



SEAL of My Dreams

Cindy Gerard , Jami Alden , Stephanie Bond , Kylie Brant , Helen Brenna , HelenKay Dimon , Tara Janzen , Leslie Kelly , more... Elle Kennedy , Alison Kent , Jo Leigh , Gennita Low , Marliss Melton , Christie Ridgway , Barbara Samuel , Roxanne St. Claire , Stephanie Tyler , Loreth Anne White , Robyn Carr (Foreword) ...less

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True heroes who will win your heart.

Honor, duty, courage, passion . . . the men of the Navy SEALs are a special breed of hero, and in these stories by eighteen top romance authors the SEALs are celebrated not only as symbols of devoted service to their country but as the kind of man every woman wants to love. They'll rescue a damsel in distress and her lap dog, too. They'll battle hometown dramas and international bad guys. When it comes to giving away their hearts, they'll risk everything.

All proceeds from sales of SEAL of My Dreams goes to the Veterans Research Corporation, a non-profit fundraiser for veterans' medical research.

Among them, the authors of SEAL of My Dreams have won dozens of writing awards including multiple RITAs from Romance Writers of America. Their nearly 600 published novels have sold at least 25 million copies worldwide. The SEAL of My Dreams roster includes many of the best-known authors in modern romance fiction. In addition, many have strong family connections to the servicemen and women of our nation's military, and many specialize in novels featuring heroes and heroines from all branches of service.

Visit the authors at www.sealofmydreams.com.

Contents:

Foreword by Robyn Carr

Coming Home by Jami Alden

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Dog Heart by Barbara Samuel

Whirlwind by Roxanne St. Claire

Holding On by Stephanie Tyler -- Hold Trilogy #3.5

Letters to Ellie by Loreth Anne White

SEAL of My Dreams Details

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Author : Cindy Gerard , Jami Alden , Stephanie Bond , Kylie Brant , Helen Brenna , HelenKay Dimon , Tara Janzen , Leslie Kelly , more... Elle Kennedy , Alison Kent , Jo Leigh , Gennita Low , Marliss Melton , Christie Ridgway , Barbara Samuel , Roxanne St. Claire , Stephanie Tyler , Loreth Anne White , Robyn Carr (Foreword) ...less

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From Reader Review *SEAL of My Dreams* for online ebook

Joanne says

I am pleased to say that not only is this book for such a good cause, I found it difficult to put down. I had planned to read one or two stories a night but found once I had started I just had to keep going. The stories range from heartwarming to thought provoking; it makes you realize what a great job these guys do under the most difficult circumstances. The stories take you through a whole range of emotions from laughter to tears.

This is a collection of well written stories from both authors well known to me, and others that I have not read before. I am very keen to read more of their work. It is worth noting that all proceeds from sales of 'SEAL of My Dreams' goes to the charity, the writers themselves have not taken any payment.

I can't recommend this book highly enough.

Quinn says

SEAL of my Dreams is that very rare breed of anthology where every story is actually good. Really good.

I finally pulled this one out of the virtual pile thinking that it might be a good refresher for between books – one short from *SEAL of my Dreams* for each novel read. Well, that didn't work. At all. I ended up reading this one cover to cover and was still left wanting more.

SEAL of my Dreams has something for everyone. Laughter, tears, suspense and everything in between, and above all, great romance. With eighteen stories all featuring a SEAL hero, you can be forgiven for thinking this might become a little repetitive, but each story is different and fresh.

I was lucky enough to get this one from the publisher through NetGalley, but I am sorely tempted to get my hands on the paperback version. Not only would I be happy to read it again, the proceeds would go to the Veterans Research Centre supporting veterans medical research and I would get to respectfully ogle the cover featuring a real deal SEAL. It's a win-win.

FicTalk Blog says

This compilation of SEAL stories just brought me to tears, especially the last one, which made me sob and sob and sob.

All these stories were beautifully done. They really showcased how hard it is to be a SEAL, how hard it is to sacrifice your family, love, and life for your country. This novella really did a great service to the many men and women in uniform.

I definitely recommend people to go out there and show your support by buying yourself a copy of this book.

It's for a very worthy cause.

This book is released on 11/11/11.

5 Stars.

Laura the Highland Hussy says

<http://www.demonloversbooksandmore.co...>

I don't know if you've heard of this anthology or not, but all proceeds from sales of **SEAL of My Dreams** go to the Veterans Research Corporation, a non-profit fundraiser for veterans' medical research. How wonderful a concept? And that cover? Yep, a real Navy SEAL, you may even recognize that photo from the newspaper or internet.

Almost all of these authors were new to me, and I really had a good time reading this anthology.

I was a little reluctant to pick this book up for a few reasons.

1. I don't actually read contemporaries that often
2. An anthology with this much hype? Wasn't sure it would live up to said hype.
3. I don't read about SEALs so this was very new to me.

