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Ronie Kendig

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Former Marine Griffin Riddell had found purpose working with Nightshade—until he’s falsely convicted of a murder that plants him in a federal penitentiary. Is there anyone he can trust? Amid explosive confusion, covert operative Kazi Faron breaks Griffin out of a maximum-security prison. Then she delivers the death-blow—the Nightshade team has been dismantled. Together Kazi and Griffin must rescue the others and figure out who’s behind the sabotage. Can two people overcome their mistrust of each other in time to save Nightshade?

Firethorn Details

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From Reader Review Firethorn for online ebook

Inspirationalfictionreader says

I am dubbing Ronie Kendig “Queen of Chapter Cliffhangers!” She masterfully ends so many chapters where you “must” keep reading to find out what happens, but, then she shifts to a totally different scene in the next chapter. To find out what happens in the previous chapter, you dive into the new chapter, which *also* hooks you! The pace continues, and you are now invested in the current chapter, which again ends in a cliffhanger, to get back to the original scene you “needed” to know about - whew! You end up devouring each scene, each chapter, until you’re done! I am convinced my blood pressure was sky high at the doctors office because of this book! ?

This story will bring out every emotion you have in you! It is funny, heartbreaking, beautiful, exciting, bittersweet, and just so perfect! Ronie is, hands down, the best romantic suspense author I have ever read. The range of emotions she brings out in the reader is amazing! These characters just come alive and they stick with you long after the story is over.

Firethorn is the 4th book in the Discarded Heroes series.

I am so glad that we finally get to learn more about the mysterious Legend. His story will break your heart! And Kazi, wow, she is so complex and she keeps you on your toes the entire book! You’re just not sure what she is going to do next!

And, once again, Ronie puts her characters into some really horrible situations- Canyon! ? Oh! And poor poor ? oops no spoilers!

As for the faith message, I love these two lines. They really spoke to me. “When you can’t see what God’s hand is doing, trust His heart.” And, “Pop-Pop has taught him to watch for God in the small things, the whisper of the wind, the smile of someone unknown.”

I am so glad I still have Lygos to read in this series. I’m so gonna miss reading about this team and their families! Excellent!!!

MaryLu Tyndall says

The Discarded Heroes series has been one WILD ride! And I, for one, am sad to see it end. I fell in love with all the macho heroes who made up the covert Nightshade team. I cheered for them when they rescued victims and fought for justice, I trembled for them when their lives hung in the balance, I laughed at their boyish antics, cried at their pain and internal struggles, and smiled as each one fell madly in love! Each man waged his own battle with himself and with God. But what a joy it was to see God's love bring them out the other side stronger and wiser. Ms Kendig knows her stuff. Her tag line is rapid-fire fiction and don't kid yourself, that's just what you get. I felt like I was a special-ops agent myself! Thankfully, thanks to Ms. Kendig, I could capture bad guys from the warmth of my own house. LOL. I'm looking forward to whatever this fabulous author writes next!

Casey says

I might not always get or understand all the tactical moves, I may not always follow the lingo and track all

the players in the story. But one thing I *do* get when it comes the “Discarded Heroes” is this: the heart, the power, the faith, the drive, the conviction behind each of these men and women jumps through the pages and grabs me by the throat.

This last installment is nothing if not fast paced and high-intensity. And I saw something I never thought would be possible: Nightshade, special black ops team, dismantled and seemingly destroyed.

Each page leaves nothing to be desired and I should warn you now, if you care for your sleep, you won't read this at night. Each word is used to the utmost advantage, catapulting me into the set of this story as though it were visually before me on a television screen.

Legend and Kazi are a duo not to be messed with from the very start and their romance, woven in amongst copious gunfire, death threats and bombs just adds another cord of tension for characters and reader.

It takes talent to take a reader who doesn't normally read this genre (me) and transport that reader (me) into a world completely foreign and make that reader (me) a player throughout every intricate detail.

The ending left me mourning the loss of these brave heroes, but with more than enough hope they will continue to save the world, long after I've left them.

This review is my honest opinion. Thanks to the publishers through FIRST for my copy to review.

Joe Young says

Action packed Black Ops. adventure story that includes the pathos that typical war heroes and their families must deal with on a daily basis. Includes crooked politicians, betrayals, redemption and the the emotional turmoil that threatens their very mission. The operational details are authentically described and the inter group loyalty and sense of family are accurately portrayed. It is a story that has you floating along as an invisible member of the team, sharing in their emotions as they charge to finish their mission regardless of cost. Your personal involvement makes the finale enjoyable and rewarding on a personal level. It is an involving story that you will not likely be able to put down until you close the final chapter. Definitely a great read.

