



For Elise

Sarah M. Eden

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They were inseparable in their youth, the very best of friends, two halves of a whole. For four years, Miles Linwood, the Marquess of Grenton, has felt incomplete without her. When a carriage breakdown leaves him temporarily stranded in a tiny town, Miles makes an unexpected discovery that will alter the course of his life, and rewrite the pages of his past.

For Elise Details

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From Reader Review For Elise for online ebook

Kristen says

2-20-18 -

Still wasn't my favorite Sarah Eden book - it was a little too heavy and had a lot of issues to deal with. Miles is a great Hero.

5-8-15

3.5

Alas, this one sort of fell flat for me. Not sure if it was my mood, but the romance wasn't enough for me. It was all about the past, and their childhood, "do you remember when...". Not enough build up in the now for me. I really had to push myself to read it and that's not at all what I want from a book. I usually love long lost love stories, but this wasn't doing it for me. I wish I could get my hands on more books of hers like The Kiss of a Stranger or Seeking Persephone. That's when I could not put her books down. Again, maybe the timing was off, but just so-so for me.

Moral Note: No language, clean romance when there was some, talk of murder- mildly graphic, and a result of rape.

Elise says

Please forgive me for being so harsh. Even though my pre-reading expectations were set at a default 3 stars (I liked it), this book lost ground quickly. After waffling between 1-2 stars, I have to go with only one. This was painful for me to listen to. First of all, my name, Elise, was so over-used I couldn't stand it. Could the author not find another word to use ("the girl," "the woman," "the young lady", even "she" and "her" would have relieved about 1000 uses of "Elise.") Next, the book feels like an eighth grade English class assignment that went through no revisions. Shame on you, Covenant, for not doing a better job of selecting a publication before enough time was spent editing this piece. Third, a plot as shallow as this need not take this many pages (or cds). It should have been a short story. The reader/listener is beaten over the head with one redundancy after another. Did the author think her readers couldn't retain information or understand the given situations and emotions? I felt like I was being force-fed instant vanilla pudding. Boy am I glad this torture is over.

I cannot recommend this to any of my fellow book-loving adult friends. To teenage female literary novices, it would be ok, but please, read Austen and Bronte for real Regency novels.

Julie Carpenter says

I am a huge fan of Sarah Eden and really enjoy reading her clean romance novels. Especially the regency era ones! "For Elise" definitely had a plot twist that I wasn't completely expecting from what was written in the synopsis. As I was reading I kept trying to figure out what happened to Elise from the small clues that were

given like a bread crumb trail. Eventually I did decide who I thought was the bad guy before the big reveal and I guessed right! Though the author did a good job making you guess multiple characters throughout, I even suspected one of the good guys, even after the author clearly stated he couldn't have been the bad guy. I'm thinking she was being tricky. Lol!!

Miles' father and Elise's father were both murdered and Elise shot and injured. After a time she disappears with no one knowing where or why or with whom. The beginning of the book reveals Miles as being a background character from the "Drops of Gold" book by Mrs Eden. Miles, if you have or haven't read that book, inherits the estate and title from Marion's father. Marion is the main character who disappears and searches for a means of providing for herself when all her family dies and leaves her penniless with the family fortune and estate transferring to the next male heir. All of the author's book's characters are intertwined, whether you realize it right away or not. A while ago I reread through her books in order of their release and it was fun to see all the characters and how they connect together.

I've digressed away from the main book I'm reviewing so back to my main purpose here. Miles finds Elise at the beginning of the book and takes her back to his home with her little daughter and mother in law. Slowly he tries to unravel the mystery of her disappearance and tries to understand what has caused her personality to be as altered as it is. Eventually all is revealed and good triumphs over evil, or bad guys.

"For Elise" hasn't made it to my top favorites of all of Sarah Eden's books but I still enjoyed it and will reread it again in time. For me a well written book, regency era, clean romance, no language and several other similar reasons cause it to be one I would recommend highly to others! Another one I feel that I can say you won't be disappointed if you take a chance reading it.

Happy Reading!!!

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

I'm still not sure what I'm going to rate this one. This is a hard review to write because I want to talk about the plot, but don't want to give anything away either.

Elise and Miles were tragically separated four years ago. For Elise she had to leave, but Miles never knew why and to him she just vanished into thin air. They had grown up together and were extremely close. When they are randomly reunited he is overjoyed at finding his childhood playmate, but Elise feels the complete opposite. She is no longer the happy young girl he knew, she is cold and distant and has very tall walls built up.

Miles was a wonderful leading man, I loved his optimism and witty personality. He is the type person you love being around and you can tell he charms everyone he meets. I liked how he didn't give up on Elise and showed a tremendous amount of patience with her. While I would have loved for things to be out in the open sooner, it's great he was allowed her to take her time and to re-earn her trust. They really do have a sweet relationship and while it's obvious there is more than just friendship there, it takes them (mostly him) a while to figure that out.

