



## Live By The Team

*Cindy Skaggs*

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## **Live By The Team** Cindy Skaggs

"A blindfolded rollercoaster ride" with a staggering pace that promises to keep you up all night.

SSgt. Ryder was born, bred, and enhanced as a warrior, but when he returns home to his new wife--exiled from the Army along with the rest of his disgraced team--he faces mounting anger and paranoia. Something shady followed Ryder back from the desert, and he disappears to protect his wife, but his departure leaves a vacuum filled with intrigue.

Lauren Ryder married thinking she had finally found stability, until her new husband disappeared. In six months, she's lost everything that mattered, and now a madman has her in his sights. Ryder's return lands her in deeper danger from a formidable enemy. As the threats escalate, so does the heat, but even if Ryder can save Lauren from the forces mounting against them, will they survive what he has become?

"The chemistry between Lauren and Ryder jumped off the pages. Exactly why we read romance." (Beth Rhodes)

Military trained, medically enhanced, designed to kill. The Team Fear novels are fast paced, with twists and turns and a side of steamy. The surviving members of Team Fear are out of the military and in a world of secrets, lies, and cover-ups in this new romantic suspense series by Cindy Skaggs.

## **Live By The Team Details**

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Author : Cindy Skaggs

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# From Reader Review Live By The Team for online ebook

## Linda Walters says

Lots of action and tension throughout the book. The first chapter (well, actually it's the Prologue) that starts out on that note, easily setting the tone. It's intense, but you need to know that this is an adult story with violence and there will be martial sex.

Now having said that, you also have to know it was a well written story with quite an unexpected twist or two. Especially towards the last quarter of the book. One I suspected and a couple I never saw coming! Well done author, I like that! I have to admit this book had me on the edge of my seat more than one time.

I think that Ryder did the best job of describing who Lauren was.

" Lauren's personality matched her big heart and her boundless energy."

Do I think this story has a cliffhanger? Not sure because much of the story was concluded.

But the baddies didn't all get rounded up; they are still out there. So, the adventures continue. But you can stop right here if you want and probably be satisfied with Lauren and Ryder trying to overcome so much. That part does come to a satisfactory end, to my way of thinking. But more adventure is open to you IF you want to continue.

I just took a moment and checked on future stories. And it looks like what I suspected was brewing between Rose (another Team member) and Debi (Laura's BFF) earned them their own story in, "Fight by the Team". Debi was a really good friend to Lauren and I couldn't help but like her as they had each others back in this book. Debi had a bit of a mean streak in the ways she showed her disapproval about certain things. Not hateful but she does get her point across and it did make me smile. She was definitely creative. I'm thinking about getting this next book.

"I received a copy of this book in exchange for a review".

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## Susan Trewick says

I loved this book so much, it's definitely one of my favourites so far this year. I was hooked right from the beginning and hung on for the ride of my life. I loved Ryder, I totally understood why he left Lauren but I was so pleased she gave him a second chance. There were lots of twists and turns through the book, one I didn't see coming at all. Ryder is the ultimate alpha male and a kick ass warrior as well. Lauren is no pushover and after what she goes through in this book I'm surprised she was still standing at the end! This is a wonderful, action packed read and an amazing start to a new series. I can't wait to read more about team fear.

\* \* Reviewed for Sweet and Spicy Reads-ARC provided for honest review \* \*

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## Katherine Paschal says

Ryder was part of an elite military team that had been experimented on. When one of his team mates commits an atrocity, Ryder realizes it is only time before he too could snap, forcing him to leave his wife

Lauren. When he returns six months later to officially let her go, he realizes that she is in serious trouble and only he can help her.

I was instantly engaged with this story, right from the first chapter when Ryder walks into a hostage situation regardless of the consequences. The book grabbed me and never let me go. I love a good romantic suspense, and that was just what this was. I also appreciated that there was not over the top sexual encounters (sure a few hot moment's here and there but not super graphic). Most of the story dealt with the emotional turmoil between the characters mixed with near dangerous situations and investigations. There was never a dull moment in the plot and I found myself losing track of time as I read.

