



## Never Let You Down

*Joely Sue Burkhart*

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## **Never Let You Down** Joely Sue Burkhart

A breath of a second chance can bring a slow-burning flame roaring back to life.

Virginia, Matriarch of the Texas Connaghers, has been alone twelve years since the great love of her life passed away. Tyrell loved her sadist's heavy hand and the hard inner core she's dared not show anyone since.

She lives in the past, clinging to all those memories except one. The one she's determinedly blocked out of her heart and mind for nearly forty years. The one time she was almost unfaithful to her then-fiancé with her best friend, Jebadiah Garrett.

That was a long time ago. They both married and moved on. She has three adult children settling down with their own families. Besides, it was just a kiss. One kiss.

One unforgettable kiss that brought Jebadiah to his knees at her feet.

Now he's back in town and determined to finally, once and for all, tell her how much he's loved her all these years. Or, even better, show her by going to his knees once more. If she'll only give him the chance.

*Warning: Friends to lovers, older characters with a second chance at love, and a hard-as-nails matriarch who finally succumbs to a forty-year-old unrequited love.*

## **Never Let You Down Details**

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Author : Joely Sue Burkhart

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## From Reader Review Never Let You Down for online ebook

### Talltree says

Wow.

So far I have stayed away from romances with older couples, it never particularly appealed to me. B-but this was seriously HOT \* waving the steam away from face\* My only wish is that when I'm 55+ that my sex life be as hot as it is for the couple in the book, please God!!

Seriously sweet and hot second chance romance about a man who has loved a woman almost all his life and a woman who is kind of a sadist ( mild s/m in the book). He finds love and acceptance and belonging and she gets to have two great loves in her life, Ginny is just so very lucky to have two such devoted men , sigh. Loved Jebadiah and Ty( as the ghost and in the small flashbacks) and the whole book - especially the fun snippets of stories Jeb wrote.

4 star read; I would have given one more if only the book was longer and had more stuff about their life after they started living together, I really wanted more of Jeb/Virginia!!

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### ? One Click Romance ? says

After being entirely consumed by this series, I reached this installment and I can't seem to connect with the story at all. So, it goes on my paused shelf, maybe I'll come back to it.

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### Reflection says

Wow! What a read, this book is fantastic, the characters are feisty and interesting and the story is so emotionally engaging I was gripped. The kink is also a welcome bonus too (and indeed the draw to reading 'Never Let You Down' so the skill and depth of writing and character development was a very welcome surprise).

Within five minutes of starting to read 'Never Let You Down' tears were pricking as the emotions of love and loss tore through the pages.

This is a beautiful story of love and self acceptance and of second chances. It depicts courage and yearning, support and rejection. I found myself crying with sadness, with happiness and with the sheer beauty of love and family (even when they drive you nuts).

It depicts strong independent spirited people who can admit their vulnerabilities and past mistakes, to accept love and support possibly only after some soul searching.

'Never Let You Down' is the fourth book in the series although it reads fine as a stand alone novel. Telling the story of an enduring love between Virginia and her husband Tyrell (who passed away twelve years previously) and their shared passion for giving and receiving pain respectively. Virginia chose Ty over her best friend Jeb.

'Never Let You Down' explores what happens when Jeb and Virginia consider whether they can move beyond past hurts and misunderstanding and rekindle their youthful feelings for each other whilst being true to their adult (middle aged) selves and to each other. Interspersed with the present are memories from their

shared past.

Jeb is a writer of erotic fiction about strong but ultimately submissive men. His latest book is loosely based on the real life characters of himself, Ginny and Ty and how things could have been if events were handled differently. This secondary story was woven throughout the book as well.

I feel that I have been seriously missing out by never having read this author before. I am looking forward to reading the other preceding books in the series (which if they are half as good will be an emotional roller coaster filled with fascinating well drawn characters and some hot and spicy love scenes).

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review as part of the BDSM R2R event. Lucky me! Highly recommend.

