



Embattled Home

J.M. Madden

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His Marine training taught him that failure is never an option regardless of circumstances. That certainly applies to Chad's need to stop Lost and Found's deranged client from using the information he gathered to stalk and abuse his ex. Falling in love with the broken woman and her sweet daughter in the middle of rescuing them is definitely not the best timing. But it's also inevitable. In Book 3 of this heart-warming military romance series, Chad will discover that protecting Lora is a much easier task than proving he's the one man she can finally trust with her heart.

Weeks of no incriminating evidence should have clued him in sooner about who was the real victim. Now Chad Lowell is wracked with guilt after the woman he's assigned to investigate is attacked by her abusive ex-husband right under his nose. Lora and her little girl are in incredible danger, and he vows to protect them at all costs, whether the angry and hurt woman wants him to or not. His Marine training makes the protecting part easy, but nothing he does seems to make Lora want to take a chance on him or his love.

Lora O'Neil left a life of abuse to make a new start for herself and her daughter. When her ex hires Lost and Found Investigative Service to track her down, she's left reeling both physically and emotionally. The private detective that had been watching her for the past couple of months did finally come to her rescue, but does that mean she should now trust him to help her turn their lives around? The sexy former Marine makes her body feel things she thought she'd never feel for a man again, but she just can't imagine what it would take for her to heal enough to ever say yes.

Embattled Home Details

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From Reader Review Embattled Home for online ebook

Jill says

Lora O'Neil hoped that she'd be free of her abusive husband when she divorced. When he hired LNF (*Lost and Found Investigative Services*) to gather evidence against her as an unfit mother to their six year-old daughter, Lora never thought that the man assigned to watch her would rescue her from her ex-husband.

Chad Lowell has seen watching Lora for weeks, hired by her ex to prove her unstable and unsuitable to care for their daughter, Mercy. But Chad has only ever observed Lora as a devoted mother.

War's an ugly business. Lives are lost; injuries, physical, psychological and emotional are sustained. Men and women don't return to civilian lives the same. Chad is a returned veteran and like all the investigators at *Lost and Found Investigative Services*, is disabled. A landmine explosion has left him scarred, with a badly damaged, burnt arm and a missing leg.

Each of the stories in this series details the return of a disabled war vet. Because this is romance each of them finds their other half. So in that respect this is your fairly run-of-the-mill love story. But what J.M. Madden does is pretty rare, giving stories to men (and women) who come home very badly injured physically or damaged emotionally. And not just with a requisite pretty-boy scar.

Each one of these books in this series has been a solid 4 star read. These are lovely stories of good and honorable men who have served their country, paid the price, and finally finding well-deserved joy and happiness. Yeah, I'm a sap and proud of it when it comes to military men who've sacrificed so much. This whole series is recommended.

Steam: 2.5-3

Kate's Corner says

I'm a big fan of this series. There is just something about the H that you want to jump him. J.M. Madden writes beautiful stories with war veterans that also deserve happiness no matter what. 5 Embattled Hearts ★★★★★

As Chad's new assignment the is to watch out for any incriminating evidence as his client has said his ex-wife is neglecting their daughter. Chad has been watching them for 6 weeks and they have nothing until one night.

Ever since Lora has been married and now divorced her ex has been abusing her. In order to protect her daughter she has been living life on the quiet side that is until Lora is nearly raped by her ex but saved by

Chad. Chad feels guilty so he offers protection. This book was lovely ok so it did drag at the beginning a bit but there was a good story to it. Need the other books now.

Karla says

5 Awesome Stars!! Chad's story did not disappoint and was well worth the wait! He is the soldier, the man, the hero I knew he would be!

Chad is haunted by nightmares, has a severely damaged arm, lost a limb, but he remains positive, is kind hearted, determined and sexy as all get out!! J.M. Madden goes where most authors don't dare to go and gives us the "perfect imperfect" hero, and nails it every time!

