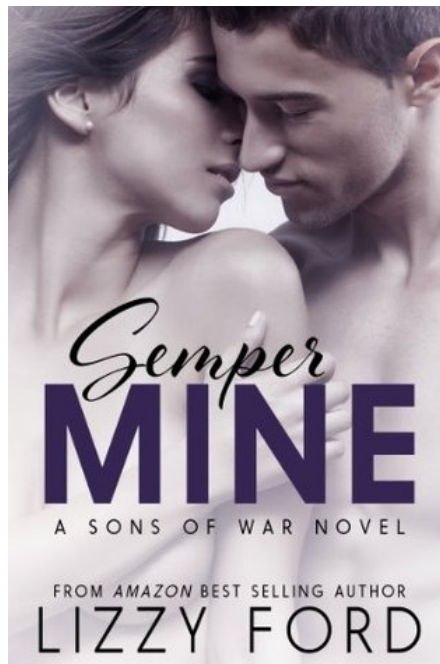




Semper Mine

Lizzy Ford

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“A freak accident landed both of the Khavalov twins under my command, just before a routine mission turned into a nightmare. I brought home one twin in a coffin and the other in a coma missing his leg. I did everything right – and still people died. I can’t forget that night or how many lives it changed, including mine.

It’s natural for their sister, Katya, to blame me. I made one decision in the middle of a firefight, and it shattered her sheltered world. I’m the ice to her fire, and when we first meet, it’s not pretty. I don’t fear war or death, and I am definitely not going to let a beautiful woman with a quick temper and broken heart scare me off, either. I know she’s hurting, and I’m determined to make sure she’s okay. It’s the least I can do for the twins.

I may have failed them that night, but I won’t fail her. What I’m not counting on: the feelings she ignites within me.” – *Captain Sawyer Mathis*

*A standalone novel in the **Sons of War** contemporary military romance series.*

Semper Mine Details

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From Reader Review Semper Mine for online ebook

Lourdes Ortega says

Another great book by Lizzy Ford. This one hits close to home, eventhough I am ARMY not a Marine the story deals with the trauma of war and the wounds soldiers carry after returning home, not only the ones we see but the ones we don't. How each caracter deals emotionaly with the loss of someone they love is dead on of how real veterans and their family cope with such a tragedy, and after all the rage, pain and tears the light at the end of that dark tunnel is love.

Roxane says

She never broke up with Oliver...She cheated with Sawyer and got engaged before her boyfriend even knew she wanted to break up.

Also there was no chemistry whatsoever, the characters were more than a little dull, we never really hear about them and what they like.

We also don't really know what happened the night Mikael died and the story behind Brianna.

This was kind of an empty book.

Renee says

I loved this book and I would've given it 5 stars if not for one little (huge) detail..... The Green Berets are NOT I repeat NOT part of the Marine Corps!! Seriously I bugs me so much when an author doesn't bother to do the tiniest bit of research!

That being said I loved the characters and the chemistry between the two main characters. And I admit it, I did tear up at the end.

RJ says

[He goes back to war at around 70% and he sleeps with another woman there. After that I dropped it. I was so done. I did skim a little and

bella ? [bella farren] says

1.5/5 stars

**** this is mostly a rant, and therefor contains lots of spoilers and a vague timeline of important, spoilery events. You have been warned, read at your own risk ****

This book had so much potential, parts of this story that I'll discuss were at least worth four stars, but so

many other parts were only worth a star. This was such a weird mash up of a timeline and point of views that just did not work together.

I detested **Katya**, she's completely unhinged and incredibly selfish, it genuinely seemed as if she couldn't string a sane thought together. She physically **abused** a stranger at her brother's funeral, blaming him for his death. **Captain Sawyer Mathis** was her brother's commanding officer during the tour he died in, but he was in no way at fault, but silently takes her blame. It only adding to his own guilt.

At that point I could look past it, she's grief stricken and people make mistakes.

But again and again she uses physical violence when she doesn't get her way or she doesn't like someone. I mean, the twenty-something girl got in a literal cat fight with another girl because she didn't like her.

Fast-forward a couple months when Sawyer and Katya get thrown together as camp counsellors, she continuously needles Sawyer Mathis. It was extremely irritating to see her just keep kicking the same dead horse, the girl had nothing new or sane to say, just her continuous mutters. She seems to not be able to understand the concept of war, her brother enlisted with the knowledge that it was a dangerous job and he may not come home. A sad truth, but a truth none the less. And yet Kayta holds Sawyer responsible for an IED.

