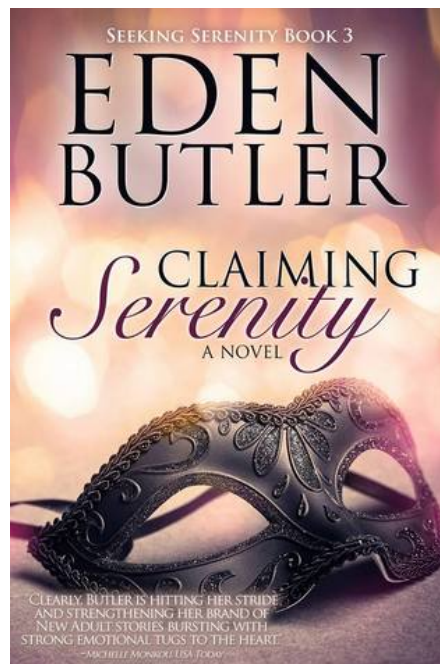




Claiming Serenity

Eden Butler

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Claiming Serenity Eden Butler

She left glitter in his AC vents. He put green dye in her conditioner.

She buttered his bathroom floor, and he kidnapped her precious puppy.

Layla Mullens hates Donovan Donley. His crude language, his wide shoulders, his crystal blue eyes...she hates that she can't stop herself...from kissing him or landing in his bed.

And Donovan Donley wants nothing more than to knock Layla off her princess pedestal. He hates her stuck up attitude and her soft, tempting lips. He especially hates that her father is his coach.

But he's fine with their arrangement—act horrible to each other during the day, attack each other naked at night. It works.

But one night changes everything. When Layla doesn't show, and Donovan's cold bed stays empty, the lies he tells himself to keep Layla out of his mind aren't enough to keep him from missing her. And needing her. Something he promised himself would never happen.

The white flags in their prank war have been lowered but their high stakes battle has just begun.

Claiming Serenity Details

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Author : Eden Butler

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From Reader Review Claiming Serenity for online ebook

Mary Sanchez Cortez says

I will admit I have had Eden Butler book sitting on my kindle. But I have not got around to reading them and now I am kicking myself because I have not. I glad I read Layla and Donovan book first now I get to go back and read about all the couples I meet in their book.

That being said they saying there a fine line between love and hate in this book with Layla and Donovan story there nothing more true.

Layla is in the senior year of college and Donovan the Demon as she puts his as been her arch nemesis for years. There fathers used to be best friends so she never could escape him. Now there best friends are dating so they run in the same circles. These two always trying to up each other but one lead to another. Where they thought was anger was passion and where they that was hate turned to love.

"As much as you hate me during the day, Layla, that's how much you ache for me at night"- Donovan I loved there story but they frustrated me because you can tell as the story unfolded they started to develop real feelings well actually they realized there was always feelings there. But after months of secret nights with no promises or questions asked. Some of there friends are on to them, there both not sure of the future and what's worse is Layla dad is Donovan rugby coach.

But when both of them thought things were finally don't and nothing really would become of them there brief time together now created something that will last forever. But when that forever puts there future in jeopardy does Layla or Donovan want that future together?

I loved Layla being funny but she knew deep down what she wanted but was scared of her friends of her family but her body and heart wanted Donovan.

" You're here, Layla, because your body wants mine, because when I'm inside you, the world stops spinning."- Donovan

Donovan is that annoying kid on the play ground that pulls your pig tails on the and your mom said oh honey he does it because he likes you. But events in Donovan passed made him guard his heart but when the guard is torn down by Layla can he tear her walls down to make them come together.

I look forward to any other books in this series. We meet Quinn who is Declan half brother and I kind of rooting for a storyline between him and Shyo.

Read and Reviewed by Renee Entress's Book Blog
<http://reneeentress.blogspot.com>

Rebecca says

Serene is not the word that comes to mind when describing the relationship that Layla and Donovan have in Eden Butler's newest release Claiming Serenity.

