



Lost Hearts (Memento Mori)

Lexi Blake

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*Six men with no memories of the past
One leader with no hope for the future*

A man without a past

Jax woke up in a lab, his memories erased, and his mind reprogrammed to serve a mad woman's will. After being liberated from his prison, he pledged himself to the only thing he truly knows-his team. Six men who lost everything they were. They must make certain no one else gets their hands on the drugs that stole their lives, all while hiding from every intelligence organization on the planet. The trail has led him to an unforgiving mountainside and a beautiful wilderness expert who may be his only hope of finding the truth.

A woman with a bright future

River Lee knows her way around the Colorado wilderness. She's finally found a home in a place called Bliss after years lost in darkness. The nature guide prefers to show her clients the beauty found in the land, but she also knows the secrets the mountains hold. When she meets Jax, something about the troubled man calls to her. She agrees to lead him to the site of an abandoned government facility hidden deep in the forest. She never dreamed she was stepping into the middle of a battlefield.

A love that could heal a broken soul

Spending time with River, Jax discovers a peace he's never known. Their passion unlocks a side of himself he didn't even know he was missing. When an old enemy makes his first move, Jax and River find themselves fighting for their lives. But when his past is revealed, will River be caught in the crosshairs of a global conspiracy?

Lost Hearts (Memento Mori) Details

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From Reader Review Lost Hearts (Memento Mori) for online ebook

Kazza says

On hold for now as I wasn't getting into it, I felt like I'd been dropped into something. This is Lexi Blake, I love her writing, so maybe I need time to readjust my mood and come back to this in the new year.

Pavitra (For The Love of Fictional Worlds) says

[Also Posted on For The Love of Fictional Worlds](#)

Disclaimer: An eARC was provided via Inkslinger PR and the Author as part of the Blog Tour. The Thoughts, opinions & feelings expressed in the review are therefore, my own.

This is the first book in a series that I have been waiting eagerly for Ms. Blake to write – this is all about The Lost Boys – men who were part of an experiment; lost all their memories and were made into killing machines until they were rescued along with Theo Taggart in

Their journey starts off with **Jax – the “problematic” one; the one who still had a sense of empathy within him, a sense of hope even when being made to do all the criminal activities against his own will.**

Now these Lost Boys are finally on their own journey to find out the truth about their past lives; lives that were erased but they need to know who or what they were before they were born again.

This journey takes Jax and his brothers along with Ezra Fain to the small town of Bliss, Colorado (yes, it's the same town from Nights in Bliss Series) – where he and his brothers are trying to find out a shut down government research facility that remained under the radar.

On a night out with his brothers; he bumps into River – River who has had her own personal hell; her father passed away from cancer and she lost everything to her ex – husband who turned out to be a con man.

Jax and River have an instant connection – but due to circumstances out of their control – their relationship starts off rocky. But the beguiling innocence of Jax does more to counteract the cynical attitude of River than anything else. His innocence and straightforward style was the perfect anti – thesis of the cynicism of River.

I adored Jax – there is innocence in him that even experiments and years of torture couldn't erase. Plus, the gentleness that he showed with River almost hurt to read about- and since River learnt the hard way not to trust words, the struggle she had to differentiate between lies and truth was hurtful to read about; but definitely worth the effort.

But it was the plot itself that had my heart racing throughout – the twists and turns that never stopped coming; the revelations that had my jaw dropping in surprise; everything with this book makes me impatient for the next one to be written and in my hand already! This was the perfect roller coaster ride

that I have loved Ms. Blake for and I am so excited to see where she takes the Lost Boys off to!

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Erin Lewis says

5 Star Review of *Memento Mori* (Masters and Mercenaries: The Forgotten #1) by Lexi Blake

The first in a new series spin off from the hugely popular Masters and Mercenaries. When I heard about this series I jumped at the chance to read.

Rescued by McKay Taggart, 6 men wander the world no longer knowing their true identities. Used as experiments they have had their memories stripped from them and they all react in varying ways.

This is Jax's (formally known as Harvey) story and that of the woman who comes into his life River Lee.

