



Operation: Endeavor

Christi Snow

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Colton Robertson left his career in the Air Force...

... to come home and help his family heal. Unfortunately, his reception was not quite what he'd hoped for and he ended up as roommate to hippy dippy yoga instructor Penelope Pruitt.

Penelope has spent her life under the restrictive thumb of her parents and she doesn't want to do the same with the straight-laced, serious Colton. But when it becomes apparent that Penelope's life is in danger, Colton won't settle for anyone else protecting Penelope besides him.

Opposites attract and that's definitely the case with Colton and Penelope. On the surface, they don't have anything in common, but as the sparks fly and the danger ramps up, their passion is inevitable.

Operation: Endeavor Details

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From Reader Review Operation: Endeavor for online ebook

TheGeekyBlogger says

Read for Review (Author)

Overall Rating: 4.00

Story Rating: 3.75

Character Rating: 4.25

First thought when finished: WOW! That was quite a wild ride with a twist that I just didn't see coming.

What I thought of the Characters: This is where I think Christi's writing shines in this story!

“You’re just a great big old marshmallow under that sexy, stern male exterior aren’t you?”

Colton is the consummate caregiver! He has/is the person who has taken upon themselves to take care of everyone around him. That makes his relationships difficult sometimes because he doesn't know when to let people have wings and fly.

Penelope is probably my favorite of the 3 women in the series. She is smart, fun, and very much her own person. She gets in her own way during relationships but she was the one who noticed it! I love that she is following her dreams and is protective of those around her.

Together they were just the right combo and I loved the slow romantic build. In the end, it worked so well that you just knew they were in it for the long haul!

What I thought of the Story: I am going to admit that this is one of those books that took a bit to get into but once it hit the 33% mark, I was all in! (Rating: First third 3.00/Second third 4.25/Last third 4.75)

Family: While the subplot of the story, I felt that the relationship between Colton and Chris was very important to describing who Colton was as a person. I have to admit, in the beginning I wanted to slap Colton! He wanted Chris to "work on it" but then gave him like a 3 month timeline. I realize this is fiction but it drove me nuts! Yes, after a year Chris needed help but I think this just showed Colton's need to fix everything. How he changed with Chris was what highlighted Colton's growth as a person for me. I thought it was beautifully done!

Action: I really enjoyed the action in Operation Endeavor! The last half of the book was so twisty/turny that I think it would have made an excellent thriller on its own merits! There were some things that happened that I totally did not see coming!

Romance: I thought taking it slow with the romantic storyline was the right call for Pen and Colton. They needed to grow organically and I felt that was nicely done!

Last thought: Another good entry in the When the Mission Ends series. I am really looking forward to Chris!

Amy at bookgoonie says

A confession first. I totally didn't get that this book was about the same group of people I grew to love in Operation: Endgame. I really try not to read synopsis of books I want to read. Every book is like a Christmas gift. I don't want to ruin the surprise. But YAHOO when I found out I was going to be hanging out with a familiar bunch of yummy Texans, I was MORE than EXCITED.

Now I'm "in the know" and I've read the synopsis. I am picturing Darma from Darma and Greg as Penelope. WRONG!!! Penelope does yoga, runs a bookstore, free-spirited and is in NO WAY going to involve herself with anyone that might try to change or control her. She is strong and self-assured, not flaky and unreliable. And oh by the way, she is into naughty books. So all you gals are thinking, "this is a chicka I'd like share a bottle of wine with and hang out." You'd be correct. My only disappointment was I thought she'd have Colton doing more yoga. I was picturing it, but Christi is the one with a mastery of imagery.

In walks Colton. I get him. Or I want him. It really is a toss-up between him and Jake for me. Colton is the eldest brother to a set of twins. He had to grow up fast when his parents died. He is a nurturer, because of necessity. He is a protector, by nature. He has a strong sense of duty to his country and his family. Colton proudly served, but didn't hesitate to retire early to come home and help Chris with his rehab. We really get to know him and love him for the things he has endured. He is slightly damaged. *swoon* I love how protective he is. It is instinctual and it is 100% from his heart.

