



For Love or Honor

Sarah M. Eden

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From the moment they met, Marjie's heart has belonged to handsome Captain Stanley Jonquil, younger brother of the Earl of Lampton. But six long months ago, when Stanley's sense of honor required that he do as he had sworn and return to the Continent to fight in defense of King and country, neither Stanley nor Marjie could have dreamed what the cost of his service would be. It has been ages since Stanley last wrote, and Marjie and the Jonquil family are plagued by his unknown fate—until the day he unexpectedly reappears. Marjie's joy, however, is quickly shadowed by confusion—the aloof, battle-worn soldier before her is not the man he once was. In the wake of Stanley's blatant disinterest in renewing their acquaintance, Marjie's devastation turns to determination as she vows to help him find peace. But his scars run far deeper than anyone realizes. Despite his feelings for her, Stanley believes Marjie deserves a man whose hands are not stained with the violence of battlefields and whose mind and heart are not haunted by the horrors he has seen. Honor requires Stanley to return once more to the life he has grown to despise, one he knows will destroy him in the end, even as his heart beckons him to stay with Marjie, the only woman he could ever love, and the promise, at last, of redemption.

For Love or Honor Details

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From Reader Review For Love or Honor for online ebook

Melissa says

This is the 6th story of the Jonquil brothers and it was dang good. You can tell that a lot of time and research went into this book. It was deeper and more meaningful then the others have been. It made me ache for this fictional family and so much was left up in the air with some of the other happenings with the brothers. This is more then just the story of Marjie and Stanley this one brought in more of Sorrel and Philip. This is becoming more of a family saga instead of just individual light fluffy romances and I am loving the change. This had some serious themes but I would give it to my teen to read. Very clean with some good tension.

Kelly says

This is one of my all time favorite books now! I sobbed through the last half and couldn't write a review for awhile because I would start up with the tears again! I read this book in one sitting and I stayed up till 3 am reading it straight through! If I could I would give it 10 stars! I don't even know if I can give this book a review it deserves!

Marji is just one of those people who just makes the world shine! She is caring and helpful! She fusses over everyone and it terribly bothers her disabled sister. Her sister was in an accident and has had broken bones and hip issues and is in constant pain. But her sister doesn't want to be fussed over. Marji is also deeply in love with Stanley Jonquil. She writes him while he is away at war. And although she has not received one letter from him, she has faithfully written him every week anyway. He has been away for awhile, so it is a surprise when he just shows up one day at the doorstep of Philip Jonquil's home (also Marji's sister's husband), where his mother and Marji also live.

Stanley has been in the war and was at Waterloo and has seen terrible atrocities. It haunts him. He is only home to recover and then he is to be recalled. The letters from Marji is what has kept him alive all this time. He also has come back with a broken body. He will not reveal what is wrong with him to anyone. He will not talk about it. He tries to avoid everyone. But his family picks up everything and eventually the truth comes out to not only them but to the reader as well. We only can tell something is wrong at first. Marji is the first to find out what is wrong with his right hand. Her reaction is utterly sweet and caring. Then Marji takes it one step further by making sure his whole family know about it, not because she wants them to see it but because it needs to heal. She secretly removes all the gloves for his right hand and the buttons for the right side of his jacket. This makes Stanley very mad! He has no choice but to move forward for dinner that night, although he tries to keep his hand hidden. The first one to notice his hand was his innocent niece. Her reaction is so like a child and I sobbed and sobbed and went thru several kleenex before I could read again! Oh the innocence of a child! It just tears your heart wide open!

"I am glad *your* hurt is better," Stanley whispered. He breathed through a sudden surge of emotion. He had made very certain that her hurt would never amount to his. "Mama loved it all better," Caroline said. "If you stay, Stanby, your hurt will get better too." His vision blurred with the sting of tears he refused to shed. He wanted to believe that there was a cure. "I can love you bigger than the biggest hurt." "That is a great deal of love, Poppet." Stanley tightened his grip on her.

