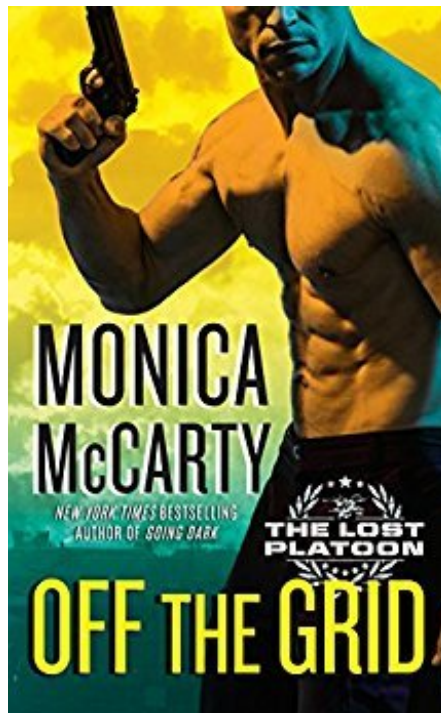




Off the Grid

Monica McCarty

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Off the Grid

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Off the Grid Monica McCarty

A hunt for dangerous secrets leads to explosive chemistry in this exhilarating romantic suspense novel from the New York Times bestselling author of Going Dark.

A team of Navy SEALs go on a mission and disappear without a trace--they are The Lost Platoon.

Investigative reporter Brittany Blake may have stumbled upon the story of a lifetime in her search for her missing brother. When he seemingly disappears overnight, she refuses to accept the Navy's less-than-satisfying explanation. She begins her own investigation, which leads her to top-secret SEAL teams, covert ops, and a possible cover up...

John Donovan is having trouble biding his time, waiting for his Commanding Officer to figure out who set up their platoon. John's best friend and BUD/S partner, Brandon Blake, was one of the many lives tragically lost in the attack against his team. When Brandon's sister, Brittany, tracks John down, looking for answers, he realizes that she may be their best bet--or bait--for finding out who is targeting SEAL Team Nine.

Off the Grid Details

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Author : Monica McCarty

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Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Suspense, Contemporary, Adult, Contemporary Romance

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From Reader Review Off the Grid for online ebook

Kimberly says

Reviewed for **Wit and Sin**

When a top secret mission goes wrong in Russia and more than half of SEAL Team Nine is killed, the survivors are ordered to scatter and go dark. Only not everyone is willing to let them stay off the grid. Reporter Brittany Blake can smell a government cover up a mile away and since this one involves her missing – possibly dead – brother, she's not about to let it rest until she discovers the truth.

John Donovan hates being stuck in Finland, doing nothing, while he waits for orders from his lieutenant commander. And while he would like to pretend otherwise, John also can't move past the death of his best friend and teammate, Brandon Blake. When he's ordered to shut Brittany up – for her safety as well as the rest of his surviving teammates – it throws him for a loop. Years ago, Brandon made it clear Brittany was off-limits. But with the adrenaline rush of danger and the pull neither John nor Brittany can deny, it's clear that some promises are meant to be broken...

I really struggled with rating *Off the Grid*. On the one hand, Monica McCarty's writing is engaging, drawing me into the book and keeping the story moving at a quick clip. The action is cinematic and the overarching series question of who betrayed SEAL Team Nine and why was interesting. That being said, I struggled with the characters which kept me from liking this book as much as I wanted to.

Brittany Blake gave me flashbacks to Lois Lane (always a good thing). She's a reporter with a sharp mind and dogged determination to get her story. She has been wronged more than once by a government cover up and her brother is one of the missing SEALs, so I did understand why she was so determined to find out what happened to the group of men she dubbed "The Lost Platoon." That being said, Brittany's strengths were also her weaknesses. She can get tunnel vision, which is frustrating when she doesn't seem to fully understand – or more importantly care – that she's putting other lives in danger besides her own. One of those lives belongs to John Donovan, the man who broke her heart five years ago. John is known for his laid-back ways, but he's mostly intense and frustrated in this book. He definitely has reason to be, but at times it felt like his personality had melted away and we were left with a generic military hero, which was a pity. John and Brittany do have chemistry, but their romance paled in comparison to the sexual tension between two supporting characters. Added to that, Brittany and John suffer from the same problem that a lot of characters in this book do: a lack of honest communication. It's a common enough plot device, but it's one that I find a bit frustrating, so people who aren't bothered by this may like their romance more than I did.

