



Elusive

L.A. Fiore

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Author's Note: Elusive's cover has a new look, but the story inside hasn't changed...a contemporary romance with modern day pirates.

I didn't set out to be a pirate.

Life for me was about surviving the ugliness that people knew existed but didn't talk about.

I lived in hell.

Then I saw her.

I knew I couldn't keep her, but for just a little while I had found heaven.

Eight years later, I can't get her out of my head.

It is a mistake sailing to her island.

It is a mistake reaching out to her.

She doesn't recognize me. Or maybe she does.

Closure, it is all I'm after.

Then my past comes back to haunt me.

She's thrust into my ruthless world. An angel.

A romantic who has a journal that leads to a shipwreck and a lost treasure.

She's wants to find the ending to a love story that is over two hundred years in the making.

I want to help her find it.

I didn't set out to be a pirate.

I didn't set out to fall in love with an angel.

I did both anyway.

Elusive Details

Date : Published (first published July 21st 2017)

ISBN :

Author : L.A. Fiore

Format :

Genre : Romance, Contemporary, Adventure, Pirates, Suspense

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From Reader Review Elusive for online ebook

~Anna's ??????g\$~ says

3.5 stars

Frankly, this was not what I'd expected.

When I read the blurb, I was transfixed.

When I started reading the book, I was transfixed.

Because *pirates*.

And a unique story.

And a romantic, exotic setting.

And a passionate, nostalgic atmosphere.

And a mysterious, adventurous plot.

The first part of the book was every romantic's dream.

From which I woke up suddenly and unexpectedly in the second part of the book.

With a bad case of book hangover.

Who wrote the second part? Because it felt like it had been written by another person.

Gone was the romantic, mysterious hero who swept me off my feet and in came a completely different egotistical and unlikable hero.

Gone was the romantic, adventurous girl and in came a different ~~TSTL~~ heroine.

They took all their passion and scorching chemistry with them on their way out.

All they left behind was a different, ~~at times boring and implausible,~~ plot.

Even the writing style seemed different.

I mean, how many times do I have to read that the hero is hot? How many times over the course of several pages do I have to read about their ogling?

- *"I slowly slid my gaze down his body."*
- *"His gaze slid down my before returning to my face."*
- *"I eyed him from head to toe."*
- *"...my gaze to his. No, I moved it slowly up his while imagining him naked."*
- *"He stopped and slid his gaze slowly down my body. A trail of heat was left in the wake of his sensual perusal."*
- *"I allowed my eyes to linger a moment longer on what I wanted to say was his flat stomach, but my gaze was fixed on a spot lower."*
- *"Every inch of my body felt the heat of his gaze before he eventually returned his eyes to mine."*
- *"...the hardness of his expression as he moved his gaze down my body."*
- *"I had heard of men giving women long, heated studies up and down the body."*
- *"Every inch of my body felt the heat of his gaze before he eventually returned his eyes to mine."*
- *"She then took a step back and moved her eyes slowly down my body."*
- *"Her gaze moved down to my dick and lingered before sliding back up to my face."*
- *"His eyes moved down my body and goosebumps broke out on my skin."*

Luckily, the last part of the book was better than the second part. The story picked up (~~well, sort of~~), the hero warmed his way to my heart again (~~well, sort of~~) and the heroine finally grew some backbone (~~well, sort of~~).

Overall, this was a solid read which started off fantastically but lost its ~~fun~~ spark somewhere along the way.

Sonya ?Chatterbooks book blog? says

I'm going to be really honest and say that from the minute I heard the words pirate and lost treasure, I knew without a shadow of a doubt that I HAD to read this book. A modern day romance that gives you all of the feels while secretly wishing you were a part of the adventure yourself!! Elusive wasn't your ordinary read. This was a journey into the unknown waters of finding a kind of love that people would be talking about for centuries later.

Seeing that this story is so deeply woven with complex characters, I'm going to keep this review extremely vague.

We've all wanted to find a kind of love that would knock us off our feet. You know the feeling: just one look and your breath gets stolen from you, the crackle of the electricity in the air just from being close to one another, and that gut instinct that tells you whether you like it or not, this person is going to change your life forever. Have you ever loved liked that?