But it was a great book. It's rare an anthology has me riveted with each story, but this one hit the mark. I am now hooked on real-life heroes Navy SEALs and I am so excited to have picked up several of these authors' backlist.

One thing I really enjoyed about this anthology was the variety of authors, and the length of the novellas. All were very quick and easy reads, ranging from the sweet, heart-warming type, to the action/adventure type.

I was going to break down each story but I gave almost every one in this book a 4, plus with the length of each, I'm afraid if I reviewed them, it would ruin the story for you. I teared up several times throughout this anthology, and each story is a different take on a SEAL hero. In one, our hero lost his partner-a dog. That was a tearjerker. In another, the heroine saved the SEAL, quite a twist. All were wonderful, and all worth the read.

I received this eARC through netgalley, but I have ordered the paperback so I feel like I helped, just a little. I hope you will each go buy a copy.

This is the original NY Times article where the photo was first spotted:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/05/wor...>

Crystal~BIG book addict~ says

This book....

This is a book full of short stories about Navy SEALs by a bunch of really great authors. The stories are heartwarming and full of romance and just make you feel good.

The best part about buying this book, in my opinion, is that all proceeds go to the Veterans Research Corporation, a non-profit foundation supporting veterans medical research. It was money well spent.

Wendy says

"The Only Easy Day was Yesterday"

Coming Home Jamie Alden

3.5 stars.

Baby I'm Back Stephanie Bond

4 stars.

SEALed Fates Kylie Brant

4 stars.

Going Dark Helen Brenna

3 stars.

Finding Home HelenKay Dimon

5 stars.

SEALed With A Kiss Cindy Gerard

5 stars.

Panama Jack Tara Janzen

4 stars.

Wrapped & SEALed Leslie Kelly

4 stars.

Worth the Risk Elle Kennedy

3 stars.

Twenty One Hours Alison Kent

4 stars.

Not Waving But Drowning Jo Leigh

4 stars.

Her Secret Pirate Gennita Low

5 stars.

SEALed by Fate Marliss Melton

4 stars.

Signed, SEALed, Delivered...I'm Yours Christie Ridgway

4 stars.

Dog Heart Barbara Samuel

4 stars.

Whirlwind Roxanne St. Claire

3 stars.

Holding On Stephanie Tyler

4 stars.

Letters to Ellie Loreth Anne White

5 stars.

Loved this read!

Amber says

Coming Home by Jami Alden - 4 stars

A cute story about a SEAL returning home to his childhood girlfriend. There were only slight stirrings of angst and sexiness, nothing deep or mindblowing here. I like this author's suspense series, but this was rather forgettable.

Baby I'm Back by Stephanie Bond - 4 stars

I didn't love the characters or the story in this one, but I did love the depth of the characters. They were three-dimensional and interesting. An injured SEAL returns home to the girl he used to tease, she treats him, they end up together. A little wham-bam-thank-you-ma'am, but was okay.

SEALed Fates by Kylie Brant - 4 stars

Kind of cool. The fact that he is a former SEAL is not a major point of the story. A woman and her kids are hiding out from her deranged mother-in-law. I had some serious doubts about the intelligence of her plan before the hero intervened, and that made me not like the heroine so much. Supposedly a killer is after her and her kids, but all she does is move somewhere, KEEP HER NAME, and install a big fence (BY HAND, she does it herself). All this against a hired assassin, hmm. And the whole I-love-you-forever-and-ever bits came a little fast for me. I liked the hero, but he could've done better.

Going Dark by Helen Brenna - 4 stars

The plotline of this was unique, which I appreciated. For that reason, and also because the characters were well-drawn, I remember this one well. The sex part wasn't believable. Supposedly these two middle-aged people spent like 28 magical, wonderful days falling in love and lust at a resort... but they had no sex. Really!? Nothing beyond a few kisses. Shit, I went further than that in high school. Maybe middle school. And then when they finally did have sex, in the story, it was skipped over. So I won't be continuing reading this author, but it was a good story.

Finding Home by HelenKay Dimon - 2 stars

I had a really hard time remembering this one, even after reading the snippet on their website. That should tell you all you need to know about my thoughts on it. I actually re-read it just to see if I'd missed it, but no, I caught a few parts there. It just wasn't...anything special.

SEALed With A Kiss by Cindy Gerard - 5 stars

This was one of the strongest in the bunch. It was a follow up to a couple in a previous book, though I hadn't read the book. It takes place on their honeymoon and for that reason, I really didn't think it'd be interesting, but it was. Again, the fact that he is a SEAL was barely relevant to the story at all. However, the characters were VERY well fleshed out, they leaped off the page, probably because a whole book or books had already been written about them. I enjoyed this and I've been meaning to pick up books by this author anyways, so I will definitely do so.

Panama Jack by Tara Janzen - 4 stars

This one was cute. The story line was a little bam-bam-bam. It kept the suspense going in the moment, but with so much intrigue and all, I'm not even sure where the plot went. The characters themselves were cute and clever, and I enjoyed it for that reason. I would've appreciated a little more time with the two of them one-on-one and a little less action.

