the boys later joined the military, she became a military history buff and military tactics expert which led her to being called upon to help develop a military themed game called *Endgame*. In short, she was the type of girl that any hot-blooded guy would fall for.

Jake's life changed the day he fell out of a tree and met the twins Cassie and Chris. From that day on, they were the Three Musketeers. When Chris is killed in combat, Jake is there to help Cassie deal with her grief, but he also feels tremendous guilt for not being able to save his friend, even though he was in the vicinity. When Cassie begs him to make her pain go away, he gives in, but it only serves to make them both feel even worse. He had promised Chris years ago that he would stay away from Cassie. All these years he had kept his promise, difficult as it may have been. I loved that he tried to honor that promise for so long. It showed how much he genuinely cared for the siblings who had effectively become his family. For the man whose childhood was less than loving until the Robertsons came into his life, I absolutely understood why he tried so hard to keep Cassie in the best friend corner.

I really enjoyed the suspense and danger that surrounded Cassie constantly mainly because it served to land Jake under the same roof as Cassie, and in the path of seduction. Watching him crumble was so much fun!

As she climbed the chair and reached to place the star at the top, Jake groaned internally. Her

luscious ass was front and center and looking absolutely delectable. Luckily, it didn't take long to get the star up, but unfortunately, that wasn't the only thing getting up.

I had my suspicions about the villain, but kept getting turned around which kept me guessing until the mystery unfolded. I also liked the flashbacks at key moments in the story. They gave the reader a more in-depth understanding of the bond between the main characters or the meaning behind certain gestures and symbols. The most touching flashback had to do with certain scars. That was so cute. If there was one thing I didn't like, it was Cassie's carelessness. When it becomes obvious that her stalker has been watching her, she throws caution to the wind and leaves herself vulnerable to attack more than once. Aside from that, I highly recommend this book. I'm looking forward to starting book number two which is Colten's story. The poor guy deserves some happiness.

Disclaimer: I received a review copy from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Emily Lien says

Loved loved loved this!! It's great to read a book that's not always the guy saves the girl, girls kick ass too!

Kindle Alexander says

When I grow up, I want to write like Christi Snow! I'm not a great review writer, but I love this story. It stays with you, and I love how she pulled together occupations and plots that are uniquely her. I loved this story!

Julie says

Posted at Yummy Men & Kick Ass Chicks

Operation: Endgame is the first book in debut author Christi Snow's When the Mission Ends series. It is a contemporary romantic suspense story and yes, it's true, I don't read many books of this genre but you know what?...I really enjoyed it.

The characters are what did it for me. They are well developed and very likable. Cassie, the main heroine, was smart, sassy and a thorough joy. I liked how passionate she was about her job, her friends and her family. She was definitely a chick I would want to hang out with in real life. In fact, I would want to hang out with all three of main women, Cassie, Julie and Penelope – who will all end up getting their own book and HEA by the way...but more on that later.

Jake was a great hero. A bit wounded because he blames himself for his friend's death but not so wounded that you want to shake him and tell him to get over himself. He is a fantastic match for Cassie and I love how he handles her 'situation'. He's all alpha because he loves her yet tactical because he's military. His reactions really suited his character and how he was with Cassie once he made his feelings known suited him too.

We get a glimpse of Cassie's BFF's Penelope and Julie and of her brother too. Even though we don't spend

an enormous amount of time with these characters, they leave their mark. They will be the focus of the rest of this trilogy and, just from what I saw in book one, I am thoroughly pleased. I have already created a bit of a bond with these people and I can't wait to know more about them and to watch their stories unfold. That is pretty impressive writing when an author can create a connection with her readers using secondary characters in such a short amount of time.

A few things in this book are explained via flashbacks. Now, for those of you who just moaned a bit and muttered "boo, flashbacks" do not fret. They are very well done and fit the story perfectly. They truly help the story along and not just pretend to.