Lora is a victim of domestic abuse and even though she's divorced, her ex still has it out for her. He is brutal and what he does to her is not easy to read about, but unfortunately, the reality for many woman. Her daughter, Mercedes "Mercy" , is a beacon of light, what a doll, and she plays a huge role in this story. A child's innocence and acceptance can bring the toughest most hardened warriors to their knees, and Mercy works her magic and wins over more than a few hearts. Her interaction with the Lost and Found team was so sweet and beautiful, and it added something extra special to this read.

Chad and Lora don't have an immediate attraction, but a slow build that eventually transpires into a possibility of what could be. Chad lets Lora dictate the relationship, set the pace for intimacy and works through his own insecurities. While the sexual aspect is not as high in this book as others in the series, it is appropriate for this read. Considering what Lora has been through, it would have been ridiculous for it to happen any other way. I was happy that the author didn't base the relationship on sex, but more about self-discovery, limitations, and the characters being comfortable in their own skin, as well as with each other. Not sure if that makes sense, but it felt right to me!

Spending time with Chad's family was another huge plus, we get to see him as son and brother, and he wears all his hats so well. I don't know if it's in the cards, but I would love to see Cheyenne, Chad's sister, end up with one of the men from Lost and Found. What a fierce woman!!

Embattled Home is so much more than Chad and Lora's story, the series is propelled forward as the author weaves more than one plot into this story. They all enhance the read, bring us up to speed on characters we already know and expands on their lives. We are also introduced to more intriguing characters, who no doubt, will get stories of their own.

The set-up and build up for Duncan's story begins here, or so it seems. I love that man, just love him, and if I'm guessing the direction his story is going to take...ooooooh...it's going to be good, but it won't be the next one, because Harper's story needs to be told first. Who's Harper you ask, and why does he go first?! You'll have to read *Embattled Home* to find out!

I had one issue, which is slight, not so much an issue, but I was confused over the timeline and a character. Flynn plays a significant role in this book, and his story was already told in SEAL's Lost Dream, a short featured in the anthology SEALed With A Kiss: Heroes With Heart. He was very disgruntled and unhappy in this book and it threw me off, because he got his HEA. I'm not sure what his deal was, unless Chad's story is before his in the overall scheme of things. Not sure, but it doesn't really matter, I still loved the book and will

not detract from my rating.

Embattled Home is a gripping, intense read, with the ideal blend of suspense, sexual tension, engaging dialogue, familiarity, romance, and new heroes and heroines to love! The Lost and Found series by J.M. Madden is in a class and category all by itself! There is nothing out there like it! Through her stories, the author mixes fiction with reality, and educates the reader on the mental and physical struggles wounded warriors face every day. *Embattled Home* is the epitome of what is at the heart of this series; surviving off the battlefield, acceptance and a sense of normalcy, and it brings it "home" in a big way!

Thank you to J.M. Madden once again for the honor of getting first crack at reading another amazing story in the Lost and Found series!! As always, I am humbled

Linda Sims says

BEAUTIFULLY WRITTEN ROMANCE

Chad Lowell ex marine works for the Lost and Found agency, for the past few months he's been assigned to watch Lora O'Neil. The agency has been hired by her ex husband who needs proof that she's a bad mother to their daughter. But things are not what they seem. All becomes clear when Chad has to rescue Lora.

Like a lot of fans of this series I've been waiting for Chad's story. But it was certainly well worth the wait. Everything about this is just right, it's not often I read a book that is so satisfying. The characters are very well written, in particular I loved Chad he's one of the best heroes to grace the pages of any romance I've read. He and Lora together were a perfect match, Lora has not had things easy she's wary of men altogether and to start with she resented Chad and was not shy in letting him know. But Chad can see beneath her hurt and knows just how to approach her. It was their relationship that made this book so special. The author has the real knack of putting across all the emotion and passion to the reader. The rest of the story wasn't too shabby either. I hope the next book won't be too long in coming.

CC says

Re read.

This one was good, just a little slow. The heroine is a bit too damaged for my tastes. I was happy she was able to move forward, but I totally did not get his attraction to her. The daughter was cute. But sadly wise for her age.

But this series is just great so I am continuing to re read all the books while I patiently wait for Duncan's book!

