



# Explosive Alliance

*Susan Sleeman*

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RACE AGAINST TIME

The last thing Krista Curry expected to find in a soccer stadium was a time bomb. When she alerts explosives expert Cash Dixon, she becomes a local hero. But the attention could expose her real name—and the infamous past she fought to escape. Cash promises Krista protection from the bomber's retaliation. Yet she hesitates to trust him as she sees his suspicion about her grow with every question she dodges. She can't expect Cash to continue to safeguard her unless she tells him the truth. Now Cash must decide if she's an innocent woman or guilty accomplice. But the clock is ticking down—and the real bomber is still on the loose...

First Responders: Brave men and women alert and ready for danger and love.

## Explosive Alliance Details

Date : Published May 1st 2015 by Love Inspired Suspense

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Author : Susan Sleeman

Format : Kindle Edition 220 pages

Genre : Love Inspired, Love Inspired Suspense, Christian Fiction, Mystery, Contemporary, Romance

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## **From Reader Review Explosive Alliance for online ebook**

### **Ashley Dawn says**

This book was pretty good. Krista has a past that doesn't put law enforcement in a good light, at least when it comes to her. She gets a good look at a bomber while she and her grandfather are at a game and just happens to be the only one who can identify him. That means, there are police in her life whether or not she wants them. Cash is determined to protect Krista regardless of what she is hiding, but he hopes she will trust him enough to share before it is too late.

Krista is a good lady. Her distrust of law enforcement was understandable since she was put through the ringer by the investigators of her husband's death. Cash is an explosives expert who has his own past, but is going to keep her safe. He also wants to understand why she is so closed off when it comes to the officers. I liked that she was 'street wise' and her past made the whole thing work. Cash was just a genuinely good guy. I loved the whole team and how protective they were of each other. Krista's grandfather was probably my favorite character in the whole book. He made me smile, had wise words and just wanted what was best for his Krista.

It was a 4/5 for me.

Thank you to the publisher for the review copy of this book (via netgalley). I received this book in exchange for an honest review and the opinions stated above are 100% mine.

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### **Tima says**

Krista is at the ball stadium spending some quality time with her grandpa. But when a man leaves a backpack in the stands and refuses to go back and get it, she investigates. It's a bomb. She rushes back to alert Officer Dixon, the officer she saw a few minutes earlier. What happens next is unbelievable. Break-ins, kidnapping, and more bombs are just a few of the things now intruding into Krista's life. Her previous experience tells her that she can't trust law enforcement. But Cash Dixon and his team seem to be the exception.

The story definitely starts off with a bang (pun intended). And the suspense and drama don't let up. The relationship between Krista and her grandfather is sweet and balances out the tension in the rest of the plot. The characters are likable and give another glimpse into the family relationship the whole team has. I won't give any spoilers, but I like how the two different aspects of the investigation played together and ended out the story. I can't wait for the next book in the series.

I received this book free of charge in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Kathy \* Bookworm Nation says**

3.5

This was my first book by Ms. Sleeman, and it won't be the last! I really enjoyed this romantic suspense, it kept me glued to the pages wondering how everything was going to work out. It's part of a series, but thought it stood well on its own. I liked the characters and thought it had a fun plot. I was in the mood for a fun suspense and this hit the spot.

Would recommend to fans of Traci Hunter Abramson or Julie Coulter Bellon.

### Content

Romance: Clean

Language: None

Violence: Mild

Religious: Mild-Moderate

Series: First Responders, Book Two - can standalone

Source: Netgalley

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### **Teri-K says**

Typical tropes - man haunted by military fiasco, woman with mysterious past now caught up in investigation, she looks guilty because of her secret, they're drawn together but know the other is hiding something... the thing is, this book works for me despite those obvious tropes. Is it because of the heroine's relationship with her grandfather? Solid writing that never descends to clichés? I'm not sure, but I really enjoyed reading this book and cruised through it, though I have a number of good books going right now. There's a special pleasure in picking up a new author, hoping for a particular kind of story, and getting it - well executed and entertaining all the way. If it faltered a bit it was at the end, when convention requires all the threads to be tied up a bit too neatly for my own taste.

I also liked that the Christian message is "Living a trouble-free life is impossible... It is finding peace in trouble that you should be striving for." Instead of that fake message that if you're saved everything in your life will be perfect which so many books try to sell me.

I'll definitely try another by this author.

