



## Don't Call Me Hero

*Eliza Lentzski*

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## **Don't Call Me Hero** Eliza Lentzski

It's been over a year since Cassidy Miller retired from the United States Marine Corps, but try telling that to her nightmares. She knew that coming back after eight years in a war zone wouldn't be easy, but she'd underestimated the real difficulties of transitioning back to civilian life. War is hell, but the aftermath is endless.

Looking for a fresh start, she's left her friends and career in Minneapolis to be a police officer in northern Minnesota. It's in the tiny town of Embarrass where she learns more about Julia Desjardin. The city prosecutor is cool, professional, and untouchable. But she and Cassidy have history, and Cassidy isn't going to let her easily forget that.

For all their surface differences, Cassidy and Julia have more in common than they first realized—both are reluctant to hand over their pasts to be judged and studied. But it might take someone just as damaged as the other to help each cope with the skeletons in their respective closets.

## **Don't Call Me Hero Details**

Date : Published November 1st 2014

ISBN :

Author : Eliza Lentzski

Format : Kindle Edition 270 pages

Genre : Lgbt, Gblt, Lesbian, Romance, War, Military Fiction

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## **From Reader Review Don't Call Me Hero for online ebook**

### **Clare Lydon says**

This was my first Eliza Lentzski book, and it hit all the right notes. Brilliant story, compelling characters, enough zigs and zags to keep you guessing even though you know it's going to be a HEA. At least, I hoped it was. I went into this not expecting to be blown away, but I was wrong. There aren't many lesfic books that come along and knock my socks off, but this one did. Memorable.

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### **Renata says**

Call me corny, but a romance book isn't totally satisfactory to me if the characters don't say "I love you" to each other. I missed it in this book, which was otherwise a good book. The investigation storyline didn't keep me interested, I knew who was the "bad guy" all along, so I just skipped the pages about it. A sequel would be nice, I would like to read about them saying "I love you" to each other.

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### **Netty says**

Didn't realise this was so similar to SQ...

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### **Les Read says**

The beauty of books is the exposure that it gives readers to life experiences that may never be their own. This is the first novel that I've read where it features a character with a military background. I have friends that have served (some, still serving) in the military, but the extent of my knowledge is what they feel comfortable sharing with me. What Cassie goes through in adjusting to civilian life seems to mirror a lot of the stories that I've heard from soldiers returning from war. Though, I can't speak for the authenticity of the details or the experience, I can say that this is an important story featuring two complex characters who are both deeply affected by the ravages of war, that find love and comfort with each other. Oh, love.

Cassie and Julia's first encounter is less than ideal, but the chemistry between the two sizzles from start to finish. This isn't your average, idealistic fairy-tale and there's really not a lot of fluff. There's a gritty intensity to the story, and I would say that it is less about romance than it is about passionate love. If a book could give you bruises by just reading it, Don't Call Me Hero would be on that list. The main characters challenge each other, fight with each other, and tear through the others' defenses (and clothes) like their house was on fire.

Also, you'll want to get your Winter Jacket (har har) out for this one. Julia Desjardin is the epitome of ice queen, and her character remains chilly for a significant portion of the novel. The first time her character showed a bit of warmth... it's like water to a nomad walking under the blazing sun in the desert for a million years. You might even think it's a mirage of an oasis. She's an interesting counterpoint to Cassie, who burns with her desire to do good for her community.

Take heed... This is not a tale for the faint of heart! This is like a tattooed, chain-smoking Disney princess fighting for PETA and saving the world while having a lot of hot sex with her Prince(ss) Charming with a whip in her hand. The die-hard romance in me winced a little reading through this one, but really, I loved every word of it!

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## **Megzz says**

I almost, ALMOST gave it 5 stars, but decided on 4 for just a few reasons.

God, Eliza Lentzski is such a talented writer. Her books are always beautiful, they're so easy to read, the writing flows, and the dialogues feel real.

Cassidy is so lovely, I fell in love with her the minute I read about her. She's the perfect paradoxical mix of strength and vulnerability. Her clumsiness and the way she feels ill at ease in society after her time at war is extremely endearing, and her story is heart breaking.

It took me a long while to warm up to Julia. Many times I found myself swearing out loud about how much of a bitch she was. But once her true colors showed, I just couldn't resist. When Cassidy is this brave woman who moves in the world with a shield of humility, Julia is the opposite: she is terrified but moves in the world as if she owns it. Both women are two pieces of a puzzle that fit together perfectly. I think Julia is the sexiest character I have ever read about. I'm not usually a big fan of professional lesbians wearing tight skirts and high heels, but it's hard not to be affected by someone like Julia, whose displayed intelligence and confidence are simply irresistible. She becomes even more attractive, to the reader and to Cass, when she starts showing emotions and signs of weakness. Great characterization all round!

The book is also very sexy. VERY. The sex scenes are ones of the hottest I've read in romance novels, without being vulgar or crude.

I love their relationship too. The pace at which they slowly open up to each other, warm up to each other, is very realistic and keeps the reader interested until the end. It's quite a heavy book. It's not the typical romance story with fluffy moments that make your stomach flutter. It's a very slow build, a push and pull kind of relationship, during which the girls are finding themselves again after years of hiding and running away from their respective closeted skeletons.

The last third of the book had me biting my nails for hours! I love the storyline, the investigation putting Cassidy and Julia in a battle leading to a betrayal that breaks not only the characters' hearts but the reader's as well.

