



Confessions

Cynthia Eden

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Meet the first of The Battling McGuire Boys from New York Times bestselling author Cynthia Eden!

Desperate to prove she's being framed for murder, Scarlett Stone entrusts her reputation—and her life—to the man who once broke her heart. Grant McGuire, a sexy former army ranger turned detective, has never been the same since military action. But behind his cold demeanor, he still burns for Scarlett.

Taking her case is an easy but dangerous decision for Grant. Together they must race against the clock to find the real killer, who now wants them both dead. More dangerous, however, is their sudden, reignited passion. Grant will do anything for a second chance with Scarlett...while she'll do everything to keep the secret she never wants him to know...

Confessions Details

Date : Published February 1st 2015 by Harlequin Intrigue (first published January 16th 2015)

ISBN :

Author : Cynthia Eden

Format : Kindle Edition 219 pages

Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance, Category Romance, Harlequin, Suspense

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From Reader Review Confessions for online ebook

Trina says

Gasp! I would like to believe this is not written by CE herself...

I don't recall ever being disappointed with any one of Cynthia Eden's stories, and certainly never had I needed to force myself to finish one. I hate second chance/long separation plots, especially one driven by lame excuses and petty secrets. There's never a good excuse to stay away -for 10 years!- from your supposed love of your life, and one you pine for every single day.

Darcy says

I found it hard to like Grant with how this one opened. I realize Grant was cruel to Scarlett on purpose, but he could have done it in a better way.

I did love the interaction between the McGuire siblings. It was great to see them give Grant crap about Scarlett, both for the past and the present. I found it interesting that most of them were protective of Scarlett in their own way, even Sullivan, who had his own special relationship with Scarlett.

With the bomb that Shayne dropped at the end, it will be interesting what happens to the rest of the series.

Ash says

Superb book

Great suspense and romance. Grant was awesome. He loved Scarlett a lot.

Anita says

Actual Rating: 2.5 Stars

The disappointment I feel for reading this book probably comes from the fact that I have a feeling this isn't Cynthia Eden's best work. In fact, I have already read four other books that were much better written, with better characters, and that were also much more memorable than *Confessions* turned out to be.

Don't get me wrong: *Confessions* had a great concept to work with... I suppose if a great concept is the same as many other a great concepts in Romantic Suspense-landia... A large group of brothers, all ex-military, all buff and hunky, all over-protective of their own, all with their own dark secrets, and you've got the McGuire brothers. As well as many other groups of fictional siblings ever introduced in Category Romance or Romantic Suspense.

Confessions probably would have been a great piece of fluff, enjoyable and guilty pleasure for me, if I had actually enjoyed it. But instead of turning off my mind and just enjoying the read, I found myself nitpicking so many things about it that I couldn't quite justify giving it a higher than 'meh' rating.

Really, the characters were terribly cliched and the plot a bit predictable. In fact, even the writing felt amateur and I found myself wondering if this was actually written by Cynthia Eden, and if so, why the style felt so juvenile. The romance was just hard to get behind because our main hero felt kind of stalker-ish and creepy, while the heroine was so stock standard damsel-in-distress that it managed to make my teeth hurt.

Anyway, I enjoyed the book up to a point and may read the rest of the series if only because I DO own the next two books. The rest of the series and some of the side characters kind of appeal to me and my curiosity is slightly piqued. So I'm hoping that the writing style will be more in line with what I know of Cynthia Eden, and the story lines less carbon copy.

2016 Reading Challenges:

- Goodreads Reading Challenge
- BookLikes Reading Challenge
- Reading Assignment Challenge
- Bookish Resolutions Challenge
- Mount TBR Challenge

Reviewed at Ani's Book Abyss

Susan says

Good book with lots of action, good second chance romance. Scarlett and Grant had been high school sweethearts. After he graduated, Grant joined the army and became a ranger. The summer Scarlett graduated, Grant was home for a visit and broke things off with her. He claimed he didn't love her, but in reality he was trying to protect her from himself. With the things he had seen and done, he wouldn't be any good for her. The last thing he told her was that he'd be there for her if she ever needed him.