Now in the town of Bliss to investigate a long abandoned research facility Jax is tormented by his lack of a past and what he did while under the control of the mad doctor. However in Jax has found a little peace in Bliss.

However when his past comes back to haunt him, danger will rear its head. Will Jax be able to keep River safe or will he lose the woman who has come to mean so much to him?

Nobody does romantic suspense books like Lexi Blake. *Memento Mori* is filled with suspense, danger, intrigue and the growth of a deep and committed love; one that made my heart pound at times. Lexi Blake always ensure that her characters are never one dimensional or superficial and I was engrossed from the first chapter to the last. As always it was great to see some familiar faces pop into the book.

I cannot wait to see what Ms. Blake has in store for the rest of The Lost Boys, The Forgotten... as they seek to find their past and in doing so find their future.

Nerdy Dirty & Flirty says

Memento Mori is the start of a new series by Lexi Blake and it had me completely enthralled. The very beginning was gripping, the middle held me spell bound and the ending had me desperate for more. I also felt completely in awe and in love with the story I had just read.

Jax was such a fantastically written character. Through all the horrors he'd been through, he still retained so much kindness inside. He was a little bit nerdy, had a whole lot of capacity to be dangerous, but still had a good heart. The moment he met River was like a whole new world opened up for him.

The strength River shows as she handles the many issues thrown at her was awe inspiring. I loved that even as I screamed aloud because I wished she was making a different choice, I also completely understood where she was coming from. I could respect her actions even if I wanted her to do it another way.

If this book is a taste what this series has in store, I will be excitedly looking out for each new release and reading it the moment I can get my hands on it.

Nadine Bookaholic says

Memento Mori is the first book in Lexi Blake's newest series, Masters & Mercenaries: The Forgotten, if you haven't read the original series you're fine because this spin-off can be read on its own and if you have read it you're in for a treat. The Forgotten, I think this is a horrible term for the six men desperate to regain their memories because they aren't Forgotten just their memories are. They are also referred to as the "Lost Boys" which makes a little more sense to me because even they are grown men their minds have been erased of vital memories so there are a lot of new experiences for them to navigate around. For instance, Jax is like a young teenager with his first crush when he meets River, he knows he wants her but is hesitant because he is unsure on how is supposed to act. I found this rather refreshing, here we have a hunk of a man that could kill a person with his bare hands but he turns into a self conscious boy when he's near River at the beginning. I think this is one of the reasons I totally fell for Jax.

River has been through so much in the last year and a half, her father became very ill and she was his only care taker, her husband left her and wiped out her both her personal and business bank accounts....lets just say things have been rough. Then she meets Jax, and this is where I really began to understand everything that she had been through. Let me explain, no matter how pretty you think someone is if they have been wronged it tears them down and if they have been wronged enough it can break them. Brooke might be a beautiful woman but because of everything she had been through with her ex she doesn't believe Jax truly wants her, she thinks that may be it just a game, or that he got stuck with her because his brother wanted Heather, or a million other reasons because why would a guy that looks like Jax be interested in her. I know some of you will think this is bull and she's just playing him but believe me, that shit is real you can really do harm to a persons self esteem by verbally degrading them on a daily basis.

OK, enough of that...I enjoyed Jax and River's story and I look forward to reading about the other Lost Boys. There are one or two that I am looking forward to more than others but I will be reading them all that's for sure. If you have read Nights in Bliss, Colorado Series you'll be in for a treat as some of the townsfolk make their way into this book. I recommend this book to anyone that has read Lexi Blake's work before and if you haven't this is a great place to start. Happy Reading!!!

You can see this and other Reviews I have written along with various cover reveals, excerpts, and giveaways here Nadine's Obsessed with Books

Courtney says

3.5 Stars

Sooooooo.....I had been dying for the "Lost Boys" series to finally come out. Memento Mori is the first in the series and I will be totally honest, I am not sure where I sit on this one. I feel a tad bit let down.