The suspense part of the book was really well done. Cassie is well known after being interviewed about her role in the development of a war-based video game and has gained an extra passionate admirer. Yup, she has a stalker. A creepy one at that. Not like there is such a thing as a non-creepy stalker but I think you know what I mean. While I was reading, I could have sworn I knew who the stalker was. In fact, I thought Christi made it too obvious! But just when I was really thinking that, she threw in a couple of other suspects and suddenly I'm starting to second guess myself! Eventually she had me convinced that any of these three guys could be the culprit! Well, it turned out that... As if I'm going to tell you which one was the ultimate bad guy, but I will tell you that (even if you are a smarty pants and think you have it all figured out from the get go) there is no way you will ever guess the why behind it. With that part I was all "wha'?!" in a good sort of way.

Speaking of "wha'?!"...the twist near the end!!! Holy jumpin'!

There is a bit of repetition here and there and I did wish that Cassie took her situation a little more seriously at times and stopped putting herself in harm's way but neither of these issues bothered me enough to truly damper the story for me. The overall pacing was great and I really enjoyed Christi's writing voice. I feel it suited the genre very well.

Overall, I quite enjoyed Operation: Endgame. I found the story engrossing and the characters well written. The story, even though it was suspense based, was sweet and I found this book read exceptionally well. Christi is a voice to watch and I can't wait to read more.

Vanessa theJeepDiva says

I enjoy friends to lovers romances. There is a little more with Jake and Cassie's friends to lovers romance but I'm not going to spill. You need to read to find out. Jake and Cassie don't have an easy road to happily ever after though. He has a case of survivor's guilt, and he feels guilty about taking advantage of Cassie after her brother's death. Cassie has mixed feeling about how Jake reacted after their one night of passion, she's being stalked by an unknown predator, and she's feeling off with everything in her life.

I loved this close knit group of friends. From the first page they seemed like people I knew and by the end of the book I felt like part of their group. These are the type of people that you want to have as friends that you consider family. All of the characters are easy to relate to and I look forward to seeing more of them as the series continues.

I loved the flashbacks. There are a few, not an overwhelming amount. The very first one was my favorite. Cassie, Chris, and Jake have been friends for most of their lives. The flashbacks show not only the amount of

time, but they reinforce just how strong of a friendship they have.

I need to mention the suspense. Cassie has a stalker. When it came out who it was, why he was doing it, how he had hidden it so well for so long I was a bit shocked. The reason for the stalking is not what I had assumed it would be, it was some of the psycho's reasoning. There is just so much more to the stalking. What he was hiding from Cassie is still a shocker. I did not see that one coming.

I mentioned I'm looking forward to continuing the series. If book #3 is going to who I think it is I cannot wait to get my hands on it.

while none of the characters in Operation: Endgame drive Jeeps, the author does. She has a Rubicon & I have Jeep envy.

Kelly says

What is it about big, strong military men who try to do the right thing but the right thing isn't really the right thing and when they eventually see the light things come together in a glorious explosion of heaving body parts and danger?

blisses out on the thought Man, does it work!

Jake-y boy definitely *thinks* he knows what the right path is for him and Cassie. Good thing Cassie's stalker forces his hand and puts the two of them back in revolution around one another. Because those two have sparks and to deny that would be a crime. For shame, Jake. For shame.

After round 1 of Jake and Cassie Get Sweaty and Jake bails on her, Cassie shores up her defenses and does the strong woman routine. Which means that she tries to get on with her life while not telling anyone about the stalker she has. Which is... so wrong, Cassie. What good are friends if they can't help you when someone's leaving you creepy gifts? Once things escalate, she does come clean but it takes a lot to reach that point. Jake's reappearance in her life throws her for a loop. In a good way.

This is, coincidentally, when round 2 of Jake and Cassie Get Sweaty begins. *high five*

Nicely naughty with enough danger to keep me on edge and the theme of family and the bonds of friendship running throughout, this book left me happy. The Robertson siblings have a lot going for them and a lot still to get through. I am intrigued.

-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

Julija says

3.5 stars

On the enjoyability level, this book deserves almost five stars. Just as the synopsis says, *Operation: Endgame* tells a story of Jake and Cass, two best friends who just lost their other best friend. Said friend just happens to be Cassandra's overprotective twin brother who had warned Jake before that if he ever as much as touched Cass, he won't survive to see another sunrise, best friends or not. Unfortunately, as Jake is comforting Cass after the funeral, things get out of hand, lust overpowers reason and the 20-year-old friendship takes a serious blow. Jake, guilty and slightly unstable, runs away, Cass is left grieving and in denial. Six months later, she finds herself being stalked by a total psycho and Jake takes the role of a knight in shining armor. Needless to say, sparks fly, sexual tension reaches its peak and both characters have to decide whether their relationship could survive something more than just a friendship most people would die to have.