I also liked Elise, she had a very happy and idyllic childhood, but all of that changed one tragic night and she was never really the same. I really can't write anything without giving spoilers, so if you read it and want to discuss it let me know!

There is an underlying mystery throughout the story. The villain really is quite creepy and clearly messed up. Again, can't really discuss without spoilers. As usual, the story was well written and totally draws you in. It was hard to put down and kept me up way too late reading. It was a little heavy, but the relationship between Miles and Elise is quite sweet and it was nice to see old hurts be healed and for love to bloom. I would recommend reading for fans of Eden's previous books.

Content

Romance: Clean

Violence: Mild-Moderate

Kathryn says

I was really looking forward to this book because I have loved several other of Sarah Eden's books. However, this one just didn't work for me. The entire story revolved around a plot point I just found very unbelievable and frustrating. I just can't imagine turning on someone I really, deeply knew and loved and trusted that quickly. If someone in my family treated me like that, I would be hurt for sure, but I wouldn't think, "Oh well. That ends that relationship. Clearly they can no longer be trusted at all--ever!" Good grief, give him the benefit of the doubt a little!

The main characters were cute and mostly likeable, but they were also so clueless it bothered me. How can you have the long-standing relationship they have and then on top of it have one tender and romantic moment after another--kissing, cuddling, hand-holding etc. (in the Regency period, no less.)--and then still think, "Gosh, I think the other person just wants to be friends." I would have loved for the mystery to come in more, but really they just seemed to forget about it in between mysterious events. If there was that big a threat to someone I loved or to myself, you can bet I wouldn't take it so calmly.

And then when the mystery was finally solved it was really only half way explained and just wasn't integrated through out the story enough to be a satisfying wrap up for me.

I usually love her books, but this one did not work for me.

Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says

Sarah M. Eden always writes a compelling and beautiful story. I don't think I have read anything of hers that I haven't loved. She accomplished the same level of writing that I have found in all of the books of hers I have read. In fact, I pretty much try to read everything she writes! :)

Elise in the story has been broken. There is a mystery to her past that controls her thoughts and actions. The people she once loved and trusted she holds at arms length away.

While passing through a town, Miles noticed a small girl who reminded him of his childhood friend. They were impoverished and he felt compelled to help. It was shocking to discover that it was Elise. Her living situation and widowhood tore at his heart. His desire became to help them, anyway he could.

The life of the characters in this story are far from ideal. It took time for the back story to be told. I couldn't help but feel compassion for Elise and her situation. This book is one that kept my interest and wanting to figure/find out what could have happened to a once sociable young woman.

Anne Osterlund says

Elise disappeared four years ago. Before that, she was Miles's constant companion. His best friend. Then suddenly she was gone, and he was left to grapple with his father's death and debts without her.

When she reappears, a widow now and a strange shadow of her former self--with a young daughter in tow--he is compelled to bring both of them home to the estate he has since inherited. But Elise is not as he remembers. Underneath her quiet countenance lies real anger. At him.

Miles has no memory of the moments she describes. Or the words he once said to her. Words that ultimately pushed her away.

And if he can't remember, how can he ever convince her to stay?

Like all of Sarah M. Eden's books, *For Elise* is a lovely work of romantic historical fiction; but as with all of her books, what I liked the most are the elements of hard-edged realism. Her characters may live in the past, but they always deal with challenges that are just as plausible and valid today. Elise—and her haunting dilemma—are no exception.

Miss Clark says

The problem with this book was mainly that we were told every other page that Miles and Elise have this deep and super-special connection to one another. They were the very best of friends in childhood until tragedy ripped them apart. We get it. I promise you. After the first thirty mentions, it was indelibly imprinted on my brain. We KNOW. Please, please stop mentioning it.

The plot was pretty simple. I was irritated for second-guessing myself on who the villain was. I was sure it wasn't Cane because he did not show up again for so long. Ugh. Miles and Elise were so clearly acting in a manner that went far beyond friends but insisting that because they had been childhood friends that it was nothing more.

Overall, ok, but not one of Eden's best. I know I won't be reading it again. (Mostly because now I can never EVER forget what an amazing connection Miles and Elise shared. So special.)

Content: Romance is very clean. There is reference to rape in one character's past. You have been forewarned.

Emily says

So this is the deal with Sarah Eden books--I like them, or I like their premise, or at least I like the idea of them. This creates a situation where I appreciate their memory, and anticipate their release. The problem comes in the duration of their actual reading. She takes this great (ok, maybe more cute) premise, adds a

problem to make it interesting, and then proceeds to bash you over the head with said problem, until your battered and bloody. In For Elise for example, she and whatever his name was, are really close as children but because of some unknown (unless your paying any attention) traumatic event, they are separated in both body and spirit. That's fine, except it's mentioned like, 9 times per page. I guess I would just appreciate more subtly. Also, the whole premise of the book is based on the guy being pretty much a complete imbecile, in a couple of different ways.