Katie says

First posted on my blog, Legacy of a Writer.

Anyone who's read anything by Ronie Kendig knows that she can deliver “rapid-fire fiction”, and she does not disappoint in Firethorn, the grand finale for the Discarded Heroes series! Open this book and instantly you will be sucked into the latest adventure for the Nightshade team. Except, instead of being sent on a mission...they are the mission—to regroup back together and hunt down whoever tried to permanently dismantle the Nightshade team.

What I found most intriguing about Firethorn is that it wasn't just about Griffin (Legend) and Kazi—though they are very central characters—but touches on each one of the members of the Nightshade team. Including their wives. Getting to see the men and their families from previous books—Max and Sydney, Colton and

Piper, Canyon and Dani—fight for their livelihood was the most gripping part of the book. After growing so attached to all of them in Nightshade, Digitalis, and Wolfsbane, I was nearly out of my mind with worry when the Nightshade was targeted and the members scattered.

Bringing in Kazi—an assassin who's always worked alone—was a really neat twist in contrast to the tight teamwork that Griffin is used to with the Nightshade team. This book almost rivaled Wolfsbane's position as my favorite out of the series. Almost. I admit I was a little depressed on finishing this book—one ending just completely took me by surprise. And while I don't hate the book—by any means!—it still...really saddened me. (No spoilers in this review, so that's all I'm saying!)

Ronie Kendig is at the top of her game with Firethorn. The writing grips you, the characters (once again) spring from the pages, and the action is non-stop! It's so hard to believe the Discarded Heroes series has come to an end. The characters have become so special and personal to me! But I know whatever book/series she comes out with next, I am going to love—It's Ronie Kendig we're talkin' about here, a lady who writes my kind of suspense...how can I not??

Sarita says

I enjoyed the final installment of the Discarded Heroes series, but not as much as the previous 3 books.

The action contained in these pages was never lacking and very fast paced. The discarded heroes is dismantled, and we see various rescue missions to get the team together. Due to this, the action jumps around between all the various locations of the heroes.

I enjoyed Griffen and Kazi's stories. Both had to deal with some very difficult issues, especially Kazi. I actually would have like the story to slow down a bit more with these two to get more information and more depth in their story. With all the action I felt a bit rushed getting to know these two.

There was also a lot of gaps for me. I never saw/understood really the story about Marshall's dad and sister Melanie, so I felt there was never a conclusion about their involvement or Griffen's freedom. So I was left with a few questions by the end of the book.

The ending wrt one of the heroes was unexpected and sad. I would have liked a different ending for him.

All in all, I enjoyed this series. I loved the Banter between the heroes and how they stuck together as a team. Every hero is strong but vulnerable and will steal a bit of the reader's heart.

Calisto says

Former Marine Griffin Riddell, framed for murder and sent to prison, trusts no one but his Nightshade brothers. When treachery dismantles the team, the only person Griffin can rely on is the super efficient, icy spy, Kazi Faron. But she has her own agenda and it might cost the lives of his teammates.

I must admit, I requested this book based on the cover and the blurb. I expected an exciting action-adventure romance. I had no idea it was the fourth book in the series and that it's under the label of Christian fiction/romance. Unfair as it is, my expectations immediately decreased when I saw the Christian label.

Color me convinced. This book is no preachy vanilla story. Kudos to Ms. Kendig for going the distance and making the resolution to the conflict truly unexpected. Despite being a little disoriented in the beginning with all of the characters, I truly enjoyed the various POVs and connections to the previous books, even without reading them. This story is exciting, tense, spiritual, heartbreaking...

And utterly ruined to me because of the frustrating, jerky, ridiculously jarring and ultimately disingenuous method of heightening the tension. Writing suspense is incredibly tricky. A writer has to build up tension and oftentimes distract the reader with murky tangents that only become clear in the end. It should be a roller-coaster ride. Heart stopping action should only be interrupted sparingly, otherwise it loses the impact of a 'cliffhanger'.

That's what happened here. The constant fake interruptions of the action didn't increase tension for me. The suspense went from heart stopping, to frustrating, to annoying, to predictable, repetitive and utterly boring. Ever sit next to a 'channel surfer'? Every time something piques your interest, it gets changed regardless of whether it was heading for a commercial or not? This is the literary version of that and it completely ruined the plot, suspense, characters, romance, and adventure of the story.