I liked that the book did not have to introduce the characters to each other, it started with them already married but estranged. They already knew what the other liked and had ideally planned to spend their lives together. The book alternated randomly between Lauren and Ryder's narration, which I love in a romance so that both sides are understood (by me, not necessarily each other). I really liked both characters. Lauren was feisty and refused to be a victim, an interesting mix of book smarts and spunky personality. Ryder had that tall, dark protector thing going on, but he liked that Lauren could defend herself and bragged about how smart she was. The dynamic between them was at times heartbreaking because of all the turmoil, emotional baggage and secrets between them.

I rooted for Ryder to save the day and win back Lauren (for realies this time) and would love to read more by this author. The other team members were introduced and I can't wait for their stories as well as the underlying mystery of who is behind everything.

I received this book form the author in return for my honest review. For more reviews visit my blog at <http://smadasbooksmack.blogspot.com/>

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### **Emmyjo says**

Wow this book is great. You start to wonder if Ryder is just crazy from being with the military or something. Ryder doesn't have fear for anything. His team and him are there for each other and when something happens to one of them... It happens to all of them.

So when Ryder feels leaving his wife is for the best. Ryder does it, leaves Lauren without a word.

Lauren waited for Ryder to return, but after 6 months she gave up. Had to move on with her life without the man she loves.

Just when Lauren thinks things won't get any worse... Ryder shows up like he's never actually been gone.

Things really change from there..

Lauren thinks Ryder is just being paranoid about everything...

But between Ryder's secrets and their marriage basically over can they rebuild?

Ryder believes Lauren is in danager, can he make her realize that she is? Ryder only wants to stay long enough to protect her, but can he protect her from him?

While on the run, Lauren learns more about Team Fear... Can she get Ryder to stay and not run? Will they be found?

Check out the first book in this series.

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### **Tina Lynne says**

A good military suspense story full of action and romance is a sure fire way to get me engrossed in a book! Cindy Skaggs is a new to me author and if this book is any indication, I am going to be a fan for many books to come. Live by the Team is the first in the Team Fear series, a book that focuses on the men who return home from war and a secret military experiment gone wrong. Everything about this book will hook you. If you love a fast paced story filled with danger and adrenaline, this one is for you. If you love a second chance romance and a story of a couple willing to do whatever it takes to protect each other, this one is a winner. If you love a well written book that shares a story and develops as you go, keeping you guessing at what will happen, this one is what you need.

This book reads like a Jason Bourne type flick on the big screen. I could not get over how engrossed I was in the story. I love the high intensity of action and adventure. It is harder to get that fast paced story across in a written scenario without weighing the book down, but Cindy does an amazing job. As you read, you glean pieces of what has happened and learn as you go. When new details are revealed and people are introduced, it adds a new piece to the puzzle. I was always curious but never lost, just wanting to know what was coming next.

Something I appreciated about this book was the romance. This couple is married, something rare for this genre (at least from that I have read the past few years), a couple that has had their share of ups and downs but oozes obvious love, lust, and passion for each other. Ryder and Lauren are both strong in different ways. They compliment each other and the rope that connects them cannot be easily severed. Ryder's fear for Lauren causes him to question everything and attempt to fix things the only way he knows how. These two are strong headed and stubborn. I loved watching them collide and get back up again, knowing that communication and resolution would come. Their relationship is filled with pot holes but together is the only way to make it in the end. They come out stronger and I adored that part of the story.

I am in love with the Team Fear Series and I cannot wait for more. I am dying to meet the rest of the team and get to the bottom of the over arching storyline! This book has set the bar and I cannot wait to see what Cindy has in store for the team. If this is the first book, you can be sure that it will keep getting better and better.

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### **WhiskeyintheJar/Kyraryker says**

This was in the script and had elements of Elite Ops - Lora Leigh (sexy times take over a lot), Hard Ink - Laura Kaye (military men having to band together to fight corruption), and Sin Brothers - Rebecca Zanetti (enhanced soldiers).

The enhanced soldiers aspect wasn't explained the best, not a lot of detail about how the hero's elite group was given a medical cocktail to not feel fear, just needed to be flushed out more to be grasped and willing to follow along. One of the hero's friends is featured a lot and the hero of the next book but the others in his group are introduced towards the end and that's all we basically get.

The hero and heroine's romance begins before the book begins (they are already married), so I definitely missed the falling in love aspect. The romance leans heavily on sexy times and "I can't live without you! But it's too dangerous to be together! But wait, I can't live without you!" that the hero ping pongs back and forth.

