



Reclaiming Izabel

Victoria Paige

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Three years ago Izabel Maddox lost the love of her life.

Not long after, a cruel twist of fate ripped away the last part she had of him.

Grief and devastating loss almost broke her, but she survived.

Focusing on building her childhood dream was her lifeline.

But just when she thought her heart could move on, her past came barreling back, making her question if the struggles of the past were all for nothing.

Three years ago Drake Maddox made the toughest decision of his life.

To protect his wife and avenge his brothers, the Navy SEAL faked his death.

Injuries and the loss of his team marked his soul, but it was losing Izabel and their unborn child that nearly broke him.

Focusing all his time and skills on finding the enemy was his lifeline.

Returning to his wife had always been his dream, but reclaiming Izabel might prove to be his ultimate nightmare.

Because his wife may never forgive him for betraying their vows.

Reclaiming Izabel Details

Date : Published November 13th 2018

ISBN :

Author : Victoria Paige

Format : Kindle Edition 292 pages

Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Military Fiction, Military Romance



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From Reader Review Reclaiming Izabel for online ebook

Eve Recinella (Between The Bookends) says

I enjoyed this one for the most part. I do wish the hero had to do a bit more groveling. He basically shows back up after three years of the heroine thinking he is dead and moves right the fuck back in. I don't care how sad he was, or how he did it to protect her; she deserved some space to figure things out without him being underfoot and guilting her about how she was hurting him...sigh.

Apparently, I am a mean biatch that holds a grudge. *lol*

Shari Kay says

Waiting to see if he was celibate during the separation

Harim (The Reader Blog) says

5++ FRIGGING STARS

Funny how a few days ago I was trying so hard to find books with this exact theme and then I got this ARC..Thank you so much VP for my ARC.

I am still reeling. So many emotions I can't even..

First off..Damn did this story hurt like a mf...It's so raw in emotions that you need to prepare yourselves that there will definitely be a crying fest...

Drake and Izabel are inseparable and completely in love..fast forward to that he can't wait and marries her and being a SEAL wife she understands the pain and sacrifices that come with it..But due to some issues..Drake can not return back and is declared dead..

Now ..this is where it gets really frigging ughhhh ..

When she finds out the news..things have already gotten to a level that the pain is multiplied by 10 and then...multiplied by a 100..

Finally as Drake is able to return to her,it ain't a sweet reunion..there is so much confusion,hurt and

doubt..Oh my God..just read it..It's a mixture of every emotion I just loved these two so freaking much..Haaaa.

Perfect writing. Emotions packed to the brim and just plain amazing.

ARC provided by Victoria Paige for review

Patricia Rohrs (words we love by blog) says

Wow! Super intense, emotional roller coaster that I absolutely LOVED! I now want to delve deeper into this world and know everyone and their story!

I can say with absolute certainty that Isabel is on tough woman! To have the twists and turns that she had thrown at her and still be ok is a true testament to a strong female! I also can not count out drake because wow! He definitely fought for his love and when he felt he couldn't he leaned on others to help him and that shows just how much he loved his wife! The hardest part is going to others and he pulled out all the stops to win the heart of his wife!!

Kat says

I enjoyed reading the story. I was never bored. It was a good mix of suspense and romance.

I loved that the hero was faithful to the heroine and visa versa. They stayed faithful to each other including during a 3 year separation. Even though she thought he was dead she didn't have sex with OM although she causally went on a few dates. They never amounted to anything. I believe but am not sure that she let another man kiss her when she thought that her husband was dead. The hero was with no other women.

I liked the heroine but the hero irritated me. He made the decisions for her including let her think that he was dead and put his work before her. No cool. Bad things happened to her and she needed his emotional support but he choose not to be around for it. IMO she forgave him way too easily for his betrayal and lack of faith in her and in them.

I am probably saying the disclaiming words wrong because I usually do not do ARCS but here goes: I asked for and was given a free book in exchange for being willing to consider writing a review of the story.

Elizabeth Neal says

3.5 Stars

Drake, a SEAL, adored his wife and would do anything for her, anything to keep her safe, including letting her think he's been dead for three years. He's experienced loss while in the Navy, but not being able to be with her every day, both having to suffer alone as she lost their child, has been the hardest thing he's ever

done. Drake has known once she's safe and his brothers-in-arms have been avenged, he'd return to his wife, ready to start living again...but can she forgive him for lying.