“Don't settle. Chase your dreams. Live, love, be daring and reckless and most important be happy.”

Looking for beauty beyond the surface has always been a fascination for Willow. She loves finding treasures and when it's in your blood, there's no stopping the hunt. But there's something more than treasure that Willow really wants and little did she know that when she least expected it, that want came in the form of a man who she will never forget.

When I say that this story is going to take you on a journey, I mean it! From seeing the past lives of the characters and knowing what made them into who they were today, was executed brilliantly. Every decision that was made altered a part in their future and I loved how it was portrayed. These characters certainly didn't have it easy and my heart ached for them in finding their happily ever after regardless of how they got it.

If you're ready for something completely different and to be taken on a ride, then “Elusive” is the story for you.

Shannon Moore says

“Once upon a time someone called me a pirate.”

The prologue of this book sets the entire story in motion, but it's so powerful on its own that I just felt the need to address it. It sends you back, gives you a taste of history but also a glimpse into what the characters in this story are fighting for.

"I would find Isabella. I would tell their story, be their voice, share with the world their brief but touching love story."

Knowing absolutely nothing about this book, the blurb is so fantastic at drawing in a reader. The cover is gorgeous, and with promises of history, Pirates and treasure, what's not to like?

Now timeline wise, you see different events from different times in the main characters lives before they even meet. We glimpse at their childhood, their teen years, all the way into early adulthood before they even meet. Then we move farther into the present day when they're in their thirties. I liked seeing all of the stages and how they impacted the specific characters at certain times in their lives. Though I may be partial to Mr. Travers, he might be my favourite kind of person ever.

“A wise man told me once if I ever found someone who made my stomach twist and my palms sweat, someone who made everything else just fade from existence...that I should take her hand because I wouldn't be sorry I did.” His hand tightened on mine. “I learned what love was from him, but I learned how it felt from you.”

There were a few small details that I caught on to which I thought were so interesting, and they're the underlying magic of fate or how the universe works. Willow could sense Noah around her or feel his presence, until a certain incident happened. Her outlook on this was quite intriguing, and the answer for it even more so. Noah's involvement, his lifestyle, and how it impacted this ideal was really cool.

Before I go any farther, I feel the need to express that I did really enjoy this book. I'll get into what my problems were to only rate it as three stars, but as a whole, I enjoyed the story. Ultimately, it comes down to the fact that this is a romance novel, and frankly, I didn't believe or like the romance between Willow and Noah very much.

There were small glimpses of romance or shall we say love that I just wanted to hold onto and believe, but then there would be contradicting actions or words from (mainly, but not always) the hero and I just didn't know what to think. I couldn't grasp this romance, I guess because it's not at all how I expected two people, supposedly in love, the act. I get it, he's a pirate and it's not your average story but throughout the entire book, I got very little idea or feeling from Noah to actually suggest he liked Willow more than just having

sex with her. Small glimpses, yes, and I think I highlighted every one because let's be honest, there weren't many. He intended to still do horrible things to her even while 'loving' her. And she was going to let him because she 'loved' him back. Where did this love even come from? It was an infatuation from one day they shared eight years ago that Willow couldn't let go of, and it's suggested that Noah was the same. That turned to love before he even came back into her life. That's great for me, fine and dandy, if they then started again and grew from where they were before, but it didn't feel like that at all. I fully believe that she loved the guy from her past and transferred that onto the Noah she met in the present day. She even kept saying this herself! How she didn't know Noah, wasn't comfortable with his actions or his life but she wouldn't let him bend or change himself because she already loved him when he came back to her. How does this create a healthy relationship? I just have a really hard time buying the 'one day a long time ago I fell in love with him and I've been treasuring this memory for so long so that means I already love him now'. To me personally, that's not how a romance novel should be, and I think that's where my problems with the romance aspect come from. And, well, I get he's a pirate but show me that he actually feels something for this girl! It seemed superficial, and when he did have a few nice words, he would immediately go back and contradict everything the reader was just lead to believe. It confused me and kept me from getting attached to these two. I was merely reading about a treasure hunt with two people who liked to bang.

