



Survivor's Guilt

Cassy Roop

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There are five stages of grief.

Denial.

Bargaining.

Anger.

Depression.

Acceptance.

Losing the love of your life is one of the hardest things anyone would ever have to face.

Especially when your life with them was just beginning.

When tragedy strikes on what should be the happiest time of your life, how are you supposed to pick up the pieces of your life and move on without them?

Two strangers who happen to share a life changing event, come to find solace in each other to help deal with their pain.

One of them feels the guilt of being the reason that a life was lost.

The other guilty for making a last second choice.

Both of them, guilty that they survived.

But what happens when a bond that surfaces from tragedy brings these two strangers together?

Finding comfort in each other as they both deal with the same pain, was never the plan.

Can they look beyond the guilt of the past in order stop themselves dying along with their loved ones, but instead live and learn to love again?

What happens when losing your first love becomes the reason for meeting your one true love?

Survivor's Guilt Details

Date : Published June 26th 2015 by Pink Ink

ISBN :

Author : Cassy Roop

Format : Kindle Edition 308 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Tragedy

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From Reader Review Survivor's Guilt for online ebook

Allyson Gottlieb says

Full disclosure: I received an ARC from the author. All views expressed in the review are 100% my own, though. In fact, I think she probably thinks I forgot about writing this, lol.

Wow! When you've read as many romances as I have (as most indie authors have, once you've been around long enough), sometimes they start to blur together a bit. Not Survivor's Guilt. This one will always stand out in my mind as distinct.

The first couple of chapters were a very nice bit of tricky writing that had me flipping backward and going "What!" when I realized what she'd done. Nicely done, my friend. As someone who's dealt with a deeply personal loss of my own (not quite of the magnitude as these characters, but similar), I found the grieving process intensely relatable. That Cassy was able to dig deep into these places makes me wonder if there's something I don't know about her. And, of course, the sweet romance that begins to blossom between the two is very uplifting and inspirational, like biting into the gooey center of a chocolate at the end. When the characters finally give in to their feelings, I thought the level of "steam" was incredibly tasteful, given the subject matter, and it just made me smile to see them get their happy ending.

Remember how I said that romance novels kind of all seem the same to me after a while? Anything by Cassy Roop is by far the exception. She manages to display such versatility within what is essentially one (maybe two?) genres of choice. I can't wait to see what her fantastically creative mind dreams up next.

Shida says

The premise had potential. Unfortunately, I'll have to find another novel with a similar storyline.

The editing, spelling, repetitiveness, and writing overall were atrocious and distracting, and gave me secondhand embarrassment. It's just unfortunate. There were moments in the book I'm sure I was supposed to be sad or wrapped up in their love, but I just literally laughed out loud instead. Probably not what the author was trying to go for... but, hey, at least it was free.

Mary Lou Hoffman says

Title: SURVIVOR'S GUILT

Series: N/A

Category /Genre: Contemporary Romance

Recommended for: 18+ due to sexual content

Received from: Cassy Roop (in exchange for an honest review)

Grammar/editing: ungraded – book received as an unedited ARC / errors excused

This is a stand-alone story / not part of a series.

SURVIVOR'S GUILT is a highly emotionally charged story of surviving the unthinkable. What Ellie and Evan have been through is the stuff of nightmares. To live afterwards, in a life filled with guilt, regret, and what-ifs, is beyond the hardest thing that most can imagine. Unless you have lost a spouse or child, you cannot comprehend the emotional depth of despair that those who have had to face. In this story, Ellie and Evan are thrust into that despair and hopelessness. When they lean on each other as they navigate the stages of grief, the greatest challenge is accepting that they are allowed happiness when their spouses no longer can experience the joys or tears of life.

There are five stages of grief: Denial, Bargaining, Anger, Depression, and Acceptance. There is no cheating this process. Now that I am 11 years (actually 10 years and 11 months, not that I'm still counting, right?) past my own nightmare wrought by Hurricane Charley, I believe I had a unique perspective on this story. Cassy Roop has fully captured the emotional turmoil and guilt associated with surviving when someone you love dearly has been ripped from your life.

This is the first book I have read from Cassy Roop. I want more.

Melanie says

This was a first read for my by Cassy Roop and I can promise you it won't be my last. This book had all the feelings that you expect with a sweet love story and so many more. The roller coaster that Cassy takes you on in this book is unmatched by many.

When we first start out, this couple is just starting out on their married life together and are on their Honeymoon. Ellie and Jeremy are looking forward to just getting to know each other and enjoy being married to each other. Jeremy surprises Ellie with a boat dinner. They are excited to be able to spend some time on the ocean with other couples that are celebrating just as they are. Once couple had just gotten married 2 days prior and one couple was on there celebrating their Anniversary. While they are out on the trip, the unthinkable happens and there is a freak accident. No one was even prepared for what happened.

When Ellie and Evan wake up in the hospital, their lives are changed once again in a matter of a few days. They have had to go through the happiest times of their lives and now the most upsetting times of their lives in a matter of days from each other. Ellie and Evan knew of each other on the dinner cruise but they had not talked much on the dinner cruise. The ladies had talked and the men had talked but that was about it. The grief process starts for both Ellie and Evan as soon as they realize what has happened to their spouses.