Off the Grid isn't just John and Brittany's story. Former SEAL Colt and his ex-wife, CIA analyst Kate are working to discover who betrayed Colt's former team. Colt and Kate are the reason I am so invested in this series. Their chemistry is off-the-charts explosive and the pure *drama* keeps me coming back for more. The pain, anger, distrust, and lust practically jump off the page and I cannot wait to see if/how Ms. McCarty makes things work for these two. She definitely has her work cut out for her, because even though I got a fair sense of Colt's history and why he acts the way he does, he definitely is cruel to Kate; so much so that I'm honestly not sure if I should be rooting for him to win her back. Whether or not he does, he and Kate livened up the book and their storyline ensures that I'll be back for *Out of Time*, the next Lost Platoon book.

FTC Disclosure: I received this book for free from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Caz says

I've given this a C at AAR.

Off the Grid is book two in Monica McCarty's series, *The Lost Platoon*, and although I haven't read the previous book (Going Dark) I was able to follow the plot in this one without any trouble, so it worked perfectly well as a standalone. What didn't work so well, however, were the hackneyed storyline, stereotypical characters and the hero's thirty-going-on-thirteen attitude towards the heroine. Oh, and description of the hero's mighty wang as a "*turgid beast*". I kid you not.

The book opens with a prologue in which John Donovan and the rest of Team Nine – a top secret group of Navy SEALs which has been put together to undertake the blackest of black-ops – searching a supposedly abandoned Russian gulag for proof of the existence of some kind of doomsday weapon when an explosion kills half the platoon. The rest of the men make their escape and then scatter, dropping off the radar while their commander, Scott Taylor, tries to work out exactly what happened. He believes they were betrayed by someone on their own side, and it's safest for them all to stay dead until he can figure out what the hell happened.

Ten weeks later, John is living as Joe Phillips, a Canadian ski-bum, and is working at a resort in Finland as a ski instructor and tour guide. He's bored to the back teeth, until he gets a call from Scott informing him that Brittany Blake, whose brother, Brand, was killed in the explosion, is stirring up trouble. An investigative journalist, Brit has written a number of stories for the paper she works for about the so-called 'lost platoon' in hopes of finding out what happened to her brother, and her latest article has just hit the international news sites. Scott tells John to find a way to silence her, and when John is reluctant, points out that she could well be putting her own life in danger as well as those of the rest of the platoon.

You can read the rest of this review at **All About Romance**.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

3.5 stars

Packed with danger, intrigue and suspense, Off the Grid, delivers a punch in the Lost Patrol series and leaves you wanting more. Investigative report Brittany Blake has been writing stories about the missing platoon in hopes to find her missing brother. Uncovering the truth is her only mission and it leads her to finding his best friend John Donovan living in Finland. John has been lying low for weeks now since the failed mission, waiting for answers himself on how the mission was compromised and half the team was killed. Now he's trying to stay one step ahead of Brittany and her tenacious search for the truth, while keeping her out of harm's way and his identity under wraps.

Off the Grid is the second story in the Lost Patrol series and had a different vibe from its predecessor. The story was following two couples and toggled between them as they paralleled each other in time and came together in the end. It was hard getting a read on either of these couples because individually all four of them were harboring their own secrets and was reluctant to the trust the other with their information. Granted that

is all part of the suspense but frustrating as it carried on all the way to the end and left the minor character's story line in a cliffhanger. The romance between the two main characters, Brittany and John, felt almost incidental when it concluded and a little cheesy at the end with the big proposal. I finished this story not learning anything more in the over-arching series story than I had at the beginning and wondered why there wasn't any progress. Overall it was an okay story for the series but I didn't come away with a satisfying feel and in love with the main couple. I'm not ready to give up on the series and hope that the next one fill in some more missing pieces along with a gripping storyline.

Anita says

I loved the first book in this series and I expect nothing less in this book. I love a good SEAL book and this one, really the series so far, is great. The man of steel, action-adventure hero is soooo my thing. When the alpha Hero is really a softie, I melt. This is not a standalone and reading the books in order is definitely recommended as there is a overarching plot and the some characters appear in each book, so far.