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### **Debbie Oxier says**

This is a part of her First Responders series. Cash Dixon is an explosives expert. When a young woman names Krista Curry finds a bomb in a stadium, he is able to disarm it. However, she got a good look at the bomber's face and now it appears he's come after her, hoping to silence her before she can identify him. Cash insists on protecting her and her grandfather, although it's clear she's hiding something. Was she involved in the bombing attempt? He doesn't want to believe it and defends her to his team but when they find a detonator in her house it doesn't look good. Even so, Cash can't help but feel she's being set up so why can't she just come clean with him? Krista feels an attraction to Cash but she has secrets she's terrified of revealing. They obviously believe she's connected to the bomber but what will they say when they find out she's suspected of killing her husband? Good suspense with some nice twists and turns to keep you trying to figure things out. A thoroughly entertaining read. Definitely recommend.

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## **Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower) says**

I really love this First Responders series by Susan Sleeman! The team feels like a family, and each character has his/her own personality and area of expertise. After so enjoying book one – Silent Night Standoff – I was eager to read Explosive Alliance and catch up with the First Response team once again.

In my review for Silent Night Standoff, I said, “This book takes off at a full-fledged sprint right out of the gate and doesn’t slow down until the epilogue!” The same can be said for Explosive Alliance. Get ready for high-stakes action that will keep you on the edge of your seat as you race against time right along with the First Response team. The plot is anything but predictable – lots to keep you guessing right up until all is revealed.

Let’s talk about Cash Dixon for a moment, shall we? Explosives expert... flirt... southern drawl. From that first instant when he grins across the room at Krista, he had my vote. I don’t know what we were voting on, necessarily, but his name would have been marked, starred, circled, and highlighted on my ballot. Probably with a tween-ish heart over the “i” in Dixon too. And really, it’s a good thing he specializes in explosives because the chemistry between Cash and Krista is pretty powerful. Lots of electricity sizzling in the air whenever they share the page.

Bottom Line: If you’re a fan of Irene Hannon and Lynette Eason, then you need to be reading Susan Sleeman’s books as well. Top-notch suspense, well-developed characters, and breath-stealing romance all wrapped up in a quick read that maintains the quality of a longer-length novel.

(I received a copy of this book in exchange for only my honest review.)

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## **Cindy says**

This book has lots of action and suspense which is what I love about the Love Inspired Suspense line. I did not guess that there were 2 people pursuing Krista (the main character). Once the FRS Team caught the first suspect I thought that they had found the enemy. Little did I know that there was a 2nd enemy until the team interviewed the caught suspect. The team also didn't know there was a 2nd person pursuing Krista. That person had kidnapped her grandpa and was holding him hostage, he was also the person who murdered her husband. Krista just knew she didn't kill him but didn't know who did nor why. She thought her husband was guilty all along of scamming his clients but low and behold once the 2nd enemy confronted Krista in her home the whole truth came out. If you like lots of action/suspense/mystery you will love this book as much as I did!

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## **Anna Hurtt says**

Explosive Alliance is the first book I've read by this author, but it won't be the last. I really enjoyed this inspirational romantic suspense story.

Cash and Krista are great characters, flawed yet lovable. I really enjoyed Opa and Krista's relationship. It brought a sweetness to the suspense. I also liked the family atmosphere of the First Responders Team. I can see how all of them will have unique stories to tell. (And can’t wait!)

I loved the twist at the end that answered all of the questions. I won't say any more, but the end is worth it! :)

I'm giving this great read 4 stars. Looking forward to the next installment!

(I received an e-copy of this book from Harlequin and Netgalley in exchange for an honest, unbiased review, which I have given.)

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### **Valri Western says**

It's no secret that I love Susan's books! Her romantic suspense books just get better and better and this book proves it! It's the second book in her First Responders series. I really like the characters in this series. This time we get to know Cash Dixon, who is the explosives expert. He is doing security duty at a professional soccer game in Portland when a woman, Krista, comes up to him telling him that there's a bomb in the row of seats where she is sitting! From there, the story begins! What I liked about this book is that both characters were very believable and so was the storyline! Krista's backstory includes several brushes with the law, even though she never committed any crimes herself. She has been trying to "outrun" her past for a long time. Now, along with finding the bomb, she is once again, a suspect in a case....just as she has been before in other cases! This time, Krista is not running. Krista lives with her grandfather and their relationship is awesome. They are going to fight this together and Cash is going to protect them against the bomber who is threatening them! The story is fast paced and real and keeps you turning those pages until the very last page! If you would like to be updated about the First Responders series, here is the link

<http://www.susansleeman.com/books/fir...>

I received this book from the author for an honest review.

