



The Embattled Road

J.M. Madden

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In the harrowing prequel to The Lost and Found series, three embattled Marines must deal with their devastating physical and emotional injuries in a world that seems to have turned against them.

When the rescue helicopter crashes into his convoy in Iraq, Marine First Sergeant Duncan Wilde struggles with the loss of men, his career and the use of his body. Things can't get much worse. Until his fiancée decides she has to move on with her life, and that of her unborn child by another man.

Sergeant Chad Lowell knew when he went to war that it would come with a price. And it did. A young Marine under his command is killed by a landmine. Chad's left with one less leg and a mountain of recriminations. That doesn't mean he wants to be a pitied by every female he comes in contact with.

Gunnery Sergeant John Palmer is furious at the hand he's been dealt. He's served his country faithfully, if not without antagonism, for many years. Now they're turning him out like a relative who has overstayed his welcome. And, since he's not even a real man anymore, maybe it is time to move on permanently.

Can these wounded warriors use a friendship borne out of adversity to form a partnership rescuing others? And can they find real love in spite of their challenges?

The Embattled Road Details

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From Reader Review The Embattled Road for online ebook

Wendy says

This is a heartbreak tale of three brave and wounded warriors Duncan, Chad and John. Fighting in Afghanistan for their country only to be wounded and find themselves in hospital. And whilst recovering from their injuries; they form a friendship and bond that “Brothers in Arms” share. They make a pact to stay in contact and eventually try and slip back in the normal life.

The story is told through three points of views; it's shocking and just flat out gut wrenching. I found myself a little teary in parts. It feels unreal but these things actually happen and as we live our normal day, these real life heroes are fighting for our safety.

This is not a love story it's about the wounded Veterans and their bravery. And they deserve our thanks.

Thank you to my friend Karla for the recommendation. I adored this one a lot.

Val Shameless ?? Steamy Reads ?? says

Can't stop. Gotta keep movin here, prequel complete, now on to book one.

Boom.

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

Before I begin my review, I want to first thank the author, J.M. Madden, for writing this story, and in doing so, beginning a series of books that are long overdue. These will be stories about three brave men (and possibly more?) whose bodies, in the course of serving their country, were injured in ways that will never fully heal. The author does a much better job of explaining her vision than I can, so I'll just share her words:

A Note from J.M.~

I've had the idea for this series for a long time. But I had a lot of doubts about whether I could convey the message I wanted to.

As we go about our daily grind, it's easy to forget that there are men and women dying every day as they fight to ensure our freedom. When they come home, no matter what shape they are in, they deserve our utmost respect and appreciation for doing the job they volunteered for.

Every soldier that has served overseas will carry some type of scar, either internally or externally. It's our responsibility, as their support, to make sure that those scars are seen as

marks of courage, not something to turn away from when you pass them on the street.

I sincerely believe there is a soul mate for everybody. The external package doesn't matter when it comes to the heart. The same goes with friendship. There are people you come across that you just click with, and know they will be a part of your life forever. When men serve together in combat, there's a special bond created that surpasses everything.

That bond is what I tried to at least touch on here. There are no heroines in this book because the men had to be solid with each other before I could introduce the girls in the coming books. I hope you'll be patient as we follow all of their journeys.

And next, I want to thank my dear Goodreads friend, Karla, for Kindle lending me this book.

Karla girlie, thank you so much for telling me about this novella and lending it to me. This is a great story and I can't tell you how excited I am for the books to come. So yeah, thank you!

And now for my review:

The Embattled Road is the story of Duncan, Chad and John, three Marines who, in the line of duty, were injured and sent stateside to heal. *To start their lives over*. Their injuries are such that they can no longer serve as soldiers on the ground in the military, but that doesn't mean they're no longer Marines on the inside. We watch as they deal with anger, bitterness, frustration... all the emotions someone in their situations would experience. But, with time, strength, and determination to not just keep living, but to live well, these three men who have formed a friendship, come together and open "LNF" - Lost and Found Investigative Services. This is where this novella ends, but truly, it's just the beginning.

The bottom line: I loved this story! It's well written, funny, heartbreakingly inspiring... It was short, but there's a whole lot packed into those pages. The men felt things I would expect them to feel, acted the way I would expect them to act, then pulled their shit together and carried on the way I would expect them to carry on: like the Marines they will always be.

I am so looking forward to reading more in the *Lost and Found* series!

Edited to add: I love it when authors believe in and support what they write about, and so it's important I mention that portion of the proceeds of this book will be donated to the Wounded Warrior Project.

If you would like to make a personal donation, you can find information at
<http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/>

Mo says

For a Free book this was amazing. Great introduction to what I think is going to be a great series. We meet the 3 characters who are wounded in combat and have to leave their Army professions and start life all over again. The different personalities of the three come across really well. Duncan, Chad and John - think John is my favourite because he seems to be the most bitter and hurt. Then again that could change. Duncan is the one who takes charge and decides they are going to work together. Chad seems like the happy-go-lucky kind

of guy who still keeps upbeat despite his injuries. As I said it is a great introduction to the series and I am off to read the first in that now *Embattled Hearts* - John's story. This was just what I needed, a gritty read, with a bit of anger and no romance. But the next one better make up for the NO romance in this one.

Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says

Wow this little novella was a beautifully emotional journey of 3 Marines injured in Iraq. As they learn to deal with their disabling injuries, they develop a friendship with each other that leads to them going into business together. I loved this little Novella. John, Chad, and Duncan have already stolen my heart. J.M. Madden grabs you, drawing you in and getting you invested in these heroes, who have given up so much for their country, and are now trying to figure out where they belong in this world, when they can no longer be Marines! There are no love interests in this book and it was still awesome. The guys all had such strong, intriguing personalities that they feel real! I think J.M. Madden really touched on the issues our soldier face when they come home from war injured or not. The struggles they face. The sacrifices they make. So touching I can't wait to read this series! I have always had a thing for Military men, and if this book is any indication I have a feeling I am going to love this series!

<http://jessicasoverthetopbookobsessio...>

Jill says

When Marine First Sergeant Duncan Wilde, Sergeant Chad Lowell and Gunnery Sergeant John Palmer leave the Marines due to physical injuries sustained in Iraq, they come together back home to form *Lost and Found Investigative Services* putting their skills learned in the military to good use.

Kudos to author, J.M. Madden for not glossing over the harsh realities of war and the tragic consequences for men (and women) who serve. The injuries sustained by these three Marines are not trite, superficial wounds, like the decorative scars-are-hot found in most romance novels with a military vet. But these men have limbs missing, are wheelchair-bound or suffering painful, extensive burns.

This prequel is a novella and though there's no romance, readers are given an intriguing excerpt at the end for the first book, *Embattled Hearts*. John Palmer is first up to get his story and HEA.

Though I thought the actual prose was average, the premise and potential stories here make this a recommended read. I'm looking forward to this series.

* *Thanks Karla for the recommendation*

Duchess Nicole says

Great introduction to these three guys. A little background on each guy, and their first meetings in the hospital. It's not a happy book, and there are no heroines anywhere to be found. But it leaves the reader wanting a happy ending for these three literal heroes.

Auntee says

Gotta read *every one* in this series now--such awesome writing! Why did I wait so long?

Lana ⚡Dirty Girl Romance⚡ says

Wow!!!

Will review once I finish *Embattled Hearts*, but I have found myself an amazing new author!

Claire Robinson says

4 - "You've still got your nuts." Stars!

I grabbed this novella Free off Amazon, mainly because I have seen various books from this series blowing up my GR feed in a positive way over the last couple of years, and I was intrigued.

All I can really say is that for something so short, *The Embattled Road* certainly packed a punch on all fronts. It made me laugh, shed a tear, and gave a great introduction to the men that will become the backbone of *Lost and Found Investigative Services*

John Palmer, Chad Lowell and Duncan Wilde, have all bought back their own demons from their time in service, as well as a number of irreversible injuries, and I am looking forward to reading the rest of the books in the series to see how they overcome and integrate back into civilian life, as their friendship develops, especially with the challenges they are going to have to face together and as individuals.

John is up first in *Embattled Hearts* and it is already lined up on my Kindle to start reading!

Buggy says

Opening Line: "Duncan could not wait to get the fuck out of this sand pit."

Now this is how to start a romantic suspense series. Get the entire back story and set up out of the way without the distraction of a romance, -which is especially relevant here because JM Madden has taken the

time to give us some real heroes. I loved how this 40 page prequel gave us all three soldiers stories from the very beginning, starting in the frontlines of Iraq and then through their injuries and subsequent treatment at a VA hospital. These aren't your standard romance heroes battle scars either, these are real injuries and they haven't been glossed over for which I want to thank Madden.

Our men have missing limbs, disfiguring burns and are wheelchair bound for the rest of his life. These are gut-wrenching, life altering wounds. We also get all the horror of war, the pain, the anger, the humiliation, the flashbacks and the grief over their lost bodies. Who they once were and the bewilderment about what their futures can hold for them now. Yup, these are heroes that needed their stories told first without the distraction of a romance.

My only real criticism here would be that at times I got the men confused, whose head we were in as they were often referred to by either their rank or a first or last name which was confusing.

In this well written prequel to (The Lost And Found Series) we meet three wounded warriors as they recover in hospital. Marine 1st Sargent Duncan Wilde- badly burned and learning to walk again and oh his girlfriend is expecting another man's baby, doh!, Sergeant Chad Lowell who lost a leg and doesn't relish returning to his hometown and its ongoing sympathy party, and Gunnery Sergeant John Palmer who is confined to a wheelchair, full of F-bombs and angry at the world.

Emotionally and physically torn apart we witness as a friendship is forged on adversity. But as their bodies heal and a new reality is faced they wonder what will they do now? How can they still give back to society? Surely there must be a way to still utilize their military talents despite their setbacks and limitations. And it's here that "Lost And Found Investigative Services" is forged.

Can't wait to start Embattled Hearts, just wish I had a Kindle so I could continue with John's F'n story right now LOL

362jb45

Karla says

5 Stars!!! Amazing prequel to the *Lost and Found* series! My hats off to the author for this unique and long over due plot line for a military romance series!