Ten years later both have moved on with their lives. Grant is back home, running a security company with his brothers. They all left the military after their parents were murdered, coming home to take care of their younger sister and try to find out who killed their parents. Scarlett went to college, became a teacher, and got engaged. They haven't been in contact, though they've seen each other at a distance. One night she shows up at Grant's office, begging for his help. She's about to be arrested for her fiance's murder, and she needs him to help her prove her innocence.

There's heat between them right away, showing that the old feelings are still there. Grant is determined to earn a second chance with Scarlett, but first he has to find out who set her up. As the days go on, the attacks on Scarlett escalate and Grant becomes a target as well. As they search for the real killer, they get to know each other again, and things from their pasts come out that create new stresses between them. I found it interesting that each had kept secrets in order to protect the other. Both have to find a way to let go of the past before they can have a future.

The suspense was well done. Though Scarlett was cleared fairly early, the issue of finding out who had set her up and was still out to get her continued. I loved the introduction of Grant's brothers into the story, as each of them did their part to support the investigation. By the middle of the book I had a good idea of who

the culprit was, but there was enough going on to create some doubt. The final confrontation was quite intense and I was on the edge of my seat until they were out of it. The epilogue contained an interesting twist that was the result of that confrontation and I'm looking forward to seeing where it goes.

Linda says

I do enjoy these tough, sexy, alpha male characters. At the beginning of this book, I find out there's Grant McGuire, plus his 5 brothers, and 1 sister, and they're each going to have a story! In book one, the girl Grant left behind to become an elite Army Ranger, seeks him out ten years later because she's in a whole lotta trouble...Scarlett Stone, is her name...and he never forgot her, and she's still as alluring as ever. A deadly race to protect Scarlett from a madman ensues and takes all these ex-military hero brothers to keep her alive. Be ready for some heart pounding excitement when it comes down to whether Grant's name will be on a death certificate or a marriage license.

Sarah says

3 Stars

Challenges:

- ♥ April 2018 Word Hunt: Sleeping Beauty Edition: Dawn, Beauty, Dance, Spin & Kiss
 - ♥ AMMP: Fairy Tale Spell Out: 'E' in The Elf Mound
 - ♥ AMMP: Fairy Tale Bingo: Week 4 - Thumbelina
 - ♥ RRRC: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Quarterly Challenge:#20. Black Onyx: Read a book with a black cover or a Romantic Suspense.
-

Christa says

Confessions made a great start to The Battling McGuire Boys series. The McGuire Boys are all wonderful characters, and I am really looking forward to the other books about them. I liked Grant McGuire, the main character in this one, and thought that Scarlett Stone was a great match for him. The storyline was interesting, and I am looking forward to learning more about the threads that were left hanging.

Scarlett Stone is the main suspect in her ex-fiance's murder, and right before she her arrest, she turns to the one man who can possibly help her - Grant McGuire, her high school sweetheart. Grant broke up with Scarlett when he didn't believe himself to be a good enough man for her, and they have both suffered greatly from the loss of one another. He immediately agrees to help Scarlett, making good on a decade old promise to her that he'd always be there if she needed him. As Grant investigates, it soon becomes clear that it is going to take all of his efforts to keep himself and Scarlett alive.

I really liked both of the main characters in this one. I understood why a young Grant ended his relationship with Scarlett. I didn't like that he broke up with her, but I felt he did it to try to protect her. His protective instinct seemed to come out in full force with her, and I never doubted the feelings he had for Scarlett. I felt very badly for all of the terrible things Scarlett had been through in her life, and I liked seeing she and Grant become close to one another again. I also enjoyed how the other McGuire brothers stepped up and protected Scarlett. This was a good book, and a super quick one to read.

fleurette says

That is surprisingly good for a category romance. But that is always a case with Cynthia Eden's romantic suspenses.

Grant was Scarlett's first love but left her breaking her heart. Now, when she is accused of killing her fiancé, she asks Grant for help. But finding a proof that she is not guilty is one thing and catching a killer is another. Especially, then they find out that they are not really over with each other.

The plot is actually well-developed, twisted and complicated which is not obvious for a category romance. And the characters, both the main Scarlett and Grant and the secondary, are pretty interesting. Actually, I have liked the other brothers so much that I will probably read other books in this series even though I rarely read category romances. Still, Cynthia Eden is great in every genre she writes.