Volatile...Angst-ridden...Tormented...Loathsome are much closer defining characteristics to what make them arch enemies.

So how do Layla and Donovan go from mortal foes to "enemies with benefits"?

An undeniable attraction that scorches the sheets and threatens to consume them even during the day hours when they're supposed to hate and persecute each other.

But can a relationship with no emotions and no promises really occur and give them the serenity both Layla and Donovan need or will a tormented past filled with evil pranks and bitter words be the only thing they're left with when their attraction runs its course and the bitterness resurfaces?

They always say that the boy who continuously picks on the girl wants to claim her instead of annoy her, but he doesn't know how to show it, and that's Donovan "the Demon" Donley. He's a man all about control and due to a bitter experience in his past, he's all about keeping his heart intact, so he fights his feelings for Layla every step of the way, mostly by making her life a living hell. I have to admit...I don't think I would have liked Donovan all that much without getting his point of view. At face value, he sort of comes across as a cocky asshole, but through his words and personal thoughts, readers are given a glimpse inside the tormented man, and we grow to understand why he is the way he is and what's at stake for him in getting too close to Layla.

Layla is definitely a firecracker, and she gives as good as she gets when it comes to the pranks she pulls on Donovan. There are a ton of expectations on her shoulders and her path has pretty much been laid out by her parents, which is a lot of pressure on a young twenty something woman. She hates that she wants Donovan, but she can't fight her attraction to him, and even though she feels she's setting herself up for a letdown, she gives into her desires and lets Donovan rock her world.

Donovan and Layla's "enemies with benefits" relationship definitely takes a turn that I didn't see coming, but I'm glad that it did because it truly shows what they both are made of and what they're willing to risk when a mistake just might be what they needed from the beginning.

Claiming Serenity is a great story that explores the real feelings below two characters who appear on the surface and behind their masks to loathe one another. The text has a great mix of steam, angst, and heartache that will keep readers' interest and keep them cheering for the hero and heroine's happily ever after. It's not an easy path to grow from enemies to lovers, but when deep down that's not really what they were, it might just be a bit easier, as long as they're willing to admit it.

A complimentary copy was provided in exchange for an honest review.

4 poison apples (The Fairest of All Book Reviews)

✿kawehi.reviews says

? I received an ARC via As the Pages Turn in exchange for an honest review. Thank you! ?

“You’ll come back, Layla because no matter how much you try to deny that your body likes mine, I’m still the only one who gives you what you want.”

Claiming Serenity was an AMAZING read!! I'd only been recently introduced into the world of author Eden Butler, and I have to say, that she is completely rocking my world!! Definitely, one of my favorite hands down writers as of late!!

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Layla Mullens and Donovan Donley have always been mortal enemies. With Layla coming from old money and Donovan's family coming from new-- there has always been a undercurrent of inadequateness regarding Donovan's perception of Layla. She is, more or less, a fairy princess-- in both her pristine upbringing and attitude, and who royally needs to be knocked right off her pedestal.

If only he could stay away from her...the coach's only daughter... and her from him, that is.

With an agreement to upkeep their feud in public and burn up the sheets at night, their arrangement soon comes to an abrupt halt after one night changes everything and suppressed feelings are brought to the forefront.

After all, promises and commitment were never apart of what was agreed upon.

"I'm not the kind of guy you need...I'm no Prince Charming. I'm not good for anyone and I doubt I ever will be."

"I don't do promises."

****"I don't want any."***

"I don't do emotion."

****"Not asking for that."***

"I like the way you feel. I like how hot and tight and sweet your body is." He moved closer, barely touching his hips to hers. "This needs to be between us. The others, they like to complicate sex. They like for it to mean something or everything. I don't. You don't, Layla. Not with me."

What will become of them? Will they claim what destiny's put in front of them and succumb themselves to that spark that has always been between the both of them? Or will revelations and insecurities tear them apart? Read and you will find out!