Wrapped and SEALed by Leslie Kelly - 3 stars

This was rather blah for me. The H and h met once years ago in a chance meeting out in the field. Then they meet again at a nursing home where he's playing Santa and she works as a nurse. I can't even remember what the circumstances were that made it come together like that, but it seemed too fantastical. And despite the fact that they were meeting for the second time, the whole thing felt too superficial. It was all "you're the one" but based on nothing really.

Worth The Risk by Elle Kennedy - 2 stars

Ugh, this one bugged me. I like Elle Kennedy's other stories and so I had expected to like this one. It did

have her usual accessible writing style, but the characters were less than interesting. The heroine is prickly with little-to-none redeeming qualities. She works at a store she hates, dreams of being a writer but has literally written not a single page (some dream). She claims she is doing all this to take care of her aunt, but when the hero strolls into town, she dumps her aunt and takes off, so she clearly didn't give a shit anyways. The hero and her had been together way back when, but he dumps her and takes off WITHOUT A WORD. Bad stuff. I'm down with that. People make mistakes and I love a good hero grovel. Except he strolls back into her life, insists she leave with him to explore the world THE NEXT DAY. I think he might have given an "I'm sorry, but.." excuse, but there was NO grovel. Just the expectation that despite him being a total asshole, if she really ever cared about him or was a strong woman, she would drop her entire life and go with him. I really wanted her to refuse. I would have respected her more, and it would have been a lesson he needed to learn. Instead she went together and I didn't buy their HEA for one second. Things got stressful and he bailed on her years ago, what's to keep him from doing it again?

Twenty-One Hours by Alison Kent - 3 stars

The hero played a part in some cruel childhood teasing of the heroine. Now they are all grown up. Well, it was a cute story. That's about all I can say about it. I'm not eager to repeat the experience. The sex left me very lukewarm.

Not Waving But Drowning by Jo Leigh - 4 stars

This one was not a romance, for one thing. However, it was really interesting and well-written. It was more like a character study. Less than that, a character glimpse. But since the characters were very interesting, very lifelike, I didn't regret reading it. I would read this character again, if I could be assured it was a true romance, and not this.

Her Secret Pirate (A Crossfire SEAL Story) by Gennita Low - 5 stars

This one was a nice surprise. The storyline is very traditional SEAL, with an ambassador and a rescue, etc, but what makes it pop are the characters. They are charming and likable and I wanted to read more. I'll probably be looking up this author.

SEALed by Fate by Marliiss Melton - 2 stars

Ugh. I've read one Marliiss Melton book already and it's such a bummer that I don't like her more. She is a decent writer and storyteller, but her characters need some serious slaps upside the head. Particularly her heroines. This heroine was nicknamed "Dumb Broad" because she was stupid enough to stay in a dangerous zone with no protection, and the nickname might have been funny if I didn't agree with it. She WAS dumb, endangering her life just so she could "protect" the girls at the school. Except she doesn't get a gun or security or even adequate locks. She just goes to sleep, because, whatever, right? Huh!? She is painted as a Pollyanna but I just found her annoying. In fact, the hero found her annoying too, and I was with him on that. And they didn't even end up together. He left. There was just a vague mention that they might see each other again someday. *rolls eyes* No, thanks.

Signed, SEALed, Delivered...I'm Yours by Christie Ridgway - 2 stars

This one felt thin. I never really connected with the heroine, who is stuck in the middle of an attack. The setting of why she's under attack was not clear to me, and it sounded as if she'd kind of brought it on herself, thereby endangering the SEAL who came to protect her. They lust after each other pretty quickly and I just couldn't buy any sort of real relationship based on a few moments of terror that way.

Dog Heart by Barbara Samuel - 5 stars

What a beautiful story. I've been meaning to read this author and, wow, this was great. Such depth and emotion. We hit the I-love-you stage pretty quickly, even considering that these two already knew each

other, but I didn't mind. It was heartwrenching, even so short. By the way, this one had a heckuva lot of editing errors. When I encountered the first few, I almost quit reading, but I'm glad I didn't because of how good it was. Still, it was annoying.

Whirlwind by Roxanne St. Claire - 4 stars

This one was a bit of a let-down just because I have read and liked this author before. The setup was interesting, but it wrapped up way too neatly and magically, and I just couldn't buy it at all.

Holding On by Stephanie Tyler - 2 stars

Like the Cynthia Eden story, this was a follow-up, but I just could not get into it. Only read like half, but what I read was just name-dropping soup. I couldn't really keep everyone straight, but more importantly, I didn't care to. There was just banter that wasn't witty and... that was it. This is another author that's been on my to-be-read list for awhile, except she's getting bumped down.