Top secret SEAL Team Nine are on a covert mission deep in Russia, a mission that has been compromised and leaves the team presumed dead. But, there are survivors and they "Go Dark" not knowing who in their own government they can trust or who betrayed them. This group is scattered around Europe, laying low - "Off the Grid", until they can discover who betrayed their mission and caused the death of their teammates.

Investigative reporter Brittany Blake has a brother, Brandon, who is a SEAL. She doesn't know much about his life recently as they have been estranged for 5 years. But one thing she does know - he has never missed contacting her on the anniversary of their parents death. The Navy is less than helpful in her quest to find him and she is getting blowback for a series of articles she has written, as more men than just her brother are missing. It appears his whole platoon is lost. As she begins her digs deeper, she uncovers things that certain people don't want revealed and that puts her in extreme danger.

John Donovan is a survivor of the mission that killed his best friend and Brittany's brother, Brandon Blake. He's going stir crazy with laying low, the lack of information and knowing that someone in their own government set them up. Waiting was never his strong suit. When Brittany tracks him down, demanding answers, she puts herself in the crosshairs too and John will do what ever it takes to protect her.

Dolly Sickles says

There's such a cool foundation to McCarty's Lost Platoon series: Top-secret Navy SEAL Team Nine is on a mission in Arctic Russia when they're ambushed by Russian special forces soldiers, the Spetsnaz. Only, nobody should've known Retarius Platoon was in the region scoping out the old abandoned gulag suspected of being a secret weapons facility. And the SEALs certainly weren't expecting the thermobaric (vacuum bomb) explosion that made their mission FUBAR.

So the surviving members of Retarius scatter do what they were trained to do: assimilate, gather information, then take action. McCarty's approach to this series is really interesting. Though she's on only the second installment, she's set up an effective storytelling methodology by telling the team-altering event from each of the members of the team. Going Dark traced Dan Warren's path out of the melee, and this one, OFF THE GRID, follows John Donovan. With each telling of the mission, we learn a little more about what happened and why.

John's best friend, Brandon Blake, was inside the barracks when the vacuum bomb went off, so there's no way he could've survived. And Brandon's sister, Brittany, knows it — she senses it. As an investigative reporter, she's used to trusting her gut. When her brother drops out of communication for months and she gets no information from the government or military, she's more convinced than ever of Retiarius' parallels to the Lost Legion of Rome.

But imagine what small potatoes a mysterious entity would consider one reporter when it's already taken out an entire platoon of highly skilled Navy SEALs. Brittany doesn't stand a chance by herself, much to John's chagrin. Five years ago, Brandon warned John away from his sister, because the two had developed an instant rapport, and now Lieutenant Commander Scott Taylor had ordered him to get her to back off her reporting. If Brittany is to survive, she has to work with and trust John, which means that trust has to extend her way, too.

Can he trust her with the secret of his team? Secrecy is the key to survival for the men of Retiarius Platoon and the people they love. If they're ever to return to the land of the living and reclaim their lives, it has to be because they discovered who set up their massacre. And not knowing who to trust, coupled with the necessity to operate on their own (which goes against their whole team mentality), is driving them crazy.

I can't wait to see what piece of the mystery is revealed next!

*Originally published with USA Today's Happy Ever After: <https://happyeverafter.usatoday.com/2....>

♥Rachel♥ says

4.5 Stars

Oh, I'm loving this series! Covert-ops-gone-bad with a SEAL team thought to be dead, they're on the run and in hiding. Just like the first book there's action, danger, conspiracy, and the best part...romance!

Brittany Blake's brother Brandon, along with his best friend John Donovan have gone missing and suspected to be dead. Brittany knows they're part of some super-secret Navy SEAL team. Since she's had less than stellar dealings with the government and cover-ups in the past, Brittany's pretty suspicious of all their explanations. She decides to force the government's hand by publishing sensational exposé type newspaper articles questioning the team's whereabouts and the mission they were lost on, dubbing the stories: The Lost Platoon. Her articles are stirring up interest and not the good kind. Brittany's got a target on her back and the survivors of SEAL Team Nine are being put at risk for discovery with all the scrutiny.

John Donovan couldn't have a serious relationship when he first met Brittany, but their connection was instant and intense. They didn't part on good terms, but John thought it for the best even though he's never felt the same way about any other woman. Hiding out in Finland has become dull, but things take a turn when Brittany starts stirring up trouble with her articles. Scott, the team's Commander, orders John to handle Brittany and lock down the talk, but his efforts throw Brittany right into his path again with danger trailing along after. Will they survive?