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## **Pansy says**

4.5 out of 5 stars

I have been a fan of this author and this series for a long time. This author was one of the first writers of BDSM that I read. I even own a print copy of the first Connaghers book – Dear Sir, I’m Yours. \*sigh\* The second book, Hurt Me So Good . . . Well let’s just say that one is on my favorites list and I have read it more than once. Yours To Take, the third book, had little sister surprising us all. Oh yah! So when I heard there was going to be a book featuring the mother of these characters, I had to read it!

I was not disappointed. Virginia Connagher is one hell of a woman, and a female sadist. She swings a mean riding crop and a little blood just adds to the pleasure. Yes, this is a bit hard core in places, but not too bad. It is mostly character driven.

Never Let You Down was an unusual story in its unique presentation. I am not always a fan of the flashback, but this story benefited from it. Virginia’s husband, Tyrell, was just as important a character in this story as Jebadiah Garrett was. Since Tyrell died twelve years ago, the flashbacks were needed. It presented a fuller picture of the early relationship and how Jeb fit into it. I thought the author did a good job of weaving the past into the future for an interesting story.

Then there was the story within the story – Always Gets Her Man by Chris Waters. A very unique twist. I found that that too was another character of the story. A most interesting point of view on things.

I liked how all of the family and their significant others were also woven into this story. It was fun to see the entire family, including Miss Belle, together and see how they interacted with each other. One of my favorite things about reading a series like this. Although each book can be read quite well as a stand-alone – including this one – having the family members weave in and out of each other’s books is fun.

This was a fascinating reading experience. I could not put the book down. I had to keep reading. I adored Virginia. In a recent newsletter the author shared some “cool facts” about this book. One of them was that she pictured Sam Elliot and Tom Selleck as the male leads. That so worked for me and yep! I could see it. \*sigh\* Lucky Virginia! Add to that, this story was about the older generation – mid to late fifties. It gives me hope.

I really hated to see this one end. Though it did end quite nicely with them “riding off into the sunset together.”

I was provided a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Shannon says**

This book follows the mother of the books the previous books in the series were about. It beautifully blends the scenes of the present with the past to show the whole story between Virginia, her late husband Ty, and their friend Jeb. It is great to see more about Virginia's past, see what helped shape her children, and have her finally get her happily ever after.

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### **Dee says**

3.5 - 4 stars

Wow what an intricately woven plot. So much going on. The accident, the ghost of her ex. Miss Belle, bless her what an awesome lady.

The story within a story. Background on Jeb and Victoria, what forced them apart and what brought them back together again.

This was a beautiful story about an older couple and their second chance at love. The S & M elements were confusing to me, but then I am no expert on the topic. What I did like was that not once was a male portrayed as being weak because he was submissive. However, Virginia didn't come across as much of a sadist, maybe in what we are 'told' but not in what was 'shown'.

Joely knows how to write a complex story, one that is well edited, which is always a reading delight for me.

*Copy received in exchange for an honest review*

Back tracking now to book three Yours to Take

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### **The Romance Evangelist says**

A copy of this book was provided by the author for an honest review at Night Owl Reviews.

Review Excerpt:

Much like the unconventional relationships highlighted in each of the previous Connagher books, NEVER LET YOU DOWN also features an unconventional way of telling the multi-layered story of Virginia and Jeb's romance. We have a view of the present day as Jeb returns to woo the woman he'd never stopped loving. We also view the past, as all the questions about how he is inextricably linked to Virginia and Ty are eventually answered in full. And then, as the past and present wind their way around each other toward the anticipated HEA, a third voice enters the story in the form of a book within the book -- a slightly over the top erotic western romance with a more than passing resemblance to the love story being told in the rest of the book. This manner of storytelling is risky with the danger of confusing the reader, but I was able to easily

keep the three portions separate while appreciating how they all fit together as closely as Virginia, Ty, and Jeb did by the end of the book. It's a beautiful love story in all its combinations, and a wonderful addition to one of my favorite erotic romance series.