Letters to Ellie by Loreth Anne White - 5 stars

Wow, just wow. This one BLEW ME AWAY. It was gripping from maybe the second paragraph up until the end. It was bittersweet and tender and heartbreaking and just holy shit. This whole book might be worth a read just for this story alone. After almost getting burned out on SEAL stories and the horrible Stephanie Tyler story, I almost quit early, but so glad I didn't. It wasn't a traditional HEA. I mean, they end up together, I just don't believe it will be "happily" ever after. This is the story of a lonely, grieving woman and a broken, broken man finding comfort with each other. But it was a beautiful thing.

Sheila says

When you think about real heroes, not the ones with super-powers and capes who fly about compromising the plots of ugly villains but genuine and honest human beings who fight to uphold the values we hold dear, what comes to mind? Some of you might think of the police officers who work in the streets day and night, providing us with a certain measure of security, while others may be reminded of those who respond to emergency situations, like firefighters and paramedics. How many of you are reminded of the men and women who serve as members of the military forces both here and around the world? I suspect that for many of you these are true heroes, valiant and full of courage. These are very real people who risk their own lives to provide us with peace of mind in a violent and uncertain world. And, as most of you know, there is a special sort of hero among the ranks of military soldiers in the American armed forces. They are the Navy SEALs, highly trained and ultimately dedicated to their line of work. But what does it mean to live the life of a Navy SEAL? Now, you can get a taste...

...Not always is romance associated with military service, but believe me when I say that many women would appreciate the opportunity to love a Navy SEAL. After all, it takes passion to stay on such a demanding course, and what woman would ever fail to appreciate that in a man? Now, eighteen popular romance writers are taking on the challenge of writing fiction that gives you a sense of what it means to experience that passion, and many of them know from firsthand experience. The book is SEAL of My Dreams, and many great romance authors have a part to play in this. The authors who contributed to this impressive collection are as follows: Robyn Carr (who provides the foreword), Jami Alden, Stephanie Bond, Kylie Brant, Helen Brenna, Helen Kay Dimon, Cindy Gerard, Tara Janzen, Leslie Kelly, Elle Kennedy, Alison Kent, Jo Leigh, Gennita Low, Marliiss Melton, Christie Ridgway, Barbara Samuel, Roxanne St. Claire, Stephanie Tyler, and Loreth Anne White. Many of these romance specialists are award-winning, highly acclaimed writers, and some of them even have family members who have served or currently serve. These stories, some of which read more like novellas, are exciting and full of energy but come with that

characteristic sensuality that so often is the pursuit of romance fanatics. If you happen to be a fan of romance-style fiction with a touch of the patriotic, then this is definitely the collection for you. And, in case you need another reason to invest in SEAL of My Dreams, here it is: all proceeds will go to the Veterans Research Corporation, a non-profit group that provides financial support for veterans medical research. For more information about this collection and the authors who provided their work to it, visit the following web address: <http://sealofmydreams.com/wordpress/>.

Jen_C says

Coming Home by Jami Alden - **4** stars.
Baby I'm Back by Stephanie Bond - **3.5** stars
SEALed Fates by Kylie Brant - 3.25 stars
Going Dark by Helen Brenna - **3.5** stars
Finding Home by HelenKay Dimon - 3ish stars
SEALed With A Kiss by Cindy Gerard - **4.5** stars
Panama Jack by Tara Janzen - 3 stars
Wrapped and SEALed by Leslie Kelly - **3.75** stars.

Worth The Risk by Elle Kennedy - 3 stars. I didn't particularly like Jason or Callie. He pulled a douche move and then he can't even give her a couple days to make arrangements? She seemed like a scared pushover.

Twenty-One Hours by Alison Kent - 3.25
Not Waving But Drowning by Jo Leigh - 3 stars
Her Secret Pirate (A Crossfire SEAL Story) by Gennita Low - 3 stars

SEALed by Fate by Marliiss Melton - Barely 3 stars. "Operation "Dumb Broad" was underway." Do-gooder rescued against her will by SEAL team.

Signed, SEALed, Delivered...I'm Yours by Christie Ridgway -

He looked down at his love, the beginning of a new part of his life. "I think my dad is eating all the stuff you baked for me." She had the cutest dimple in her right cheek. "There's more where that came from." "There's more everything," Josh promised. "I love you." Mandy nodded, and reached into her pocket to pull out a fat, loopy gift bow that she balanced on the top her head. "I love you, too. Merry Christmas, Josh. I'm yours." The words sounded like music to him, and then he realized they were. Holding her close again, he whispered into her ear. "Right back at you, sweetheart. Signed, SEALed, and delivered."

Dog Heart by Barbara Samuel - 3 stars

Whirlwind by Roxanne St. Claire - **3.75** stars

"She can't be far," he said, putting two hands on her shoulders, not as a threat this time, but to ease her back into the shelter of the trailer. "I'll get her. What's her name? Nutcase?"
She almost smiled, but tears filled her eyes. "Nutmeg. Please. Please find her."