Pretty much all of the characters made this book extremely enjoyable. This book is not one of those miserable cases where the main characters have only themselves and the rest of the world does not exist. They have friends, family and rivals. They are realistic and alive. They have distinct personalities, they have their quirks and they are extremely likable. And I'm not talking about main characters only, because people surrounding them shine just as much.

The romance also turned out to be wonderful. It's not overly dramatic, but it's not completely smooth either. Jake and Cass care for each other, understand each other, and love each other on many different levels. A very refreshing change from possessive, obsessive jerks and girls who are too stupid to live so often seen in romance. Sure, Jake gets jealous all the time seeing as Cass likes to flirt innocently with pretty much all of her friends, but it's all sweet and funny. Seriously, the guy even goes through Christmas shopping for her! These two often act like a married couple and for the whole duration of the story, they stay in perfect harmony. They don't misunderstand each other, they confront all of their issues right away and they actually talk. That's what a healthy relationship should be like. It's not about sex and attraction at first sight, contrary to the popular belief of most romance novel characters.

However, my issue with the book is the writing style. It was a bit too simple for my liking, but that's totally okay. Not everything should be poetry. But quite often sentences and paragraphs were a bit clumsy, I guess, with lots of repetitions. At times, it felt like I was reading fanfiction (and not a very well written one), not a published book. Many flashbacks done in the wrong way, many sentences describing characters' actions in the wrong way... Maybe it's just me, but it really bothered me.

Another thing is predictability. Don't get me wrong, I really enjoyed the plot, much more than I suspected I would. However, it all was pretty clear. Although there is supposed to be a great doze of suspense, the villain was pretty obvious and so were other things. Sure, I enjoy good foreshadowing and piecing together clues given by authors, but in this book I had no doubt about the villain, who is amazing, btw. The epilogue felt rushed, too, compared to the overall pace of the book. Still, a very enjoyable read that left me craving its sequels, so 3.5 stars it is.

Catherine says

In *Operation: Endgame*, we're introduced to twins Cassie and Chris Robertson and their childhood best friend, Jake Madsen. Cassie and Jake have been circling around their mutual attraction for years, but when Chris dies in combat and Jake feels responsible, a single night of shared passion and grief irrevocably change Cassie and Jake's friendship forever. However, when a stalker begins to target Cassie, Jake is drawn back to

Lubbock, Texas to protect the woman he loves.

Let me start by saying that I'm a massive fan of romantic suspense novels. However, it's rare for me to find a new author whose work I think is as well-written and characters as well-crafted as that of Suzanne Brockmann, Cindy Gerard, Christy Reece, or Laura Griffin. That said, it only took reading a couple pages of Christi Snow's novel, *Operation: Endgame*, to realize that I had found my next "must read" author.

There was a LOT to love about this book.

Perhaps most importantly for me, Snow managed to create main characters that were strong, sexy, *and* smart. A university professor and video game consultant, Cassie Robertson was independent, intelligent, and ambitious. At the same time, she was fun-loving and deeply devoted to her family and friends. Basically, she's everything that women in romance novels can (and *should*) be.

Jake Madsen, on the other hand, was the perfect foil for Cassie. An elite pararescueman (PJ), Jake was strong, capable, protective, and just vulnerable enough to tug at my heart strings. Honestly, if the man were real, I'd take two! ;)

And, because this is a romance novel, I have to mention that the chemistry between these two was spot on! I *love* a good friends-to-lovers story, but throw in some guns and mortal danger and it's good-bye panties! *wipes drool off chin*

Though the majority of Snow's efforts were (understandably) spent on fleshing out her main characters, her secondary characters popped from the pages as well. The camaraderie and bone-deep caring the characters felt for one another was palpable on every page. Even though it was only a minor story line, I was really glad to see a relationship develop between War and Derek. Their struggle to accept themselves and their feelings for one another felt real and poignant. The more I see same-sex relationships (or anything else outside of the hetero norm) in romance novels, the happier it makes me. The world is a diverse and beautiful place filled with diverse and beautiful people, and it warms my heart to see romance authors embracing these types of characters and relationships in their work.