Off the Grid has a second chance romance, one of my all-time favorite types, and this one's oh-so-good! With John being the best friend of Brittany's older brother, they have a history. There was a connection, and then John broke her heart. Brittany hasn't forgotten the hurt but doesn't matter, when they meet again fireworks spark and ignite, and the pull between them is irresistible! That first kiss, woo!! These two are so very hot together!

As if their romance wasn't enough we also have Colt and Kate. I'm totally riveted by their history (they were married) and their exchanges now in the present. Colt was a total ass to Kate, but they're working together again to get answers for SEAL Team Nine. The hurt (on Kate's side) and anger (on Colt's side) is palpable! The revelations through this story were soooo good and I'm DYING to find out what happens next!

Off the Grid is the second book in The Lost Platoon series, but it's not necessary to read the first book to enjoy it. However, the first book, **Going Dark** is really good too, so why not read it as well?

A copy was kindly provided by Berkley in exchange for an honest review.

Nalla Reads says

Originally posted on NallaReads.com!

Danger. Intrigue. Suspense. ROMANCE! McCarty's next Lost Platoon novel has all that and MORE! Brittany went in to investigative reporting for a reason, the death of her parents and the supposed cover-up of who killed them. Now the disappearance and hush-hush attitude about her SEAL brother weighs heavily in her mind. She knows she has to take any action to find out the truth.

John's living a life of secrecy on Finland. One of six survivors from his platoon he's got to keep his identity under wraps until their leader can suss out who tried to kill them...and why. It was going easy for a few months of numbingly drinking and exploring the wilds. When his lost platoon brother's sister begins sniffing around their disappearance he has to take extreme measures. But a contingency he hadn't planned for soon bubbles up. Brittany's grown into a striking woman and John may have finally found something that shakes his calm demeanor.

I'm categorizing this as a second chance romance. John knew Brittany five years before his platoon's destruction. Back then she had been in a rough place with the supposed loss of her career and he found himself caring for her immediately. Now these two come face to face and battle it out as John fights to protect his secrets and Brittany fights for her family and the truth. McCarty does a fantastic job keeping action going on every page. Whether its investigating, running, or fighting these two are always up to something and I couldn't put this book down!

I feel as if every action/suspense romance I pickup has the tendency to get redundant but I'm so glad the McCarty keeps it fresh and inventive as her world takes crazy twists and turns. I could very easily see this being made into a movie! There's also a side story about Colt, Kate, and Taylor... OMG I was HOOKED on it and I can't wait to find out what happens in the next book! Wonderful world building, powerful characters, and never a dull moment!

Laura the Highland Hussy says

Review posted at Got Fiction?

This is the second book in Ms. McCarty's **The Lost Platoon** series and it's amazing.

Lost SEAL Team 9 member John Donovan is hanging out in Finland, acting like a ski bum, earning money by working on the mountain. Really, beneath the ski bum exterior is a man who's dying to get back in action. But he, and the other five surviving members of his team are staying under the radar. Someone set them up to die, so for all intents and purposes, they're dead.

Brittany's brother Brandon was one of the SEALs lost. She knows something more is going on than what the official reports are saying, especially since his team didn't exist, at least not on the books. Brittany is a reporter with a chip on her shoulder about the government, so when she has a chance to expose something, even if it's potentially dangerous, she goes for it. But her sources lead her to believe that not only are her instincts correct, her brother is probably dead, but that there may have been survivors. And a mysterious email leads her to John.

John and Brittany have a history between them, and she's furious he can still get under her skin. He's furious she's not only putting herself in danger, but also potentially his surviving teammates. I'm sure you can imagine the sparks that these two are throwing.

But this is more than just a Romantic Suspense where the hero and heroine are on the run to stay safe and one step ahead of the bad guys. This is an intricate and intriguing story where the author delicately weaves strands throughout the book until something happens that you didn't expect and you're flipping pages as fast as you can to find out what will happen next.

For Brittany and John, there's more in their way than his supposed death. She's a reporter. She holds the truth as the most important thing in life. But where does she draw the line as a reporter? Publishing the truth is important because the people deserve to know what is going on, however publishing the truth could get someone killed. How can she reconcile that? And how will her article affect her budding relationship?