Izabel has struggled for three years, her heart refusing to believe Drake is gone, that their child, her last piece of him, is gone. But she tries to move past the grief that almost takes her too, knowing it's what Drake would want. And just when she starts to live again, to think of the future, her past returns. It seems Drake is alive and somewhat well, and has been this whole time. He assures her his reasons made it necessary, but can she open her heart again just when it was finally starting to heal?

Can Izabel forgive Drake? Can Drake convince Izabel he only did what he did as a last resort to keeping her safe, to finding justice for the lives that were lost? Can these two move forward, the love between them having never faded over the three years they were apart? Is a HEA possible?

One-click now and follow along as two people, both as in love as they've always been, must move past the pain of Drake's deception and live again.

I voluntarily read and reviewed an Advanced Reader Copy of this book.

maggieandteddy says

It's been a while since I've read a Rom-Suspense book.

I was all geared up for my secret agent fix.

This is told in 3rd person POV. Izabel is married to Drake Maddox.

While on a mission, Drake is reported killed, as were other members of his team.

There are appearances and mentions of other characters from other books in the Guardian Series (loved that series!)

Maddox is gone for 3 years while Izabel is left to carry on. She suffers in grief over more than one loss.

She's successful in her career but has an empty personal life.

Drake tries to make it back to Izabel, but is forced to complete his mission and keep his cover.

These two have great chemistry, even when they are still trying to heal their relationship.

This is a short book, but I sure did get a great taste of my Rom-Suspense fix.

I enjoyed this one & looking forward to the next one!

Thanks to the author for the ARC. This is my 12th Victoria Paige book (including a couple of novellas).

4.25 stars

Zita says

Reconstructing their life is a hope not a given...

Though they try not to, SEAL's wives always wonder if their husbands might not return from a mission, it takes an emotionally strong woman to live such a life. For the architect Izabel Maddox that dreaded day arrived. On that day she lost the love of her life, but she had a piece of him blossoming inside that kept her going until a twist of fate cost her that too. The double dose of grief was devastating, life moves on but people don't always, immersion in work became her only lifeline. And then three years later the unthinkable happens, her husband returns. A ghost from the grave appears who expects her to be happy to see him but

it's complicated, such a betrayal is not easy to forgive.

A mission betrayed almost killed the Navy SEAL Drake Maddox, his injuries were severe and would take substantial time to heal from. A decision needed to be made as a terrorist group retaliated against the family of his commander. With Drake in no shape to protect his wife, the woman who is his everything, he makes the decision to fake his death until the time it is safe to return to her. He then joins a special clandestine group seeking retribution. It's taken three years to demolish the terrorists responsible and now it's time to reclaim his wife but perhaps he's waited too long.

Can love be enough to repair the damage to Izabel and Drake's relationship? Marriage is a partnership and one shut the other out, making a decision that would affect them both, leaving the other to suffer an immense enduring trauma alone. How does one forgive such an action? Neither had truly moved on from the other but the time apart changed them both. Drake wants one thing, his Izabel and she has to decide if she can accept him again, reconstructing their life is a hope not a given.

Life is a complicated journey, partnerships are composed of individuals who evolve with the passage of time and the trials and tribulations life throws at them. You want love to be enough, but love sans trust is subject to break. The heroine here has been to hell and back and she's right to stand her ground after losing the trust that had been implicit in her marriage. Though the intellect can understand the rationale behind a decision born of desperation that doesn't assuage the emotional impact born of that decision, and the fear that it generated. This was an emotional second chance military romance with underlying suspense and danger. Compassion is felt for the main protagonists, a gutsy, sassy heroine and a very determined, and protective hero. With a little assistance, love can be enough if you want it to be.

An advanced reading copy was obtained from the author.

4.5 stars

Andrea Peralta says

It has been a while since I read a military romance. This book didn't disappoint it had the right balance of love and suspense. My heart hurt for Izabel, I can only imagine how difficult it would be losing the love of your life. I love that there is no cheating in the story, that is a big plus for me. I am not going to pretend to understand Drake choices but I think he needed more grovelling, I guess love forgives easily. My only negative for this book is that it finished way too fast, I wish I wouldn't have read it so quickly. But that's just me trying to make the books I like last longer.