She yanked his head closer, kissing him with all the fire and joy and relief and gratitude that rocked

her with more force than the hurricane winds. And he kissed her back, opening his mouth, transferring the same tsunami of emotions, the same amount of need. “I’ve been hiding from him for months,” she whimpered into his kiss. He eased her up, so close that she could see cuts on his face, evidence of what he’d just battled to save her.

“I knew it,” he said softly.

“You knew I was hiding from him?”

“I knew you wouldn’t run with my watch.”

“There’s nothing here I want.” She glanced around at the rubble, but her gaze settled on him.

“Except I kind of like the guy who saved me.”

He grinned, reaching to tunnel his hand under her hair and guide her face up to him.

“And I thought you were Annie Oakley trailer trash.”

Holding On by Stephanie Tyler - 3 stars. This is an epilogue to a series. Story of a Navy SEAL/Cajun **psychic/midwife** who comes home from a mission (*wounded*) to deliver his own child with his brothers in the room as his wingmen. Words fail me.

When he opened his eyes, it was time to refuel. “Phone?” he croaked.

“Dude, you have an infection,” the medic told him.

“Dude, I need the phone.” Saint handed him one as the medic frowned and Chris dialed Jake’s number.

“Dude, where the hell are you? Because your wife pregnant is scarier than Saint,” Jake said in lieu of hello.

“Tell him I heard that,” Saint barked. “Comparing me to a pregnant woman.”

“Is she all right?” Chris asked, ignoring them both. “I’m six hours out.”

“She’s hanging in. Worried. A storm’s coming through.” Jake paused. “You hurt?”

“A little. I’ll be fine by the time I get there. Just keep her calm.”

“We’re all here for her, man. Just get your ass home safely.”

“Tell her—”

“I know what to tell her. Don’t get all sappy with me,” Jake said.

Letters to Ellie by Loreth Anne White - Either super romantic *or* super creepy. Depends on your personal taste *and* definition of a stalker.

“Go ahead, Max, is there something you want our listeners to know?”

He cleared his throat, but when he spoke, his voice was still thick, gravelly, his words very slightly slurred. “I went MIA—captured in hostile territory almost fifteen years ago. I’d like your listeners to know that when you’re out there, being held in some enemy shithole, the simple belief that someone back home has not forgotten you, is still waiting, still loves you . . .” he was quiet for a long moment.

“It can keep you alive. It can bring you home.”

She stared dead ahead, hands pressing down on the top of her desk, her chest filling with an emotion so powerful, so painful, she barely registered Mitchell gesticulating on the other side of the window for her to axe the call, start wrapping the show. “I set a table for two,” she said, her voice going thick with emotion. “With a white linen cloth and a single red rose. I drape the POW/MIA flag over the back of his chair. I cook a special meal.” Her vision blurred. She pressed her hands down harder, struggling to go on. “Then I light a candle,” she said. “And I sit and eat with him . . . so he doesn’t have to dine alone. I . . .” Tears leaked down her cheeks and she was unable to speak. Mitchell quickly took over from his computer, fading in the pure, solitary notes of a lone trumpeter’s rendition of Amazing Grace, and as the music played, Ellie sat in her soundproof studio staring into nothing, tears sliding

down her face.

Dannielle says

What an awesome anthology! And for an even greater cause.

This book has a little bit of everything. Every story has a Navy SEAL and a lady for him. But other than that these stories cover a broad spectrum. Some are still active duty on a mission, others are retired or honorably discharged trying to get back to civilian life. A couple also focus on combat dogs. And of course a few are really emotional and bring out the waterworks.

If you love romance and hot SEALs then this book is for you. Every story is short and to the point, but they each are great in their own way.

Ann Lorz says

Reviewed for Romancing the Readers Blog:
<http://romancingthereaders.blogspot.c...>

Anthologies like this are some times hard to review. With some many stories (18) in one book, my review would be way to long. So I'm going to try and keep this story but hit all the good points.

For the most part I really enjoy the book as a whole. Some stories stuck out more then others but for the most part they are all pretty good.

As you can tell from the title the common thread of the book are Navy SEALs. How hot, right? Some of the stories are when they are active, others when they are now starting a new chapter in their lives. There are even a couple holiday themed ones.

SEAL Of My Dreams has something for everyone. You won't be able to say you didn't like some unless your not a fan of military stories and in that case why the would you have even tried it?

A few of my favorites of the series is Baby, I'm Back by Stephanie Bond also Signed, SEALed, Delivered I'm Yours by Christie Ridgway. I really loved these two. One that I was not the happiest with is SEALed by Fate by Marliss Melton. It wasn't a complete story. It read more like a prologue. Wasn't happy. Or I should say that I was happy till the end.

All the rest of the story fell in the good to okay pile. I liked them but wasn't jumping for joy. I'm glad I finally took the time to read this one and it's well worth you trying.

