



# Manipulation

*Eden Winters*

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## Manipulation Eden Winters

Lucky Lucklighter has a new life. His old life wants him back.

He traded trafficking for taking down criminals with the Southeastern Narcotics Bureau, and a drug-lord lover for a man on the right side of the law. Bo Schollenberger found the way past the thorny defenses of Lucky's heart, and made Mr. I-Get-Along-Fine-Alone think about his and his closets, stevia in the sugar bowl, and a picket fence—with a good lock on the gate.

Now Bo is missing, and a voice long silenced asks, "Did you miss me?" Lucky must deal with a devil from his past to get Bo back.

And if Bo isn't willing to come? A drug ring needs its back broken before flooding the US with a designer high, seductive and undetectable. But there's a fine line between good and evil, and a truckload of temptation urging Lucky to cross.

## Manipulation Details

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## From Reader Review Manipulation for online ebook

### Tessi4M says

[Having to watch Bo being forced into a drug habit was just scary and so very painful. (hide spoiler)]

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### Xing says

Being the fourth book in the series, Manipulation is another great addition to Lucky and Bo's adventure, as partners in love and work. It's a shame that I can't say much of anything in terms of the plot without spoiling the whole thing, but I will say this: Manipulation seems to be focusing a lot on Lucky's past.

Book three, Corruption, was a book that left many questions unanswered. Questions regarding an important figure in Lucky's pre-Bo past. Manipulation helped to shed light on these questions, while creating new ones of its own. Yet throughout the chaos of all things happening, one thing shines brightly through the nitty and gritty: Lucky&Bo (or Lucky&Bo/Cyrus).

I was worried that after three books, Corruption wouldn't bring anything new to this beloved couple. Would the author create unnecessary angst and huge communication breakdowns that would force our couple to re-evaluate their relationship? I don't want a "big misunderstanding" or a "breaking up with you is for the best" kind of situation!

Phew.

Thank goodness the author sees sense.

While the investigation and such was interesting (and learning more about Lucky's past), I felt like the meat of the book was the development between Lucky and Bo. And yes, there's further development here as we see these men take small steps into the future. Together. It's great, because I can see a many possibilities between these guys, and I am so ready to read about any one of them. These guys stay strong with one another throughout Manipulation, and I don't see that changing anytime soon.

It was also nice to see the author create a plotline that focused on the development of a new dosage form of an already existing drug (i.e. hydrocodone), as opposed to the creation of something completely new/fictional. It makes the inner (legal) drug dealer in me happy and the story more "real," especially with the inclusion of the rescheduling of hydrocodone products on the market. Definitely a thumbs up to Eden Winters for doing research and making her story relevant to current day events.

So pretty much, if you liked the series up to this point, including Bo&Lucky, then Manipulation will not disappoint. I'm ready for the next book!

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### Josy says

~ 4.5 stars ~

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## Susan says

I really, really adore this series. It's smart and detailed. Well researched and well written. The characters are kooky with an emotional side you can invest in. And whether you love Lucky or love to hate him, he eventually wins you over every time.

Book 4, Manipulation, picks up where book 3 left off...and any time I get some Lucky & Bo action, I am a happy girl. The storyline eventually takes us south of the border and dives directly into Lucky's past...the one he's been running from all along. I found this book to be one of the more telling books of the series as we really get to examine and uncover more of Lucky's past with drug lord, Victor Mangiardi. We also get a good bit of Stephen, Victor's slimey nephew. Blech.

But what I enjoyed most about this book is the progression and growth of the love between Lucky and Bo. I really love it when series allow us to go along for the ride as couples become more and more committed to each other. And this felt like a treat.

If you haven't started the series, I highly recommend it. And for fans of Lucky & Bo, this book will not disappoint.

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## Karen says

### *Somebody owes me some sleep...*

I am so getting to old for this. I started this book yesterday and even though I had to take a huge break in the day because the real world just doesn't understand that sometimes when you get into a book, even though the book will wait for you...you can't wait for it and that's what it's been like for me throughout this entire series. Once I have these books I must read them and I will do just about anything to make sure I get to do that. In this case it meant giving up several hours of sleep, what the hell there's always tonight, right?

Let me start by saying I am a huge fan of Eden Winters period, if she wrote it. It's going to be amazing in my world and to date she has not failed me. So far this is my 20th read by this author and out of those books I have given one 3 star rating the rest have all rated 4 stars or more. Sorry for the ramble just wanted you to understand how terrific I think this author is.

This book had me from the opening sentence. I love Lucky and Bo, they are two of the most incredibly screwed up characters I have ever encountered. Neither of these men have gotten much of a break on their lives and yet they both keep working at making life better and not just for themselves but for the rest of the world as well.