Love is love, after all.

The book started strong for me, but I felt that it stumbled a little towards the end. It was as if Snow's descriptive capabilities which had been so well executed in the first half of the novel (especially in those fantastic flashbacks), weren't able to keep up with the momentum of the plot she created as the action snowballed towards the climax. The description became a little thin, lacking in the more sensory experiences that would have pumped life into the scenes. Where was the stinging feel of the wind whipped up by the helicopter blades on Jake's face? Or the deafening *whump, whump* of the blades that would have made conversation between the stalker and Jake inside the helicopter nearly impossible without shouting or the use of headsets?!

And although I was 100% entertained by the novel's climax (Snow knows how to write thrilling action), I couldn't help but feel as if it placed the characters in an almost unbelievable role reversal situation. I mean, I'm all for a woman who can hold her own and kick some serious ass, but Cassie was almost so in-charge that Jake felt redundant. And let's be real, Cassie might be a military strategist of unparalleled skill, but Jake is a freakin' PJ and those guys are badass – the elite of the elite. They don't sit back and let others make the plans and take the risks. It also struck me as completely out of character that Cassie would be able to carry out the acts of violence she did in the final few pages of the book, even if it was to protect herself and those

she cared about.

Despite a somewhat problematic climax, I still thought *Operation: Endgame* was a great book. It was well-written, fast-paced, included several really creative plot twists, and I was happy to see two characters I *genuinely* liked get their happily ever after together. Honestly, I can't wait to read the next book in this series!

Val says

Oh my God! This was no light reading.

The story trapped me from page one thinking this would be an adorable love story between Jake and Cassie. Those two--with their hot and sweet chemistry--won me from the beginning. I was rooting for them to reach their HEA. But holy mother, this was more than a love story.

The mystery behind the stalker kept me plastered to my kindle until the very end. Especially those last chapters! My heart couldn't stop beating fast (in a nervous way) because I didn't know how everything would turn out or if I would ever see Jake and Cassie safe and happy. Those last pages were so nerve-wracking for me that I still feel some adrenaline rushing through my veins and because of it, I wish I could've read more happy moments between them throughout the book, especially in the ending. Because even though I loved what happened, I wanted more.

Now I'm looking forward to reading the next book in the series, hoping to see some of Jake and Cassie in there. And of course, more of the rest of the characters.

'Operation: Endgame' is a thrilling debut for Christi Snow. You won't want to stop reading until you reach the end. If you're a romance and suspense lover (with some sexiness in between) this is the book for you. It is a great beginning of a series that promises to be awesome.

Amber says

I'll be back to add my raving review...seriously fabulous book!!!

Mia Downing says

This story has a little bit of everything--suspense, intrigue, sexual tension and love! It was great that I wasn't sure who the bad guy was until the very end, and I kept having to change my mind over and over. Can't wait for book two!

TheGeekyBlogger says

Read for Review

Overall Rating 4.00

Character Rating 4.25

Story Rating 3.75

First Thought when Finished: I seriously lived in the wrong part of West Texas growing up!

What I Loved: Friends to HEA's are always a delight to read! That doesn't happen very often in Romantic Suspense but I think in this case it worked out perfectly. Cassie and Jake have sizzling chemistry that just smolders off the page! I love that we meet them as younger children and see the wonderful friendship that their attraction is built upon. It is hard not to love them as a couple and root for them the whole way! I love that Cassie is a history professor and game co-creator. The geeky history chic in me just adores that these play a major role in who she is and how she thinks. She is a brilliantly flushed out leading lady! The end scene was so lovingly sweet that I think I swooned a little!

What I Liked: I am a thriller reader/lover and the stalker case in Operation Endgame was really well done. I guessed about half way through who it was but there were times that I questioned my guess. I really like when the suspense keeps me guessing like that! I also really liked Jake and his protection of Cassie. He was always trying to do what he thought was the right thing.

What made me go huh?: I wish a little more time was spent on the dreams had by Cassie before the end. I have always found twins and their connection fascinating.

Final Thought: This was a great opener to the series and I can't wait for book 2!