Christi masterfully uses situations and a thriller-type mystery to throw her romantic interests in contact with each other. THE HEAT. THE TENSION. Colton has no problems letting the reader know what is catching his eyes. What makes it extra yummy is that he is very attracted to Penelope's strength. I crumble for men that fall for strong women. BUT can these two adapt their strengths in a way that can make room for the other?

Christi doesn't let us settle in with our nice little romance. No, she introduces a minor irritant. It causes Colton and Penelope to get close and also threatens them with conflict. And this irritant just keeps itching until it breaks out into a TEXAS size EPIC life-and-death situation. She did it to me again. I didn't see the twists coming. NO CLUE.

I love this family and their trio of friends. I am so excited about the upcoming novella and third installment. I am expecting a Chris and Julie story and I'm sure it will be full of heart-break and mending delivered in hot-sexy-Christi-style.

Christi delivers another heart-felt encounter of characters that don't know they are broken until they find the one that can fix them.

Zaza says

Après un 1er tome mouvementé et fort en émotions, voici une suite qui tient toutes ses promesses !

Dans la fratrie Robertson, je demande le ... frère aîné ! Colton est LE grand frère par excellence, protecteur, un rien invasif, c'est un homme généreux et aimant qui tient à son entourage et est prêt à tout pour protéger les siens. Il n'est pas toujours facile pour lui de "s'immiscer" au sein du duo de jumeaux, et il va se casser les

dents sur la guérison de son frère. Ces passages-là m'ont un peu fait mal au cœur, parce qu'on sent bien qu'il ne veut que du bien, certes il est maladroit, mais sa réaction face au repli de son frère et de la prise de parti de sa sœur est un point douloureux que l'auteur exprime très bien. Je trouve que c'est un beau personnage, plus nuancé que le stéréotype habituel du héros de RS. Colt n'est pas qu'un gros bras de service.

Et qui de mieux que Penelope pour lui faire tourner la tête ? Penelope et lui pourraient faire une parfaite illustration de l'adage 'les opposés s'attirent'. Plutôt bohème, éprise de liberté et anti-conventionnelle, cette prof de yoga bossant dans une librairie cache de sacrés petits secrets derrière son apparence cool. ^^ Elle aussi est un personnage plein de nuances, que l'on découvre progressivement, ce qui apporte son lot de surprises.

Leur couple fonctionne bien, l'alchimie est au rendez-vous. Tour à tour romantique, émouvante, complice, tendre, électrique et sensuelle, leur histoire évolue à un rythme plutôt lent, alors que souvent dans le RS, je trouve que tout va trop vite. Ici, ils prennent le temps de se connaître, de se faire confiance, de se dévoiler, et là encore, je trouve que c'est une réussite.

Côté suspense, là encore, l'auteur tire bien son épingle du jeu. Elle abat ses cartes les unes après les autres et nous entraîne dans une enquête bien ficelée, ce qui réserve des surprises bienvenues. Une autre chose que j'ai beaucoup aimée également ? Toute la partie sur la gestion promotionnelle de la librairie, avec l'évocation de ces services presses, ces chroniques à écrire, ces liens avec les éditeurs ...

Un joli opus donc,
(view spoiler)

j'ai pris plaisir à lire ce livre et il est évident que je lirai la suite !

Sabrina says

After reading hundreds of books it's rare that you can't figure out the ending. Operation Endeavor will keep you guessing until the very end. Christi has done a great job writing this book, you will not want to put it down.

Colton has taken responsibility for his younger twin siblings since he was ten years old. He retires from the Air Force to help care for his younger brother Chris who was injured on a mission. Chris hates the fact that he needs help and having Colton hovering over him is not helping. Colton figures out it would be best for both he and Chris if he would move out to give Chris some breathing room.

As he is working out his aggressions at the gym, Penelope one of his sister's best friends offers to help him calm down by doing a few simple yoga exercises. He has always thought of Penelope as a bit quirky. When Colton mentions to Penelope he needed to start looking for a place to live, she tells him she's looking for a roommate. Colton is not sure how he could live with someone as fun-loving and no fear of consequences as Penelope.