This story has a lot of the Lexi Blake elements that we can come to expect - great plotline with some good characters. However, parts felt a bit too similar to her other books and I had a hard time connecting to the

characters. River really bugged me the most with her "I can't believe he's into me, etc, etc" vibe and that turned me off on her quickly.

I have to say that I truly wish there were more BDSM elements in this since it is tied to the Masters and Mercenaries series. I think that is what also hurt me with this book - I had a lot of expectations from Lexi in regards to this area of the book and there wasn't much. :/

Anyway, overall it wasn't a terrible read, just not as enticing as I had anticipated. I will continue with the series as the plotline is always intriguing and keeps me glued to the book.

Steph says

After having his brain wiped and implanted with specific functions by "Mother," Jax isn't sure if he wants to know his true past or not. But he and the McKay-Taggart team are in Colorado to search for clues anyway. While there, Jax meets wilderness guide River Lee, whose expertise they're going to need if they're going to find the black ops site in the wilderness. River got screwed, in a really bad way, and she's got some serious trust issues. Turns out she wasn't actually married, which is a good thing considering he was a dirty rotten con man who stole everything. She's having a hard time trusting the weird man who's busted into her life...but damn, she wants to. When River finds out the truth about the man who rocked her world, will it crush her fragile soul, or will she be able to look beyond the lies to forgive...and help him find the answers he seeks?

I have mixed feelings about **MEMENTO MORI**, the first book in the Masters and Mercenaries: The Forgotten series by Ms. Blake. I was so excited to read the Lost Boys' stories, and I did like River and Jax together, but I was not a fan of a few things. The instalove was strong in this one, as were the extreme emotions after a few hours together. Also, I can't stand when a female lead goes on about her insecurities to a dude WHEN THEY'RE NEKKED. No no no. Save it for a dinner discussion, please, sexy time is the time for sexy talk, not for sharing your perceived faults. That said, Jax was adorably clueless, and having River's career would be a dream job for this reviewer. The sex scenes were warm verging on hot, but nothing exciting or super special about it. The action took way too long to get to, but when it came it was solid, like all the books in the Masters and Mercenaries world. The best part of the book, for me, was the ending, which set up the premise for the next book (if not the whole spinoff series)...I can't wait for more!

Bottom Line: No OM/OW or sharing of the main characters; mixed condom use; very mild BDSM/kink (some silk ties); no sexual assault; violence and murder.

Sarah says

Memento Mori is the first book in a spin off from **Lexi Blake's Masters and Mercenaries** series featuring a group of men known as "The Lost Boys" who were previously rescued by Taggart and the McKay crew in the original books. I have to admit I'm fairly new to Lexi's work, I fell in love with her writing this year when I discovered her rereleases of the Nights in Bliss and Texas Sirens series previously written under the pen

name of **Sophie Oak** and I'm slowly catching up on her urban fantasy Thieves series but I've not actually read the Masters and Mercenaries books yet (they're on my list but she has a huge backlist so it's going to take me a while to get fully caught up!).

Anyway, that means I've met Taggart and some of his men in the series I've already mentioned but I don't know any of the background history of the Lost Boys so I was worried I might be a little lost starting this book. Luckily **Lexi Blake** does a great job of catching new readers up and even though I'm now even more excited about reading the previous stories I didn't have any problem diving in here. I think it helps that all of her books are so interconnected, the setting for this story is actually Bliss so we get to catch up with characters from that series and it was good to see some familiar faces.

Jax is one of the Lost Boys I've previously mentioned. Alongside his brothers he has no memories of his life until approximately 3 years ago when they woke up in a lab after having their memories wiped in a sick experiment. The men have no pasts and before their rescue they were regularly tortured as their captor tried to reprogram them into perfect soldiers. Now they're on the run from some very powerful people but at the same time they're trying to track down more information about what was done to them and find out about their lives before they were initially captured. Their research has led them to Bliss where they believe that a secret government lab is hidden in the wilderness that may contain the key to their missing memories. River is an experienced tour guide who knows the area like the back of her hand so Jax and his brothers need her help desperately to find the secret laboratory, but can they find the information they're searching for before their past catches up with them?