Follow me on:
<https://www.facebook.com/RomancingThe...>

Auntee says

Well I tried, and I *almost* made it. But after reading 14 out of the eighteen stories in this Navy SEAL romance anthology, my heart just wasn't in it anymore. The stories were starting to sound the same and were losing their impact for me. And that's not fair to the authors, or to me as a reader. So I decided to take a break and pick up the missing stories at a future date. Most of them were quite good, but there were a few "forgettable" ones. Nothing awful, mind you, just a few that I already have a hard time remembering what they were about.

SEALs in training...

As for my favorite? Hands down "SEALed With A Kiss" by one of my favorite RS authors, Cindy Gerard. Twenty-four pages (Is that all it was?) of sexiness and suspense, as we get to experience Luke (Doc) and Valentina's (With No Remorse) much needed little vacation on one of Palau's remote islands. The vacation starts out playful and sexy, but soon turns near tragic when (view spoiler) I absolutely loved seeing Doc and Val again, and enjoyed meeting up with the BOIs once more in the final chapter. Don't know if this was such a standout for me because I already knew and loved these characters, or because of the plot and CG's writing skills. I'm thinking it was a combination of all three.

More SEALs...

The biggest tear jerker/saddest? Had to be the last story in the book, "Letters To Ellie" about a radio DJ whose Navy SEAL fiance has been MIA for nearly 15 years. This 21-page story packed quite an emotional punch. And those letters that were written...*sigh*

My suggestion for tackling this book? If you're like me and get tempted by what's sitting in your TBR pile, don't try to read these all at once--space them out for when you're in the mood for some military 'quickies'. I think if I had read a few at a time in between books I might have gotten more out of them..

My 5 star stories: **SEALed With A Kiss** by Cindy Gerard
Letters To Ellie by Loreth Anne White

4 stars: **Panama Jack** by Tara Janzen
SEALed By Fate by Marliss Melton
Going Dark by Helen Brenna
Wrapped and SEALed by Leslie Kelly
Holding On by Stephanie Tyler

Hoping to read the stories by Allison Kent, Jo Leigh, Gennita Low, and Barbara Samuel in the near future.

*If you want a complete run-down on all the stories, I suggest you check out the wonderful reviews by *Uniquely Moi* *Dhestiny* (<http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/...>) and *Baba*

(<http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/...> ladies put in a lot of effort to describe and review *every* story in this anthology!

Jae says

Just WOW! Totally blown away and a little overwhelmed with the depth of impact the SEALs made on their loved ones. And whoever the man in the photo was, the scar on his back just says it all.

-those who make the ultimate sacrifices to guard our very existence.

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

Note - All proceeds from the sales of this anthology have been pledged to the Veterans Research Corporation, a non-profit foundation supporting veterans medical research.

*I'm going to be honest here; **SEAL of My Dreams** is one of only two anthologies of which I've actually read every single story in the book, and certainly my favorite anthology of the two. With this collection I've discovered new authors, revisited favorites and enjoyed every minute of it! Some of the stories were a little emotional, while others were lighthearted and sweet, but they all had one thing in common – honorable, romantic, sexy SEALs who always do the right thing, regardless of the cost to themselves.*

*I want to start by talking about the **Foreword by Robyn Carr** – I seldom even bother to read the foreword in any book, but of course I had to do so this time because Robyn Carr is such a wonderful author and a truly great lady. I had tears in my eyes before I had even read the first story because of Ms. Carr's words, her feelings echoing mine to the letter. Here, in part, is what she had to say:*

I seem to be spending a lot of time in airports lately, and I use much of that time approaching military men and women traveling in battle dress uniform and wearing suspiciously dusty, beat up boots.

With mist clouding my vision and a lump in my throat, I thank them for their service and, when I do so, because I'm not intimate with unit insignias, I have no way of knowing if their job has been to take out the free world's worst enemy or count paper clips. And in point of fact, what is important to all of us is that our faithful men and woman who serve are there for us, defending our freedom and liberty, in whatever capacity they are able. What matters is this—every single job in the Armed Forces is essential, is honorable, is worthy of the highest praise and deepest gratitude. Every raised voice is needed, every hand lent to the task and every heart committed.

Which brings me to this—while the volume you hold pays tribute to the Navy SEALs, the proceeds from these works of the heart will benefit all military men and women. No one

involved in this project will profit except the Veteran's Research Corporation, a non-profit foundation supporting medical research for veterans. The money this project earns will directly benefit our veterans from all branches, all units, all missions. God bless and keep them, one and all.

Something else I seldom do when reading anthologies is write a review for each story, but each story in this book deserves one, because while the names and places might be fictional, I know beyond a shadow of doubt, that these things have happened to someone, somewhere. Some of the quotes might make no sense to you, but for one reason or another, mean so much to me. There are actually no spoilers here, but I'm tucking away the quotes and my thoughts into a "spoiler tag" because if I didn't, this review would be feet long.

Without further ado, I offer my thoughts, for what they're worth, though nothing I say can do the *real* men and women who have lived these stories honor.