This is one of those books where you know the author did her research. SEAL Romance isn't easy to write. They aren't just a job. It's amazing how much detail is given to the whole situation. The use of current events gives this book a realistic vibe, rather than dating it. It's unique in that respect. There's enough recap that you can read this book on its own, but at the same time you won't feel as if the beginning is repetitive.

This author hooked me with her Highlanders once upon a time, and I'm pleased to say that I'm loving the new adventure she's taking us on. Mixing real life issues and moments, combining them into the fictional SEAL Team 9, gives this series an edge. You'll love it, trust me.

***ARC courtesy of Berkley

Darcy says

This one was just ok for me. A big reason why was John. He came off like he thought he was God's gift to women. It made it hard for me to root for him with Brittany, more so when you saw what a dick he was to her in the past. I really had a hard time buying into them as a couple, even when things were good between them.

I found myself more interested with what was going on with Colt/Kate/Scott. That sure ended up with some

unexpected info.

The larger conspiracy arc seemed to fizzle out as the book went on.

Jonetta says

Brittany Blake, an investigative reporter, has made it a mission to find out what happened to her brother, Brandon, and his missing SEAL Team. They just disappeared and the military won't even acknowledge they're gone. Her newspaper articles are making lots of people uncomfortable, especially John (Dynamite) Donovan, Brandon's best friend and member of his Team. John and other members of the Team that survived the blast in Siberia are in hiding, not wanting those that set up the Team to die to know they're still alive until they can figure out who was behind the treachery. He's dispatched to find Brittany and redirect her efforts, a woman with whom he has a past connection.

The story continues with John and others still trying to unearth clues to help them solve exactly what happened in Russia. I liked the use of flashbacks at important moments that gave more depth to the characters and intersecting relationships. The timing was spot on and I also liked that secondary characters had major roles. John and Brittany had a budding relationship five years ago that ended badly so their reunion wasn't a joyous one but it was explosive. It developed quite nicely as they worked together.

While there were quite a few twists and revelations, the mystery of the Siberian blast is still unsolved but it's clearer with some likely outcomes. I really enjoyed the narrator, Charles Lawrence, who handled the female roles very, very well. He's also a good storyteller who made this a good reading experience. I'm enjoying the series and the next book is set up quite nicely.

(I received an advance copy from the publisher in exchange for an unbiased review)

Sandy S says

4 stars

ABOUT THE BOOK: Release Date July 3, 2018

A team of Navy SEALs go on a mission and disappear without a trace--they are The Lost Platoon.

Investigative reporter Brittany Blake may have stumbled upon the story of a lifetime in her search for her missing brother. When he seemingly disappears overnight, she refuses to accept the Navy's less-than-satisfying explanation. She begins her own investigation, which leads her to top-secret SEAL teams, covert ops, and a possible cover up...

John Donovan is having trouble biding his time, waiting for his Commanding Officer to figure out who set up their platoon. John's best friend and BUD/S partner, Brandon Blake, was one of the many lives tragically lost in the attack against his team. When Brandon's sister, Brittany, tracks John down, looking for answers, he realizes that she may be their best bet--or bait--for finding out who is targeting SEAL Team Nine.

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REVIEW: 4 stars--OFF THE GRID is the second instalment in Monica McCarty's contemporary, adult THE LOST PLATOON romantic, military suspense series focusing on SEAL Team Nine whose members are MIA or dead following an unsanctioned and undercover mission to Russia. This is twenty-seven year old investigative reporter Brittany Blake, and twenty-nine year old Navy SEAL John Donovan's story line. OFF THE GRID can be read as a stand alone without any difficulty. Any important information from the previous story line is revealed where necessary although I recommend reading the series in order for back story and cohesion as there is an ongoing theme and premise throughout. There is also a developing story focusing on former husband and wife duo Colt Wesson, Team Nine's former chief, and CIA agent Katherine 'Kate' Wesson.

Told from several third person perspectives including Brittany and John, and Colt and Kate, OFF THE GRID continues to follow in the aftermath of a mission that went horribly wrong, an unsanctioned mission to Russia and incident that could have easily sparked as US-Russian war. With only six survivors from their original fourteen, the remaining SEALs must remain 'off the grid' in order to survive. The US government claims no responsibility or knowledge therefore it is up to one of their own to search for the truth.