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### **Jasmine says**

Another excellent Love Inspired Suspense novel from Susan Sleeman! Explosive Alliance is an edge-of-your-seat read with plenty of twists. I'm reading this series out of order but each title is standalone, which helps a lot. Great book! Can't wait to read more of them!

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### **Melanie says**

Explosive Alliance was a fantastic read! I haven't read the first book in this series yet, but I don't think that impacted my enjoyment at all.

I loved the characters, found the suspense very good, and liked how not everything was as it seemed.

All in all, great story and I recommend it!

\*I received a complimentary eBook copy via NetGalley for my honest review. As always, all thoughts and opinions expressed are my own.\*

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## **Andrea Cox says**

by Andrea Renee Cox

When I first heard about the First Responders series, I had just won a copy of the first book. The premise for it and the entire series sounded like something I would really enjoy. I was disappointed that the first book was a lot slower paced than other suspense books I'd read. That made me hesitant to continue the series, but the idea of this elite tactical team coming together to make a difference in the world continued to intrigue me, so I have slowly been collecting them. That way I could read the rest of the series pretty much back to back to back.

I am disappointed no longer.

Explosive Alliance was a huge improvement on the pacing, and I absolutely got the suspense vibe. I was on the edge of my seat the entire time I was reading. Susan Sleeman improved her approach and pacing, and boy, did she ever deliver some surprises! I'm quite impressed at the transformation and am now really eager to begin book three. I can't wait to see the rest of the FRS team members' stories.

In Explosive Alliance, I really enjoyed the relationship between Krista and her grandfather, Otto. It was such a sweet connection, and the devotion and courage that came from it were really beautiful. My mind's whirling with this amazing story, so I'm not really sure what else to say about it right now, other than how awesome it was. Honestly, just get this series and binge-read it. It's looking like it's going to be worth it.

This is my honest review.

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## **Michelle says**

I just loved this book! From the first word, Murderer, the story just drew me in and I couldn't wait to find out what had happened in the past and what Krista and Cash would do next. It had plenty of danger and plot twists that kept me guessing. The story was well-paced, with enough action to keep the story moving while the characters also had a chance to develop and tell the stories of their pasts.

Plot: Krista Curry and her Opa (grandfather) are attending a soccer game when Krista stumbles across a bomb. Fortunately for her and the rest of the crowd, First Response Squad bomb tech Cash Dixon is there and able to save the day. Unfortunately, Krista is the only one who can identify the bomber and now Cash and the FRS need to keep her safe. Despite the wariness of the rest of the FRS, Cash is drawn to Krista, who's clearly hiding something. In order to keep her safe, he needs to earn her trust and find out the whole story.

Characters: I liked Krista immediately because of her close relationship with Opa. She clearly would do anything for him. Opa, AKA Otto, is such a fun character. He may not be a young man anymore, but he's still feisty and he wants the best for his granddaughter, which he might think means Cash Dixon. Part southern charm and part likeable hero, Cash may be my favorite member of the FRS.

Recommendation: While Explosive Alliance is the second book in the First Responders series, it can be read as a stand-alone. This series reminds me of Dee Henderson's O'Malleys series because the members of the

FRS all act like a family and they have similar and dangerous occupations. I'd recommend this book to anyone who's a fan of romantic suspense.

Rating: 4.5/5 stars

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### **Susan Snodgrass says**

Susan Sleeman is an excellent Christian suspense writer. When I read my first Susan Sleeman book, I knew I wanted to read more. I have a lot of reading to do! Her characters are believable and her plots are as well. The characters are also well developed with real problems and they find real answers to those problems. I'm off to read another one!

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### **Donna (More Than a Review) says**

Explosive Alliance is part of the First Responder series and opens with a bang. Krista finds a bomb while at a soccer game with her grandfather. She tells one of the security people at the game not knowing that Cash is an explosives expert. She becomes a local hero which puts her in danger from the bomber and from her past life.

Cash tries to protector her while realizing she is hiding something. His team considers her a possible suspect until she is cleared.

The author creates a unique background for Krista that I found unusual but also refreshing. The book is packed with interesting and entertaining secondary characters. You will love her grandfather; he is such a cutie and full of spunk. Cash's First Responder team members are also interesting and each bring a special talent to the situation and story.

I had not read the other books in the first responder series. I felt Explosive Alliance stands on its own. However it will make you want to read the other books after meeting the other First Responder team members.

You can see my full review at [More Than a Review dot com](http://More Than a Review dot com) where I rate the level of sex, violence, language and drug/alcohol use in books.

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