In book 3 we left our men in a cabin in the woods waiting to see if the drug ring they'd broken would be rebuilt. Lucky gets recalled to the SNB offices and Bo gets left behind. As if that's not bad enough Bo

suddenly disappears and things start to get strange for Lucky and he's not sure who to trust, but the one thing he knows for sure is he's going to find Bo and bring him home and no one is going to stop him...not even Bo.

I keep thinking this series can't get any better and then the next book comes out and I find out they can and they do. Book 5 is going to be called 'Redemption' and I've decided to give up thinking it won't be better because somehow I just know it will. What I don't know is when it will be out and I really, really need to know that.

So please Ms Winters, not to be to pushy I lost a whole lot of sleep last night and I'm figuring it's your fault you wrote this fabulous story that kept my mind racing with anticipation and so you owe me the sleep but I will gladly trade it for more Bo & more Lucky...please?

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### **Steph says**

Okay, so this wasn't my favourite of the series. I kept getting a bit lost with the storyline and I was desperate for more time with Lucky and Bo. I wanted to see more progression in their relationship, which we just didn't get. Bar a few emotional (and wonderful) scenes.

Overall, I enjoyed the book but it just wasn't as good as the previous books :)

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### **F. says**

The journey isn't finished yet - a series that definitely has to be read in order. This book carries on straight after Corruption and has more twists and bumps than a water slide. Hopefully one day our guys will get their home, dog and white picket fence

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### **Kaje Harper says**

4.5 stars. This series continues to be great fun. The characters are excellent, and the plots are unusual, demonstrating a unique knowledge of the underside of the pharmaceuticals industry. There are clearly still more plot twists to come for these guys in future books, and I'll happily read the next one when it becomes available.

In this book, there is an interesting shift of dynamic. When the series began, Lucky was the expert, the veteran, and the driving force in the relationship in most ways. He was also the one holding back emotionally, pretending he didn't care and didn't feel anything. As we've moved through the series, that has changed. Bo has become both more sure of himself and more capable in his work, and Lucky has begun to admit, at least to himself, just how deeply he cares about Bo.

But there are still major fracture lines in their relationship. For one thing, the case has kept them apart, other than stolen moments and painful crises. Bo has a lot of worries, anxiety over his weaknesses, determination to be a hero even when it means sacrifices he might regret. He hides his doubts more than ever, since his undercover experiences have encouraged him to put on a tougher, cooler facade. He's walking a difficult line as an agent, and having a hard time keeping straight what he needs to care about and what he must sacrifice

to close his case.

Lucky has also changed. With Bo as the primary undercover agent for so long, Lucky has been playing second fiddle and worrying, and it doesn't suit him. Lucky would like to dive in, be the hero and save the day. At the same time, he *is* smart and experienced enough to know that he can't always do that. He's also realizing just how much Bo means to him, and how much his own family does as well. There are some revelations that affect how he remembers his past, and that may come into play if he ever tries to contact his family in the future.

This is an action-packed instalment. We find out a lot about Lucky's past with drug lord, Victor Mangiardi. Lucky has to reevaluate what happened at the end, when Victor's empire collapsed. He meets people from his past, and they're mixed up with Bo's case. Keeping his emotions straight, helping bring drug dealers to justice, and figuring out what Bo needs from him is a big challenge.

I enjoyed this book a lot. There were a few times when I wondered about the logic of the case - having a bad guy who is using his own drugs and obsessed and a bit crazy covers some of the questions, though. I really enjoyed seeing Lucky's emotions come to the forefront in this book. He's come a long way from the wise-cracking, deliberately abrasive, solo player that he was in the first book. Bo hits some really tough moments, and it's clear his happy ending will still take a lot of work and pain. The end completes this portion of the story, but still feels very open. Not a cliffhanger, but clearly not an ending. I look forward to finding out what comes next.

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### **Natalia says**

I wish Victor was still alive :(

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### **Christelle says**

Dear Eden Winters, you have to stop putting Lucky and Bo, as well as me, through the grinder !!! No, wait, who am I kidding ?? Don't stop, I have such a fantastic time.

This part starts right where "corruption" ended : Lucky is deeper and deeper in love with Bo but can Victor, his ex-lover, be back from the dead to haunt him and destroy his relationship with Bo ?  
The blurb says it so well :

***"Lucky Lucklighter has a new life. His old life wants him back"***

But what the blurb is not telling is that, while Lucky has to make sense of his past biting him back, figure out who to trust and protect Bo as much as he can, Bo is in danger to be taken down by his demons and fully swallowed by Cy, his undercover identity as an outlaw biker working for a drug cartel. Ghosts raising from the past, secrets, revelations, mistrust, treason, danger, abduction, murders, cupidity, insanity and....manipulation. The plot is riveting, the pace is relentless and above all the chaos brought by this unsupervised undercover mission, Lucky's emotional journey and Bo's struggles put me down on my knees.

This is so far my favorite part of the series and I have a feeling it's a pivotal milestone in Lucky and Bo's relationship. As this series gets better and addictive, I have no doubt that "Redemption" is going to slay me : please, please, may Lucky and Bo's love be strong enough to overcome all the coming obstacles.