Katie W says

I've been wanting to read this one for awhile now and finally found some time to do so. As with all of Sarah Eden's books, I found the characters endearing, even when they were frustrating.

Miles and Elise were the best of friends growing up...until Elise suddenly disappears. Years later, he makes a discovery about her, but the events surrounding her sudden departure are a little mysterious and that mystery weaves its way throughout the whole story. And what a fun mystery it was to try and figure out!

Ms. Eden always writes such great characters! They're flawed, yet a reader can't help but love them. The men are perfectly imperfect and Miles is a great example of this. He's so kind and patient, not caring a fig about what society thinks, yet he's not willing to risk the reputation of those around him. I wanted Elise to just spill the beans and quit keeping secrets, especially from her childhood best friend. As the story went on, I came to understand her and her motives better.

This is a clean, enjoyable read and is perfect for lovers of Regency Romance books.

Content: mild romance (kissing, very, very vague mention of rape); mild violence (deaths, blood, not graphic); no language; no religious elements. Clean!

herdys says

I don't know what really happened in this book. Everything was vague and when it was finally explained, I still didn't get it.

The romance was sweet though full of misunderstandings once again. I loved Miles so I was happy he got his book after he showed up in Drops of Gold, but I wish it had been a better book.

I also wish I had liked Elise as much but the author chose not to explain the circumstances of her leaving clearly and so I felt like she was bipolar at times. Plus I wished she had been older since her POV was supposed to feel nature yet innocent but it was mostly repetitive.

I seriously wanted to like this book, but it felt like it was written by another author. The only parts I loved and felt familiar was Miles's interaction with Anne. Something Sarah M. Eden always excels at!

Terrah says

This is the third of Eden's books that I have been disappointed in. I would rather read a book where the plot advances because events happen, not because details explaining a past situation are wrenched out slowly one by one. The books are clean and entertaining enough for a quick read, so I'm sure I'll try out more of her work again though.

Tiffany says

One of my favorites of Sarah's. Dealt with more serious topics, but still done cleanly. Loved.

Mara says

This proper romance is also a mystery. A mystery about who killed Elise and Miles' fathers, why they were killed, why did Elise run away 4 years ago, and who's sending her threatening notes.

I find it hard to review this one without giving anything away that might spoil it. Elise and Miles grew up on neighboring estates and were constant companions and the best of friends until both their fathers were murdered and Elise was shot. Shortly afterwards Elise left; she vanished and Miles couldn't find out what happened to her. Four years later while in a small town, Miles spots Elise and brings her, her young daughter and mother-in-law back to his home. Miles quickly realizes this Elise is not the same girl he used to know, and it's going to take a lot of patience to get her to let him in behind the wall she has built up to protect herself.

While trying to get to know this new Elise the mystery of Elise's disappearance is revealed, along with the reason their fathers were murdered, and who did it.

This story has a couple of surprises in it which I can't mention without possibly spoiling it for others. I really felt for Elise and the situation she found herself in after her father was killed. She built up a wall around herself because it was the only way she could protect herself and her daughter.

The characters in this story aren't perfect; they're human with flaws. This isn't one of those lost-love stories where the couple get back together and everything is fine. This one is real and moves slowly. I did get a little frustrated at the pace of the story because I'm not very patient, and I wanted to know everything NOW. I ended up skipping ahead to find out who the bad guy/villain was (I know, shame on me) because there were so many possibilities and I couldn't wait for the reveal.

I read the paperback and missed being able to highlight passages like I do with books on my Kindle.

This is a clean, Regency romance with mild violence.

Ashley (Bound to Love YA) says

I was really enjoying this book for about the first half. We meet Elise, who has, for mysterious reasons, been hiding away from her legal guardian and best friend, Miles, for the past four years. When Miles finds Elise living in poverty with her child, he whisks them away to live with him on his estate. However, Elise is not the same as the childhood friend Miles knew - she is harboring dark secrets and deep wounds and (for awhile) it was fascinating to watch her unwind and reveal them little by little.

Unfortunately, about halfway, things started getting weird. For one, at about 50%, it was PAINFULLY obvious whodunit, yet Eden dragged it out until almost the last friggin page. Just say it! There's seriously only one person it could be.

Secondly, the will-they-won't-they vibe that was endearing in the beginning quickly became tedious. I'm sorry - if you are living in the regency era and HOLDING HANDS and NUZZLING and KISSING FOREHEADS like it's easy as breathing, you are more than just friends and you know it.

You know more of those ton brats would be all:

But heck, even in this day and age that might indicate you are more than just friends. For awhile there I thought Miles maybe wasn't interested in women at all, because he would kiss this woman (who he professes to care about very deeply) and then would say things like, "Hmm...I wonder what made me kiss her, since we're just friends." WAKE UP dude. Seriously. Those kind of thoughts just killed any sexual tension or passion that could have been between these characters. It truly seemed like they would honestly be better as just friends.

I was just not feeling it.

Oh well...I'll just have to find a different SME book to make me swoon...
