



# Digitalis

*Ronie Kendig*

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Step into the boots of a former Marine in this heart-pounding adventure in life and love. Colton “Cowboy” Neeley is a Marine trying to find his footing as he battles flashbacks now that he’s back home. Piper Blum is a woman in hiding—from life and the assassins bent on destroying her family. When their hearts collide, more than their lives are at stake. Will Colton find a way to forgive Piper’s lies? Can Piper find a way to rescue her father, trapped in Israel? Is there any way their love, founded on her lies, can survive?

## Digitalis Details

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Author : Ronie Kendig

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# From Reader Review Digitalis for online ebook

## Rel says

Ronie Kendig's debut novel Dead Reckoning set the bar high, Nightshade popped over the top and Digitalis clears it with air to spare! Ronie Kendig has stamped herself as the premier author of romantic thrillers in Christian writing today. Digitalis, the sequel to the brilliant Nightshade, is nothing short of a cinematic experience in written form. With the relentless action of The Bourne Identity, the electrifying chemistry of Speed and the emotional punch of A Few Good Men, Digitalis is a stomach clenching, all consuming thrill ride as the Nightshade Black Ops team is attacked on mission and at home. Ronie's incomparable ability to express the emotional depths of her characters sets her stories apart. From Colton's debilitating PTSD episodes, Griffin's aversion to new blood and Piper's fear for those she loves, Digitalis bleeds authentic desolation, passion and devotion. Then there's The Kid, the youngest member of the team whose smart mouth provides the perfect humorous release just when you thought you couldn't take the tension any more. And if you think I'm overstating it, read Digitalis and I promise to refrain from saying, "I told you so". ;-) Bring on Wolfsbane and Firethorn!

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## Elizabeth "Eli" Olmedo says

Just when I thought Ronie Kendig's books couldn't get any better, she wows me once more. In Digitalis, the second book of her Discarded Heroes Series, Kendig offers a story full of suspense, love, and faith. Though faith is an integral part of her stories and characters, I never feel preached at. Saying they have faith is like saying they have brown eyes. It's a part of who they are. Kendig is the Karen Kingsbury of Christian Suspense.

In a world where loving Israel is so unpopular, it is refreshing to find an author who truly values and respects God's land. I also thoroughly enjoyed that some of the characters were Messianic Jews. As a Messianic Believer, I could really identify with them.

While Digitalis can stand alone, you won't want to miss any part of the series. This book is a must read for those who enjoy suspense and romance all wrapped up in one.

Review copy provided by publisher.

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## Katie says

Ronie Kendig never ceases to amaze me. "Rapid-Fire Fiction" describes her awesome books to a tee! Each time I pick up a book by her, I know I am in for a wild adventure. Within minutes, I'm completely sucked into the characters and their situations. By the time it comes to a heart pounding ending, I'm dying for more! Digitalis was A-MAZ-ING!! Totally. Her entire Discarded Hero series is completely awesome and one that will remain proudly on my favorites bookshelf for forever! After reading all three books in this series – Nightshade, Digitalis, and Wolfsbane – I still cannot say which one is my favorite. Each one has something that I totally loved about them. The Nightshade team is just an awesome, dedicated group of guys! Gotta

love each one!

From the opening scene, when Colton experience a vivid and brutal flashback, to the ending where the Nightshade team finally finds a replacement for one of their men who died in a previous mission, I was wrapped up in these characters. Already knowing about them from Wolfsbane and Nightshade (Yes, I read them out of order!), I was eager to find out more about Colton. In true Ronie Kendig fashion, Colton is realistic, believable, and deep. Very deep! No one can ever accuse Ronie of writing paper-thin characters. Colton, Piper, Max, Griffin, Marshall, Canyon, Azzan, Olin...they are all so amazingly complex I feel like I really know them.

Digitalis takes the readers on another adrenaline-pumping adventure for the Nightshade team. By the halfway point, things were so thick and complicated, I just held on for dear life and wondered how in the world they would get out of it. With many hair-raising events and heart-pounding moments, I found this book impossible to put down! Even when I did have to stop, I still was wrapped up in Colton and Piper's world.

When trying to think of a way to describe Ronie's writing style, one word comes to mind—Intense. Every word is bold, vivid, and carries so much meaning! It instantly grabs the reader's attention and doesn't let go! I LOVE that about her writing. So intense! So gripping! So awesome!

From start to finish, I loved this book. Totally! The Discarded Hero series, each and every book, is awesome! Ronie Kendig has become an author who, when I hear she's coming out with a new book (even before I know what it's about), I know I'm going to get it. I can always trust Ronie to write a book that will keep my adrenalin running, my mind reeling, and my heart thumping double time. Way ta' go, Ronie!! I can't wait till the next book comes out, Firethorn!