To make matters worse, she eventually sends a letter she wrote for her therapy, that she was advised not to send, to Sawyer while he's overseas. It's an awful letter again blaming him for something that wasn't his fault, which she logically knows, but feels like he '*deserves to know her feelings.*' What? Why? This is why I had such an issue with her character, she seems to be so confused that he's hurt by the letter and doesn't even comprehend the ramifications it could have had on him.

Again, selfish character.

I think this girl needs to do more counselling sessions and less speaking. Everything she says is dangerous shaming and blaming.

During this whole debacle, Sawyer is slowly but surely falling in love with her?

I was just flabbergasted, I absolutely adored his character, I thought he was strong and dimensional. He dealt with his emotions in a closed off manner but the death of Kayta's brother haunted him, blaming himself for something that he couldn't of known. But why on earth did he suddenly get feelings for this psychopath?

I did enjoy the middle of the book where it was set at the youth camp, I loved their banter (that wasn't related to her brother's death) and learning more about the characters. But after there, it quickly went downhill, it was disjointed and was way too fast paced. It switched perspectives and skipped forward so quickly that it was hard to keep up.

And that ending. That ending. I just couldn't, I could not believe that this was where the story suddenly jumped, there was no natural occurrence to their new found relationship and it was pure fantasy—not realistic in the slightest.

This book had so much potential, I went in enjoying the story and expecting the rest to follow, but the author chose to write the story in a timeline and way that didn't make for a cohesive story, unfortunately.

Ginette says

3.5?

Zeljka Rankovic says

5 stars

For an unbelievably emotional story that made me want to cry out in frustration and laugh in joy at the same time, feeling my hope in humanity - and in love - grow.

Katya was such a strong character. She is so not a girl... she is a grown woman, and she has been one for a long time. Ever since her mother died when Katya was only nine, she has taken on herself the role of a caretaker - she has been taking care of her family, two older brothers and her father. When she unexpectedly loses one of them, she feels so lost.

Sawyer - or Captian Mathis - has been lost for suh a long time. An orphan, with no real family, he acts like he cares about nothing and no one in the whole wide world apart from serving the country. It appears he even doesn't want to care... because he doesn't want to risk getting hurt. Military, his job – it's his life. But when one of his soldiers, Mikael, loses his life in a mission went wrong, and Petr, Mikael's twin, loses his leg, he finds himself in a line of fire of their feisty, overprotective sister – Katya.

And he doesn't want to run away from her.

Katya is angry, Sawyer is frustrated. She breathes fire while he's cold as ice. They are insanely attracted to each other... but can't stand being in vicinity of the other.

And still – how can they stay away from one person who might help them find their way in life again? **They are lost only without the other...**

#militarymen

#allyours

#serve&protect

~`\*Ella Lee\*`~ says

This was a GREAT read.

It was EMOTIONAL, sweet, angsty and HOT!

I loved that the author had these two characters stay true to themselves. The h didn't all of a sudden because less of herself to be with the H. The H knew who she was, knew what she needed and accepted it. The h needed a strong Alpha, because, like so many of us women, would run over any man that tried to put her in

her place. Not with the H.

It was very sexy and fun to read. Had just the right amount of smex, angst, craziness and OTT Alpha.

There is a separation while these two figure out what they want/need. Some times spent where they don't think either of them want each other - warning - the H does sleep with another woman during this time. A woman who's in his Marine unit in Afghanistan. It's strictly a "release" relationship only. It doesn't go into detail and doesn't address it.

The h also sleeps with another man.

Neither are able to not think of each other.

When these two decide that they are it for each other (close to the end), there is no more anything. The sleep with each other for the first time, say their I Love You's, forgive each other and state they are getting married to each other all toward the end within a span of probably 5 hours.

Sounds crazy, but it worked.

The h is a little OTT with her hardheadedness, but that's just her. It's nice every once and a while to have a h is more realistic - not perfect, not a martyr and not the most physically attractive thing that ever hit this earth to every male around her.

Loved it. Totally recommend.

Lu?ka says

DNF at 75%

To think I stayed up till midnight for this book because it was so good, slept for 5 hours and then got to work all bleary- eyed.

I should have read spoilers, but I didn't.

I love enemies-lovers and military trope. It was cleverly written with the whole camping thing for children who lost their parents, amazing chemistry between MCs and their complete opposite characteristics. I loved it all. It gave me the fuzzy feels. I tell ya it was a 4 or 5*. Then it all went down the toilet!

(view spoiler)

I don't even want to know how this turns out. This book definitely put me in a reading slump!

Chelsea says

I seriously loved this book. I wasn't sure about it because I have mixed feelings about military from personal experiences of my own. I have quite a few friends in different ranks including one is a marine. The minute I opened this book I could not put it down.

Sawyer and the emotion behind the loss of his four crew members was so well written especially Mikael.