There's the main storyline of the hero possibly being in danger from the shady black ops company that medically enhanced him and his group and some foreclosure and meth lab criminal group that is endangering

his wife. Yeah, the foreclosure/meth storyline felt a bit unneeded and as it was the most focused on plot, I can't help but feel what was really the point since we already have a pretty interesting super soldiers and shady government company being nefarious. Obviously, we'll get more about the shady government/super soldiers storyline in the next in the series but I still feel like I didn't get enough here.

This was interesting but the other series I mentioned that this had elements from kind of did it better and since those went for many books, I have a bit of fatigue about this plot. This was well written, lacked a bit in the romance department but was entertaining, a win for a Kindle Freebie download but not really anything that was new or makes me want to rush out to buy the next in the series.

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### **Erin says**

Read this one in one day, despite working a 12 hour day. I really liked the characters and cared about what happened to them. Lauren is pretty kick ass and I felt like her insecurities about Ryder and his feelings were understandable. Most of the time I just want to smack characters who can't see that the person they love is making decisions based on their own deep feelings. Thank you, Cindy, for not making me want to smack Lauren. And Ryder - so hot. I hope in future books we get more of Rose's and Debi's stories (and maybe them together?). The one thing that bothered me a little was how many times Lauren was kidnapped. Girl's gonna have her own PTSD issues after all that.

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### **Jo Ann says**

Throw in a blender equal parts Hard Ink by Laura Kaye, Associates Series by Carolyn Crane and Blood n Roses by Callie Hart, add a pinch of I-Team by Pamela Clare and a dash of Rock Chick by Kristen Ashley, shake well and pour over ice and you have the perfect Live By the Team book cocktail!! Loved it!!

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### **Dana Busenbark says**

Who Is Ryder and why does he just walk through the police line at PFC Madigan's place? What's going on? When Ryder goes inside the residence, past a pizza box with rancid smelling cheese, what does he find? What happens as he's talking to 'Mad Dog' Madigan? Who is Lauren? What's going on? Who is Smythe and why do I hate the slimeball right off the bat? What is he doing? How long has Ryder been out of pocket from Lauren? When he shows up at one of her jobs, what does she do? After her shift ends, Ryder returns, having told her he would meet her at their house. What does he find and what does he do when he returns to Lauren's work? When does he move to follow her to where she's staying with a co-worker/friend, what happens? Talk about a suspenseful situation. What information Ryder garners with Rose's help from the people at the location where he finds Lauren is unknown 1/4 of the way into the book. Though we do know that Smythe is somehow involved here. What does Rose find at the location? What was Rose when he was in the service? I love Rose's answer when Lauren asks him his first name. You're going to need to read this book to find out! One of the most apropos statements in the book is made by Rose, "Live by the team, die by the team. Those are the rules you set in motion." Who are the members of Team Fear? What is that team? How many other teams are there? When members of Team Fear start turning up dead, what's going on? I look forward to there hopefully being a continuation of this book. It leaves on a bit of a cliffhanger, though not a traditional one.

RECEIVED THIS BOOK AS A GIFT FOR A FAIR/HONEST REVIEW and REVIEWER FOR Bloggin' With M.Brennan.

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### **Merissa (Archaeoliberalian) says**

This is an action-packed, steamy suspense featuring a husband and wife. This puts a new twist on the romance, but trust me, it makes it no less thrilling. You learn the backstory slowly which enhances the whole feeling of it, whilst learning the current situation and characters. I won't go into the story itself, after all, that's what the synopsis is for. However, I will say that there is not a single dull moment in this story. It is full of twists, turns, suspense, intrigue and steam! Ryder and Lauren have a lot to deal with, but they are full of spit and sass and are fully capable of dealing with whatever is thrown at them, with one exception.

A wonderful read with no editing or grammatical errors to distract from the story, this story is absolutely believable and I really can't wait to learn more about Team Fear! I'm really hoping that Rosie and Debi have their own story! Definitely recommended.

Merissa  
Archaeoliberalian - I Dig Good Books!

