



## **Volition**

*Lee Strauss*

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**Zoe Vanderveen is on the run with her captor turned rescuer, Noah Brody. They're in love.**

Or at least that's what he tells her.

Her memories have returned but her feelings are dreamlike ~ thin and fleeting. Can she really trust Noah? Should Noah trust *her*?

Noah Brody thought he did the right thing by running away with the beautiful and endangered Zoe Vanderveen, but now he's not so sure. Zoe's changed, and not necessarily for the better. Taken in by an off-the-grid religious sect, their sense of safety is short lived. These people are crazy, but are they dangerous?

Senator Vanderveen's new team of cyborg agents are in hot pursuit and a reward for Zoe and Noah's capture is broadcast nationwide. They'll need a miracle to escape his grasp this time, but will they get it?

## Volition Details

Date : Published October 8th 2016 by ESB Publishing

ISBN :

Author : Lee Strauss

Format : Kindle Edition 308 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Science Fiction, Dystopia, Romance, Fantasy

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## From Reader Review Volition for online ebook

### Carol [Goodreads Addict] says

I really enjoyed this book. It starts right up where the first book left off, with Zoe and Noah on the run. Zoe is struggling to regain her memories. Her family had been giving her drugs to erase her memories because she and Noah had gotten too close to the truth about what her powerful Grandfather has been up to and his involvement in her brother's death. She and Noah were in love and he kidnapped her to get her out of the grasp of her family and off the drugs they have been giving her in hopes her memories would return. She is remembering but its more like a dream so their relationship is suffering because of it. They suffer many obstacles in their quest to stay out of harm's way. What I liked about this book was Noah's deep commitment to Zoe, no matter the status of their relationship, he is responsible for her and he loves her. He is willing to do anything to keep them safe. And, they do get in some pretty tough spots along the way. What I didn't like about this book was Zoe's constant questioning of Noah's love for her. I realize she has had her mind messed with and that everything she is going through is completely foreign to her compared to the privileged life she had. But, Noah has given up everything as well to keep her safe. This book is pretty non-stop right from the start and was hard to put down.

What I didn't know, though, is that there is going to be another book!!! I thought it would come to a conclusion instead of a cliff hanger, and be warned, a cliff hanger is how it ends. Soooo.....I will have to wait a while longer for the conclusion. I do recommend this series. It not only keeps you on the edge of your seat but gives you plenty to think about as well.

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### Isabel Sanchez says

Creo que me gusta Taylor xdee.

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### Megan Vadnais says

Well...we have arrived at book two after being bored and annoyed with book one. Still bored and annoyed. I don't care that Zoe is sad that she lost her memories. I don't care that they are being chased. I don't care that Noah is on the run but Zoe doesn't like him like he likes her. Mostly I felt like this book did a big circle and got no where. I am more upset with myself for continuing on in the series because now I have to read book three just to see how they wrap it up. Or perhaps I could find a good reads review on it. :)

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### Mandy (I Read Indie) Anderson says

Zoe remembers most everything her grandfather took away...except her feelings towards Noah. But that is the least of her problems. Zoe and Noah's face being plastered all over the country is front and foremost. They are on the run and the future looks bleak.

From the moment I finished PERCEPTION, I have eagerly been awaiting VOLITION. I had to know what was happening to Zoe and Noah as they tried to get away from the clutches of her grandfather and the evil he is about to throw at the country if elected President. And let me tell you, I was not disappointed...especially

after they made it to St Louis. Yep, things got a little interesting. Ok, very interesting. But even before that, while in Utah, stuck with a couple religious fanatics, I was tense the whole time they were there. You never knew what was going to happen.

I am a huge romance lover. And this book didn't have a whole lot in it. Like almost none at all. But it sure wasn't these kids fault by any means. Zoe is piecing together her memories and her feelings for Noah back together, jealousy on both sides rears its ugly head from time to time, and lastly...well people change. It is just the facts of life. But just when you think there is hope for these two...the rug gets ripped out from under them. So even though the romance was not really there...in a way it was. It's just not the swoony type you'd expect.