Paula Brandon says

A lot of the time, I'm not bothered by all the romantic suspense mini-series out there that involve a clan of brothers who all happen to be in typical Alpha Male high-intensity jobs finding love. I mean, I've been coming across it since the mid-90s.

But sometimes, enough is enough!

Here's another family in romantic suspense land with FIVE brothers who are all SEALs, Rangers or some other masculine profession. To add cliché to cliché, there's a younger sister they're all protective over. Too much of this book involves a brief setting-up of the stories to be found in the next five books. That was time that could have been spent beefing up the thin plot of this book!

When Scarlett Stone becomes the prime suspect in the murder of her ex-fiancee, she turns to Grant McGuire for help. He's an ex-Ranger who broke her heart ten years earlier when he left her to fight for his country. But he promised he'd always look out for her. They are thrown together in their pursuit of the truth - with a killer still out there wanting revenge on Scarlett!

I'm afraid this one felt almost like a bad parody of a romantic suspense novel! Every cliché you can think of is present. And Grant was just *too* Alpha male-y. Most of the time, he just ended up sounding melodramatic and silly! The Intrigue heroes set my pulse racing more than any of the other Harlequin lines, but Grant fell far short. Every line of dialogue he uttered was corny, cheesy, clichéd and obvious! The other characters all fell in line with the expected clichés of this genre.

The storyline itself was thin. The villain I was able to spot the moment they were introduced! If less time had been spent setting up the stories to follow, more characters could have been introduced in this book to up the suspect count!

A bit of a misfire from Cynthia Eden, who usually delivers really good Intrigue books.

Alison says

Scarlett and Grant were high school sweethearts. However, with every tour of duty he felt his humanity slip away so he broke things off with her before she went away to college, brutally.

A decade later Scarlett is accused of murdering her ex-fiancé and Grant is the only one who can prove her innocence.

This was a fast-paced thriller. If you like Cynthia Eden books you will like this one, her writing style is quite distinctive - and that's the real problem I feel like every one of her heroes is essentially the same guy (doesn't matter if he's a vampire, were, ex-SEAL, ranger etc). This book is no different. I also feel her villains are a bit one-dimensional, they are always unhinged, always meticulous, always one of a small group. I contrast this with Laura Griffin's most recent book which I also read this weekend, there the serial killer's identity fit well with the underlying story, his motives and presence were clear without being obvious.

I like Cynthia Eden, but I start one of her books knowing that the characters fall into certain stereotypes. If you like alpha males with tortured souls and damaged women, this is the writer for you.

Alex ? says

2nd chance is my less favourite trope, but it's Cynthia Eden and I like her writing :-)

Overall ok. Too rushed and too insta-again for my taste.

But the general suspense, which connects all books, was interesting and will keep me reading the whole series.

Safety: the heroine wasn't celibate for 10 years! Yay! Nothing mentioned about the hero, but I assume he wasn't too.

Ramblings From A Chaotic Mind says

Loved! Review soon

Sheryl says

I honestly cannot tell y'all, how much I LOVE Cynthia Eden's work and ALL her stories for Harlequin's Intrigue line...

This was so GOOD... and that epilogue... I seriously can't wait to read about the next McGuire in Secrets (and hopefully find out MORE about their parent's murder!!!).

Paula Legate says

This was a second chance romance for Grant and Scarlett. Truth be told they never stopped loving one another. He broke her heart when he broke up with her years ago to join the military. She remembered his last words to her, "if you ever need me" he would be there. 10 years later she needed him. Grant was now an investigator working with his brothers at McGuire Securities. She was accused of and being arrested for the murder of Eric Turner her fiancé.

Just when I thought I had the plot figured out, the story would take off in another direction. This was one of the best books I've ever read. The suspense was so good, and the story was fast paced with a fair amount of action. There were so many suspects weaved throughout the story. Scarlett was cleared early in the story. Someone was now after Scarlett. Grant works with his brothers, and detective Shayne Townsend to find the person that set Scarlett up.

Here is a sample from chapter 10 when Grant was deployed in the military.

"When I was at my weakest, when the blood was on the ground all around me, I thought of you. Only you. You were the one who gave me the strength to fight. To move. To damn well crawl if I had to do it." He leaned forward, and his forehead pressed to hers. "Because I wanted to see you again."