Jax and his brothers are great, I loved getting to meet everyone and see how much they've all been affected by what they suffered and I'm looking forward to all of their stories. The brothers are all totally different but have been bonded by their shared experiences and they have some powerful allies in Taggart and his team. I really hope they're all going to get a book because I want to know more about all of them. Jax is a really sweet guy, he's been through so much but somehow still manages to put his trust in River and show her how much she means to him. He's ashamed of things he did in captivity but has done his best to move forward with his life and just really wants to find a place to call home.

River is quite a prickly character at first, she had a pretty bad experience with her ex that left her understandably wary of men and the recent death of her father has left her worn down and struggling to cope. I found her very easy to relate to and although there was a point where I wanted her to trust in Jax and not listen to a complete stranger I did understand where she was coming from and felt it made her character even more realistic. I enjoyed the chemistry between her and Jax, they hit it off immediately before they know they're going to be working together, and things are only made complicated thanks to a mistake on his brother's part and the fact that River has huge trust issues. Jax is very patient with her though and when River makes up her mind she puts her all into helping Jax and his family.

I really enjoyed this story and I'm definitely excited to continue this series, it's also left me even more eager to catch up with the original Masters and Mercenaries books too so **Lexi Blake** has definitely gained a fan in me this year!

Eve Recinella (Between The Bookends) says

Originally I was planning on giving this book a pass. I use to wait with baited breath for every book this

author released, but her latest ones just haven't been that great. Or maybe my tastes have changed, I don't know, but like a bad drug habit I was jonesing for a fix, so I dove in and hoped for the best.

And...I enjoyed it. Was it as good as the early M&M books (that I still reread often), honestly? Not really, but it was undoubtedly one of the better ones she has written of late. Still, there were a few issues with it. It was super slow to get started. Snails move faster than the pace of the first 100 pages of this thing. Lucky for us the book is like 1000 pages long (I exaggerate, it was only 452 pages) and the pace does eventually pick up.

One of the other issues I had was with a secondary character. In previous books, I LOVED the character of Ezra Fain, and couldn't wait to read more about him. In this book, Miz Blake pretty much turned him into a mean, whiny, short-sighted asshole. There is just no way the author can get me to root for a happily ever after for him and a certain other person. Not after his reaction, or should I say the total nonreaction to something that happens to said person near the end. On top of that, the set up for his story seems to be a rehash of the same plot used for Alex and Eve's book.

On the more positive side, I LOVED Jax. He wasn't an over the top manwhore. In fact, he hadn't had sex since he was saved 18 months ago. He wasn't an over the top asshole <--- both these things were amazing since over the top whores and assholes seems to be all this author can write lately. But, don't get too excited, she pretty much ruined a couple of the other lost boys with unnecessary details about how they sleep around and use prostitutes. Which apparently is a big joke through a few books now. I don't find it particularly funny, more nasty, but whatevs. One of them was even treated for syphilis, which I hope like hell was a joke, because if not...ewww.

I even liked River. Oh, she was still annoying here and there, but I liked her for the most part. Which is saying something since I have very hard on my heroines. I also found parts laugh out loud funny. I cried in parts. I loved seeing cameos of former characters. My heart broke for Nell. I really hope her and Henry are getting a conclusion to their story soon.

Which brings me to my conclusion and a little "side note." First I will say this wasn't an issue for me since I have read pretty much every book Lexi Blake has written and didn't affect my rating in the least, but I felt I should bring this up for potential readers. In my opinion, there is NO way someone who hasn't at the very least read this authors Masters & Mercenaries series, and to the lesser extent, her Bliss series could read this book without being completely confused about what was going on. This cannot be read as a standalone, and as much as "I" enjoy all the interconnecting of characters, books, series, I am starting to feel like this author is painting herself into a very tight corner where only her most loyal fans will be able to pick these books up and enjoy them thoroughly.

Anyway, just MY two cents on the matter. As I said, I enjoyed it. I am not sure if I will read Owen's book or not (he is one of the lovely manwhore boys), but we'll see.