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### **Ariana says**

\*4,5 stars\*

Ah, Lucky and Bo are just magic. A huge step forward in their relationship in this instalment of the Diversion series, but the arc of the plot still continues, leaving lots of unanswered questions. And I am dying to find the answers to those!

Only one remedy - off to read the next book!

Highly recommended series!

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### **Ran ♠ says**

When is book 5 coming out?! When? When? When??? Oh please don't make me wait long!

This book was beyond what I expected. Or rather, I didn't expect the things that happened here. And I don't know whether it was a good thing or not. Tbh, I still don't know what I really feel about this book. I like it, yes, but I'm having a book hung-over right now because woah! What did just happen?

The events in this book were more complicated than anything that happened for Lucky and Bo in the previous books. And it broke me that they had to resort to the things they avoided just to remain safe. What I really like in this book was the truth from Lucky's past. In **Corruption**, I was torn whether to like Victor or not but I still wanted him to be forever a part of Lucky because I knew I felt like that for a reason. And in this book, I came to really like him and respect him.

(view spoiler)

(hide spoiler)]

Bo or Cy on the other hand was a complicated character in this book. So much more when the lines between the two persona blurred and Bo was in danger of totally losing his mind. But still, Lucky was there for him and helped him and loved him more than ever. I believed it when Victor talked about the kindness of Lucky's heart. He was hardened in his time in prison and with SNB but his heart was always there despite how much he thought how useless or unworthy he was of Bo's love. Someday, I really want him to stop thinking of himself that way.

So, there's a lot to look forward to in book 5 (when is the release date????) specially since there are still a lot of unfinished business when this book ended and Bo & Lucky still had to do what they needed to do. (view spoiler) A lot happened here but still many questions left unanswered. This series just gets better and better!

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### **Gina says**

I love Lucky and Bo! This is book 4 of these two and I can't wait for book 5. The writing is solid, the storytelling excellent, the story pulled me in and kept interested.

Highly recommended series.

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### **Sonia ~Ruber's fiancé in Crystal Court universe~ says**

I've been waiting for this forth installment in the "Diversion" series for what feels like forever!! **It was totally worth it though, Eden did not disappoint!**

So,

we have one Simon "**Lucky**" Harrison, former known as Richmond Eugene Lucklighter (a fake death may have happened)

*(This is how I picture him, don't care what you think unless is "yummy! I would love me some of that!")*

As I was saying, Lucky is a member of the Southeastern Narcotics Bureau (SNB), Starbucks coffee addict, foul mouthed and cranky as hell bastard but who gets all mushy inside when thinking of his lover, his boo (<-- see what I did there? no? well just keep on reading)

Add to this, one William Patrick "**Bo**" Schollenberger (now do you see what I did there ^? - his nickname is BO and he's Lucky's boo! get it? \*narrows eyes\* well, it was funny in my head!!) - (no fake death so far, so that's his real name)

*(yeah, you know it! I don't even care he's not a brunette as Bo is supposed to be)*

Bo, is also a member of Southeastern Narcotics Bureau (SNB), a vegetarian, stevia enthusiast, neat freak and usually an even tempered guy but for the past 2 books he's been deep undercover as Cyrus Cooper (drug lord, bike riding motherfucker! - \*shivers\*).

I'm trying really hard for this to be a spoiler free review so I'm not gonna go into details, but the gist is Lucky and Bo find themselves in Mexico (courtesy of a major **asshole** from Lucky's past) in the middle of a drug war with no contact to their SNB division. Because of **the asshole's** (that's I've been calling him through the

book) actions, Bo is put in a very difficult situation and he's starting to question his loyalties, while Lucky is trying to come to grips with his past and has doubts about his current SNB boss. Their relationship is also going through some hard times but after Bo finally comes clean about some stuff and Lucky gets over his fear of commitment, things get back on track.

"Manipulation" is faced paced, funny, hot and packed full of action. If it wasn't for stupid RL getting in the way I would have finished this that day it came out! What I do want to emphasize is that **Eden Winters's writing is flawless, the attention to details is extraordinary**, she really did her job when it comes to research! I'm more than happy with how this all turned out! (I'm especially tickled about Lucky coming clean with Walter about them :D)

Looking forward to Lucky and Bo's next adventure, I'm curious whether Bo is able to get past his experience in Mexico!

If you haven't read the series so far I'm urging you to do this now, it's getting better and better!

Hugs!

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### **Julie says**

This series is terrific. There was a lot of action, suspense and intrigue in this one. Things are not as they appear. Lucky's past comes back to bite him. Bo's still Lucky's Achilles' heel. Lucky's still got crazy, funny internal dialogue going on a mile a minute. I am very excited about book 5 and hoping that it will answer the multitude of questions this book and the prior ones have generated.

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