(view spoiler)

2. *Baby, I'm Back* by Stephanie Bond - Okay, this one made me cry, both tears of joy and tears of gratitude. A great story about friendship, love, life in a small town and US Navy SEAL Dogs.

3. *SEALed Fates* by Kylie Brant - I enjoyed this story a lot, but I do think it would have worked better as a full length novel, or a novella because the subject matter was just too much to deal with in a story this short and have us be completely invested in the characters. That said, I have to share this quote, one that when read with the entire scene had me laughing.

"I can't see . . . wait!" The girl's next words were laced with disappointment. "That's not a seal, Matt. It's just a man."

"Is too a seal."

"Where's his ball, huh? A seal can sit a ball on his nose, and . . . and clap his flipper things. Where's his flippers?"

With a bit of maneuvering Cort went down on one knee and studied the thin tube of black plastic sticking out from the fence.

"Not that kind of seal, dummy. A seal is like a soldier. He can blow stuff up and jump out of helicopters."

Maybe once, Cort thought. Not anymore. That part of his life was over. And he still didn't know what the hell he was going to fill the emptiness with.

4. *Going Dark* by Helen Brenna - This story started off on a sour note for me, so I had a hard time connecting with this heroine who ditched our hero when she'd gotten what she wanted from him. Over time we learn that she had good reason for it, but I didn't have enough time to forgive her for hurting him.

5. *Finding Home* by HelenKay Dimon - I enjoyed Hal and Megan's story. It was action packed, romantic and left me wanting to know more about their relationship.

6. *SEALed With A Kiss (A Black Ops., Inc. story)* by Cindy Gerard - I am a huge Cindy Gerard fan, and so this revisit to the BOIs was a real treat. It was heartwarming, romantic and just what I need to tie me over until the next book. I sure do love me some “Doc.”

“And put some swim trunks on, would you?” she added when he still hesitated. “I don’t want any curious fishies mistaking my favorite dangly parts for dinner.”

He laughed and pushed to his feet. “Since they’re my favorite dangly parts, too, I’m happy to oblige. Be right back.”

7. *Panama Jack* by Tara Janzen - Okay, this story didn’t grab me, and I actually found myself skimming. Remember when I said that some of the quotes would mean nothing to you, but would mean something to me? This is one of them:

“Powell,” she said, obviously coming to a decision about him. “Alanna Powell, but you can call me Lani.” She stuck out her hand.

“Lani.” He took her hand in his and gave it a firm shake, grinning. “Corday. Squidbreath Corday, but you can call me Flipper.”

8. *Wrapped and SEALed* by Leslie Kelly - This was a great little story! So sweet, romantic and funny! I always swoon for these big, bad SEALs when we watch them brought to their knees.

Tanner Boudreau wasn’t intimidated by much.

He’d endured the seven months of grueling torment that the U.S. Navy called BUD/S training, capped off by a hell week to rival Dante’s. He’d swum waters frigid enough to stop a man’s heart. He’d seen battle. He’d leapt out of planes and dangled from helicopters and crawled through caves as dark as a demon’s soul. And while all of those experiences could—and had—caused a twinge of anxiety here or a moment of concern there, none had ever really scared him.

But this? This intimidated the hell out of him. “Gram, I just don’t—”

“Oh, Tanner, it would mean so much to me,” his elderly grandmother said, casting him one of those melting, *I’m-just-a-weak-old-lady* looks. “I’ll be so disappointed if you say no.” And that was it. He was done for. Because she’d dragged out the “d” word.

And I’m not going to tell you exactly what his assignment was, suffice it to say, Tanner would probably have chosen the hell of battle to what his grandmother was asking of him!

9. *Worth the Risk* by Elle Kennedy - I really enjoyed this story, and it’s because of Jason, a man devoted, a man so in love, that he was willing to spend years waiting for the woman he knew was ‘the one’ to figure out that he was her ‘one,’ too.

10. *Twenty-One Hours* by Alison Kent - There are quite a few romantic suspense authors that I haven’t read before, and this anthology introduced me to many of them. Alison Kent is one of those who is new to me, but I’ll definitely be reading more of her writing. I enjoyed this story, another one about loving someone so much, you’re willing to wait years and years if that’s what it take to be with them.

“I’ll be here a few more days. We’ll talk. Make a plan. We’ve got time.”

He shook his head. “I wasted sixteen years. I’m not wasting a minute more. You know that, right?”

“I do,” she said.

It hit him, then, like a shot to the center of his chest, that he wanted to hear her say that while their friends and families, and hell, even his team, looked on, while she wore a long white dress, flowers in her hands and in her hair.

He brought her to him, kissed her hard, fierce and possessive. “I love you, Teri. All these years. I kept you with me.”

“Oh, Shane. I love you, too. I never forgot you. Not for a minute.”

“I’m going to make sure you never do.”