Kate Hastings says

4.5 - Holy Shizzle! Like any fan of the M&M series, I've been dying for the Lost Boys stories, and I knew my expectations were high going in - shouldn't have worried, Jax & River's story delivered. Their connection and chemistry was a sweet and it was sexy.

Solid set up & pacing (I will say as this is book one of the new spin off be patient through some "backtracking" for newbs).

Instant intrigue, my mind was sorting through plot hints and potential "bad guys in disguise" from page one. Delicious sarcasm from the big blonde dude (fk I love Big Tag) and once the action/reveal hits started coming, boy did they come hard and fast!

Couple of "oh shit" reveals, but as always with Lexi, soooooo many more questions left unanswered. Bring on Tabula Rasa!!

Shayna says

"Tell me I don't have to let you go."

Memento Mori by Lexi Blake is jammed packed with so much GOODNESS, I don't even know where to begin! This is the start of a brand new spin-off series: Masters & Mercenaries: The Forgotten. It features Jax and River and OMG! I'm in LOVE with them both! So much action, suspense, passion, and romance, you won't even know what hit you! This book is like a gathering of all of Lexi's greats! Past characters, past worlds, past storylines...I'll tell you right now, this book is an ABSOLUTE GODSEND to the hardcore fans of Ms. Blake! That's not to say you couldn't read this as a standalone romance, because you totally could, but I'm begging you to dive in to her backlist and immerse yourself in romantic greatness!

The Lost Boys...The Forgotten...I'm so excited to see where this author takes us with these gorgeous, troubled, and precarious men. Each one brings something dangerous and exciting to the table, and I'm thrilled to find out where their journey will take them. I was ecstatic to see that my favorite Taggart makes himself known on MANY occasions and I hope that continues through the rest of the series. His sarcasm...his little jabs that he makes, out of love of course, are what brings me life. Some Bliss characters (as well as the town) make an appearance, as well as, some name dropping from other series. You guys, I could go on and on because you know how much I adore this author, these characters, and her impeccable writing, but I'll digress and just tell you that you MUST pick up this book! This is romantic suspense with an emotional edge that will keep you on the edge of your seat! I loved it! You will love it! Take a chance and fall HARD for The Forgotten!

Kate's Corner says

Boo '2 Stars for this one bumped up to 3 Stars' Why? Well because I can.

This is tough to rate. It started off strong and then I was stuck at 24%. It sucked. And I stopped reading. I read another book in between and stuck this sucker on hold.

The Lost Boys/Forgotten were saved by Taggart/McKay and are now trying to adjust to having no memory and not knowing that happened only when they were 'born' in a lab. They are in Bliss Colorado as they have found a former research facility to find out more to what happened to the Forgotten and if they know who they are.

The Hero in this book takes on a new name formally known as Harvey he is now Jax. A somewhat lost puppy with no idea about the real world but retaining some things like fighting and his computer skills etc. Jax is too lost for my liking. But he is celibate so bonus point there.

Up until then it was okay.

Then I met the heroine. River is a tour guide of the area and has had a shoddy time lately. Her "husband" cleared out all her accounts and stole anything of value. Two years later she is still ashamed. But now her "husband" is pushing her into more trouble. I felt for her but in a way I also didn't. Cold hearted I know.

Jax & Tucker get a night off and go to Trio. As soon as River walks in he is smitten. River is all 'he can't find me attractive' bla, bla, bla, 'he must mean Heather' bla, bla, bla. But somehow she overcomes her issues and they spend the night together. Or they are meant to.

Until...

Tucker and Dante break into River's house. They all have an argument that Jax needs to come back to the operation base as he has a curfew. For Christ sakes he is a grown man. All through this River must be dead because she doesn't hear anything at ALL.

What do they do to make him come with them? Yes they drug him and take his clothes and shit. He promised he would stay the night, she wakes up and her issues kick in once again. See the above bla, bla, bla.

To help with the mission of finding the facility The Ranch they need a tour guide and whose company just happens to be used? Bingo. River's!

After numerous messaging with my bestie Eve. She somehow encouraged me to continue and well it didn't completely suck. But I am disappointed.