"I wanted to keep her, but she was never mine. She was just an elusive dream, a fucking beautiful dream. I slipped out as silently as I slipped in, but I left my damaged heart in that room with the angel who had claimed it."

Now on the flip side of this, the pirate aspect, the treasure hunt, the mystery behind what was happening to the yachts, that was all extremely well done, super exciting and so fresh and unique that it keeps the reader guessing. I never knew what to expect from this group or what might happen next. Though I think there were a couple of minor instances that could've been explained a little more, it was generally easy to follow along and keep up. I have no clue how the author would've come up with this plot but it's like nothing I've ever read before and that's always an exciting journey to take.

I can also really appreciate how it's not just one specific hunt that's happening, there're many different layers to the story. So sure, there's the love story between Alejandro and Isabella that's dissected. The research and dedication into trying to find the ship, what might be on board, piecing together what caused the ship to sink in the first place, etc. All of that could've made one story, but Fiore added so much more to add complexity, suspense, and mystery. But the way she does it, weaving all of these aspects into one singular story line, is practically genius.

"You got a little pirate in you woman. I like it."

I've always loved reading LA Fiore books and by no means is Elusive the exception. Sure, I had some grievances over the who love story part of it, but I got over it and focused on remembering the rest of it that I loved.

*An ARC was received in exchange for an honest review.

Shayna says

An absolute treasure trove of passion, romance, and adventure! There is romance and excitement with every turn of the page. There was absolutely NO WAY I was putting this baby down! Fiore has made one HELL of a first impression on me with the release of this majestic love story.

"She wouldn't be pulling me from the ugly; I would be pulling her into it. Guys like me didn't get dreams, we lived nightmares."

I'm going to tell you right now, this review has to be short and sweet, and you'll know why once you dive in. I can't risk giving anything away, so I'll just continue to tell you how much I enjoyed this contemporary, modern-day romance. I'm not giving you names or anything, just trust that ELUSIVE will take you on the RIDE of your LIFE!

I don't remember the last time I was so entranced with a love story. It's strange because when you're starting a book by an author you've never read before, you can be a bit leery of it. But at the end of page one, I was COMPLETELY enthralled. Fiore held me under her spell the whole way through, and to tell you the truth, I never wanted to escape this book, these characters, or the feeling that were dragged out of me all throughout.

"...baby you sealed your fate by kissing my scars. You're mine."

This author takes us on an epic journey, traveling around the world, searching for hidden treasures AND hidden love. This was masterfully written with so much passion, emotion, and adventure embedded into each and every page. If you like your romance with a side of action and adventure, look no further, because ELUSIVE should be your very next read. I can't tell you how excited I am to have found the work of L.A. Fiore. I can't wait to see what she's written in the past and I can't wait to see what EPIC-NESS she has planned for us in the future. If you are a fan of clandestine love and romantic suspense, ELUSIVE by L.A. Fiore is definitely the one for you!

Saunders says

5+++++ I choose you stars

I was lucky to win a copy of this book in a competition on Alessandra Torre's FB page.

This book was amazing and thats a word I don't use often because it doesn't always describe what I really want to say about it and why it has had such an impact on me. It can also be a vastly over rated word but this book was exactly that - amazing from start to finish and I was in that book along with these characters.

A wonderful romantic story filled with suspense and plot with a difference.

KAT ? Kitty Kats Crazy About Books ? says

This review is going to be as spoiler free as I can possibly make it, going into this I really didn't know what I would be facing, but what I got exceeded all my expectations, the cover, the blurb, the author and then those teasers all piqued my interest and I couldn't wait to get my hands on this, it's so unique, nothing I have read even compares to this, or even comes close, it's not just a tale about a wayward Pirate, a hot pirate at that it is so much more than that. So if you're after something different to sink your teeth into that sticks out from the crowd then one click this come release day I highly recommend it.