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## **Sara says**

Wow! If I could give this book 6 stars, I would! I fell in love with the men of Nightshade in the first book of this series and I was really looking forward to reading about the hunky cowboy's, Colton Neely, story. This book did not disappoint at all. It was everything I thought it would be and more. Action, suspense, drama, romance. I loved, loved, loved it.

In the first book, Colton seems to have everything in control, as he helps Max overcome his anger and PTSD. However, within the first few pages of this book, we learn that Cowboy has struggles of his own that he's keeping locked up inside. He's dealing with the death of his sister, raising his little daughter, being a member of Nightshade, all while having debilitating flashbacks. This book was intense. At times, I found myself a bit shocked at Cowboy's behavior towards the team and to Piper. But I loved how the Nightshade team rallied back and supported Cowboy to no end and how Piper didn't let his actions overshadow their love for each other.

Ronie Kendig has an excellent writing style and as with her other books, I found myself instantly sucked into the story. I love how when reading her books, I feel like I'm actually there either underwater in an ocean dive, in the jungle with the Nightshade team, or hiding in a vacant house in Israel. There is so much action and intensity in her books that before I know it, it is late at night and I'm over 150 pages into the book! Plus, Kendig always has a natural way of incorporating the love of God for her flawed heroes, and of us, within all her books.

I'd highly recommend this book! I cannot wait for the other books in this series and to get to know the other members of Nightshade. (By the way, I was able to read this book through NetGalley.com!)

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### **Renee says**

Former Marine Colton "Cowboy" Neeley, codename Digitalis, can't figure out why the woman he loves is lying to him. What he does know is that Piper's secrets can't possibly be worse than his own—a belief which keeps him from deepening their relationship. Too bad his daughter Mickey wants Piper to be her new mother, and Colton's father is convinced that Piper is "The One" God picked out for his son. If Colton's life would just slow down for a day or so, he might be able to figure it all out. Instead, he finds himself hopping from special ops mission to special ops mission until God brings the enemy right to his ranch's back door.

This unputdownable page-turner has just about the right amount of everything: action, romance, humor, and espionage. And I loved the stunning climax in Israel. I did grow a bit frustrated with Colton's love interest Piper, but after she dried her tears and tried trusting Colton, I decided she might be worthy of him. As for me, I discovered that Digitalis is good for my heart. In other words, Colton Neeley is my new favorite hero. Of course, I haven't read the other books in this series yet . . .

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### **Sarita says**

This was another great read for me by Ronie Kendig. The story did start out slow but the action picked up at such a point that I couldn't put the book down and read till late into the night to see what happened.

This was not my favourite in the series, but it was still a great action packed, but also emotional roller coaster. I enjoyed Cowboy. I think I liked his character the most so far, even though I didn't enjoy his romance story as much as I enjoyed the first book's. Cowboy had a lot to deal with and I enjoyed seeing how he grew and overcame his depression. He was such a strong but vulnerable character.

Enjoying the discarded heroes series a lot.

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### **Lacy Williams says**

Struggling with debilitating flashbacks, Colton Neeley knows he can't go on with his career in MARSOC - the Marine Special Operations Command/Team. When a buddy offers him a chance for a fresh start in a new elite group - Nightshade - including the time to heal that he needs, Colton accepts.

But the flashbacks don't go away.

Piper Blum is drawn to the quiet but larger-than-life cowboy, but she has her own secrets. Ones that could cause death and destruction if they are revealed. Even so, Piper finds herself falling for the enigmatic soldier... Until the unthinkable happens and her worst fears come true.

Ronie's third book (second in this series) is action-packed, fast-paced, and laced with romance throughout. I would rate this up there with Dee Henderson's O'Malley series, which is one of my favorites in inspirational

romantic suspense. Damaged hero whose tough exterior hides a heart of gold (especially shown in his interactions with his young daughter), strong heroine trapped in circumstances she can't help... a team of buddies that won't let each other down. There is a lot to love in this book.

Great dialogue, believable plot that keeps you in the moment every step of the way, surprises that keep it just a little unpredictable, and did I mention the romance?

Loved it the whole way through - highly recommended.

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## **Brittany says**

I could hardly set this book down! I loved learning more about Colton (Cowboy) and all that he has to deal with regarding PTSD and guilt. Loved the story between the two main characters! Lots of romantic tension and lots and lots of danger. Looking forward to reading the upcoming rewrite to Wolfsbane!