Once he moves in he totally changes his mind about Penelope. Then she starts getting calls and notes threatening her to return something that doesn't belong to her. She has no idea what the person is talking about. Colton goes into his protective mode against her wishes.

The one thing Colton can't protect is his heart. He never figured he would fall with someone his complete opposite much less his sister's best friend.

This is one wild ride of a book. It's a book you do not want to miss.

Christi has outdone herself on this book

Shirley says

Just a word of warning. If you haven't started this series, pick up Operation: End Game before you read this review. I don't write reviews with spoilers but content in this review will contain spoilers for the first book in the series. ;)

Readers were only given a glimpse of Colton in Operation: End Game. Just a taste of who he really was. The main focus was on Cassie and Jake, which is how it should have been. No complaints, because I really liked them as a couple. They were the perfect choice to start the series. I'm kind of glad that we didn't get to know Colton any better in the first book. I think it made Operation: Endeavor a lot more interesting. Sure, Cassie and Jake are still my favorite couple, but I gained a lot of respect for both Colton and Penelope in the second installment of Christi Snow's When the Mission Ends.

Colton is more than your average big brother. His need to protect and his strong sense of responsibility for his younger siblings started when he was only 10. He never grew out of that role and given everything that all of them had been through the previous year, you couldn't really blame him for being overly protective. It wasn't just that though. Even though he was relieved to have his brother back, he wanted him whole. That forced him to push and the tension between all of them became almost unbearable. Long story short, big brother Colton was getting on everyone's nerves. Perfect scenario for Colton to find a new place to live. The most unlikely person for him to end up with was Cassie's college friend, Penelope. Who knew how perfect that pairing would be?

There was a lot more to Penelope than met the eye. It shouldn't have been a huge surprise that she wasn't nearly as flighty as we were first led to believe, she was Cassie's friend after all. We knew that she was a loyal friend. She proved that more than once in Operation: End Game. I can't say a lot about what makes Penelope so much more because she was so full of surprises that readers deserve to discover them on their own. (Colton had fun figuring them out as well ;))

I'm not sure I can pick one thing about this series that I like over another. The dynamic between the siblings and their friends is great. The dialogue flows easily and the author's writing style pulls you into the story line. Once again I started reading this one and was half way through before I knew it. I love it when that happens! That combined with the action, danger, heart break, surprises, twists and turns make these books really hard to put down. Oh yeah, and did I mention the romance? Operation: Endeavor wasn't lacking in that department at all. Despite the fact that they both fought the inevitable, the connection between them was amazing and at times heart breaking. I have to say, the turning point for this couple was great. It wasn't forced and the timing made perfect sense.

Complaints? Not really. The only thing that bothered me at all was the way that first Cassie in Operation: End Game and then Penelope in Operation: Endeavor both make really stupid and careless moves that put them in danger. As a reader you know it's going to happen. You want to reach into the book, grab them by the arm and force them to stop and think. The momentarily lapse in good judgement is a turning point, it's a necessary element and I can almost forgive Penelope because she put someone else's safety before her own,

but it still drove me nuts.

So what's next for the Robertson siblings? Christi Snow has a treat for readers before Operation: Endurance is released in April of 2013. Operation: Before the Mission Begins is a novella that takes place before the first book in the series, but it is meant to be read between books 2 & 3. It will be available in February of 2013. Both books feature Chris. I'm waiting for both of these books with a tad bit of trepidation. Not because I'm afraid they won't be good, I have no doubt that they will be as amazing as the others. Readers were given just enough of what's possibly in store for Chris in Operation: Endurance that I'm pretty sure it's going to be an emotional roller coaster for everyone involved.

Amber says

Five SQUILLION stars!!!!!!! I have to think on this review and then I'll add it, I must come up with words worthy of this book:)

Kelly says

Oh, man. The poor Robertson clan just can't catch a break when it comes to stumbling over nasty happenings in Lubbock, TX. THINGS HAPPEN! And those things sometimes involve a body count. Which happens. You know, when you read romantic suspense.

So. Colton. He's a little domineering and he can bark out orders like a pro, which makes sense given both his former career and how he practically raised Chris and Cassie. He's protective and he wants what's best for those around him. Which sometimes makes him hard to live with. As both Cassie and Chris and, later, Penelope now know. But he has the best intentions. He's just a little bullheaded getting his point across at times.

