



## Night Diver

*Elizabeth Lowell*

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## **Night Diver** Elizabeth Lowell

New York Times bestselling author Elizabeth Lowell plunges into the adventurous and deadly world of underwater treasure hunters in a heart-stopping tale that superbly combines atmosphere, action, romance, and suspense.

After a family tragedy, Kate Donnelly left the Caribbean behind forever. But a series of bad management decisions has left her family's diving and marine recovery business drowning in red ink. Now her brother pleads with her to come back to the island nation of St Vincent. Without Kate's financial expertise, the iconic treasure-hunting enterprise started by her grandfather will go under. Unable to say no to the little family she has left, Kate heads back to the beautiful and terrifying ocean that still haunts her nightmares.

Holden Cameron was addicted to the adrenaline rush of active duty--including narrowly surviving an underwater explosives accident. The last thing the former British military diver wants is to babysit a family of thieves on a tropical island--even if they are the world-famous Diving Donnellys. But in his new civilian job, Holden must investigate the suspicious activity surrounding a Donnelly dive to recover treasure from the ancient wreck of a pirate ship.

When equipment, treasure, and even divers begin to disappear, Kate and Holden form an uneasy alliance to uncover the truth. But the deeper they plummet into the mystery, the closer they come to each other. Soon they are sharing their deepest fears and darkest secrets--and a combustible chemistry too hot to ignore.

## **Night Diver Details**

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Author : Elizabeth Lowell

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## From Reader Review Night Diver for online ebook

### Anita says

I'm not sure what I found less agreeable: the characters and their frustrating actions and personalities; or the dragging story line that took fifty percent of the book to finally pick up a little bit.

On the one hand, the book does boast a rather interesting premise, and Elizabeth Lowell's serviceable writing with some of the humor I'm used to from previous books. On the other hand, the characters spent more time pissing me off, the plot dragged on, and Kate's doormat personality didn't do much to help. And neither were the men in this book much to write home about either.

Holden is the standard, broody male, who starts off his character as a jackass, but then does a one-eighty about 20% into the book and turns into a different person. Kate's grandfather and brother start off as jerks, continue to be jerks, and I kind of wrote them off pretty quickly after that.

It got on my nerves that the men would get into this male posturing, drag Kate into it, have their own problems, and then somehow Kate would feel obligated to both, be the peacekeeper, and apologize for whatever it is she feels she needs to apologize for, even though she wasn't even part of the problem in the first place.

Her relationship with her brother and her grandfather was exactly like she'd described about a childhood incident: About how her brother used to pull her pigtails all the time, and not lightly. She would ignore it until he pulled too hard and hurt her, then she'd turn around and get angry at him, demanding consolation.

But somehow, he managed to manipulate the situation wherein he turned into the wronged party, and she would apologize... just because.

Scenes like the above happen more than once, even as Kate and Larry are now adults. He manipulates and then pisses her off, then when she calls him out on it, he turns the situation around, acts like the wounded party, and Kate feels the need to apologize and comfort his crybaby ass instead.

It got frustrating.

Kate had a rather tragic memory of the family's diving days, having been the only one on board the diving ship, at the age of eighteen, when her parents died. According to back story, her parents went night diving, something happened to her mother's diving gear, and trying to save her mother her father had sped towards the surface without proper decompression with his ascent. In the end, her mother ended up lost to the sea while her father surfaced into the diving ship with the bends, convulsing into death right in Kate's arms.

At the time, she was the only one on board since her grandfather and her brother were ashore. She watched her mother disappear into the sea, watched her father die in her arms, tried to find her mother without success, then had to navigate the ship back to land, with no one there for support.

She ended up running away from the family business until her brother manages to manipulate her into returning years later, with no regard to her feelings. He tells her that she need only show up and try to fix the financials, that she wouldn't have to get in the water--then when she arrives, he leaves her a note to pick up the British consultant and bring him out to the diving ship. He tells her that she wouldn't have to set foot on the diving ship, that she can just do her part from the little house on shore--but when she reaches the diving

ship with the consultant, her brother all but drags her on board.

The only thing that she stands strong about was that she refused to put on a diving suit and get in the water.

Instead of acknowledging the ordeal Kate had gone through during her parents' tragic deaths, both her grandfather and brother would throw into her face: "Did it never occur to you that I lost someone I love that night as well?" whenever she refused to take part in diving, or got tense by being on the ship that held tragic memories for her.

And while I'm not one to belittle or diminish one's grief over another's... well, I'd say that Kate's haunting memories of watching her father die and her mother lost at sea without being able to do a thing to help them deserves more sympathy than, "I'm grieving too, but I'm still in the game, so you need to get yourself together."

Anyway...