Ellie goes home and finds herself longing to be closer to what she considers where Jeremy is since his body was never found. Soon after returning home, Ellie feels the strong pull back to where they were on their Honeymoon so she can feel closer to Jeremy. Ellie pulls a pretty bold stunt and it just so happens that Evan is on the beach that same day and sees what happens with Ellie and takes off after her in fear that she is going to hurt herself. They have so much bitterness towards each other that they never thought they could help each other work through their problems.

Once Ellie and Evan get past their walls of blaming each other, the connection they feel for each other is one that they can not ignore. I love how these two fell right into each other and are able to help each other get past their struggles they are dealing with. The way that Evan takes care of Ellie is so sweet to see. I am so glad that this book had a HEA for these two since it started out so sad for them. I love the way that Cassy

made you feel so close to the characters and made it to where you could relate to the characters so easily. Such a great read. Just have your tissues ready!!

Erin McFarland says

This is the first book from Cassy Roop that I have read. I am confident in saying, it will not be the last.

This book came along at just the right moment for me. In a reading funk, I opened my Kindle and started reading....and didn't stop until I was finished.

The story is told in a dual pov and I love that. You really got to know what each character was going through. Each faced a terrible loss and each grieved in their own way. While some may say they fell a little fast, I digress. I think they were meant to fall. Some things were a bit unconventional, but you know the saying, everyone grieves differently.

The whole tone of the book flip flopped between hopeful and sadness. It really encapsulated what the characters were going through. If ever two characters deserved to be happy, it is Evan and Ellie. The absolute heartbreak came across the pages so clearly. You will cry with these characters, laugh with these characters and fall in love with these characters. Be sure to have tissues handy as well, you are going to need them.

On a bit of a personal note, I read this story on the upcoming anniversary of a very close friend's death. And while Ellie and Evan's story deals with the loss of a romantic love, the story still struck a chord with me and reminded me that my friend wouldn't want me to be sad. She would want me to live and be happy. Survivor's guilt is something that can devastate a person, I think more than the actual death itself. Having a wonderful support system is key. So not only did the book pull me out of a funk, it did so much more than that. It made me see things a little brighter, a tad more clear and made me realize, it's ok to grieve.

Danielle says

Beautiful yet heart-wrenching story of heartbreak and loss and having the courage to find love again.

Ellie and Evan begin as strangers, both newlyweds on their honeymoon in the beautiful Florida Keys. But one horrible accident that occurs during what should be their happiest moments, will bind these two people forever. Through events that continue to throw these two strangers together, a bond of friendship begins. Both are struggling with their grief and trying to figure out how to deal with their pain and loss. Can Ellie and Evan help each other heal and learn to live again?

I have read and loved every book written by Cassy Roop and even though this is a completely different style for her, I loved it even more! I couldn't put this book down and was sad to see it end. This book had me on a roller coaster of emotions, feeling happy at times and other times ugly crying, but it was amazing to watch the journey that Ellie and Evan were on. I felt every emotion right along with them both. Cassy Roop is a very talented author and able to draw me in to each story. I look forward to reading more from her in the future.

Ashleigh Giannoccaro says

So I just got done with writing the darkest book ever, I was emotionally spent and needed something that was going to break the book funk my own story had put me in. If you know me at all you will know that it is very very rare that I will read a book that isn't a dark read - but every so often i need something to just wipe the slate clean and make me believe in humanity again. Something that is beautiful, well written and tugs at my heart (I do have one) I had seen Cassy's posts about this story and just knew that I wanted to read it.

I read this slower than most books, taking my time with it - also I couldn't read through the tears at some points in the story. Casey has written a beautiful story, I loved every minute. I felt their loss, pain and guilt in every single chapter. I personally consider a book a success if it can make me feel, well this one made me feel so damn hard I cried - ugly cried... a lot!

Evan and Ellie's story was truly something different a story of a very special love.

"What happens when losing your first love becomes the reason for meeting your one true love?"

Thank you for giving me the chance to read your story before the rest of the world, anytime I am trusted to read an ARC I feel special that the author let me have their 'book baby' first.

T.H. says

Sometimes people are placed into our lives for a reason. In the moment we may not truly understand why, but in the end it can be simply beautiful.

Survivor's Guilt was the first story I've read by this author and I will say she has a true gift. I felt the emotions of her words and a need to be a part of this novel.

This story pulled at my heart strings from the start. I wanted to be within the pages and help the two main characters laugh, grieve, love and be at peace with the tragedy that they had to partake.

I will say that I'm not one to cry, it takes a lot to get me to that emotional level in a book. I was doing so well, but there came a point I just had to let the dam break...job well done Cassy :)

Renee says

Good concept

I really liked the idea for this book, but I just wish it was executed better. The speed at which these characters fell for each other didn't seem believable or healthy for that matter. It seemed rushed and the end was pretty predictable. It could also use some more proofreading, because about halfway through the book the main characters swap last names. There's also a waitress that changes her name mid shift. Now I can usually overlook typos and most mistakes, but these are issues that could easily be caught by a good editor or proofreader.