Former Navy SEAL John Donovan knows loss including the loss of his best friend, and fellow Team Nine SEAL Brandon Blake but coming face to face with Brandon's sister Brittany, an investigative journalist hoping to prove a government cover-up in the death of her old brother and his team of Navy SEALs, finds John on the defensive as he must keep Brittany from her self-appointed task in order to protect the woman with whom he will fall in love, and the men with whom he has served. What ensues is the building relationship between John and Brittany-a second chance of sorts for our story line heroine, and the potential fall-out as Brittany is targeted by more than one source, in her journey to uncover the truth.

Brittany is hoping to write a tell-all expose on the military operation that took her brother's life. A clandestine rendezvous nets our heroine some important information, information that is about to get our heroine killed. As John continues to warn Brittany away from her current path, her TSTL attitude places herself and John in the direct line of fire forcing John to work overtime in order to protect the woman with whom he will fall in love. John's LC Lieutenant Commander Scott Taylor, fears the team has been set up to take the fall for an act of betrayal and revenge.

Meanwhile Team Nine's former chief Colt Wesson is tasked with working alongside the woman he once loved. Burned by betrayal, Colt struggles to trust CIA agent Kate Wesson, a trust that was destroyed years before. As Kate and Colt begin to uncover a trail of Russian spies and US operatives in a government cover-up that could very well go to the very top.

OFF THE GRID is a story of danger, suspense, action, and the prideful determination of a journalist trying to prove she is more than just the sum of her past. Brittany's inability to see beyond her own journalistic drive threatens the lives of the surviving Team Nine SEALs, as well as her own-in this I struggled to accept her desire for the truth. The premise is intriguing, frustrating and revealing; the romance is fated and provocative; the characters are numerous, colorful, animated and intense.

Copy supplied by Netgalley

www.threadingcafe.com

The Romance Book Disciple (Samantha) says

Off the Grid continues the story of the survivors of the "Lost Platoon" with John, aka Dynamite, and Brittany. John was hiding out as a ski instructor in Finland when he was tasked with convincing Brittany to stop her articles about the lost platoon. Brittany can't give up on finding out what happened to her brother, Brandon. They had a falling out years before and hadn't been close, but she knows she has to find out the truth. Obviously, with the identity of the person/persons who sabotaged the SEAL team still unknown, Brittany is digging into dangerous territory for herself and the survivors who are still in hiding.

John is such a manwhore. He and Brittany have a little history and his behavior is just icky. I'm not a fan of the hero who has slept with so many women everyone in his life jokes about it. That does not endear him to me. I admired Brittany's pluck and determination to get the story, but sometimes she was just making BAD decisions. Decisions that were likely to get her killed or abducted. She isn't a naive girl, so her behavior sometimes was maddening.

While I wasn't a huge fan of Britt or John, the plot is interesting! Trying to figure out who wants to silence Britt, who is helping her, and who is behind all of it was interesting. Because the story is told in 3rd person, the focus isn't always John and Britt, which actually worked well for me. If you like espionage, government conspiracy, and world travel, Off the Grid might appeal to you!

POV: 3rd

Tears: no

Trope: military, secret identity

Triggers: none

Series/Standalone: stand alone within an interconnected series

Cliffhanger: (view spoiler)

HEA: (view spoiler)

The Woman Left Behind by Linda Howard, Rescuing Wendy by Susan Stoker, Midnight Rescue by Elle Kennedy...then you will probably like Off the Grid!

Off the Grid

See full review on The Book Disciple

Dísir says

Monica McCarty's 'Lost Platoon' series has an intriguing premise, which is why I can't quite let go of this

just yet. 'Off the Grid' even started off with that sense of urgency and adrenaline-high type of action which I adore in romantic suspense, and having these in the opening chapters seemed to bode well for the whole book. 2 very different couples grounded several unrelated developments as their own histories played out at the same time, the trajectories of their own discoveries dovetailing somewhat by the end.

This was until I realised that McCarty's juggling of the conspiracy plot and 4 couples really spread the romance thinly to the point where the second-chance trope—rather glibly inserted—was worked out in a way that made out the male protagonists to be nothing but cruel, asinine arses and women who should have known better than to melt at the slightest finger wiggle.