She lifted both her little hands to his face, touching his cheeks. "There are so very many of us," Caroline whispered, leaning in close to his face. "We can love you all better." She ran her palm along his cheek, wiping away a tear that had escaped his eye. She wrapped her arms around his neck and leaned into him.

Meanwhile, the Jonquil brothers have this game and are close enough that they make an intervention on Stanley's behalf. Oh, I was laughing here! I love those brothers and I need to go back and read the first few stories about them.

Stanley believes he can't have Marji with his mind and body so messed up and that he is about to be called back into duty. Stanley believes in honor and his duty to serve is forever even though he despises it and his body isn't capable of being on the front line anymore. When we get to near the end my heart was breaking for Stanley and Marji. He loves her and she him but he will not have her come with him, it is not for the "fairer sex". Marji is heartbroken but her body and Stanley's too find it hard not to be near each other with a touch here and a kiss there! It is torture for not only them but me as a reader as well. I can see no way for them to be together. And I was crying again over how the ending was going. They love each other darn it and they need each other and I was heartbroken for them. But you will have to read it to see how it ends yourself.

If you like wounded war heroes, kissing in the rain, loving families, terrible parents for others, selfless people, duty and honor, really really good writing, innocent children, love, this might be for you. Wait this book is for everyone, it is perfect and gives you all kind of emotions and thoughts and makes you feel good inside!!!!

herdys says

All Sarah M. Eden make me emotional, but this one was truly heartbreakng! (that scenes with Stanley and Caroline gave me so many FEELS!!) I swear I wanted to cry along our heroine everytime Stanley pushed her away, cause he was been a noble idiot. And he was one, until the very end, but it all worked out and he got his deserved HEA.

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

I believe that love takes on all kinds of shapes and forms. Love can be desperate. Love can be gentle and sweet. Love can be sparkling and fiery. Love can be patient and enduring. The very best word I can come up with for the love in this book is yearning. I felt it so strongly throughout. A strong, yearning love.

Marjie yearns for love from Stanley and she also yearns for love and validation from her sister, Sorrel. Marjie is sweetness personified. She has a gentle soul full of desire to please and care for people. Marjie is hopelessly in love with Stanley and wants nothing more than to be loved by him in return. Her love yearns for his.

Stanley also yearns for love but doesn't believe himself to be worthy of that love- not from his family and definitely not from Marji. Stanley is broken- physically, emotionally and mentally, from the horrors of war. It honestly broke my heart. Stanley loves Marji and he yearns for her love in return but doesn't feel worthy of

it.

This was one of my favorite scenes from this book and I wanted to share a bit of it. It is a scene between Stanley and his young niece.

"If you stay, Stanby, your hurt will get better too." His vision blurred with the sting of tears he refused to shed. He wanted to believe it, wanted to believe there was a cure. "I can love you bigger than the biggest hurt."

"That is a great deal of love, Poppet." Stanley tightened his grip on her.

"Do you have a lot of hurts?" Caroline asked.

Stanley tried to clear his suddenly constricted throat, blinking against the pooling moisture in his eyes. "Yes, I do." The words were barely audible. Where had the soldier gone? Where was his self-control?

She lifted both her little hands to his face, touching his cheeks. "There are so very many of us," Caroline whispered, leaning in close to his face. "We can love you all better." She ran her palm along his cheek, wiping away a tear that had escaped his eye. She wrapped her arms around his neck and leaned into him.

I loved the arc of this story. There is hurt and misunderstanding but that eventually gives way to healing and love. That sense of yearning throughout the whole book really tugged at me and my heart became invested in this book. I loved it. I think this is one of my favorite books of the Jonquil Brothers series. Oh, and the ending was perfect.

Content: Some war related memories, PTSD symptoms, kissing

- I received a copy of this book from the publisher. All opinions expressed are my own.