I decided to give it another try and it got better. But it isn't the LB I'm used to. The whole series isn't what it is meant to be anymore. This can only be considered to be mercenaries as there is hardly any BDSM. So that doesn't really fit anymore either. It also all seems to be the same. For me it has lacked its spark. The same chess pieces but with a similar game. With Levi Green and the CIA.

I managed to finish the book but that was because I ignored River and well I also skimmed. Mainly the sex scenes the plot was solid-ish.

This is just me so take my review with a pinch or a truck of salt that is up to you.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Lexi Blake can charm her reader's socks off, even when dealing with dark subjects, including death and torture. *Memento Mori* is the book that combines two of the author's series, the Bliss series with the Masters and Mercenaries. The result is an exciting book that keeps you on the edge of your seat, but one that is also a bit darker than some of her work. Yes, we have Ian Taggart's funny brand of snark, but the overall tone isn't as light, and the overall theme of the inevitability of death pervades the book, starting with the title. But she also draws the conclusion that love makes living worthwhile.

This is the story of Jax, one of the lost boys—young men whose memories were wiped by evil doctor Hope McDonald—and River, a nature guide in Bliss, Colorado, who's life has been on hold for years as she cares for her terminally ill father.

Jax wants someone who sees him, not a victim, and as a result, he doesn't tell River the entire truth about what little he knows of his past. River, still trying to recover from the damage done to her finances by a con man, isn't willing to forgive someone else who lies to her.

But the need to find the secret facility where Hope McDonald conducted her research overrides the emotional pain of the two people involved. Can Jax overcome their botched beginning and convince River to take a chance on him—and keep her safe from the various factions battling for McDonald's results—and for the lost boys themselves?

We get to catch up with some of our favorite characters from Bliss and catch glimpses of some of the issues they are facing. And of course, the sex scenes between River and Jax are scorching. Wrap it up with a surprise ending, and you have a captivating read with suspense, romance, and great characterizations.

Kimberly / Love Notes Book Blog says

3.75-4 stars. This was a good book! *Memento Mori* is the first book about the Lost Boys and a spin-off of the Masters & Mercenaries series. The Lost Boys are a group of men that were captured, had their memories erased and tortured at the hands of the evil doctor Hope McDonald. Because one of the boys was Theo Taggart, his brother Ian who runs McKay-Taggart Security has taken the men under his wing to try to get them back on their feet. None of them know who they were prior to being captured by McDonald and don't even know their names. Now, they are investigating leads to find information about their true identities. *Memento Mori* finds Ian and the Lost Boys in Bliss, CO following a lead that McDonald did some of her experiments at a secret lab nearby. Heading this investigation and search for the lab is Jax, one of the Lost Boys. River owns a guide service where she leads hiking and rafting adventures in Bliss. Jax has never had a relationship that he remembers, but is attracted to River as soon as he meets her. River feels a connection to him too, but has been hurt in the past and is afraid to trust anyone. McKay-Taggart hires River to help them find the secret lab, which leads to Jax spending more time with her. They fall for each other along the way and have to figure out how they can have a future together when Jax doesn't even have a past.

This book was fast paced, suspenseful and action-packed. I really liked the story and I liked both Jax and River. Jax was adorable in his cluelessness about relationships. It was nice seeing River regain her confidence lost from her past relationship and get the HEA they both deserve. There is a good bit of angst and there is not as much romance and happy times as I prefer in the first half of the book. But there is more happy times in the second half and a connection that made me believe in River and Jax's romance fully. I felt like the pacing was off a little bit. Still, I liked seeing River and Jax's relationship develop and I believed in their love. I also enjoyed seeing old faces from the M & M series and in Bliss.

This was a great start to this new series! Lots of suspense, intrigue and room to grow. I can't wait to see where Ms. Blake goes with the on-going series story arc. I also can't wait to find out more about Ezra's past relationship and if the Lost Boys ever find out their identities. I am intrigued and anxiously waiting for more from the Lost Boys!

arc provided in exchange for an honest review

Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥ says

Woohoo it's here!!I can't wait to start it!!