"Sometimes, Layla thought, it takes a perfect mistake to remove the masks we comfortably place over ourselves to keep us from the people we are and the love we pretend we don't want. Finding that love is one thing, keeping it is another..."

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

#Another 5 star read from the talented Eden Butler!! I can't wait for MORE from this series and am hoping for Declan's brother, Quinn, to get a story. I swear, there's more to that guy than he lets on!! Maybe a Quinn and Sayo story? Hmmm. *wink wink* ;)

Great job Eden!! ♥

Sarah L says

If you've read any of the other books in this Series then you may remember Donovan and Layla and their epic prank wars. Stolen dogs and glittery explosions in the car ring a bell?

In Claiming Serenity, Donovan and Layla begin a friends-with-benefits kind of relationship. They still hate one another, but they can do that while making each other feel good ... right? But of course sex complicates things. Feelings start to develop, emotions get in the way, and then what was supposed to be an easy arrangement suddenly becomes very difficult.

I had been eagerly awaiting Donovan's story from the first time we were introduced to his character in Chasing Serenity. His carefree personality and friendship with Declan had drawn me to him. Then his never-ending prank wars with Layla made me love him. He can be such a douche at times and never seems to think before he speaks. But when this boy does sweet? Holy hell, does he do it well.

I found that I had a love/hate relationship with Layla. There were times when her 'Princess' like ways really got on my nerves. She was selfish. Childish. Irritating. But her character definitely progressed as the story went on and I found myself singing a different tune by the end of the book. She just needed time to find herself. To start living for HER and not for those around her.

Eden Butler has a knack for creating stories that I just want to crawl inside of and take up residency in. Overall I would have to give Claiming Serenity 5 entertaining stars. It's a world that I loved getting lost in and I cannot wait to get my hands on Sayo's story!!

Erica says

4.5 stars

Donovan the Demon to Donovan the Dream.

Okay at times I wanted to throat punch Donovan and backhand Layla. They were just being too ignorant for their own good. It took a major incident to make them see the light. And I'm soooooo glad Donovan was man enough to put his foot down. I loved getting Donovan's POV and seeing his feelings change and how he accepts the changes. It's hard to explain without spoiling anything but I don't do spoilers, just know Claiming Serenity is another amazing story in the Seeking Serenity series and well worth the read!!

Trader (RedHotBlueReads) says

Donovan and Layla have been playing pranks on each other for years. They tell each other and their friends they can't stand each other. But when Layla breaks it off with her casual boyfriend Walter, it's Donovan that provides the comfort when Layla gets drunk and she ends up in his bed.

Together they craft a "no strings" agreement. Enemies during the day, lovers at night, no feelings or emotions required. No telling their friends because it isn't a relationship, it's just sex. Yeah, right. That sort of deal never quite works out that way, and when Layla starts to feel more for Donovan she breaks it off. She

believes him when he tells her that he's sworn off relationships for good and she has to protect her own heart.

But neither one of them can stay away from the other very long, and when things blow up in a major way, friends and families get involved. (no spoilers!)

It's tough to talk about the last 35% of this book without giving anything away, so all I will say is that I LOVED Claiming Serenity. I had a good-book hangover for days from this one, going back to reread a number of times.

What I love about Eden Butler's stories is that she isn't afraid to show that love can also bring real pain, but the payoff can be huge if you are willing to work at it. That usually involves working through some serious stuff, and Donovan and Layla have to do just that. They don't always get it right the first time either, all of which makes it so much sweeter when they can move past their issues and realize the love they have right in front of them.

Even their friends and family see that their pranks and harsh words are like foreplay and that they belong together, it just takes Layla and Donovan a little longer to see. There's a great scene between Donovan and his father as they move past old hurts and his father gives him some advice that comes from the heart. These are the little and yet so very important moments in life that are life-changing. Layla's conversations with her father are a bit more, shall I say explosive, but Coach Mullens is a key player in this story as well. The way the fathers come together to guide their adult son and daughter was one of my favorite parts of this story.