All in all, this was a great, quick read. Strauss keeps it interesting and the readers wondering. And of course, with an ending like that, you can bet I will be impatiently waiting for the next book. Highly recommend this book and this series to anyone who loves science fiction and a bit of mystery.

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### **Kaelee Trammell says**

#### **Amazing**

I couldn't put it down. You've gotta read this book!  
Fighting, corruption, romance, jealousy, hope. This book has it all!

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### **Bonnie Clevenger says**

Zoe Vanderveen is on the run with Noah Brody. This is book two of the trilogy.

Noah keeps telling her they are in love, but her Grandfather V erased all memories of the two weeks in exile and she has to learn to trust and love him all over again.

They run into a commune, off the grid, and are shocked to see how these people live. Only for a night says Noah, but trouble and fighting the cyborgs with death of many on both sides ensues, but they get away again. They meet a brother and sister team, Mary and Jabez, that live in an abandoned factory, and to get money they host a virtual illegal fighting ring. They train Noah, against Zoe's wishes, but Noah beefs up and after loosing a fight he wins, and promises they will leave.

Three of the communal people show up, and want to join them.

Meanwhile Grandpa V won the presidency and has warrants for their arrests, one million dollars on Zoe and one half for Noah.

The cyborgs find them yet again and they escape in a hidden plane that takes them to the desert where they crash.

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### **Raina {The LUV'NV} says**

#### **Actual Rating: 3.5 stars**

I was so excited to read this since the previous book left a cliffhanger. *Volition* picks up right where *Perception* ended, with Zoe and Noah fleeing from her grandfather. As they race across the country, trying

to stay off the grid and survive, Zoe struggles of having no memory knowing—let alone loving—Noah, and he begins to wonder if his rescuing her was more like condemning her.

Though it was utterly heartbreaking, I loved how the author, Lee Strauss, did the romance in this book. It was ... backward, kind of an anti-romance. Not that the characters fall out of love with each other or anything. Noah still loves Zoe. He will do whatever it takes to protect her. And she has feelings for him. The connection is obviously there with every look, touch, and everything they don't say. But because of the memory loss, she's different. She's not the Zoe he fell in love with. They have to rediscover one another, yet under the circumstances, they have a hard time doing so and aching seem to drift apart.

Cue in the small love triangle—one that works. Even though there were moments I wanted to shake Zoe on Noah's behalf, her indecision was so well written and understandable that I couldn't blame her for her actions, not entirely. I really liked Taylor Blake. He's a bit of brainiac, has a lot in common with Zoe, and offered her a light, an optimism, in a world of dread. But Noah ... I fell in love with him even more in this book, so to me, there was no question who she should be with.

On top of all the intense emotions, I also enjoyed the different communities the author included. There's a settlement similar to the Amish, an underground boxing ring, a little bit of the rebellion and Noah's viral group, as well as the cyborgs. The action was fantastic. All the secondary characters were strong, too.

The only issue I had with *Volition* was the pacing. It was a bit slow, and I felt that a definitive plot was missing. Whether it was Zoe's personal and emotional growth, her relationship status with Noah, the problems with her grandfather—I couldn't tell. It all stayed in a stand-still, a limbo, because nothing goes anywhere. Nothing really changed. Everything felt stuck in one place, one level, until the very end, which is a cliffhanger. I actually loved the cliffhanger, but I wish there was more development on something, anything. Without, it felt like the *beginning* of a plot, of a book. Because right as we're about reach the climax and the meat of the story, the book ends!

\*sigh\* That could just be me, though. I loved the first book and the idea of this one. I was simply expecting to be as satisfied with it. I do think those who have been following the series will enjoy this installment—because I did enjoy it, am even more anxious for all the characters, old and new, and will continue to read the series.

*\*eARC provided by Lee Strauss in exchange for a review. Thank you!*

**\*Review also posted on the The LUV'NV blog.**

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## Bree says

I was surprised how quickly I was able to remember the whole story from Perception, the first book in the series. Normally it comes back to me in bits and pieces, but when I was only a few paragraphs in, my memory flooded with scenes from the last book. Volition picks up where Perception left off, and in places it just hints at what happened before, but didn't do a full recap at the beginning or anything.