'Off the Grid' ended up being a story that had so much potential which it ultimately didn't fulfil. I felt as though I didn't know more at the end of the book than I really did at the beginning, save for the basics that had already been laid down in the last book. My eagerness at wanting to uncover a significant chunk of the conspiracy plot turned into frustration when the storyline went nowhere: several threads were dangled as hooks, but there didn't feel as though any significant progress was made, enough for the end to feel like a satisfying read, both on the action and on the romantic front.

Getting on board with Brittany and John was difficult when the latter merely treated her as the off-limits best-buddy's sister, his obvious but reluctant attraction to her an unwanted thing as his motivation for getting close to her proved to be an order that he was following more than true attraction he wanted to follow up on. So much of their 'relationship' felt accidental as a result, when John made her out to be a burden more than a love interest, or a secondary character whom he didn't want to want no matter the case. Wanting some other woman to screw to get his mind off things, for one, didn't make him seem a credible romantic hero I could get behind, not to mention the other abominable ways in which he'd treated her throughout.

Much of their relationship was much more one-sided than I liked as John did nothing but push Brittany away on all fronts, while in contrast, the latter could never seem to resist this man who couldn't give her what she wanted or needed—not even the basic respect that even strangers actually show each other. The rushed HEA (John only realising he 'loved' Brittany after she got captured) and the numerous instances of mansplaining away abhorrent behaviour that was subsequently too easily excused made me dislike a pairing which didn't feel like they could successfully be together apart from burning up the sheets in bed.

There wasn't much I could say about Kate/Colt either, whose business was given near-equal screen time, but with a lack of resolution that piled on the annoyance, despite them having formed a larger part of the narrative arc which was essentially left dangling by the end of the book.

If I started 'Off the Grid' on a high, I ended this on a whimper. I wished this could have worked better. I wished I didn't struggle so hard to like the male protagonists, who gave me every reason to dislike them intensely. I wished they had more ballsy courage as the heroines did (the lack of grovelling didn't help either). Too many wishes, too much frustration. And that was when I finally admitted defeat.

*ARC by the publisher via Netgalley

Jessica says

After reading Going Dark, I really loved the characters of this series and trying to uncover what really happened to the Lost Platoon that caused them to have to go into hiding. I was excited to read about another one of the SEAL members and watch him fall in love!

Brittany Blake has a gut feeling that her brother isn't okay, and as an investigative reporter, she's learned to trust her gut. The problem is, the more she digs into her brother's disappearance, the more danger she puts herself in. John Donovan swore to his best friend that he wouldn't hurt his sister, Brittany, but when she starts sticking her nose where it doesn't belong, John knows he has to do something to stop it, especially when she tracks John down to where he's hiding out. John has to distract Brittany from uncovering the government secret that's putting lives at danger, but the more he spends time with Brittany, the harder he finds it to keep his hands off of her.

From the moment this book started, I really enjoyed Brittany's character and how she's a different person from who she was when she shared a kiss with John years ago. Now, she's not putting up with his crap and she's finally sticking up for herself. I admired Brittany's determination as a writer and a sister to find out what really happened to her brother's SEAL team. It was fun watching John not know what to do with this new version of Brittany or with his feelings that were harder and harder to ignore.

While this is a romantic suspense story, I found that it was a little lacking in the action department. I loved how they traveled around together, but I think that the middle chunk of the book kind of dragged by as they were waiting to figure out who the real threat to Brittany and John were. Even then, we didn't really get any of the answers I wanted. I understand that this is a series and the author needs to keep us hooked for the next story in the series, but I wanted more answers!

Overall, I really did enjoy this romance and Brittany and John's relationship. While the pacing was a bit slow and I wanted more action, I enjoyed the mystery behind who really set the SEAL team up and who was after Brittany. For an entertaining romantic suspense series, I definitely recommend picking these books up!

Cindy says

Having loved Going Dark, I could not wait to read the second book in The Lost Platoon series. (I borrowed my daughter's ARC!) In Off the Grid, we meet Brittany Blake, the investigative reporter who was introduced in Going Dark. While Brittany's Navy SEAL brother is missing, no one will answer her questions regarding where he may be. When she starts asking questions, she suddenly finds her life in danger! When Brittany tracks down her brother's best friend and Navy SEAL John Donovan, he discovers that it is a full time job keeping her out of trouble. Protecting her becomes even more difficult because the chemistry between the two is undeniable. I loved the characters, the action, the passion, and the story. If you love action mixed in with a sizzling romance, don't miss Off the Grid.