Mei says

This series is just so hreatwarming! :D

Here we have Chad's story.

Chad had his hands full with Lora. Poor Chad and poor Lora.

I'm always so angry when reading about domestic violence and here Lora was repeatedly raped and beaten and even if she reported to the law, that same law ignored her. That kind of corruption is really gut-churning. In these cases I would submit every single one of those criminals to the same treatment - eye for an eye!!!!

The patience Chad had with Lora was incredible. More incredible because he had his issues with his wounds and his amputated leg! What a fantastic person he is!

Lora was a strong woman. Even if with everything against her, she saved herself and her daughter and created a safe and nice inviorment for both of them. She obviously have issues with trust and with her identity as a woman, but she's ready to do everything to make things better. I admired her very much!

The story was interesting and I could still feel the wonderful friendship the veterans share.

I'll be waiting for Dancan's and Harper's books! :D

P.S. I loved Zake and Chad, but John is still my favorit!

Duchess Nicole says

My FAVORITE stories are the ones when a man protects a woman in need. I like all kinds of heroes...gammas are my fave, but I love the alpha and the beta too...as long as they all act like men. I'm so not the modern feminist. No shame. This installment in the Lost and Found series is all about a woman who has been abused...pretty horrifically abused...by her ex husband. The hero was initially hired by the ex to watch her and try to catch her doing something with her daughter that he could use against her to get custody. Only it's apparent after a couple of months that she's a wonderful mother. The ex is a terrible human being, and it raises the protective instincts of our hero. Swoon! There are some super squishy love words that were a little over the top for me. But overall, this his all the marks on a great romantic suspense. All of the books in this series are under 200 pages, but they read like full length novels. Easy to read in one long sitting.

Kari Kaz says

I love Chad and I love his story but I had a harder time connecting with this heroine. I adored Shannon and Ember in the first two books, but I couldn't really picture Chad and Lora together. Then when they do get together it happens very fast. Considering how short the book is, it took her forever to realize that Chad is a great guy. This is my least favorite of the series so far, however I'm looking forward to the next book and finding out what happens to the rest of the guys.

*Thank you lassie for lending it to me.

Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says

4.5 Coming home stars

Spoilers

Wow another great book for the Lost and Found Series!!!! I was looking forward to Chad's book since The Embattled Road and it did not disappoint. This book starts out raw and shows the ugly and true side of domestic violence, rape and it's lingering effects.

Chad Lowell has been watching Lora O'Neil for weeks now. His client, Lora's ex husband swears she is a wild party girl and a danger to their daughter Mercy. It is Chad's job to find some dirt on her and to report back, but in all the time he has been watching the beautiful Lora the only thing he sees is that she is a great mother. One night while watching her home he hears a crash of glass and a female scream and goes to check it out. What he finds is Lora's Ex husband his client attacking and trying to rape Lora right under his nose. Feeling guilty and heartsick he vows to protect Lora and her daughter from her evil ex no matter what!

Chad:

I loved Chad he was a southern sweetheart , who knows how to treat a woman with respect and love. He oozes southern charm! He is very protective, brave, with a strong sense to do the right thing. Funny, laid back, and truly understanding, he gives Lora the time and strength she needs to overcome all the pain she is dealing with.

“I’m sorry. It just pisses me off to no end that a guy would do this to a woman. I’m a Texas boy. Our women are treated with the respect they deserve. I want to take your ex out and beat the shit out of him, then hang him by his balls for the vultures to eat.”

“Then that’s all you need. I’m not pressuring you for anything. Would I like to be in a relationship with you? Hell yes, I would. Though it’s unethical and unwise, I’m seriously attracted to you. But there’s no time limit on it. I’ve been attracted to you for a long time and I’m willing to wait ten times that long if that’s what it takes.”

“I will never judge you,” he whispered into the darkness, his words hitting her heart like a cannonball. “What was done to you should never happen to any woman. I know you feel like you need to make a stand against him, but I don’t want you to rush this. I plan on being here for the long haul, no matter what. Okay?”