So Zoe and Noah have set off, and have government agents on their tail. They run into all sorts of interesting people in their attempt to stay off the grid. The story is told from the dual points of view of Zoe and Noah, and I really enjoyed it. I felt that I got a real sense of what they felt and I was able to connect with each of them for different reasons. There were a lot of new characters introduced, and they were memorable for different reasons – some of them weren't fully developed, but it made the read quite interesting.

Now, there was the dreaded love triangle in effect here – but it seemed somewhat acceptable because it wasn't done with the insipid “do I love this guy, or do I love the other guy?” way. Maybe because of the way it was written, I was able to see these triangles more clearly and how I think it will actually end up pushing Zoe and Noah closer together. Or, at least I hope.

Some of the plot twists were easy to predict, and others seemed to come from left field. There were some great action scenes throughout. Parts of the story didn't seem too plausible, but they did help the story progress and I didn't feel they were laughable, just unlikely. And, of course, it ends on a cliffhanger...so I'm glad I waited to read it until just before the final book comes out...now I won't have to wait forever to find out what happens to Zoe, Noah and their new companions!

If you like dystopias and the moral dilemmas of technology and what we can essentially do with it, you might enjoy this series. I'm looking forward to reading *Contrition*, the final book in the series, next week!

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## **Laurie says**

The stakes become higher in this second installment as Zoe and Noah are chased by her grandfather's henchmen. The action intensifies, and Noah worries that he may have been wrong, after all, to rescue Zoe. Zoe is different; she does not remember loving Noah. Noah is committed to protecting the woman he loves even though her personality is considerably less vibrant – muted, altered. There is hope, however, as some of Zoe's memories slowly return.

In this installment Senator Vanderveen takes off the kid gloves. Incensed with his granddaughter's rabble-rousing, and contending with significant worries of political fall-out, his ruthlessness escalates. A huge bounty is offered. Disguised and on the run, Zoe and Noah are temporarily sheltered by a couple of fringe groups – but trust is a commodity in short supply.

I enjoyed this second installment but was disappointed by the huge cliff-hanger ending. The dystopic world is expanding, and the creep element has intensified. With dwindling resources, Zoe and Noah are engaged in a dangerous effort to out-fox a master manipulator blessed with unlimited funds, powerful connections, and an unimpeachable reputation. This exciting continuation of their adventures and achievements is a worthy successor to *Perception* and an intriguing precursor to the next installment in this well-written, action-packed series.

This book was given to me in exchange for my honest review.

Reviewed by Laurie-J

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## **Glenda Beck says**

### **Twists and turns bring surprises**

Twists and turns bring surprises in "Violation". Unexpected and explosive facts Zoe could have never have guessed ! How or will this change her? A great story for the young and young at heart. I am reading on to find out how this will end! Thank you Lee for your books,

## Jonathan Beck says

In book two of the series, we find Noah and Zoe on the run moving from hotel to hotel and end up in St. Louis. Grandfather V is still after them and Noah trains to be a virtual fighter in order to make money.

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## Vicki says

Volition continues the Perception series, which follows the intersecting paths of beautiful Zoe Vanderveen, a genetically enhanced member of a privileged and elite family, and Noah Brody a "natural", whose opportunities are severely limited by the absence of connections and relative poverty.

Book Two picks up the story as Zoe and Noah are on the run, desperate to escape the grasp of Zoe's grandfather, who has previously interrupted Noah and Zoe as they came close to finding out the details of her grandfather's involvement in the death of her brother. Noah escapes, but Zoe is reunited with her parents, who see that she receives drugs which cause a loss of the memories involving Noah and her brother, replacing them with benign memories.

Noah "knows" that if he can take Zoe away from that fake world, their love will be strong enough to see them through, not realizing how long and difficult their road will be. Zoe suffers from head aches as she withdraws from the powerful medicines she had been taking, and only has Noah's word for it that they had been in love. While Noah lived in LA he had influence via his blog on the growing anti-GAP (genetically altered people) culture, but he loses his ability to influence others when logging on would alert Zoe's powerful grandfather and the thugs who work for him of their location.