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### **Elaine says**

Rating 4.5/5

What an action packed thrilling read this proved to be! It is filled with quandaries, mysteries and threats, most of which are from unknown sources. Ryder has been in a secret military group, experimented on to create a fearless fighter and member of the group known as Team Fear. Suddenly the experiments and missions cease. Following the group's medical discharge something is happening to individuals, something Ryder fears will happen to himself, too. After trying to save one of his team involved in an armed standoff with the police, he discovers the man's wife and child have been horrendously killed just before the blood covered team mate commits suicide, shooting himself in front of Ryder. Fearing he too may become as dysfunctional and because he truly loves his wife, Lauren, without explaining to her, he disappears from her life trying to protect her from himself but leaving her vulnerable to the machinations of others and unknowingly placing her in greater danger. When he returns to check up on her, the action hots up in every sense of the term! She is intelligent, feisty and devastated by his disappearance and the loss of their home, struggling to continue her studies whilst working two jobs. Can she trust him to remain? Dare she?

With kidnapping, murder, attempted murder, fraud and so much more this is a fast paced, gritty thriller, a real page turner that keeps you enthralled. The characters are well developed, their dialogue believable and, at times, just so realistic that it is funny. The plot is so full of twists and turns it makes the journey a roller coaster that you're riding blindfolded, not able to see just what's coming round the next corner. This is the first in a new series and I can't wait to read the sequel!

Many thanks to everyone concerned in this novel's blog tour for providing materials for my blog post and an ARC of the novel in exchange for my honest review.

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**★???** (Nix) says

I love getting some action/adventure/suspense in my romance books! As a military wife, I can relate to some of Lauren's struggles in this book ... Well, not the chemically enhanced super soldier part (although it made me think vaguely of Captain America gone bad, with fearlessness as the main enhancement instead of superhuman strength). What I feel is one of this author's greatest strengths is her ability to write compelling and true to life dialogue. I love the way the characters talk and felt myself smirking at how accurate I felt some of their interactions to be. All in all, I can't wait to see where she goes with the rest of the series! It'll be interesting to get into the minds of more members of Team Fear.

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**Beth Rhodes says**

Gritty, harsh, real...

The suspense, including the idea that man can alter another human being to make them "better", got me in the feels. The team itself might think they are free of fear, but the book shows us that fear comes in all different varieties... and to be human is to fear. To fear but then overcome the fear to do good is the courage that creates heroes.

The chemistry between Lauren and Ryder jumped off the pages. I really enjoyed their journey as much as I enjoyed the plot twists that kept them both from giving in to the emotions that would make them succumb to the HEA. Wonderfully done by Cindy Skaggs. Exactly why we read romance... we want them to work for it!

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**Bjaynes1220 says**

I just almost don't know how to begin this review. Ryder went thru hell in the military, and what they did to him and his team is unimaginable! How he loves his wife, but knows he isn't good for her, can really break a heart. This book was filled with so much suspense, twists, heart break, but I loved every single page. I am partial to military men and their strength and vulnerability when it comes to the woman they love. I highly recommend this book, and it will be read by my husband also.

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**LBAS Book Blogs says**

Can I just start by saying that I loved this book. The moment Lauren lost control of her truck and it went hurtling down the hill I was hooked. Give me a good romantic suspense story and you have me wrapped around your little finger. And this was a very good one.

Okay. There were little quirky moments that made me want to smack the characters upside the head. Like when Ryder pulls Lauren out of the accident and they end up making out in a ditch. And I was yelling at them. Hang on a minute! She's just had an accident. She has a head injury and a possible concussion and you're making out? In a ditch?



Or when they were in the Meth house and Ryder and Rose were going to interrogate the guys who'd abducted Lauren. And she didn't want them killed. Seriously, girl. You married a warrior! He's going to maim and kill anyone who causes you harm. Get with the program.

You see what I mean. There were a few of these quirks but they didn't detract from the story because I was right there with the characters cheering them on or smacking them upside the head. LOL

The story is well written and balanced well between the suspense and the romance. The chemistry between Lauren and Ryder is pretty spot on for a young married couple who are getting a second chance after a separation. I understood Ryder's reasons for leaving and totally get Lauren's reaction and reluctance to get back with him. The situation with the abduction is right up Ryder's street as he goes into protection mode.

This is one of my favourite romantic suspense books of 2016. Most definitely. Roll on the next book in the series. #TeamFear all the way!

4.5 Ryder Lovebites!!!!

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