As for the romantic angle, it's there. I had no problem with the 'sweet' tilt instead of a graphic representation of affections, but ultimately I felt cheated out of the emotional connection between the lead characters that came at the cost of extra POVs that in many cases did little to enhance the story.

Fans of Nightshade will probably appreciate this story and the apparent resolution of the series more than I did. I simply could not get past of the herky-jerky pace. Kudos to Ms. Kendig, however, for taking the pariah out of Christian fiction for me.

2.5 stars.

ARC provided by publisher via NetGalley.

Barbara says

I read this book in a short time. (At least for me) I have read the other three books in this series. I must say, though, that I found parts of it quite confusing. A lot of times, authors who write a series will include some background of each character in each book. That way if you read the book as a stand alone, it would make sense, maybe not be as meaningful, but it would make sense. I found I had some trouble remembering who was who, but it did not distract too much from my enjoyment of the book. I'm sorry to see this series come to an end. The way I see it, she could have written a few more books about Nighshade and let us know the other characters better. I will be reading more from this author.

Melanie says

Wow! My first Ronie Kendig book and it was fantastic! Suspense from the beginning and non-stop action!

This is the fourth book in the Discarded Heroes series, but Firethorn was great on its own - I didn't feel like I was missing out on much having not read the first three.

The Nightshade team was so cool! They were so brave, going into dangerous situations and protecting others. I loved each member of the team! The banter between them was so funny - I seriously laughed a couple of times, especially when they fought over which branch of the military was better (i.e. SEALs, Marines, etc.).

There were some surprises in Firethorn that I didn't see coming. I'm not going to say what, because that would spoil it for all of you! :)

While there was some sadness, Firethorn was such a great read that I completely recommend it! I hope to read the first three books in this series because I want to know more about Nightshade!

I received a complimentary copy of Firethorn for my review. I was not required to give a positive review, only my honest opinion - which I've done. All thoughts and opinions expressed are my own.

<http://christianbookshelfreviews.blog...>

Hannah says

Three stars for "it was good."

I found it pretty easy to stay interested and turning the pages. However, all too often those pages were moving in the opposite direction because there were SO many POVs and it was really hard to keep them all straight. A quick insertion of the person's name at the top of the POV change would have made it clear who was who right away.

The whole story is constant action as the team races against time to reunite before they are all brutally killed. Someone ruthless has smacked them in the middle of an international scandal waiting to break. I knew ahead of time someone was going to die and I'd kinda figured out who, but Zi wanted to be wrong because it was one of my favorite characters. I don't like losing favorites!!

Also, I was shocked to encounter three religious swears...God, Jeez, and gosh, in this Christian-published title. Ugh.

I think the first and second books remain my favorite of the series, but this one is worth a read just to see what happens.

Julie Graves says

Things start to go terribly wrong for the Nightshade team. Griffin(Legend) is wrongly accused of murdering a high up official. He is in prison, depressed, wondering where he went wrong in life. He doesn't know how he will survive the rest of his life in prison, but he is determined to do it with honor and pride like the Marine that he is.

The Nightshade team are just back from a mission when their headquarters are attacked. They are separated and taken to different locations around the world. Two manage to escape before the others are whisked away. Their families are taken to a hidden location and given no information about where their men are.

Kazi has been hired to find the Nightshade team and get them back together. Nobody knows who is behind the setup to break up the team. Kazi's first mission is to break Legend out of prison. Kazi has hardened her heart to everyone around her because life has not been kind to her. She is afraid to allow her heart to care for anyone because that would make her weak in her goal. She is determined to earn enough money to allow her to buy herself back from the man that her brother sold her too years before. An attraction between Legend and Kazi could be dangerous to both their hearts.

One thing I like about the Nightshade books is that from the beginning of each book a person is in for a roller coaster ride of excitement! And then of course there is the romance in each one, I don't know that I could read a military style book if there wasn't a bit of attraction between the main characters! Firethorn is the last book in the Nightshade series. I don't know that a person has to read the books in order, but I think that it would definitely help if you did. I unfortunately have read them all out of order. I read Digitalis first, then Firethorn and I have Nightshade waiting for me to read and then I have to get Wolfsbane. While each book is about a different man on the Nightshade team I think it would have helped me to connect with the characters more if I would have started at the beginning. But still, I have enjoyed the ones that I have read!