"I sincerely believe there is a soul mate for everybody. The external package doesn't matter when it comes to the heart."~J.M. Madden

I think the author did this right, introducing us to the characters that will be featured first, without any romance in the storyline. She gives us a chance to get into their hearts and minds, allows them to heal, accept and deal with their situations before they can let anyone else in, and before their stories can believably move forward.

The writing is detailed and vivid, not easy to read at times, but also necessary to know. J.M. Madden doesn't sugar coat the injuries that these men have, nor does she go lightly describing scenes when they flashback to what brought them to where they are now. It's raw and authentic, and unfortunately the reality for too many of our men and women in the military. You will cry with them, but also laugh. She injects humor at just the

right moments, to give the reader and the heroes a little comic relief.

Yes, this is heart wrenching, but not filled with doom and gloom, there are glimmers of hope. These proud men want to move forward, have a purpose in life, stand tall, march on, and use the skills they've learned to serve the people once again. It might be from a wheelchair or with one less limb, their gait might not be as smooth as it once was, but no matter...they will overcome whatever life has handed them...and they will do it together! **Exhilarating, inspiring...OORAH!!!**

At \$2.99 you might think this is a bit pricey for 40 pages, but you get your monies worth and then some. Not only that, but from the author herself...

A portion of the proceeds of this book will be donated to the Wounded Warrior Project. If you would like to make a personal donation, you can find information at <http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/> .

I would buy the book based on that alone. Going forward I have it on good word from the author that she will continue to donate proceeds from this series to the WWP and other organizations that support our military. Consider making a donation in your home country to support a group that helps those who serve and sacrifice so much for you.

Check out this brilliant review from Dhes!

<http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/...>

◊♦ Naomi says

The Embattled Road is a prequel novella to the *Lost and Found series*, this book has absolutely no romance in it but it doesn't matter, it's short and I really think you should read it before starting **Embattled Hearts**.

This book introduces us to three main characters in the *Lost and Found series*, First Sergeant Duncan Wilde, Sergeant Chad Lowell and last but not least, Gunnery Sergeant John Palmer. These men were Marines and gravely injured.

This is their story, what they were doing when they were injured, how they're dealing with their injuries, how they became close friends and, finally, what they're planning to do in the future. This is also the beginning to their new life.

J.M. Madden did a great job writing this novella, in a short amount of time she had me crying and feeling so much for those three men. And this is only a book but, this happens in real life, every day actually. So, thank you to all of you out there, fighting for your country.

The Embattled Road is a great prequel, I'm really glad I read it. I will definitely read the other books in the series because I want these men to have their happy ending.

Blacky *Romance Addict* says

"It was hard to convince somebody who had never been cared about that you actually cared."

This is one of the best non-romance stories I've read.

Well, maybe I'm not the right person to say that because I ONLY read romance, but the fact that I read and LOVED it must mean something :)

The Embattled Road is a short story about:

War, and how it changes your life.

Three soldiers, met in a hospital, that formed a great friendship.

Dealing with one's handicap, and accepting it.

Moving on with life, and making the most of it.

What this book made me feel:

I'm not a fan of war books. At all. I'm not a fan of WAR! But then, who is :(

Even though this is a story about American Marines, dealing with issues I'm not extremely familiar with, in the end, I saw those three friends as soldiers. Nothing more, nothing less. There are soldiers in every country, and war almost everywhere.

I hate it. But it happens. People get hurt. I hate that too. But there's no way to stop it :(

Reading about how they got their injuries... That was tough. I saw the gruesome side of war, and what

they went through, and I hated it.

Reading about their recovery... Inspirational. It takes strength to endure that, and to make peace with a handicap. It takes character, and those three soldiers have it. Definitely.

Reading about them forming a friendship... It made me cry. Yes, I am weird, that was the part that made me teary-eyed. Well actually, it was about 50%, when one soldier asked another not to (view spoiler).

Reading about them moving on with their lives... Well we get to see each of them outside of the hospital, healing and dealing with their lives. It kinda made me want to cry again. Or maybe it was just my hormones or something LOL!

The ending

And now I just want to say... This was too short. I'd happily read a longer book just about these three friends, even without the romance.

I know this is not a very detailed review, but this is short, and I didn't want to spoil anything for the possible readers. I just wanted to tell you how I felt about the book, and that I recommend it, even if you don't like to read about soldiers. It's just amazing.

When the orderly came to wheel him out, Duncan rolled himself forward to stop beside John's chair. Reaching over, he gave the man a hug, slapping him on the back as he pulled away. Chad wedged in on his other side and they reversed the process, holding just a minute longer while both men got control of their emotions. Duncan fought back his own tears as they locked arms, all three of them.

"This isn't the end," he told them. "It may be a while, but we'll get together again, and next time we'll kick ass."

♥? Dorsey aka Wrath Lover Reviews ♥? says

Great introduction to the "Lost and Found" series. It's a tough read if you have a loved one serving our country but J.M. Madden managed to turn it around and had me rooting for these hero's to succeed after their rehabilitation and discharge from military life.

Regardless of your political views on war, please support our troops!!