I wasn't so fond of the setting, though: American small town, attorney vs detective. This context is overused in lesbian novels but balanced out by a plot that's very original.

I wish we had "lighter" moments too. I love angst and I think it's essential to a good love story, but some more sweet moments would have helped the anguish I felt during the whole book.

That's maybe why I really need a sequel! Those two have been through a lot and the book ends without giving that much satisfaction to the reader. An epilogue would have been nice. I want to know about their happily ever after!

In any case, this genre definitely needs more writers like Lentzski!

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### **Luce says**

Loved this book! I read it in one shot - so well written with perfect pacing. I couldn't put it down. When I first read the synopsis I thought the characters sounded much like an SVU fanfic with Olivia a cop with emotional baggage and Alex Cabot, the city prosecutor, a rich ice princess in stiletto heels & designer suits. I was right about the similarities but it ends there. I can't decide which character I loved more - Cassidy is a recently retired Marine who is dealing with PTSD. Her PTSD isn't as severe as Rey's in Battle Scars but debilitating nonetheless. She voluntarily leaves the Minneapolis police force where she was put on a desk job to take a cop position in a small town to get a new start and not be stuck at a desk. In some ways she is younger than her age - shy and awkward when she first meets Julia. Julia, an imposing, beautiful woman who has built impenetrable walls around herself. Slowly we get to know her as Cass breaks down her walls, brick by brick. Others have said this book is very sexy. I couldn't agree more. But it isn't just a romance - there is a mystery to solve - someone is diverting money from the town's coffers.

I just noticed there is a sequel, Damaged Goods. Guess what I'm reading next!

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### **Val says**

Great book and the relationship between the mains was riveting as the reader watches it unfold. Can't wait to read the next in the series. Yeah, I think I'll do that...right now.

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### **Tiff says**

I can't believe I just got around to reading this book. So glad I finally did. Great read, that is relatively face paced and was a great book to escape into.

Cassidy Miller is a Marine Corps veteran. After serving two tours in Afghanistan, she heads home and enrolls in the Minneapolis police academy. After a year on the job the horrors of war are still effecting her. PTSD is a bitch, and the nightmares won't quit. Cassidy decides to try her hand at becoming a cop in a small town, maybe the change in scenery and a slower pace will help her heal.

Julia Desjardin is the the city attorney for Embarrass, Minnesota. She is an absolute ice princess. Beautiful, smart, rich and does not let anyone close to her. Julia is a fascinating character, you could not help but be drawn to her. She had an air of mystery surrounding her. I wanted to know what made her tick. Julia could not be any more different from Cassidy, but these two are drawn together.

Eliza Lentzski writes beautiful characters, who are flawed, but have such amazing hearts. This book is full of angst, mystery, and a great love story. This book is also very sexy if you know what I mean.

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## **Fia says**

There's the thing. Many authors like to write in first POV. Some of them - or a lot of them - suck at that, to put it nicely. Then there are those, who know what they're doing. And that's Eliza Lentzski case. All her books are in first POV. And while I'm not a fan of that, with her.... I wouldn't want it any other way.

This was an amazing book. Eliza did it again. So why 4 stars instead of 5? Or let's say 4.5.

- the ending felt too rushed. Julia was forgiven too quickly. She wasn't exactly nice to Cassidy - and I don't mean only the trial. Maybe a couple of more pages would do good. Perhaps an epilogue. I'd like that.
- the word "dear". I think after reading Popcorn Love it's become my pet peeve. I cringed everytime Julia used it and it definitely wasn't used as often as in Popcorn Love. Still, more than I'd like.
- sometimes Cassidy reminded me of a lost puppy. At least she followed Julia everywhere as one. And sometimes Julia didn't deserve it at all.

Now... Let's talk about Julia. She was definitely one of the most intriguing characters I've ever read. Sigh, I'd like there to be a sequel just to read more about her. Cassidy was nice and all, but Julia... Julia was something else. Intriguing, mysterious, complicated but human after all with all her flaws. Eliza Lentzski did good with that one.

And the sex scenes... I can honestly say Ms Lentzski writes the hottest sex scenes in F/F romances. She knows what she's doing.

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## **Alealea says**

Tried it some weeks ago but I was just unable to believe in the main characters, their story or the romance and couldn't keep up.

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## **Bethany says**

Not the best romance or PTSD themed book I've ever read, but well-written, and still definitely worth the read! I had trouble caring about either of the MC's, especially Julia, but it still worked for the most part.

3.5 stars rounded down to 3.

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## **Yoly says**

Wonderful characters and great plot.

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## **Dreaming says**

Wow, I really enjoyed this one. Fast, interesting, a real page-turner.

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### **Diane says**

Great series! wonderful storyline, great chemistry...compassion and understanding in knowing who Cassidy's character really was in this story..nice depth and topics(PTSD etc)plus family issues..it's a complex plot but at least it's told and will continue...recommend

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### **Penny says**

It's a good story. If you're into pairing up (1) a slightly damaged and cutely awkward blonde, who's often saving the day although not feeling like the hero of the story with (2) the raven-haired, suited up, regal and untouchable kind of gal... this is the book for you. Especially if you're a Swan Queen fan. Noticed the pattern?

Aside from that, there's a bit of a mystery about the possibility of someone pocketing public money and Cassidy's PTSD. Regarding the latter, the author intersperses the story with flashbacks from Afghanistan narrated in present tense. It gives us a pretty good understanding about Cassidy's emotional state.

Oh, and the sex scenes are super hot.

3.5

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