Lora:

Dealing with being raped, beaten, abused, and harassed by her ex husband and ex mother in law, Lora is fearful of men! She doesn't trust anyone, and feels alone, with only her daughter, Mercy, she is determined to protect her at all costs. I love that Lora's character didn't just jump into the sack with a guy after the abuse she went through. J.M. Madden showed the real side of rape, abuse and the after effects. I love that even with all the pain and fear Lora has a strong side that is trying to resurface. She wants to reclaim her life and not let her ex husband steal anymore of her life or happiness away, but like true life it is a long road to healing. It made Lora very human and likable.

“Do you think you can...” She paused to drag in a deep breath. “Do you think you can kiss me?” Chad straightened in the water, his eyes latching onto hers. “Is that what you want?” She forced her head up and down, but began to have second thoughts. Chad must have seen something in her expression because he shook his head. “As much as I want to, I’m not going to kiss you. You’re going to kiss me. That way you will know when you need to stop. If you need to stop. Do you understand?”

Lora cringed, just a bit. “I know it’s not ideal, but I’m tired of living with him on my shoulder. I can’t do anything without worrying. I’m ready to take back my life.”

“Chad, stop it. I’m not crying because you hurt me. I’m crying because it was more beautiful than I ever could have imagined. You need to not freak out every time I react to something. You’re making me grow, and I appreciate that more than I can ever tell you.”

I love the patience, strength, and encouragement that Chad gives Lora. He is there for her and puts her first before his own wants and needs. I loved how Lora found the courage to go for Chad. Even when she would get frightened, freak out, run, or cry she would still come back and try again. They both were true overcomers. I loved Chad with Mercy. I thought the whole book was very realistic. I love J.M. Madden's no nonsense, cut through the crap to get to the heart and beauty of real life writing style. I am a fan girl for life and I will read anything she writes!!!!

Favorite moment from the book:

Moving from the couch, he went down on one knee in front of Mercy, sitting on the floor. He reached into his pocket and pulled out a tiny gold ring. “Mercy O’Neil, will you marry me and be my awesome daughter? To have and to hold, in muddy times and clean? And help me keep your mother happy and safe?” Mercy nodded her head as hard as she could, laughing and crying at the same time. She flung her arms around Chad’s neck and sobbed. Lora’s eyes were leaking as well, so overcome with love that he had thought to include Mercy. But then he turned his damp eyes to her and she was rocked with the deep-in-her-heart knowledge of what was coming next. Levering to his feet, still holding Mercy against him, he circled the table to kneel in front of her. Then he reached into that pocket again and pulled out a shining white gold solitaire ring. His eyes incredibly kind, he held it out. “Lora O’Neil, would you do me the honor of wearing my ring? I promise to protect you and love you as long as I’m allowed, in whatever way I’m allowed, and I promise to always have Starlight mints at the

ready.”

I can't wait for Duncan's book!

<http://jessicasoverthetopbookobsessio...>

Barbara? says

****Re-read April 2016****

So, on re-read, I have to say I still absolutely LOVE Chad and he was the perfect hero. He was so patient and kind to Lora. I loved how he was with Mercy too. But this time, I grew impatient with Lora. I understand her circumstances and they were horrible but I really needed her to accept Chad's love a little quicker. It was still a wonderful read.

Originally read September 2015

This was the most amazing book to me. I've loved the series so far but this one has become my favorite. Chad has to be the most considerate, patient man I've ever read about. The way he eases Lora into a relationship and the way he treats her daughter is phenomenal. Even with his own insecurities, he gently pushes Lora to grow and come out of her shell.

Lora, in turn, proves to Chad that no matter his disabilities or physical limitations, he is still just a man, a man worth loving. Each of them heals the hurts and anguish in the other.

This series as a whole, has made me look at the way we have treated our veterans through the years, how they are neglected for the mental and physical care they need, and just the respect they deserve. And how they want to be treated as just regular people, not charity cases or with pity. It's been an eye opener for me.