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## Leeann Pule says

### Allowing to be loved and in love again

It's been 12 long and lonely years since Mama Connagher lost the only man she ever loved, her husband Ty. But when a freak accident occurs and Ty comes to her in a vision/dream from beyond the grave will she finally admit the truth? That possibly there is one other man who she loved or still loves as much as her late husband, her childhood best friend Jeb.

Forty years have past and Jeb has loved Ginny everyday of his life, even when he was married. Finally figuring out that he is submissive and ready to tempt Ginny into a love affair with him he returns home to her.

Will this be their chance to find happiness?

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## ? BookAddict ✍️ La Crimson Femme says

Ms. Burkhart certainly never lets a reader down with her deliciously erotic stories. In this fourth book in the series, I'm caught off guard. I never thought there would be another book in this series. To now have a book focused on the dominant who influenced the Connaghers brothers and sister, it is sublime. Virginia is the mother of three strong dominants. She herself is a sadist who sexually tortured her husband as he erotically pleased her with his masochism. Unfortunately for Virginia, she's been without a husband, lover and masochist for twelve years. Since her beloved Tyrell passed away, Virginia's been alone.

This is a fabulous story of love reunited. Ms. Burkhart does a lovely job in bringing out different types of love and needs in this story. Her characters, Virginia and Jebadiah are wonderful. I love Jeb and his unrequited love moves me. His desire and need to serve as a submissive is breathtaking as it hits home to readers who yearn to service in the same manner. Ms. Burkhart captures this unsatisfied need so well, it hurts to read about it.

A clever little writing device Ms. Burkhart uses is creating Jeb as a BDSM writer. He writes stories with strong submissive males. His latest story is one which incorporates his own experiences with Virginia and Tyrell. Ms. Burkhart alternates between reality and the fictional story within a story. I like it! I must say, I wish the story would be written and published as a short story spin off. Similar to how Robert Rodriguez created Machete off a poster and trailer in a previous movie of his, Grindhouse.

What I really enjoyed about this story is second chances. I liked that both Virginia and Jeb are older. The flashbacks between current and past is smoothly done. It helps flesh the characters out as well as provide information on past pains and history. I'm also very pleased to see a femdom where the woman is sadistically loving just as the man is strongly submissive. Jeb is no doormat and Virginia is no viperous castrating bitch. Touching upon the concerns of a brawny male exposed as a submissive on his knees, Ms. Burkhart shows the strength a male submissive must go through. The misconceptions and the prejudice against male submissive is frustrating and a hot button for me. Fortunately, Ms. Burkhart does a great job of explaining it. This kinky romance is highly recommended to those who love friends to lovers happily ever after, no matter how long it takes.

*\*provided by NetGalley*

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## **Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says**

Slick's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

4 STARS

Review copy provided for an honest review

From the very first book in Joely Sue Burkhart's The Connaghers series I was curious about matriarch Virginia Connagher and the seemingly unusual relationship she had with her late husband, but I also admired her for coming clean about it with her grown children especially when their needs came to light. I love that this author wrote a second chance story between two people who had been best friends most of their lives but never moved past that except for one brief moment in time, I love that this is a story about two people in their twilight years, and I love that she once again made sure her readers understood that this is a NEED in some people, not a choice. I especially love that this strong woman, this mistress, this Domme was fortunate enough to have two strong men in her lifetime who needed to serve her as she gave them what they needed. I loved the story between Virginia Connagher and Jebadiah Garrett and I enjoyed getting to see the back-story between them and Virginia's relationship with her late husband, Tyrell, and while I appreciate the book within the book to give us insight into what Jeb was thinking and feeling towards Virginia it was almost too much. However, Never Let You Down is a fantastic second chance at love story and one that proves age is only a number.

This was such an interesting story because it really takes place between three people; one woman who two men loved her with all of their hearts so much so that one let her go and the other gave her the opportunity to choose even though it could have changed their lives forever. All three made sacrifices and all three are characters that leapt of the page for their strength, conviction, and bravery. I simply can't remember a book where I admired three characters as much as I admired Virginia (Ginny), Tyrell, and Jebadiah (Jeb).