ELUSIVE: is the first book in this modern day romance novel within the shipwreck series by LA Fiore

This kicks starts us off in the year **1999**, where Willow has just celebrated another lonely year where her absentee parents are living a life similar to Indiana Jones, travelling the world on their hunts for the next lost treasures. Luckily for Willow she had the love of her Grandfather to guide her where needed. Like her parents the ocean had always held a fascination for her, the treasures it hides, the secrets it keeps, the lives it steals. She knew her calling in life would be exploring the ocean bottom just like her parents or even studying archaeology.

➤ *Don't settle. Chase your dreams. Live, Love, be daring and reckless and most important be happy.*

The same year we meet fourteen year old Kace living a life polar opposite to Willow, he doesn't have parents or a loving grandfather. Kace was shoved into the system at an early age after the death of his parents. Thinking life on the streets would be better to living in foster care for much longer sees him squatting under the Brooklyn Bridge, with two friends Snake and Einstein, Snake was more of a brother than a friend. This was the year where things changed for Kace and Snake.

2004 Summer break had Willow seeking her own lost treasure at sea before heading off to college to minor in anthropology. And Kade and Snake are slumming it in Manhattan, Kace worked at a local marina cleaning boats. On one such day he meets an old man who teaches kade to sail. And also offers some wisdom along the way.

➤ *You've seen ugly, but there is beauty and if you ever find someone who makes your stomach twist and your palms sweat, someone who makes everything else just fade from existence, take her hand son, I promise you, you won't be sorry that you did.*

He was in Kace's life for such a short span of time but what he did instill in Kace was the love of sailing, the freedom of the ocean and a father like love that Kace had never experienced. Kace takes to sailing like a duck to water and knows in his heart his calling in life is to be on the ocean. The same year Kace learn't a valid lesson, that everything comes at a cost. This had a profound impact on Kace's life and the direction it took him in.

➤ *Guys like me didn't get dreams, we lived in nightmares.*

2009 Willow finally graduates and is vacationing in Cancun where she meets a man that changes her life forever, and her him, a connection, a love so profound, two soul mates that were destined to meet. It was her hair he noticed first, but it wasn't until she turned around and it felt like he'd literally been hit in the gut. A fast and furious island connection, there one minute, gone the next. His parting gift an old journal that she'd had her eyes on in a bookshop. Which years later will have an impact on their lives. Learning he's a pirate and a thief should send warning bells but it has the opposite effect. Willow learns that not everything is black and white.

➤ *There was enough humanity in me to know she would be better off if i stayed the hell away from her.*

2011 Years go by where they both still think about their island fling, the craving, the needing, wanting that reconnection again..Will these star crossed lovers ever meet again? To present day this is where I have to stop my review only because if i go any further it will divulge spoilers that need to be read fully to get the full impact and love I felt for these characters and storyline.

L.A. says

Elusive is a contemporary, modern day romance. I struggled with this story and the evolution of the story from the first draft to the final manuscript is like night and day. I almost tossed in the towel a few times because I was having a hard time finding Noah's voice, but in the end I realized I needed to show how a boy on the streets in New York became the man and pirate he grows into. I am so glad I stuck with it because I absolutely adore Willow and Noah. Elusive is a love story within a love story, an adventure filled with murder, mayhem, lost treasure, deceit and love all wrapped around a super sexy romance. I hope if you read it, you experience it as if you are right there with the characters.

Sissy's Romance Book Review says

Book Review For: Elusive Book One of Shipwreck series by L.A. Fiore 'Elusive' by L.A. Fiore is Book One of the "Shipwreck" series . This is the story of Willow and Kace/Noah. This book tells their story from when they were younger and how they grew to the people of today. Kace and Willow didn't meet until 2009 when Willow took her Graduation trip without her parents who are usually off chasing treasure. So Willow went a head with her plans to go this trip alone just as her grandfather would have encouraged her to do so. There she meets Kace who they have an instant connection with. Kace has had a hard life growing up on the streets with his buddy Snake. Trying to move forward with his life but still living in the harshness of his life he meets Willow. A girl that is innocent and good. When they meet again the next day they end up spending the day and night together. Willow shows Kace some good in the world that helps to soften his hardness some. But they don't see each other again until years later. Neither one forgot the other and relived that day over

and over. This was a great 'Second Chance at Love' story, along with some emotional writing that swept you into their story. This also had some adventures in their story. Loved it! "My honest review is for a special copy I voluntarily read." <https://www.amazon.com/gp/profile/A2H...>
<https://www.goodreads.com/user/show/1...> <https://twitter.com/soapsrus68>
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Natalie The Biblioholic says

Oh. My. Gosh! I want a pirate of my very own!! One exactly like Kace would be more than sufficient.