Paula Phillips says

When it comes to genres , I'm not normally a military genre chick .For me , in order to get into it , it needs to be thrilling, fast-paced and not too confusing . I have enjoyed the likes of Lee Child , Howard Gordon, Douglas Preston and now I have a new name to add to my list Ronie Kendig. His military book Firethorn was awesome and thrilling as we read the main character on the run for his life -in a way Firethorn reminded me alot of the second part of the film "The A-Team" which I loved that film and ended up buying it on DVD. In Firethorn, we are introduced to the main leader Griffin -he is sitting in a bar with unresolved issues , a military guy comes up to him taunting him about his perfect record , his christianity and of course bringing up his dysfunctional childhood. Griffin lashes out and the next thing we know , a congressman is dead and Griffin is hurt and been sent to a maximum security prison on murder charges. The other side of the story flips to what we discover is Griffin's team of soldiers - known as Nightshade which makes sense considering that was the title of Ronie Kendig's first book in the Discarded Heroes series. More guns a-blazing , people dying , people being arrested and then we are transported back to the maximum security prison with Griffin . Arriving at the prison undercover as a pyschologist is Kaci , she has come to help Griffin escape prison as she bears bad news that somebody is destroying the Nightshade team and a few of his men are still missing. On a race of time , Griffin with the help of Kaci and a few others must find the remaining men that are alive, help those who have been arrested and find out who is behind the target of the Nightshade Crew. A fast-paced thrilling story that all fans of Military and Justice fiction will enjoy

Tamara Tilley says

The end has come too soon. The last installment in the Discarded Heroes series is riveting fiction at its best!

Kazi Faron is faced with an insurmountable task . . . reassemble the Nightshade team that someone in a place of power has single-handedly destroyed. With the team members all over the globe—some near death—her job will not be easy. Breaking Griffin “Legend” Riddell, out of a supermax penitentiary is her first task. Executed with precision and great skill, Griffin is stupefied that Kazi—a pint-size blonde—wields such skills. But, he also isn't sure if he should put 100% trust in the spy that is a loner, and use to looking out for only herself.

Kazi has her own reasons for taking on the near impossible task of bringing Nightshade back together.

Revenge against the man that has held her life in the balance for years, and she will stop at nothing to see him destroyed.

Though Griffin is a “team member” through and through, and Kazi is use to working alone, the feelings they developed for each other becomes another obstacle they must overcome. Griffin has no place in his world for a woman, or the commitment that goes with it. Kazi refuses to trust any man, regardless of how loyal he may appear. Never knowing if Kazi is working with him or against him, Griffin keeps her at all times on his radar. But, the more he analyzes the woman, the more he is determine to her that he had no intentions of using her, like the men in her past.

FIRETHORN, brings an incredible close to an incredible series! With the Nightshade team all but blown apart, the pace of the story is death-defying. I found myself turning page after page while I followed simultaneous battles to free the team I have come to love. I found myself taking deep breaths as I read to help me digest the imagery and action that filled this book from the very start. Touché, Ms. Kendig! Never have a read a series with such awe and enthusiasm since the O'Malley Series penned by Dee Henderson.

Book provided for review purposes. But I must add, I already owned books #1-#3, and in no way did the fact that I received this book for review sway my comments in the least.

Erica says

WOW!! What an incredible conclusion to the Discarded Heroes series! Ronie Kendig, you are amazing and without a doubt one of my most favorite authors! Griffin and Kazi's story was phenomenal. This book definitely had a different flavor to it since the team was split up for most of it. I liked that. It made it intense from the very beginning to the very end. I loved the peek into the past with Griffin, I loved how Kazi's story developed and yes, I cried at the end because there is a really good reason for tears (but I can't say because it would give the end away of course ;)). I loved how there was a whole lot of EVERYONE in this book, especially how it would go back and forth from members of the team to Sydney Jacobs back home with her family and the other Nightshade families. This series was simply phenomenal, the perfect ending! I couldn't have asked for a better conclusion!! :)

Aerykah says

Great book! I love the way Ronie Kendig writes. However, I was pretty disappointed that this is the last book in the series. :(I was really looking forward to reading books about all the other guys in the Nightshade Team.

I wish that things had turned out differently for Marshall in particular --- he was one of my favorites and I've wanted to read "his book" almost from the very beginning of the series.

I confess, I did have tears in my eyes during some of the last pages. Though the actual final ending wasn't sad, some of the parts leading up to it were.