Following a serious accident Jeb returns to Ginny's life bound and determined to finally have the woman he's loved his whole life by his side. He knows it will be a struggle but he also feels it is something his friend and Virginia's late husband would want for her. This is a complex story and both Virginia and Jeb must convince the other that they can be exactly what the other needs. While Jeb has no problems with what he wants and needs from Ginny; she on the other hand is scared to go too far with Jeb because she thinks he has no clue how dark her needs really are. I absolutely loved how devoted Jeb was to Ginny even after so many years apart and how he had truly "served" her for so long even when she didn't realize it was what he needed to do FOR her, consequently when she did realize it that made all the difference in their relationship. I also adored Ginny for accepting all parts of Jeb who while strong was very different from her late husband and whose needs were quite different. Just the fact that she supported him and did everything in her power to make him understand how proud she was of his accomplishments was huge.

I will forever be grateful to author Joely Sue Burkhart for writing this installment in this series as it did answer some questions I had from previous books. Never Let You Down is a love story that spans decades, that transcends the norm, and one that involves three people; all of whom I believe held great respect and love for each other even from beyond.

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## **Book Gannet says**

I love a second chance romance, and Jeb is just the sweetest guy. He's been in love with Virginia forever, but spent so long building up the courage to ask her out that he lost her altogether. Unsurprising, considering he's a submissive, who is willing to do whatever Virginia asks him. Not any woman, though, just Virginia. And despite how much she loved her husband and still misses him, she loves Jeb too, though it takes her a while to realise it.

Virginia is a strong woman, not just in the bedroom. She's not nice, she's not kind, she's mean and hard, but she cares for those she loves. Once she finally accepted what happened in the past between her and Jeb, I loved how she set about doing everything she could to make up for it. Even if she's not the best communicator in the world. Poor Jeb, trying to take care of her while she's trying to protect him.

There's also a story within a story here, with a novella inserted between various chapters as penned by a certain pseudonym. As cute as I found it, it was also annoying because I wanted to keep reading about Jeb and Virginia rather than keep getting tugged off course by the Steampunk Western, the outlaw, the sheriff and the woman who loved them both. On it's own I probably would have liked the story, but here it kept distracting me from what I really wanted to know.

That aside, though, I really enjoyed this. The D/s relationship is told beautifully, showing what each side gets out of such a partnership and how they take care of each other. Sure, it's not for everyone, but it's not wrong either. It's love and sex and pleasure, and if it makes them happy, go for it. But this book is also about more than the bedroom, it's about past sorrows and present problems, choices both made and missed, some wrong, some right, regrets and resolutions. Yes, it's sexy but it has its sweet moments too and an ending that made me want to cheer.

A strong woman who isn't afraid of her power, a strong man who knows the power of being weak, hot bedroom scenes and a couple of older characters who are doing so much more than recapturing their past – I loved it, and will definitely be reading more from this author.

(I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.)

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## Steelwhisper says

1.5\* rounded down.

Fuck me sideways, I finally realised that this is Dallas BDSM AU fanfiction!

We have a Miss ~~Ellie~~ Virginia with her sons...

...who keeps mourning her husband ~~Jock~~ Tyrell (who has the tendency to appear as some benevolent ghost, no less!)

...and there's even some Clayton Farlow-type showing up, who wants to replace ~~Jock~~ Tyrell.

Else little is different, the storyline and narration is just about as interesting and accomplished as a soap opera. With BDSM thrown in. Which was where my good mood and this book parted ways.

For one thing, Virginia was supposedly only 56, but she was often written like a crone. For another, what is it that has authors write BDSMers practically as a rule to be self-harming or have other mental illnesses? For one thing is sure, an actual sadist likes to give pain, not receive it, and only someone mentally ill will self-harm. That's in no way related to BDSM. Don't start me on how the BDSM is portrayed, let me just say: I wasn't best amused.

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