This was an advance readers copy, generously provided by the author, in exchange for an honest opinion.

Lana ✶Dirty Girl Romance✶ says

3.5 STARS

Three years ... I fought my way back to you, Izabel, but I'm drowning here. I want my wife back."

The second I read the blurb to this book, I was all over it. And I mean ALL over it. It reminded me of one of my favorite books with a similar situation, Wild Card by Lora Leigh. A wife that believes her military husband dead until he comes back to reclaim her three years later. YES, PLEASE!

This had several delicious elements that I absolutely love in my books; an OTT alpha that loves and loves hard being the main one. I love me a good alpha, and Drake was one hot alpha. This is a man that's utterly obsessed and devoted to his wife. When a mission gone wrong forces him to fake his own death and let his wife believe it too, it completely breaks him. Coming back to her is the only thing that drives him during the three years it takes to complete the mission. And when he comes back to a shell shocked Izabel, he's not beyond groveling to get back into her heart.

I really enjoyed the book and the story. The characters were great and I was completely invested. The only thing that kept me from rating a little higher was the slight detachment I couldn't help but feel in the writing. It was such a strange combination to be invested in the characters but at the same time feeling like I'm being told about them rather than experiencing them. There was this choppiness to the story telling that made it slightly cold.

On the flip side, I loved the set up and Drake so much that it was pretty easy to look past that particular quibble. I love that Izabel really made him work for it. And I loved even more seeing this tough as nails alpha male turn to absolutely putty for his beloved wife.

The added element of suspense was great but I also couldn't help but wish for a little more. It wrapped up pretty quickly and felt somewhat sudden. I wished it was more fleshed out.

As a whole, I definitely enjoyed this book and recommend it for fans of romantic suspense and intense alpha males. This was my first book from this author but definitely won't be my last!

ARC courtesy of author in exchange for an honest review

Find me on:

Stacey is Sassy says

I don't think I'm cut out for suspense...

Geez, I love my hubby!! After reading *Reclaiming Izabel*, it just reinforced how much I love him. The worst he's done to me was choosing to go and watch a sports game instead of taking me to coffee. Well, that was the most recent stuff-up and he paid...lordy, how he paid. Now, I kind of regret giving him such a hard time. At least he didn't leave me for three years and make me believe he was DEAD. *Reclaiming Izabel* was a very hard story to love and to be honest, my Kindle was in serious jeopardy a time or two.

I was so angry with Drake that I had to step away and take a deep breath before I could go on. CHOICES!!! CHOICES!!! CHOICES!!! Drake should not have married if he could put his job before his wife. His bosses should never have put him in the position of having to make that choice. Stopping him, by force, from making the choice he wanted to make, THAT WAS DIABOLICAL!!

HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE FOR HER!!!!

I'm getting angry again just THINKING about this...

Deep breaths...

Izabel was a much better woman than I ever could be. I wanted to scream at her when her defences started to crumble. The poor woman had been through hell, put herself back together, and was just starting to live again. Drake walks back in, and she's expected to forgive and forget the nightmare HE made her live. I couldn't get past it. Such a betrayal. How can he live with himself knowing that the "love of his life" was suffering?

I get it. His hands were tied. He was worried about her safety. He had to get the baddies. But it SUCKED that he was forced to MAKE THE WRONG CHOICE...in my opinion.

My biggest problem with reading suspense is that I take it too bloody seriously. Mind you, I know I take all of my reads too bloody seriously. It probably doesn't help that *Victoria Paige* writes very convincing stories. They lead me to think she's "in the know" about stuff. For starters, Victor Baran seems so real. That man could give me nightmares and HE'S ON THE GOOD SIDE!! If even a smidgen of this story was based on fact, we seriously need to rethink who we vote into power.

Would you believe it...I actually finished *Reclaiming Izabel* with a smile on my face? I know, I know, there's a lot of shouty capital ^^^up there^^^ but it's true. If you had asked me if a smile on my face was possible while I was in the thick of things, the swearing you'd be blasted with would be shocking. Things do work out well in the end, but it was bloody hard going.

The characters we see again and others we meet for the first time were very engaging. I'm not sure *Victoria Paige* can write weak characters. Obviously, Drake had to do a LOT of work to take me from cranky to smiling, but he does do it. Izabel is strong, determined and very forgiving which I couldn't help but admire her for. Together, they were electric and their connection jumped off the pages.