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## **Wendy Sparkes says**

### *#2 Discarded Heroes*

In the 1st book of the *Discarded Heroes* series a team (Nightshade) is assembled. They go where the American Army can't. They are known to no one but themselves & the person who created the team. Someone else who is providing the funding knows of the team, but not who they are. If trouble comes - they are on their own to sort it out! If the assignment goes wrong, no one will admit they sent them. If they die, no one else will know.

Now, down a team member, the team are struggling with assignments. The trouble is who to add to an established team whom they would be able to trust. And it's not only new team members they have to worry about. If a relationship starts, that adds a new dimension. When Colton (Cowboy) falls for Piper he asks the general to check her out - only to find she doesn't exist. What are the secrets this lady is hiding? And what effect is that going to have on the team...& his family?

A strong story...& in one place also strong language. In the author's defence though, I think this word is quite mild in America. However here in the UK it's quite strong so fellow Brits might want to take note.

A good continuation to the series. It was nice to meet up with the team again and get to know Cowboy better, as well as meet some new characters.

#1 #2 #3 #4

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## **Casey says**

Man!

No really...what a man!

I am not a thriller reader. I like suspense and will watch the occasional Law and Order LA, but I am not a thriller reader.

DIGITALIS and Ronie Kendig have made me a thriller reader.

I think what made this book so appealing is the romance. Let's be honest here, Colton "Cowboy" is one hunky hero. Right. Off. The. Bat. This book got going. I thought maybe at first it was moving "too" fast, but quickly changed my mind. Piper and Colton's romance smolders just below the surface, hot enough to feel the incoming flames. But when the strong wind of lethal secrets snuffs out what was just getting started, I was crushed.

Life continues to get worse and worse until I wasn't sure if anything could bring them back together. Dialogue is snappy and to the point and the ensemble cast is really perfect. I always get a kick out of the "Kid" and hope I get to read his story...?

A couple of the actions scenes in Israel were a bit hard for me to follow personally- but again, not a thriller reader here folks. I'm not saying it was a problem with the fiction, I just personally got the glazed over feeling. But not for too long and it was punchy enough I didn't want to quit.

Very good from cover to cover, I will want to re-read this one again!

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

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## **Tamara Tilley says**

DIGITALIS, the second installment in the Discarded Heroes Series, keep me on the edge of my seat, book firmly in hand.

Colton Neeley, aka Cowboy, aka Digitalis is part of an elite task force. Suffering from PTSD, he continues to question if he has the faculties to continue on or if his debilitating flashbacks puts the rest of his team in peril. With a daughter to raise, he thinks long and hard regarding his future. Lately, he also finds himself thinking of Piper Blum, a sales clerk at a local store. His reconnaissance in regards to the caramel-eyed beauty tells him he has already lost his heart. His brain tells him nothing is worth the pain of bringing one more person into his fractured life. When his heart wins out, he takes a step of faith and asks Piper out. When hidden secrets of her past tear them apart, he shuts down his emotions and tries to block her out of his mind. When it is obvious her life is in danger, Colton must chose once again. She has already taken something from him she can never replace. Will he allow her to take even more?

Piper Blum is not at all what she seems. Fleeing her country and taking on a false identity, she never had intentions of getting close to anyone. But, when the rugged cowboy continues to show up at the department store where she works, her feelings get the better of her. Going out on a limb, she allows herself to enjoy Colton's company. When she realizes her identity has been compromised, she plans to leave Colton without him ever knowing who she really is. When circumstances lead Colton to her side, botching a planned kidnapping, she unwillingly involves him in the dangers of her life and takes from him one of his most

precious possessions. Knowing he has nothing but hate for her, she tries to get away. When his team is brought in to help her with a near suicidal mission, she tries to bridge the hurt between them. But it's too late. She's lost his trust, her heart, and could quite possibly lose her life.

DIGITALIS is face-paced, page-turning, action and romance at its best. Great characters, a perplexed storyline, and unending action, DIGITALIS is a book that few will be able to put down. My only caveat – with each character of the Nightshade team having multiple nicknames, it takes several chapters before you have them sorted out. Other than that, a GREAT book for both the male and female reader.

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### **Julie Graves says**

Colton (Cowboy) is part of the Nightshade team. He is a sniper for the team. He battles the memories of being held captive and tortured, of his sister being killed, and of his wife leaving him. The only good thing to come of that relationship was his daughter Mickey.

Piper works at a department store. She is in hiding. Her true identity can never be revealed or her father will be in deadly danger. She cannot afford to be careless and she cannot afford to enter into any relationships that may endanger her life and the lives of those she loves.

From the moment Colton and Piper see each other in the department store there is an attraction. Goaded by his team, Colton finally works up the courage to ask Piper out. It seems that they are meant for each other. After all, Mickey has dreamed for a mother and brother and sister, she thinks Piper is perfect.