I love this series, and Eden Butler is at the top of my "must read now" list of authors. Donovan and Layla are so awesome together, especially when they let down their guard and really look at their feelings for each other. The rest of the gang shows up too, but Claiming Serenity is really all about Donovan and Layla.

Loved Claiming Serenity. It's my first 5 star read of 2015, and I couldn't be happier about it. As a matter of fact, I may need to go reread the end of this again right now. It's just that sweet!

If you are a fan of New Adult contemporary romance and you aren't reading this series or Eden Butler, go do it now! Recommended.

This review also appears on my blog at:

<http://redhotbluereads.blogspot.com/2015/01/review-giveawayclaiming-serenity-by.html>

~Nichole~ Sizzling Pages Romance Reviews says

Sizzling Pages Romance Reviews

Nichole's Sizzling Reviews

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Eden Butler really knows how to take my emotions on a mind boggling adventure. From humor to anger and passion to wonder she brings feelings to the surface so vividly that you can almost see them shimmer in the air.

I would pick up my Kindle and lose myself in the catastrophic whirlwind that was Donovan and Layla and get so frustrated that I'd find myself wanting something to break. . to crush.. I wanted to scream and don't remember ever wanting to throttle two characters more than these two.

Eden surely you had to find yourself a little bit of indigestion writing this.. hate - love story. But hold on for a moment if you think I'm bashing anything. Because for every violent thought I had. . there were 50 hopeful and eager thoughts to follow. See that's what makes Eden so brilliant. To take my heart and invest in a couple that seems like a train wreck.. and make me believe in them so strongly that I couldn't give up. I felt this authors hope and her redeeming love being poured into these explosive moments between two stubborn people. . felt it so strongly that I had to.. craved. . the outcome and knew somehow someway that the walls would come down and the real and true emotions and dreams would save them.

Friendship and family.. a place of love and forgiving souls.. flawed yet loyal.. is where this cast of characters lived. I still feel like I'm there.. one of them. That's the world Eden created. It might have been a rough ride but the truly meaningful things in life aren't easy.

Moon Love says

I've been eagerly looking forward to reading Donovan and Layla's story since the moment I first met them in Chasing Serenity. My anticipation only increased with each subsequent story in the Seeking Serenity series, until it was at fever pitch. I wanted there to be lots of pranks, romantic tension, and hidden tender moments between Layla and Donovan, and I got all I wanted and so much more.

I loved seeing Layla and Donovan spar; their chemistry was incendiary. I was so surprised by what they were

hiding, from each other and from themselves. I thought Layla was going to have some dark secret that was going to take me by surprise, but instead it was Donovan who completely bowled me over with his vulnerability, which totally contrasted with the confident, almost arrogant persona he projected. If that wasn't enough, the truth behind what caused their animosity left me reeling. In the end I thought it was wonderful to see betrayals and redemption from unlikely sources.

I absolutely loved seeing familiar faces from previous books. I loved catching up with Autumn, Declan, Mollie, and Vaughn. They were integral parts of the story, but their being there in no way detracted from the story, it only enhanced it. I was so happy to see more of Sayo in this book, but so devastated by what she was dealing with. I have a feeling I know who her hero will be, and I can't wait to find out for sure. I have a feeling it's going to be epic.

Claiming Serenity is the shortest novel of the three full length novels published in this series so far, however it has the same emotional depth I expect a 600 page tome would have. I laughed while reading this book, smiled, and chuckled. I also wept tears of sadness, pain, frustration, and happiness, just as Layla and Donovan did as they struggled to find what they needed and wanted. I went on an emotional ride, one that I really enjoyed being on.

I feel like Eden Butler really connects with her characters and thus makes it really easy for her readers to connect with them too. I always find myself shaken when I finish reading one of her novels. It's so easy to slip into her words and become one with the story. I can never read her books in parts, it's always all at one time. I will ignore everything from the time I start until the time I finish. Read this book. You'll fall in love with Layla, Donovan, and everyone else in Cavanagh, just like I did.