Mo says

I really liked the first few books in this series. This one fell a bit flat for me. It took me ages to just “get into” it. I cannot explain why this was. It is very unlike me to put a book down and not read for a whole day but that is what happened yesterday.

The first half dragged and then “something” happened that I was expecting and then it was sort of over quickly... I think the time span for the whole book is maybe 3 weeks. Not sure if Lora would have moved the relationship so fast with Chad, given her previous experience with her husband.

Then again, maybe I am just being too fussy.

I would still recommend this book.

Auntee says

Compared to the other books in the series, this one was just OK for me. I wanted something better for Chad-- he was such a sweetheart! There's was no real heat in this book until about the 80% mark, which was understandable given all the crap the heroine's ex put her through. The heroine had a real distrust of men, and Chad had to work verry hard to win her over. But I wanted something really passionate for Chad, but didn't get it. It was more sweet than hot. I will say with all the patience and determination Chad displayed, he is definitely husband -worthy material! 3 1/2 stars

Mirjana **DTR - Down to Read**** says**

I seriously can't get enough!

Another great installment to a great series!

And now I try to patiently wait for the next book. Who's it going to be about? When's it going to come out?! J.M. Madden I hope your fingers are flying across that keyboard!

Denise ~The Procrastinating Book Diva~ says

4.5 Beautiful Slow Burning Stars

Just when I think I couldn't love another *LNF* Hero as much as Zeke, J.M. decides to prove me wrong and deliver the perfection that is *Embattled Home*, Chad's story. I'll admit to dragging my feet getting to this because I have been anxiously anticipating Duncan's story since , so was extremely disappointed that his book wasn't next. Add in the overly used hero protects heroine from an abusive ex cliché and I just knew I was gearing up for absolutely nothing special. Oh, how wrong I was!!!

Authors take heed - when writing a book featuring a heroine who has suffered severe and traumatic abuse...This. Is. How. It's. Done. I'm all for the fantasy, but in *real life* abused women don't jump into bed after knowing a man for a few days, let alone a few hours. Trust has to be slowly built over time after trauma, boundaries tested, adult conversations had. I realize this may not be sexy to some, but to me the

epitome of sexy is a Hero patiently supporting, protecting, and loving a heroine as she heals both physically and mentally. So if you're looking for plenty of hot sex, you won't find it here. As a matter of fact **nothing** sexual happens until at least 90%, but what leads up to it is a refreshingly chaste slow burn that smolders beneath the surface right from the start. Chad and Lora's journey is not fraught with over the top melodrama that crashes into you like a violent storm. On the contrary, it is sweet and languid; fuzzy and warm. Their connection with Lora's daughter Mercy (the cute 6 y.o. quintessential stealer of scenes and hearts), the secondary characters, and each other was palpably visceral and unforgettable.

J.M. does a magnificent job of intertwining the lives of the unwanted, unloved, overlooked, and underappreciated and making them shine. And just when I thought she couldn't possibly do it any better she gave me perfection..... *imperfectly perfect perfection.*

Erika says

Another entertaining book, filled with elements of tragedy, love and warmth. AS much as I enjoyed it, I still think my favorite in the series is Embattled Minds.

In this book though, Madden writes another wonderful hero, Chad. Chad seems to have a little more "game" with the ladies than the other heroes had, but even he had felt his share of rejection from women. (It wasn't quite clear to me if he had had a lot of opportunities to be intimate with women since his injury, but I got the sense that he hadn't been completely sex starved.) Chad was a wonderfully patient, protective and supportive man to Lora. He was also a fantastic dad figure to Lora's daughter, Mercy. It was very heartwarming to see Chad take Lora and Mercy into the protective shelter of his arms.

Lora had endured a violent marriage and was understandably afraid to be intimate again. Chad respected that and things moved very slowly, meaning that this book didn't have much sexual steam till past the 65% point. However, because this book isn't long, 65% isn't too many pages!!

Overall it was a good read. I will definitely continue to read this series and I am anxious to see what happens with Aiden, Harper and especially Duncan. I am hoping that man finds a lady-love (perhaps the doctor that is helping Aiden?)