Evil catches up with Piper quickly. Unable to tell Colton her secrets soon puts a strain on their relationship. Especially once that evil visits Colton's home and leaves tragedy behind.

The story was definitely action-packed. Unfortunately for me the relationship between Colton and Piper just didn't work. Frankly I got irritated with both of them too often. Both of them kept secrets from each other. Colton was unable to tell Piper what his true job was. Piper was unable to tell him about the danger that she was in. Yet when Colton finds out about Piper he is unable to forgive her for holding the secret and drawing him and his family into her danger. I thought their declarations for love to one another started way too fast before they ever had a chance to really KNOW each other. Also, a pet-peeve that I have is the editing of the story. I read my copy on my Kindle and it was full of typos, to the point of distraction. I think that Digitalis can be a standalone story, but the first in the series is Nightshade, and coming out soon is Wolfsbane. Nightshade may have explained the reason the group was formed, but I caught up pretty quickly with the characters in Digitalis.

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### **Margaret Metz says**

Reading any of Ronie Kendig's books is like watching the latest action-adventure blockbuster. I feel like they should come with the standard warning they give you when you get on a roller-coaster: "Keep your arms and legs inside the car at all times and keep your seat-belt securely fastened." lol This author knows how to write



an exciting book!

Piper and Cowboy are very sweet together. I liked both of them very much and the way they cared about one another and the problems that caused was ... difficult and yet beautifully done.

The team feels like family and they all have their own identities. Instead of seeming like secondary characters she's written to prop up the book, these are more like people she's met and is just describing on the page.

I'm a bit behind, but Wolfsbane is already on my Kindle so it won't be long before I'm caught up. :o)

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### **MaryLu Tyndall says**

Are you an adventurer? Love our military and honor their extreme sacrifice? Want to read a book that will get your heart pumping, both from the excitement and the romance? Then this is the book for you. I loved Nightshade, but Digitalis was outstanding. Ms. Kendig has now become the queen of military romantic suspense. Love the characters! I felt their pain, their anguish, their fear, their joy.. their love. I adored "Cowboy". He and his fellow special-ops crew make me believe in heroes again. In a world where we truly need more of them. Can't wait for the next book in the series. Keep it up, Ms. Kendig!

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### **Nora St Laurent says**

While delivering an astounding high energy, nail-biting suspense story, Ronie Kendig has mastered the art of having the story's message pierce your heart and her quirky endearing characters feel like family. I was thrilled and couldn't wait to read the review copy I received, which is the second book in the "Discarded Heroes" series. I've read all of Ronie Kendig's book so far and think Digitalis is her best work yet.

This author masterfully weaves the right amount of action, adventure and romance that pulls at your heart strings, keeps you intrigued and wanting to read more. This novel begins with a bang - literally explosions from the start - as Colton is in the middle of a flashback. The Nightshade's team is heading for another mission impossible; will Colton Neeley be up for it? He's struggling with flashbacks and no sleep. Now the team leader has him in therapy sessions to see if that helps....maybe he should just give up this gig!

..."he'd had enough. Was it worth it? Was it worth it to sear images into his brain and live with them night after night so someone half a world away could sleep when he couldn't? Was it right? Sacrificing his peace for theirs?"

This story beautifully shows how God uses flawed characters to get his work done; he doesn't need us, but allows us to be part of his plan. Piper Blum is a woman with a few secrets she has to keep; her life depends on it. Piper can't let anyone close. Then she meets Colton Neeley and his daughter in a surprising way. She likes Colton and thinks he's handsome, but she has to stop thinking like this. Colton senses she isn't telling him everything, but he doesn't press her for answers - he knows all too well about secrets. He has a few he doesn't want to share either.

I'm amazed at how every time I read Ronie's books, she captures the male bonding moments in battle and the teasing teammates are involved in - all in a male point of view. I often forgot that a woman wrote this book. It's so believable! The pace of the story and Ronie's well-timed humor in the middle of some combat situations, allow the reader to experience the effects of war, and the suspense and drama before something else happens. It kept me on the edge of my seat as this author gave me a glimpse into the emotions, struggles and agony military men and their families go through.

I was engaged in the story hook, line and sinker from the very first page. I cared for her main characters Colton, Piper, Mickey and the rest of the Nightshades team. Warning to readers: You will lose hours of sleep, as you won't be able to rip yourself away from this novel, its message and the characters. They will become your friends and you'll find yourself cheering for them. This book is a keeper and Ronie Kendig is an author to watch, she's getting better by the book!

Disclosure of Material Connection: #AD Sponsored by publisher.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising"

Nora St.Laurent

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