11. *Not Waving But Drowning by Jo Leigh* - This story was okay, not one of my favorites, though I do love me some tormented and tortured heroes. In this one, though, the heroine, Renee, made the hero, Dan, seem weak to me.

12. *Her Secret Pirate by Gennita Low* - This quote had me laughing because no matter how hard I try, when I think “Pirate,” I think Captain Jack Sparrow.

The first order of the day was to follow instructions, go with his team to get the pirates before they turned on the news and found out Rebecca Powers was the Ambassador’s daughter. That was what initiated the “imminent danger” decision; the media was naming names and in this day and age, it seemed that even pirates checked their Twitter accounts while terrorizing the seas.

13. *SEALed By Fate by Marliss Melton* -

Operation “Dumb Broad” was underway.

Marliss Melton is one of my favorites when it comes to Romantic Suspense. She can write a story like nobody’s business, one that leaves you wanting for more, and this one did exactly that. If Sam and Madison don’t get a full story, I’ll be one unhappy camper!

If not for her, he’d be headed for Malaysia now as part of the team tasked to take out an infamous Malaysian arms smuggler. Instead, he was playing nursemaid to a humanitarian aid worker who didn’t have any sense of self-preservation. This mission had “Complete Waste of Time” stamped all over it, damn it. Sam hadn’t fought to become a SEAL so he could waste his time. He’d done it to be part of something meaningful. And this was so not it.

What annoyed him most was if Miss Scott were anyone other than the daughter of the President’s golfing buddy, Sam and his squad would be well on their way to Malaysia right now. He’d renamed this mission “Operation Dumb Broad” in honor of her idiocy.

14. *Signed, SEAL’d, Delivered...I’m Yours by Christie Ridgway* - This story had some funny, sweet scenes

written by another 'new to me' author. After reading this story, though, I checked out Ms. Ridgway's backlist and will definitely be reading more of her books!

"I think my dad is eating all the stuff you baked for me."

She had the cutest dimple in her right cheek. "There's more where that came from."

"There's more everything," Josh promised. "I love you."

Mandy nodded, and reached into her pocket to pull out a fat, loopy gift bow that she balanced on the top of her head. "I love you, too. Merry Christmas, Josh. I'm yours."

The words sounded like music to him, and then he realized they were. Holding her close again, he whispered into her ear. "Right back at you, sweetheart. Signed, SEALed, and delivered."

15. *Dog Heart* by Barbara Samuel - This story was another one about US Navy SEAL Dogs, and such a heartbreaking one. I wonder why it is that we never hear about the canine soldiers who are so devoted to their handlers that they'd never balk at giving their lives to protect those who need protecting. I found this to be a beautiful story of healing bodies and hearts.

16. *Whirlwind* by Roxanne St. Claire - Roxanne St. Clair is another author whose writing I love, and this story was no different. It's got to be hard to pack so much story into a so few pages, and while I enjoyed this one, I would have loved it more had it been a full length novel.

17. *Holding On* by Stephanie Tyler - This was a funny, heartwarming revisit with the heroes of her *Hold* series, taking place six months after the end of *Hold On Tight*.

"Rough trip home?"

"Not so bad," he said.

"Why are there chicken feathers coming out of your pocket?"

"Just be grateful the walk home in the storm washed away the smell."

"Most of it," she teased.

18. *Letters To Ellie* by Loreth Anne White - What a way to end the book. This one had me sobbing with its heartbreaking story of a hero who was so wounded he was almost beyond help, and another hero who didn't make it home. These are the stories that break my heart, because I know they're true, and like Max, I hope that the men who have lived through what he has, have someone like Ellie to come home to. (hide spoiler)]

I want to thank all of the authors who contributed to this book. Your stories touched me, made me laugh, made me cry, and made me *sigh*. But most of all, they've given me a chance to publicly thank the men and women who serve:

You risk your lives on a daily basis for people you might never meet, and people who may not even appreciate your sacrifices. The things you do may go unnoticed or unwanted now, but generations to come to will remember *you* and thank *you*, the men and women who *they* never met. God Bless and keep you all.

I 'm going to close with some words from Ellie, the incredibly strong, devoted and loving heroine from the final story in this anthology, *Letters to Ellie*.

“While the goal is to leave no man behind, the reality of war is that sometimes our heroes don’t come home. Sometimes our soldiers go Missing in Action, become Prisoners of War. Their fate unknown. But we dare not forget them.” She paused, struggling to keep the huskiness of out of her voice. “We dare not stop trying to bring them home...”

Dee says

Cindy Gerard's SEALed With A Kiss only

Haven't got the chance to read any of the other stories at the moment but will come back to it and read the rest in the near future.

I really like Cindy Gerard and of course I love all of her BOI characters so it was nice to catch up with Doc & Val. At the end of his story in the BOI series we obviously see Doc & Val get their HEA but this takes it a little further in that they are married and on holiday/honeymoon. Because of the limited amount of pages in which to get the story onto this one is not a RS but still good to read and was a good little story.