Anne Osterlund says

Stanley is a soldier.

When he returns home--at his superior's request--he knows it is only temporary. That there is no way out. Not one in which he can maintain his honor. He did not take an oath to join Her Majesty's forces for only the length of a single campaign. He is not like others of the aristocracy who see no shame in selling their commissions. He will fight as long as he is needed.

And he cannot escape being needed. Even though Waterloo cost him his leg. And the burn he suffered at Orthez has rendered him unable to write. And his voluntary enlistment in the forlorn hope for the same battle was essentially to volunteer for a suicide mission.

There is no way out. No permanent path home.

Though the young woman waiting when he arrives there has been waiting loyally. And writing. She has written him every week, and Stanley valued nothing more than her letters. But with no way out, can he possibly tell her why he never wrote back?

For Love or Honor is the fifth book in Sarah M. Eden's wonderful Regency era saga about the Jonquil family. Stanley is definitely one of my favorite heroes in this family (along with Philip and Corbin, and Layton is really great also . . . OK, they're all pretty great). This book is probably the darkest of the series thus far, and the author has clearly done her homework about post-traumatic stress disorder. A believable hero, and--as our heroine realizes--one well worth falling in love with.

Julie Carpenter says

Oh how I love Sarah Eden's characters and stories and families. This is another Jonquil brother story and I loved it! Stanley and Marjie...happy sigh!

I will admit that I shed a few tears while reading this one. It was hard not to. It's not all fluff and lighthearted and dancing in the roses. This story is about waiting and hurting and pain and healing and family and love. I loved the ending, I loved the beginning, I loved it all. I can't pinpoint a favorite moment between these two characters. Again, not all of their scenes are sweet, some are painful and awkward and causes more problems, but could be considered cathartic in a sense.

Marjie is just so good and sweet, compassionate and caring for everyone. When you read more about her childhood, there's an understanding as to why she is the way she is. Her life hasn't been easy, but one thing is for sure...Stanley brings her peace and comfort. He alone can heal her wounds. Yet Stanley has many wounds he needs to heal from, many visible and many more not visible. He returns from the Napoleonic wars, broken, ragged and utterly torn apart. What he needs to heal, he won't allow himself to get close to. He won't allow what's been taught him about honor and loyalty to let his guard down. To heal. To see the good he has done. And most importantly to acknowledge the love he has for a beautiful lady.

These two are perfect for each other. I loved the letter writing, I loved how Marjie helped Stanley, even if he refused to see it sometimes. Yes, definitely a happy sigh and tears are associated with this book for me.

You don't have to read all of Sarah's books in order, they work as stand alones. Although I would say that it's fun to read each brother's story and see how the further you get into the stories, the more of the previous brothers' stories you see. I haven't read one yet that I didn't absolutely love.

I have a bazillion quotes that I marked up and absolutely loved. These two quotes I'm sharing had me laughing and smiling at one of the Brother's wives, Mariposa. So enjoy!

"Only Harold, who had joined them for dinner spoke. He quoted and expounded upon the thirty-first Psalm until Marjie was ready to strangle him. Mariposa saved her the trouble. "We had a rooster once that was very much like Senor Harold," she said to no one in particular. "He made a great deal of noise and spoke very much, though almost no one heeded him." She lifted a forkful of fish but paused before putting it in her mouth. "He was delicious." Jason sputtered but managed to hold back a laugh. Marjie genuinely smiled for the first time in days. Harold raised an obviously disapproving eyebrow and continued eating in blessed silence.