Pen... well, she plays the flighty party girl well but she's smart and loyal. And she might have a little, teeny, tiny secret she's been keeping from her friends for the last several years. This secret kin of endeared her to me because GO, PEN!

While Pen and Colton are feeling each other out (snicker) in the potential romance department, THINGS are going down. Penelope's in danger and, by extension, her friends get drawn into what she unwittingly stumbles into. THINGS HAPPEN! THINGS! We see some glimpses of a romance that isn't (yet) and find out some heartbreaking stuff about Chris. Poor guy. A slew of new background characters get introduced (and I'm excited to see that we'll be seeing more of them down the line!) and danger danger danger keeps everyone on their toes.

Bad guys, good guys, planes, and smokin' sex. THINGS HAPPEN. It pretty much rocks.

-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

Brianna (The Book Vixen) says

Review copy provided by author

Disclaimer: I know Christi as a fellow reader and book blogger in addition to being an author. That said, my review is completely my honest and unbiased opinion of this book.

Why I Read this Book: I really enjoyed the first book in this series, *Operation: Endgame*. That book had a well-balanced blend of romance and suspense and I expected *Operation: Endeavor* to follow suit, which it did.

What I Liked: I love how the author brings the backstory to the reader in the way of a prologue. It gives the reader information to help visualize the lead characters on a full scale and bring them to life.

The suspense/mystery element was intricately plotted and pieced together very nicely. The author gives the readers little clues here and there with the reader being none the wiser. Sure, some things I knew had something to do with the mystery subplot but it was the ‘how’ or the ‘why’ that remained a mystery until it was due time. The way everything tied together was done so in a cleverly fashion.

The reader also gets small bits of narration from the villain’s POV. I find it interesting to see what’s going on in the bad guy’s mind and to see how things go down from their standpoint. It gives a different prospective and allows the reader to envision the complete story in its entirety without missing anything.

I love how the author took the publishing world as she knows it and incorporated into *Operation: Endeavor*. There’s a story arc involving Penelope that was fun to read. I won’t say any more, so as not to spoil it.

What I Didn’t Like: I don’t like characters doing stupid (TSTL) things. Unfortunately, Colton did. He drove Penelope home and instead of making sure she was buckled in safely, he sat her on his lap for the duration of the drive. Bad Colton, bad boy.

A secondary character was taken out of the equation too easily. I can’t help but wonder if his removal from the story was done to help alleviate things for the heroine in the next book in this series (and subsequently her hero).

Memorable Moment:

“Look, Colt,” she grabbed hold of the slats of the headboard and the thick bedpost beside it, “this would work really well for the Dom/Sub games you’re into. Just imagine tying someone up to the corners of this baby.”

Overall Impression: Just like its predecessor, *Operation: Endeavor* was a great blend of romance and suspense. The author kept me on the edge of my seat while at the same time delivering the smut. I am anxiously looking forward to reading the next installment in this series.

Sara Tieszen paschal says

Oh my stars, Christi you have me in your clutches. I devoured this book and I am looking forward to more;))

Vanessa theJeepDiva says

To say that Colton has some control issues would be an understatement. He acquired them at a very young age. When his parents died he embraced the role as big brother. He felt obligated to protect his younger siblings. As his military career progressed he kept with the role as a protector. He does not see himself as a controlling annoyance. He truly believes that he knows what is best for those around him, he has their best interest at heart, and he only wants to protect those that he cares about.

Penelope has created some interesting coping mechanisms. She grew up in a home where she never met her parent's expectations. This taught her to set others expectations of her low. She lives the carefree life, never lets people close, she never lets others down. Her new roommate Colton is shaking her entire life up. He is discovering that there is more to her than she lets others see. The more they spend together the more she wants him, but she doesn't want him controlling her life.

Opposites attract couples are so fun to read. Colton does not see himself as domineering. He has started to care for Penelope. He wants what's best for her. After a threat harms her he wants to protect her at all costs. Penelope does not see it as protection, she sees it as a man trying to control her life. I just loved how this just raised the sexual tension even higher with these two.