This is a *Victoria Paige* suspense so of course, I spent much of my time reading with my heart in my throat. Each time Izabel was alone, I was sure the boogeyman was waiting around the corner. I love reading about all the tech gizmos and gadgets, treason, treachery and war crimes. It always makes me feel I should spend more time reading the paper...or not, considering it's pretty darn scary out there.

If you're a fan of military romance with a very bossy, possessive and HOT hero, loving a strong and determined heroine, I recommend *Reclaiming Izabel*. Funny thing...that cover **REALLY** caught and held my eye, but the blurb had me running for the hills. Good thing that cover pushed me to take the risk because the blurb wasn't as scary as I thought it would be. Drake and Izabel's love story was hard to witness but worth the struggles in the end.

Stacey is Sassy, received a complimentary copy of this story. The copy provided is not the final copy and may be subject to edits and changes.

Julia says

Not for me.

For the events that take place in this book, the characters felt very superficial and one dimensional. Not real depth to the characters or their dialogue.

Pat Rathmann says

VERY INTRIGUING AND FULL OF LOVE AND PAIN

A heartbreak story of deep love of country and personal love; betrayal, pain and perseverance. A captivating tale that is so intense and gripping to a reader must be finished without stopping. Action, thrills and a suspenseful drama and complete with ongoing surprises.

Ms. D. Reader says

Another winner from Victoria Paige

I really enjoyed this couple's story! They had a great start in their marriage and then Drake is declared dead after a mission goes bad. It hurt to read what these two went through while separated and after they got a second chance to be together. I was totally involved in the story and couldn't put it down until the end.

I love an alpha male who tries to put his needs on hold when he recognizes his woman deserves some time and groveling. After so much trauma, Izabel needed to readjust to a new reality more than once. She couldn't just automatically forgive her husband for keeping secrets while she believed he was dead. Too often other stories have the heroine quickly forgive and then the couple has sex thinking it solves everything. Izabel deserved her moments of anger and attitude after all that happened. Her resistance and feelings of betrayal are justified. Drake acknowledged that none of this was fair. As much as his alpha personality wanted to hold on tight to reclaim his wife, he realized that he must do whatever he can to heal their breach, even when it's frustrating with no guaranteed outcome.

Izabel made Drake work for their reunion even though he felt forced to make a devastating decision that tore their lives apart. I liked that she insisted they had to re-evaluate their relationship and how things have changed before she can forgive and reconnect to her husband. She deserved time to work through her anger and sorrow. Drake had the knowledge during those three years that he would return, but Izabel did not have that same hope. She needed time to work it out, patience, and understanding. I loved that this couple did the work to find their way back. They obviously had deep feelings that kept them committed to rebuilding their marriage.

There are some very touching scenes that show the couple's deep connection before their time apart and also some great conflicts and conversations afterwards. Although Drake is back, there is still danger waiting to pounce and stir up more trouble for this couple. I always enjoy some suspense with my romance and Victoria Paige always delivers.

This story had a lot of angst and turmoil, but it was a necessary part of the journey to reconciliation after so

much happened to Izabel and Drake. Drake stood strong in his belief that they belonged together even when things seemed bleak. After some tough times and emotional trials, there was a very satisfying ending and a nice wrap up in the epilogue. I highly recommend this story.

(For those worried about any triggers, neither character cheated during their separation. (view spoiler))
I voluntarily reviewed an advanced copy provided by the author.

Bev says

4.5 stars

I promised myself as soon as this hit my Kindle I would drop everything to read it because ... back from the dead/subsequent marriage in trouble trope and I'm all over that like a rash. I haven't read any of Stoker's books so didn't know anything about her world and it didn't matter. I was totally invested in Maddox and Izabel.

Ah Maddox, what a growly, possessive alpha he is. All man yet retreated when he needed to to give Izabel time to get her head around what had happened. I thought the pushing away would irritate me (pet peeve) but in this case it didn't. Izabel was justified in her mistrust, shock, horror and devastation at what she went through not only "losing" the love of her life, but shortly after that loss, her baby.

This is a fast paced read with some juicy suspense running through and some great side characters which I hope will get their stories told. Victoria did you hear that?

I bloody loved it!

Arc provided by author.