Kace was orphaned during his infancy and grew up knowing a life of struggle, poverty and hardship. He eventually found family when he became best friends with Snake at the tender age of 14. Having someone at his side didn't necessarily make his life any easier. He was still vulnerable, still poor, still finding his meals out of the trash, but at least he was no longer alone. Time and circumstance and the serendipitous meeting of more lost boys created a crew and these men made the best pirates EVER!!

Willow came from an affluent two-parent household but she always came second to their love for hunting ancient artifacts. Her parents were famous treasure hunters (think Indiana Jones) and left her alone for the majority of her upbringing. She had a very loving grandfather, who encouraged her to follow her dreams and her heart, but loneliness was a constant companion, a dark shadow that literally haunted her every step.

Their lives change drastically after a chance encounter while Willow is vacationing in Cancun. Through her, Kace witnessed a new normal, one that he wanted to hold onto with both hands. Their connection was instantaneous and was proven to be stronger than time or distance. Willow was innocence, grace, goodness and mercy. Kace was brooding, dangerous and extremely sexy. They each fit like the missing half of the other's soul.

With *Elusive*, the author gave us a story full of intrigue, suspense and adventure. She also gifted us with an epic love that spanned years. One chance meeting cemented a bond between Kace and Willow and lived within their souls forever. Even when they thought they would never see each other again their hearts refused to let go. It's a story that makes me believe that dreams can come true, that there is always a reason to hope for a love of a lifetime. It's a story that made the journey seem not only real, but absolutely worthwhile.

L.A. Fiore is a brilliant storyteller. She took a relatively undiscovered concept, at least in the romance world - pirates - and made it all her own. I'm sure other romance authors will one day write their own pirate stories, but I can promise you that they won't have as profound an effect on me as this trailblazer did.

Release Date: July 21, 2017

Genre: Contemporary Romance

POV: Dual - 1st person

Heat: 4 out of 5

Type: Standalone - Book 1 of the Shipwreck series

Lin (From Chika With Love - Blog) Cohen says

My name is Lin and I'm obsessed with L.A. Fiore's words! There, I said it! The things that are going on this woman's brain can do magic, and what a fine magic it is...

I was so curious about this book that I begged L.A. for an early copy. I've never read about pirates and I just had to get my hands on this one. Yeah, it was so worth me begging.

This book is about Willow and Noah. Willow has a romantic little soul. Practically abandoned by her parents, who spend their time treasure hunting all over the world, she was raised by her grandfather. His museum was her home and all its relics, and the dreams she conjured about them, kept a lonely child from being completely alone. Her romantic heart believes in true love and she wants to "live the dream". On vacation celebrating her graduation from college, she meets Kace (Noah)—a man who sweeps her off her feet. He is charming, beautiful and...DANGEROUS. Kace has had a very sh*tty life. He was raised on the streets, with only one friend by his side. He knows how the rest of his life will play out and that a bright, romantic future is not in his cards.

One day. One special day, is all Willow and Kace have and all they are left with is a memory...the perfect memory. Or so they thought.

This story made my heart race more than once. W + N's journey to their second chance and the crazy road to get there blew my mind away. It was HOT, emotional, full of suspense and also, very romantic. Every word was like seeing a movie that you just can't stop watching. Seeing it on the big screen is a must! Fingers crossed for that to happen. It was amazing and I was hooked through every page. Every layer, every feeling, every event was written so perfectly that I felt like I was there with the characters. And Noah... Oh my... He's one of my favorite book-boyfriends - that's for sure.

Kiki Chatfield says

I would give this book 10 stars if I could!

One of the most intriguing, interesting, brilliant concepts I have read in a LONG TIME.