Mikki _At_A Bookish Escape says

I have been waiting for this book since the moment I met Layla and Donovan at the beginning of this series. Their pranks, and the love/hate relationship that these two share is simply ADDICTIVE! Whenever these two were in a scene you could feel their chemistry. I am so happy the author wrote their story!

Layla and Donovan have been enemies since a very young age. I knew going into this book that their journey was going to be intense and passionate. When these two decided to change their status from enemies to enemies with benefits, I knew that my heart, and theirs as well, was going to suffer. What I loved about this book is how well it was written. Layla and Donovan might have burned the sheets with their hot chemistry, but the love that they had for each other is what made my heart go beep, beep, beep! I could feel that love with every word that the author wrote.

Layla and Donovan have grown so much since I first met them. They made mistakes and learned from them. It broke my heart to see that these two were denying with a passion how they felt for each other. This book had intense, emotional and scorching, passionate moments. They may have started this journey by hating each other, but by the end a beautiful love story started to grow.

Another thing that I loved about Claiming Serenity is how I got the chance to reunite with Autumn, Declan, Mollie, Vaughn and Sayo. I love all of these characters! It was awesome to catch up and fall in love with them all over again! I really hope that Sayo will get her own story. She's an amazing person and she deserves a dose of happiness after all the emotional moments she went through in Claiming Serenity.

I give, Claiming Serenity, by Eden Butler 4.5 passionate, emotional, enemies-to-lovers stars!

Geri Reads says

Can't wait for this one!

My Donovan!

My Layla!

Alex says

Loved the book, just as I've loved the rest of the series and Eden's Thin Love series. Definitely deserves 5 stars. I did however want to bash Donovan and Layla's heads together on more than one occasion.

FMR Book Grind says

FIDAH'S REVIEW:

RATING: 5 STARS

Claiming Serenity is the third book in the Seeking Serenity series. The book can be read as a standalone but you will be spoiled for the previous books. Personally, I read this book without reading the others in the series and it wasn't hard or confusing to follow.

The book follows Layla Mullens and Donovan Donley whom knew each other since they were young due to their fathers. However, they don't get along with each other. They've disliked and pranked each other for years. It wasn't until one incident which sparked their intimate relationship.

I wasn't expecting myself to be connected to the characters as much as I did. It surprised me, honestly. I was so engaged and enraptured by the writing, the story as well as the characters. I was hooked right from the beginning. Not only was the plot interesting, it had great development as well. I literally couldn't put the book down.

Needless to say, the book was heavy on romance, which I did not mind one bit. It also tackled family problems as well. The chemistry between our two main characters was very intense, not only sexually but out of the bedroom as well. Their attitudes and the way they behaved.

In short, this was one of the best new adult novels I've read this year. It has its faults, like every other book but I enjoyed the whole book from beginning to end. I was in a minor reading slump but this book got me out of it almost immediately. I'm definitely reading more books written by Eden Butler.

LEEANN'S REVIEW:

RATING: 4 STARS

This is about 2 young single people who honestly think the world revolves around them.

Donovan and Layla hate each other. They go out of their way to antagonize, taunt and torment each other.

Unfortunately they have the same group of friends and go to the same school so they can't avoid each other.

They are often in the same place at the same time.

Then one night everything changes. They find themselves in a situation neither of them wanted or ever thought would happen.

They become friends with benefits. They agree to keep it a secret. They tell no one, not friends or family.

But then things change and they find themselves having to make life altering decisions and neither of them know what they want or what to do.

They find themselves thrown into a situation getting to know each other better than ever before. This brings about a lot of realizations and revelations that add to their confusion.

This is one of those books that I think should be circulated into senior high schools and into college and universities. It shares a valuable lesson in how one spur of the moment decision can change your life and how sometimes you find yourself having to make huge decisions that can change your future forever.