I loved reading Cassie as the best friend, and the baby sister. She was a wonderful heroine to read in Operation: Endgame. Her character transitioned to a supporting role so smoothly. She provided some much needed not necessarily heeded, advice to her friend Penelope, and her big brother Colton.

I can't wait for Chris's story. Readers were given some very interesting details into his life. I have to admit I need to know what happened to cause some of the tension that was present.

Amy says

Colton has control issues- he has to- he's been taking care of his siblings since he was 10. Being a career military officer just reinforced them. But his world threatens to come crashing down around him when horrible events happen to both of his siblings within a year.

Enter Penelope- Colton has never really thought of her as more than his sister's flighty, slightly hippie friend. Which is why, when he decides to leave the Air Force and move back to be closer to his family he agrees to be her room mate. He doesn't ever consider attraction will be an issue between them.

But when Penelope begins to receive threats to her well being and those around her, Colton soon discovers there's much more to Penelope than meets the eye. He finds she awakens a protectiveness in him he didn't know he was capable of.

There is so much going on in this book that you would think it would be impossible to keep up-but Christi does an amazing job of grabbing the reader from the beginning and she just doesn't let go. I never saw the ending coming. NEVER. SAW. IT. COMING. Prepare to laugh, be heated up, cry, and be on the edge of your seat before it's over.

This series gets better and better!!!

Musing says

Operation: Endeavor by Author Christi Snow, is the second book in her thrilling Romantic Suspense series When the Mission Ends. It picks up soon after the end of Operation: Endgame, which would be beneficial to read prior to Endeavor. There are more hot ex-military men, more steamy sex scenes, and more suspenseful moments to keep you guessing!!

Oh uber Alpha-Male Colton! Seriously – how is one meant to cope when you read this: “I promise I could fulfil you better than he ever could.” Okay – I. Was. Hooked.

Meet our Hero Colton Robertson– he was serious, competent, dynamic, sexy and totally in command. (Did I mention he was sexy?? I was only just getting my lust under control from Jake!) Having been thrust into a parenting role at the tender age of ten years, Colton, the elder brother of Cassie and Chris, was a natural leader. He had only just retired from his highly successful career in the Air Force, to come home to help his family heal. In many ways, he was a man always alone and isolated, with the twins having each other, and Jake. His tendency to be overbearing also corresponded with his aloof façade, which was perhaps part of his allure. He was extremely easy to admire, and yes, I will say it again, lust after!

For so long, beautiful, intelligent and feisty Penelope Pruitt, could only equate independence with singleness, having fought for control of her life from her manipulative and unsupportive parents. Her dread of being controlled far outweighed her deeper yearnings for love, nurture and desire. Ultimately, she is a Heroine to love – particularly as she ‘has to take book wherever she goes’. (I think we might be related!) She was perceptive, gutsy and sassy, yet beneath a strong façade, hid a loving, generous heart, a woman desiring the country homestead, complete with the non-negotiable wrap around porch and swing.

Penelope didn’t need or want overbearing. As Colton’s admiration and attraction for her grows, his need to protect was triggered, especially as she became embroiled in a mysterious and lethal situation ostensibly concerning her Bookstore. She’s beautiful inside and out, and Colton is completely beguiled by her, but will he be willing to bend to a new shape without compromising what comes so naturally to him? He’s unrepentantly autocratic, extremely sexy, and sends chills throughout her body when near, but, will Penelope be able to receive love from one so strong and naturally domineering?

One of the things that brought me out of the story sometimes, are the sex scenes. Not the intensity, but the wording.

Despite this, once again Christi Snow delivered an engrossing, engaging and sizzling romantic suspense. Hot, blistering sexual tension then chemistry, a mystery to be unravelled, perpetrators of evil, cleverly masked behind their facades of reputable citizens, touches of humor and a deeply coded sense of family/friendship, and you have a hit in my mind. There was a good mix of predictable with unexpected twists and turns. The author successfully took the malevolence up a notch with Operation: Endeavor, and I am now eagerly awaiting the next book! Gah!