Mariposa nodded with her characteristic conviction. "Phillip is a man." She waved a hand, dismissing and condemning all in one gesture. "These men, they do not understand anything." Again, Harold's eyebrow lifted. Jason grinned. "'Act like your heart is made of stone,' Phillip says to you. 'Senor Stanley will be happier if his family treats him like a rag they will not miss at all.' I told Philip that he

was, of all the men in the world, the most stupid. I threw my arms around Stanley and wept because my heart was weeping. You English, you are too afraid of emotions. You fight against your feelings." Mariposa shook her head and shrugged. **"Of all things, a person ought to feel. Without feelings, what are we? We are nothing more than moving paintings."**

Yeah, I love Mariposa. She is only in a couple small parts of this book but has her own book in, *A Fine Gentleman*. I haven't read it yet but am very excited to, especially after reading about her sass in this one.

I won't add anymore because it's too hard to choose from all the ones I have highlighted, I'd probably start adding all of them.

Content: Clean. Some talk about war and battles but nothing graphic. Nothing past kissing.

I received a copy from the publisher, Covenant Communications, via NetGalley. All thoughts and opinions in the review are my own.

Happy Reading!!!

Donna Hatch says

Poignant, and at times, heart breaking, but absolutely beautiful and filled with hope and moments of light. Even though the two characters were already in love before the book began, they had a long journey ahead of them and their romantic attachment grew along the way. They were both likeable and I rooted to them all the way through to their sweet, happily ever after.

Angie says

4.5 stars...

Wonderfully lovely clean romance set in Regency England! I immediately bonded with our characters of Marjie and Captain Jonquil. I have read other books by Sarah Eden, but none in the Jonquil Brothers series (don't worry I will now be checking them out!) but that caused me no issues in reading this novel. It deals with a few serious issues, but isn't written with a heavy hand that causes the reader to lose enjoyment. In fact, it probably has the opposite effect. I smiled, I cried, and I even laughed through this book, and I always say if you can give me all those emotions in one book, you are truly successful. Highly Recommended!!

Many thanks to NetGalley, Sarah Eden, and Covenant Publishers for an ARC to read and honestly review!

Katie W says

War is hard and there's not a lot that's glorious about it. When Stanley comes home wounded and emotionally broken, he refuses to tell his family exactly how broken he is...physically and mentally. I found it interesting that he takes on the role of a martyr, in a way. He doesn't believe that he deserves to be happy or to find love; he doesn't feel perfect enough to have the woman of his dreams, yet he doesn't want to give

her up; he doesn't think he can ever be whole. But the whole message of this book proves his beliefs to be wrong. And I loved that bit of hope that shines through in this sad tale.

Marjie has been in love with Stanley forever, but she doesn't want to force him to return her feelings. She is one determined woman and I love how fiercely she fights to help him, even when she's pushed away countless times.

I can always count on Eden to deliver a well-written story, full of emotion and turmoil, while ending with a satisfying conclusion. Her stories aren't pure fluff and always twinge my heart with a bit of pain, but leave me feeling like a slightly more compassionate person. It's honestly impossible to judge someone's actions when you don't know the full story.

Content: mild romance; mild violence

I received a copy, which didn't influence my opinion in any way.

Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says

Poor Stanley! In this book we learn of the horrors of war Stanley has had to endure, and the effects on his sensitive and compassionate nature. Only four months after his severe injuries, he struggles to keep his emotions at bay so that when the time comes to return to the field, he can soldier up and get it done. Once again we see the brotherly love and camaraderie between the Jonquils, especially Phillip and Layton, and I loved the scene when they meet with Stanley in their equivalent to a secret clubhouse and through their banter, get Stanley to reveal dark secrets that need to be brought to light for him to begin healing mentally.

Marjie is as compassionate as Stanley, with a heart to serve, but feels rejected when her sister refuses her help. It seems like she's a bit lost, not really knowing where her place is or where she is needed. Her previous friendship and beginnings of romance with Stanley give her the perfect opportunity to help him as he recovers, but the emotional distance he tries to maintain is hard on her. I admired her determination and creativity in how she supports him against his will, and loves him even without a guarantee of returned affection. The tone of the book fluctuates between despondency and hopefulness as Stanley and Marjie take two steps forward and one step back in their relationship, and I couldn't help but be touched by the ending. Highly recommend!