Mo (The Scarlet Siren) says

sigh Here we go again. It seems that I am writing different variations of this same review a lot lately, and it pains me, people. I don't wanna do it! But I feel that you, as readers, need to know. You drag your fabulous asses to my blog to get the good, the bad, and sometimes, the ugly. I've got to call 'em like I see 'em.

This was my first book by Cassy Roop. I had heard of her books, but hadn't picked one up before this. The errors in the blurb alone should have been enough to ward me off, but I held out hope and downloaded the book.

The premise of the story was solid, if not a little predictable, but the execution sadly fell way flat. I was initially drawn in because Cassy Roop employed an interesting tactic at the beginning of the story, a tactic that I thought was smart and original.

Unfortunately, it all kind of fell apart. I couldn't remain immersed in the story, I kept getting pulled out of the narrative. The culprit? Our familiar old enemy, poor editing. I know that you all have heard me rant about the pervasiveness of bad editing lately, and the plague just keeps spreading. Survivor's Guilt had the potential to be a perfectly nice heartfelt story, but instead, all of the author's hard work was for naught.

The storyline took a back seat to the errors. Misspellings, incorrect phrasing, punctuation used incorrectly, and the list goes on. Hell, at one point, a character's last name changes from one line of the story to the next! How do things like this make it to the final publishing stage? If I'm being perfectly honest, it comes across as sheer laziness on the part of an author. I see that an editor was credited in this work, and I'm not sure if Roop simply ignored her advice, or should be asking for a refund. Most of the mistakes in the copy are blatant, obvious errors that any decent editor and/or proofreader should have caught a mile away.

You have a line edit done on your book? Good. A proofreader checks it out post-edit? Great. Think you're ready to publish now? NO. It's not enough. You need more eyes, fresh eyes, eyes attached to people that are far removed from your project. You need to scour your book time and time and time again for any errors you can find. When an untrained reader is finding multiple mistakes PER PAGE, you've got a problem.

I've asked this before, and I'll ask it again; WHY should I be expected to give an author MY hard-earned money when it seems painfully obvious that the author has no regard for the reader experience?

It really is a shame when it comes to this novel, because like I said, the bones of this story were good. It was an emotionally charged story with a unique element to it that could have been a standout if the author could have been bothered to put a little more time and attention into this book.

**As I always do when I write a critical review, I invite the author to get in touch with me about specific

issues I had with the book, in case they were not already aware of these problems.**

Kim says

I received an ARC copy of Survivor's Guilt by Cassy Roop in exchange for an honest review. What a very touching book. To see two strangers whose lives have changed in an instant who met for a brief time end up being the only two who understand each other's pain and grief. Cassy did a wonderful job with this story. After losing people in my life to see the way Cassy has Evan and Ellie deal with grief actually helped me. Excellent read that's for sure. If you have lost someone and can't really deal with the grief or not sure how you should read this. Not only is this a great story but it gives us ways on how we should try to accept the loss of a love one.

Tammi says

What a beautiful story!!

Death can feel impossible to get over. Grief is tough! Guilt is worse!

Evan and Ellie just broke my heart. The tragic deaths of the loves of their life have thrown them together. They bond while trying to heal their hearts. Together they figure out how to go on, move forward and learn to love again.

I have not personally experienced this kind of loss but through Cassy's words I felt the pain, the guilt and the joy. I had tears in my eyes at many points in this book but completely lost it at the end! Such a wonderful ending to a love story that had such a horrible beginning.

Never in my life would I ever have imagined that one of the hardest days of my life and losing my very first love, would lead me to find true love.

(Quote from book)

Sophie says

Heartbreak

Devastation

Intense sadness

Hope

Love

Joy

Elation

Happiness

Those are just a few of the amazing emotions I've had from reading this outstanding story. I've literally gripped my chest, cried, smiled and jumped for joy! I was so drawn in and invested in this story I couldn't put it down.

Survivors Guilt is the story of love and loss, the stages in between and finding love again! And wow is it told brilliantly. The pure emotion poured into the writing in this book makes it so very believable and easy to connect to, so much so that as I mentioned I felt my heart break and cried for the utter sadness of Ellie & Evan.

What's beautiful about this book is the hope, love and happiness that is developed throughout. Again written perfectly and believable.

I love Cassy's writing style and this is just another hit! If there was a higher star rating available I'd give so many more than 5 stars.

**** ARC received for review for Bookalicious Babes Blog ****

Sassy Moms Say Read Romance says

This book came along at just the right moment for me. In a reading funk, I opened my Kindle and started reading....and didn't stop until I was finished.

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I give this book 5 beautifully hopeful kisses and highly recommend it to everyone that believes in hope.

Danielle Jamie says

4.5 stars!

I love Cassy as a person and an author. Everything she writes grips you instantly from page one. This story had so many emotions going on and twists from shocked, to heartbroken and then shocked again. Its a must read!!! You won't be disappointed and get your tissues!!