Glenda Bettin says

this series just keeps getting better

Julie says

Posted at Yummy Men & Kick Ass Chicks

Operation: Endeavor is the second book in Christi Snow's When the Operation Ends trilogy. I'm happy to say that this book was just as strong as the first book in the series. The characters continue to shine and the story-telling continues to keep you on your toes, which is a very good thing for a romantic suspense book.

In this installment, we follow Colton (Cole) now that he has left the military in order to help his family heal. Cole, Cassie and Chris has all been through quite a lot lately and Cole felt it was best he be there for everyone. He feels as though it's his job seeing that he pretty much raised Cassie and Chris since he was ten years old. His parents passed then and he took on the responsibility of becoming the parent. But now that they are all adults, he has some trouble remembering that he is not their parent but their brother. Yeah...Cole has some control issues. Just a few *snort*. His siblings are 'used' to him, sort of, but he even gets on their nerves sometimes! So imagine being a love interest! Especially one who values her independence as much as Penelope does! Yes ladies and gentlemen, you are not in for an easy ride if you are that chick.

Penelope grew up in a very strict household. Her parents tried to mold her to fit into their idea of what a respectable young lady should be. But that isn't her. And since she decided to do what was best for her and not for her parents, there is some, shall we say, tension between her and her mother. She is at a good place in her life so the last thing she needs is some guy (one of her best friend's brother for that matter) to go all caveman on her and start demanding she stay here and do this and that. Okay, there may be some reason for his concern seeing she has been getting some pretty threatening calls and notes and she was pushed down the stairs at her shop, but still! She needs to be free. Free as a bird!

Okay, I may be going off on little tangents here and there. Let's see if I can streamline things a bit. Let's start with Cole.

I like me an alpha cave man type. There is just something so sexy about a man who is willing to act like a complete jerk in his quest to prove that you belong to him. But there is a limit and thank goodness I did not find Cole ever really came close to it. Yes, he was a bit of a jerky guy at some points in the story but how he acted made complete sense seeing the situation Penelope was in. Ultimately he has a big heart and it was nice to see his warm side coming through, especially when around his lady love. He truly cares about those around him.

And he is hot! In the bedroom he's smokin'! He and Penelope both. Holy jumpin'! Wait 'til you read it!

takes a big sip of ice water

Penelope leads a double life. She is a bookstore owner and she's an erotica writer. I found this to be a fun fact about her. Also, she pretends to be a little on the ditzy side when really she is super sharp and very smart. I really enjoyed her character. There is so much more to her than meets the eye! She, like Cole, has a big heart and is willing to do anything for those around her. She is also very stubborn which is where she and Cole clash. Well, that is where they are eerily similar which causes them to clash. But it's so much fun to see them clash! Penelope's chemistry with Cole is very strong too.

When you get close to the climax of the story, a certain event takes place. This event is very similar to an event that takes place in the first book of the series. It all makes sense with the story and it does make you

gasp a bit but I'm anxious to see if things will be a bit different in the last book or if Julie (the heroine of the next book and not me. Believe me, I asked. This Julie is petite and rather busty and I'm...not. Also, she does not twist balloons so she is definitely not me ;)) will see a similar fate. All I'm saying is that it would be nice for Julie to be put in more of a different situation than the first two heroines in the series.

My favorite part about series like this one is that we continue to see characters from previous books in each installment so we're not left wondering 'what happened to so and so?' I found it was nice to see how Chris is doing after his long ordeal that ended in the first book. Well, nice isn't really the best word seeing that he is not doing all that well, but who would really... I actually really enjoyed seeing his transformation in this book. It makes me even more curious about the next book because he's the main hero. And Julie...what is with Chris and Julie?! There is past there. What is it?! One more thing I look forward to discovering while reading Operation: Endurance, due out in April 2013.

Overall, I found Operation: Endeavor to be a good read. Strong characters and an interesting story made it easy to breeze through. I am really enjoying Christi's voice and I look forward to reading more of her work in the future.

Catherine says

Operation: Endeavor is the second book in Christi Snow's When the Mission Ends series about the Robertson siblings and the men and women who love 'em. After giving the first book in this series, *Operation: Endgame*, a very enthusiastic 4-smooch rating, I couldn't wait to read the second installment.