(I received a complimentary copy of the book; all opinions in this review are my own)

Clara says

When a dear one comes back from battle there is so much to rejoice after... but is it that easy for them to live through the fact that they are lucky to be alive?

At first, I thought this book was going to be about Marjie and Stanley's journey back to one another. There are so many tender moments between them and it's obvious how they can perfectly uplift and complement one another.

However, Stanley has seen and lived through so much some people will only imagine without ever fathom the true horror brought by war. Not only to soldiers but to civilians and innocents caught among enemy line.

Marjie is full of life, innocence, and purity, and, as much as he wants her as part of his life, he knows he can't give his whole self to her as a form of protecting her from the cruelty of battle.

The problem is, by trying to protect everyone from his broken self, Stanley is actually pushing everyone away and never giving himself true space to weep, morn and heal.

Marjie is truly devoted to Stanley and may sometimes come out as naive, but it is exactly this innocence and honesty that turns out to be the perfect balm Stanley needs. The fact that she has been through many difficult times and still chooses to love deeply and risk her heart for the benefit of others is truly inspiring.

Both of these characters journey is heartbreak as well as full of tenderness.

There is a glimmer of hope to be found, and oh the blessing of having so many people who care enough to never give up on you.

As much as this is a Regency novel, it's scary to see how relevant it is for today... Well done, Sarah M. Eden. Very well done.

*I received a copy from the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review.

Tori says

I really enjoyed getting to know Stanley Jonquil. Throughout the other Jonquil books, we only learn about him second-hand. Stanley is a very loyal army captain and he is broken in more ways than 1. A lot of this book was peeling back the layers and helping us, as well as the woman who loves Stanley, understand why Stanley is so unhappy. Marjie was inspiring. I felt for her, and admired her own form of loyalty.

Overall, this Jonquil book dealt with heavier subjects than others in the series. There wasn't a lot of witty banter that I've come to love in Sarah Eden's writings. But I loved seeing the Jonquil family come together to strengthen Stanley and help him heal.

Sarah Bowe says

I love this family! May have said it before but will say it again....I love this family! Stanley had been through and seen some things being a soldier. I loved him with Marjie though. I love that she always loved him ever since she met him and stayed by his side even when it was hard and tearing her apart.

Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says

4.5 stars

The toll of war is harsh. Death and destruction happen to the body and mind. Stanley Jonquil is one of the many soldiers who suffer after the battle is over.

I love reading Sarah M. Eden's regency books. She brings the book, characters, and setting to life for me. I can picture them in my head, hear their voices, and understand their circumstances. She has a way of drawing me in and empathizing with them. In this book the realities of a broken soldier suffering from PTSD became real for me. Stanley would rather push all that he loves away from him than have them realize how much he has and continues to suffer. The one that he longs for, Marjie, is the one he pushes away the hardest.

I love the theme of the book. Love is not perfect. You do not need to be whole in body or mind to be worthy of love.

Source: I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher to review. All thoughts and opinions expressed are my own.

Mindy says

For Love or Honor is another masterpiece by Sarah Eden. Sarah is one of my favorite authors. I can always count on a well developed, lovely story from her. Her writing is perfect. This book is heartbreakingly beautiful. I ached for Stanley and his hardships. He is so brave, but needed to learn to forgive himself for the battlefield. Accepting his wounds was his toughest battle. I loved Marjie, she had her own hardships to overcome as well, but I loved how strong she was. Pluck was a delight. He brought humor and help wherever he was. There is a great scene with Pluck and Marjie, that is very touching. Sorrel had her struggles, but I admire her character and the amazing women she is. Phillip was wonderfully Phillip. I love all the Jonquil brothers, but he holds a special place in my heart.

5 out of 5 stars. I loved this book. It makes me want to read all the Jonquil books again and again.