The posters and ever present newscasts make it clear that they must change their appearance and keep a very low profile. They can trust no one, as the bounty on their heads makes the temptation to turn them in pretty overwhelming for anyone who might realize who they are. They are hungry and tired; winter is coming, when they stumble across a fundamentalist family who shun technology and live off the land in Utah. This may be the break they need. But the longer they stay the more they realize that all in this household is not as it seems. There is conflict in the family and tension between Noah and Zoe. They must leave suddenly, travelling to an urban environment in a "borrowed" car. Existence is even harder here, but they meet a brother and sister who live in an abandoned factory and give them a place to stay. The brother and sister seem to have some secrets too.

Zoe and Noah continue to struggle with whether or not they are in love, but Noah is sure of his loyalty to Zoe, even as he wonders if he has done her any favors by removing her from the safety and comfort of her parents' home.

The author does not sugarcoat the difficulties that a couple on the run in an increasingly totalitarian society would have, but she is true to the angst of their young love and the comfort that Noah draws from his upbringing in a Godly home.

They seem to have overcome against all odds by the end of the book...but wait, a new and unexpected disaster is introduced at the end of the book, preparing an eager readership for Book 3 in the series.

I received Perception as an e-book from Net Galley, and ordered this sequel as soon as I got the chance.

Check it out!

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## **Jennifer says**

I really enjoyed the first book, Perception, which is still currently free! I'll keep these two reviews short and spoiler free for those that haven't had a chance to start the series. In this next installment, Zoe and Noah are on the run from her grandfather. Traveling from hotel to hotel and hiding out on a compound or in a gym. Their pictures are posted everywhere for a large reward. Noah feels obligated to keep Zoe safe but Zoe feels like a burden.

The romance in this one was more disappointing than in the first since the couple is going through their miscommunication and lets fight our feelings stage. Zoe lost her memories of Noah and even though she has gotten to know him and love him again, Noah doesn't think she loves him the way she used to. It was very aggravating. I think they will eventually find their way back to each other.

I love books that take place on the run. I was sad to not get to see as much of the futuristic world building and neat inventions as I got to see in the first but loved the quick pace. The series explores the question of technology/science vs religion/nature but not in an overly preachy manner. Just in a way that makes you think and understand both sides. This series has a great mix of sci-fi, dystopian, mystery, romance, and action.

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"I don't want it to be this way."

"What way?"

He turned and steadied his eyes on mine.

"I want you to love me."

"I fell in love with you once and then I forgot. I totally get it now how I could've loved you before. Because I've done it again." I inhaled. "I love you."

\*I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review\*

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## **Victoria Brinius says**

I have been reading a lot of different science fiction and cyborg books lately. There are so many out there. This one however stood out for me because the bad guys are in power, and the main character is running away from her "grandfather" Her grandfather runs for office. This is not good for Zoe, or the rest of society.

I also enjoyed the memory loss part of Zoe's character. It is a fatal character flaw not to know your past. It is even worse to remember it as something different than you thought it was. Who do you believe? Yourself or

the person you are fleeing with that you are supposed to trust?

This is an epic struggle to survive, everything is against Zoe. The weather, the temperatures, and luck.

I was not happy when someone died, but it fit in the story, and I was okay with who it was. The author wrote words that easily flowed together and it was a very fast read for me. The ending surprised me a little, and I can not wait to read the other books in this series! I found myself cheering for Zoe, and I started to second guess all the other characters. As her memory came back, her past was clear as well as the present.

I am giving this book a 4/5 because even though I liked it a lot it is not my favorite genre.

I was given a copy to review by Orangeberry book tours, however all opinions are my own!

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### **sh(e)reader says**

I read this (book 2) right after the first book, and have started book three ... I know the whole story is just going to mesh into one long memory for me. Speaking of memory, this starts up as Zoe has regained her memory and she and Noah take off for ordeals and adventures. It's an ultimate "cliffhanger" ending, not falling off a cliff per se, but close!

It's nice already knowing the characters and the setting/world, so you can immediately get into the story. Plenty of new characters introduced. Some love triangle situations. Not that I had any set idea of where the story would go as the first book ended, but I wouldn't really have expected anything that happened here.

I couldn't sleep one night ... so I read this entire book.

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