This book centred around Colton (Cassie and Chris' older brother), a retired Air Force captain, and Penelope Pruitt, a local bookstore owner and erotica author. A sexy alpha male falling in love with a fellow bibliophile?! That's not even fighting fair! I'm already rubbing my hands together in glee and chanting "oh please, oh please, oh pleeeeeease let this be good!"

And it was.

I have to say that I really liked Penelope. All her life she's been described by others as a flighty party girl, but I think the author did a great job of creating a character that was less flighty party girl and more free-spirited, yet savvy, businesswoman determined to live life on her own terms.

Colton, on the other hand, is your typical alpha male – strong, smart, a little pushy and a lot gruff. All of that is enough to push my humina humina buttons, but it was Colton's utter dedication to his family that made me melt into a giant puddle of "awwwww" at his feet. It's at the very core of his being and informs everything he says and does in the novel (and it is *sexy as fuck*). The flashbacks of Colton at the funeral just about broke my heart, and his willingness to quit a job he loved in order to support his family through a difficult time was beyond endearing. *big, dreamy sigh* I need a Colton of my very own!

And let's talk about the chemistry between these two for a second, okay? It was off the freakin' charts! Snow gave it an exciting new twist and totally delivered on the heat factor hinted at by the many mentions of BDSM/erotic literature early in the book. And that scene - you'll know the one I'm talking about after you read the book – was hot enough to melt the bed sheets. Good Lord, was it ever! Still, as explosive as the love scenes are, the book had enough true romance to make my heart flutter as well.

One of my favourite things about Snow's writing is her ability to make the snappy inner voices of her characters come across feeling incredibly natural. For example:

When Penelope said yes to riding Colton's motorcycle, she hadn't taken into account how arousing it would be to have him in between her thighs with her arms wrapped around his muscular torso. This. Was. Torture. But oh, what an incredible way to die.

As women, we all think (or say!) these pithy, off-hand kind of comments in our daily lives, but to write them in a way that comes across as funny and effortless rather than overworked, is difficult. And while it may seem to some readers like a small thing, I find that it's exactly these small details that breathes life into the characters and has a big effect on my overall enjoyment of a book. So, kudos to Snow for pulling this off.

Unfortunately, I can't help but think that an otherwise great book was let down a little by its climax. Thirty pages to go, and what had been building nicely to a dramatic - yet believable - conclusion took a sharp left turn into the ridiculous with the introduction of "fluffy yellow ducks". (I'm clearly using the term "fluffy yellow ducks" as a stand-in for a significant plot twist.) Up until that point, I'd been *totally* buying in to the villains' nefarious actions. They made sense given the context. But messing around with "fluffy yellow ducks" seemed *way* above their pay grade and I just couldn't suspend my disbelief as a reader that far.

Don't get me wrong, the climax itself wasn't *bad* - it was both interesting and well-written - but I felt like it was an unnecessary plot twist and seemed to belong as the ending to an entirely different book.

Further, just as in *Operation: Endgame*, the climax of the novel had practically everyone outside of the main character's inner circle utterly betraying her. I thought the fact that there was more than one villain was a really refreshing twist, but the sheer number and diversity of those involved was a lot to take in. Between that and the *multiple* abusive ex-boyfriends (Really?! The poor woman had to suffer through more than *one* Grade A asshole ex?!), I was left wondering seriously about the soundness of Penelope's judgement.

I think that a lot of readers will just roll with the ending and really enjoy its over-the-top nature (it's super FUN, after all!). Personally, however, I usually prefer the less is more approach. I feel that a few small edits could have gone a long way to making this ending truly stellar. But that's just my opinion. *shrugs*

Overall, I thought that *Operation: Endeavor* had an original premise (I *love* the concept behind the *When the Mission Ends* series!), well-crafted protagonists, tonnes of sweet romance, rich descriptions, and an *almost* perfectly plotted story arc. It was entertaining and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend it to anyone who loves romantic suspense as much as I do.

Now on to *Operation: Endurance*! It's time for Chris and Julie's HEA, dammit!