It has all the summer fun you want in a sexy romance. With pirates, shipwrecks, mystery, suspense, treasure hunts... and more, oh my! L. A. Fiore takes something I have loved since child hood, a pirates tale, treasure, romance and adventure and turned it into so much more.

This book read like a movie... I seriously didn't want it to end... you won't either. The passion and love that is in the book will leave you swooning for weeks to come. When this book comes out, I hope you devour it like I did. L. A. Fiore, BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR!!!

I love your work, but this tops them ALL! You gave me all the feels. The suspense was off the charts. The love story within a story was brilliant. The mystery of how and why... GENIUS!!! Best book of the summer for sure!

Lina's Reviews ♡????????♡??Book Blog?? ♡????????♡ says

Title: Elusive
Author: L.A. Fiore
Category: Romance
Series or Standalone: Standalone
POV: First Person, Dual PoV
Plot:
Characters:
Scorching Level:
HEA: Um...hello. Not telling.

Bibi says

3.5 stars

Layered and exhilarating, Elusive got and kept my interest from the very first page. That said, it was severely lacking in the romance aspect, leaning more toward being a mystery slash Ocean's Eleven caper (on sea).

Shannon's review Captures all the reasons why this story faltered.

It's definitely a well written story but, the mystery of the shipwreck and the search for it dominated while the romance was doled out in meager measures.

ImJaclyn says

*****1 Star*****

I was so disappointed with this book. When I read the blurb, I immediately stopped everything I was doing to buy it. I put the other books I was reading on hold because it just sounded SO. FREAKING. GOOD. I was SO intrigued and I was ready to dive in to what I thought would be one of the best books I would read this year.

Point blank, it was not good. This book is a guilty pleasure read, at best. The writing was choppy at times and the whole tone was very juvenile. The characters all had the same 'voice.' If the author didn't write who was saying what, you would not be able to tell who was speaking. The dialogue would go back and forth between the characters without *anything* in between and I often had to go back and reread certain scenes because I would forget who's turn it was to talk. That also contributed to the choppy sound this story had. I found myself reading over dialogue scenes very quickly and it sounded very awkward in my head.

Once I hit the 50% mark, I began quickly skimming to the end, only reading the scenes between Noah and Willow. In the end, I don't think it was even worth doing that.

This story had no depth. I didn't get the feel that Noah and his crew were dangerous. It was all very matter-of-fact. They were killers and thieves but as a reader you aren't able to feel the severity of those acts. It was as simple as stating the sky is blue. Grass is green. Noah shot a man in the face. Snow is cold. There was even a scene where one of his crew members rapes an enemy in the mouth. It didn't even phase me because there was *so* little depth in the writing!

The insta love and insta lust was ridiculous and had me rolling my eyes. The hero and heroine don't see each other for eight years (after only spending no more than two days together) and she claims that in the eight years since she's seen him, she's fallen in love with him. Ummm, what? You saw him one time. Relax.

Sorry to say it, (not really) but don't waste your time with this one.

*Check out more on my blog at imjaclyn.wordpress.com

Mindy Lou's Book Review says

Willow has spent her whole life coming second to her parents treasure hunting. The only constant in her life is her Grandad. When her parents flake on her graduation trip to Cancun, she decides to go by herself. She's living the motto her Grandad asked her too. "Live, love, be daring and reckless and most importantly be happy"

This is where she meets Noah. The impact of Noah was more than she has ever felt in her life, but she knows there is more to him. She sees his intensity, the dangerous glint in his eyes but she doesn't care. She's living the motto and jumping in with both feet.

What the author takes you on is an adventure of a lifetime. The story of these two individuals as they grow up and become the people shaped by circumstances beyond their control. I loved every adventure the author took us on with Noah and Willow together and separate.

I ached for both characters to have something good in their lives. I yearned for Willow to have someone finally put her first. The unconditional love she displayed was beautiful. The goodness in Noah even when he couldn't see it himself.

The places we get to read about would be an adventurers dream come true. The truth Willow sought about a long lost love torn apart hoping to bring them back together was beautiful and sad knowing she was seeking for such a love herself. I had no idea I'd be emotionally wrecked by this story. It was beautiful. It was fun. It left me wanting more. ARC provided by NetGalley.