It also tells a story But how life doesn't always revolve around you, there are other things going on in people's lives that are bigger than what is going on in your world sometimes.

This is a good read, I really enjoyed it.

Joann says

That's it- Eden has done it. She has officially bested herself with me. Claiming Serenity is BY FAR, my most favorite of all of her works!! I have faithfully followed this amazing series since day one, and was anticipating no one's story, more than Donovan and Layla. Because, I knew. I knew that once it was out there- it was going to be explosive. Dynamic. Complete and utter wonderment. I was not wrong.

This book- oh holy crap. The chemistry, the hate, but most of all- the love. It blew me away. I felt myself chanting silently for these two so hard, because I could not stomach the thought that they wouldn't be together. They were destined- there was just no other way to say it. As hard as those two fought to stay apart over the years, was a drop in the bucket to how hard they had to fight to stay together. And these two certainly had more than their fair share of obstacles to overcome---- more than any other couple in their "clan". The fact that they were able to do so, to pull out of their own internal struggles- it made their HEA so much sweeter.

As huge a fan as I am of this series, I just don't know how Eden can top this one, even though I know Sayo's story is going to rock my core. I can just feel it. Eden is such an amazing writer, I highly recommend her works to EVERYONE, because I have yet to find anything that I haven't completely adored. This is a special lady that we have in our midst- a true talent among the masses. Kudos, my dear, this one was out of this world---- 5 freaking huge stars!!!!

Kim says

Find this review and more at **[kimberlyfaye reads](#)**.

Eden Butler is another of my favorite new-to-me authors from 2017. I'm so thankful one of my bookish besties highly recommended the Seeking Serenity series to me. I've stopped myself from bingeing them all back-to-back-to-back just so I can savor each story a little more. I've loved each of the books in this series so far and Claiming Serenity is no exception.

Layla and Donovan hate each other. Allegedly. They're constantly pulling (some really clever, if immature) pranks on each other. Lurking underneath all that hatred, however, is some intense chemistry. I loved reading along as they discovered it for themselves. I enjoyed every bit of it, too — the banter, the pranks, the sexy times and the feels.

I'm a little sad to only have one more book in this series to read. I am so not ready to say goodbye to these characters. They've become like friends.

FAVORITE QUOTES

Let me have you, Donovan. Let me feel you, just one fucking time.

"I don't like you, Donovan. I don't think I ever will. But when you're inside me, I don't have to think. I don't have to do anything but touch and taste. That's enough for me."

"As much as you hate me during the day, Layla, that's how much you ache for me at night."

"It's a man's world, girls, but without women, it's a world not worthy of living in."

Laura says

Layla and Donovan have spent a long time playing pranks on each other. They hate each other. Then one morning Layla wakes up in Donovan's bed naked. She's disgusted in herself and him for allowing it to happen but suddenly she's seeing him in a different light and feeling a strong attraction to him so after a few kisses, she falls into bed with him again (she finds something out that was no surprise to me as a reader!). After that, they decide that they will just be f-buddies! She tells him she still hates him and he tells her he can't offer her anything and he doesn't do emotion. That's fine with Layla. They'll just use each other for sex and keep their set up a secret from their close set of friends.

This story didn't really go where I thought it would. When I read about the pranks they played on each other, I pictured them as teenagers but they are in fact 23/24. They do come across as immature. I found the set up they agreed on a bit seedy especially as they didn't really talk afterwards. Layla would just turn up at night, have sex with him then leave and she continues to tell him how she hates him. This goes on for quite a while until one night Donovan is gentle with her and makes love to her. That scares Layla so she decides to put a stop to their arrangement but then something happens...Again, I felt like I was reading about teenagers with the decision Layla makes. There is also no explanation as to how what happens happened!

The story then fell a bit flat and felt rushed. It was OK but having read other books by this author that I enjoyed, this one felt like a bit of a let down.