The connection between Sawyer and Katya was great. I loved the banter between the two. And I loved that they were made for each other even though they were so different.

This story has family, friendship, and the importance of what those face every day when in the military. It is not only a toll on the individual facing the war but on the family and friends as well.

I wished we could have known a bit more about Sawyer's buddy who got him into joining the marines.

Maybe a flash back of some sort in the story or in the letter to Katya. But I know that wasn't important to put into the story.

I look forward to what Lizzy does for the next Sons of War books. I really enjoyed the emotion and back story of each character. I loved Petr and his relationship with his sister. I really enjoyed that it starts at a camp that helps children. That is something that is needed more. I went to a grief camp after my grandma passed away from cancer and that was a great experience because it really does help you get past that difficult time. So it hit home when I read about the camp that Katya and Petr's family made for Mikael's memory.

I really enjoyed the other members in the group as well. They added to the characters and added a lightness to the story. Though this story had a sadness to it, it also has a light side to it. It shows that even through hard times everyone needs help and they need to live in the moment.

The end scene (I won't give away what happens) but it is my favorite scene.

Catherine says

3.5 stars. It dragged in places, like badly. And I'm still not totally sure that I buy the relationship beyond 'casual f***'.

Sleepless Readmore says

4.25 SEMPIRE BE MINE STARS

Sawyer & Katya ♥

I may have ~~failed~~ *them* that night,
but I won't fail *her*.

What I'm not counting on: the feelings *she* ignites within **me**..."

First, book reading by Lizzy Ford and not counting on it to be the ~~last~~. I *FLEW* right through this book .. mostly because it was **short** ... TOO SHORT. It would have definitely 5 star worthy if it had been **LONGER** and given more to the *ending* (I NEEDED more). Although, the story was **nonetheless** wonderful in a non conventional way. *Katya* is a fiery one and the only person that can **tame** that flame is non other than the Captain .. Captain *Sawyer Mathis*. They are absolutely **HILARIOUS** together and that anger and tension they *HAD* turns into something else..

Semper MineLizzy Ford

- *Sleepless, Readmore.*

J says

3.5 stars. This book just didn't measure up for me. A wonderful premise, a Marine commander attends the funeral for one of his men who died under his command. The soldier's twin was also in his unit and was seriously wounded, losing a leg and in a coma for awhile. At the funeral the Marine commander meets the soldiers' sister who is angry and blames him for what happened to her brothers. She says horrible things to the Marine who is already suffering terrible guilt over the incident. Well, of course, these two must fall in love somewhere down the line.

The romance just wasn't very romantic to me. The sister was really nasty to the Marine saying just awful things to someone trying to defend his country. Yes, she was angry but she could have suffered a little in silence. They were thrown together at a camp for children of fallen soldiers and we did get just a little of the beginning of a romance but then things turned nasty again, the Marine went back to Iraq, the sister sent him a terrible letter just adding to his guilt all the while he is in the middle of the battlefield! Then, all of a sudden, she seems to be pining for him.

Confusing and kind of ruined what could have been a really good story.

Olga therebelreader says

3.5-4 stars

Lau says

4/5

“Mikael understood that, too,” he continues. “We all knew what we signed up for and that we might not come back one day. It doesn’t make it easier to lose someone, but his death is not your burden. She knows it, too. If she hated you, truly hated you, she wouldn’t be near you. I think some part of her wants to understand you. Mikael chose to save you as much as me, and you are the only reason any of us made it out. Whether or not she will admit it, that means something to her. You mean something to her, because Mikael gave his life for yours.”

Holy smoke! Did I enjoy *Semper Mine* or what!

After reading countless number of military themed books, I was constantly disappointed by the substance or solidity of the stories. They were either scraping the surface of the issues too simply or attacking them in a way that didn't appeal. Unlike those stories I've read, *Semper Mine* didn't disappoint. Boy it didn't disappoint at all.

I love how Ms Lizzy Ford didn't jumped into having both Sawyer and Katya to fall in love straightaway and have to use that to deal with their emotional problems with regards to death of the soldiers, especially Mikael. The time frame for which that took Sawyer and Katya to love was actually appropriate and I appreciated that it wasn't that fast paced. Both dealt with their problems, despite with a tinge of immaturity and massive amount of sensitivity (due to the fact that they were only able to communicate their actual

feelings though letters and not via face-to-face interaction), quite adequately. So the issues that surfaced were fantastically written and dealt with.

In conclusion, *Semper Mine* is the first book I've read from Ms Lizzy Ford and probably isn't the last.
Recommended!

P.S. I just wished that a story could be written about Mikael. I would probably fall for him as hard as I did for Sawyer.

xxx

"I can see my wounds." Petr slaps his metal leg. "I think yours are just as important to take care of."