This conflict, as well as the "Who's stealing from the treasure hunt?" conflict, and the "This dive expedition is cursed" conflict, and how everything just keeps going wrong... all of these conflicts just kept circling each other for most of the book, with no forward progress. In fact, when Kate and Holden finally hunker down and do some investigating after most of the divers quit, and one disappears under mysterious circumstances, I was wondering why none of that investigation had been done in the first place.

Instead, Kate and Holden spend most of the book lusting after each other, going from insta-lust to insta-love at breakneck speed, spend some time playing house, spend more time arguing with Kate's brother and grandfather... and then finally decide to do some solid investigating mere hours before a Category One is about to hit. This entire time, I was wondering if, in the middle of an impending tropical storm was the best time to decide to finally look at the dive logs, and search the crew's quarters... while in the middle of the sea in the diving ship.

*Night Diver* was not an enjoyable book, and the only reason it gets stars at all is because the last half got exciting (finally), and Elizabeth Lowell's writing is easy to read. I just couldn't stand the characters, the dragging plot... And then the romance itself was unspectacular. In fact, somehow, without actually being a dated romance, it still felt like a dated romance. I'm not even sure how that's possible.

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### **Booklikes-opoly**

#### **Fourth of July Optional BL Challenge:**

**The author of this book was born pre-1955.**

**Page Count: 388**

**Cash Award: +\$6.00**

**Updated Bank Balance: \$165.00**

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## **LDL says**

This is an example of how much I enjoy the texture and prose of her writing. Wish it would have been longer.

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## **Kari says**

It's a good, solid mystery with interesting characters and a great steamy romance.

Kate Donnelly is called home to try to save her family's business. The biggest problem for her is that she hasn't been on the water in years since she witnessed her parents death in a tragic diving accident years before. Major sparks fly when she meets Holden, the man who has been sent to help shut them down. I loved these two together. I also loved that it wasn't an insta-love since they pretty much hated each other and didn't trust each other from the beginning.

As I said before, the mystery was pretty solid. I felt like it was well laid out and planned. I also loved the aspect of not knowing who to really trust among the characters. What I also thought was well handled was the panic attacks that Kate felt every time she was on the boat and in the water. Her ease back into the life style was realistically gradual. After reading this book, I might be tempted to learn how to dive. It sounds absolutely beautiful under the water!

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## **Rebecca says**

I won this book in a Goodreads first reads giveaway.

Kate Donnelly was once an integral part of her family's underwater treasure hunting business, but when the sea tragically claimed the lives of both her parents she fled to the states to start a new life. When Kate finds out that the family business is on the verge of bankruptcy, she returns to the Caribbean to try and keep the business afloat. She returns only to find out that her brother has unwisely signed a contract to retrieve and return ancient English treasures that were lost at sea. The crown sends one of their own agents, Holden Cameron, to supervise the dive and ensure that the treasure is returned to England. Holden suspects foul play aboard the ship, so he and Kate team up to uncover the truth. Their relationship heats up as they work together to save the Donnelly name.

This is a fast, light read that is perfect for reading poolside or while digging your toes into the sand this summer. I did enjoy this novel, but at times I was quite bored. My eyes glazed over when I read all the long-winded passages explaining the ins and outs of deep sea diving. There were too many pages devoted to proper diving technique, equipment, weather, etc. I began skimming these pages to get back to the actual story. The chemistry between Holden and Kate was palpable and they were a likable couple. Other than the occasional bouts of boredom this was a welcome escape from reality.

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### **Maddie worden says**

This book is a perfect beach read. I didn't read this on the beach, but I imagined myself on one. I liked how they would switch 3rd person persecutive kept me paying attention. I liked the characters and the relationships between them. Mystery, Romance and the sea so a lot of fun to read. They're no spoilers in the review because the less you know the better.

Kate returns to her families dive because her brother begs her for help she returns reluctantly. She moved away far from the sea because she is haunted by nightmares of her parents death. Hot Brit Holder is sent to investigate her families business that is suspected of stealing when items go missing. Kate and Holder dig deeper into the mystery while also their relationship.

I enjoyed the relationship that Holder and Kate develop throughout the book. It was not forced it was a mutual attraction the grew into love for them. They really end up becoming anchors for each other which made them stronger, not weaker or incompetent. I enjoyed the writing style it was unique and different that I kept me interested. The story was a little predicable but still enjoyable. The end really picked up speed and was definitely trying to read it fast so I knew what was going to happen. Overall I like the book a nice fun beach read.

Thank you Goodreads First Giveaways for this free ARC!

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### **Ehbooklover says**

This novel about an underwater treasure hunt sounded interesting. Unfortunately, this particular title was less of a mystery/suspense novel and more of an ultra-cheesy bodice ripper with a sub-par mystery thrown in for good measure and a ridiculous ending that I just couldn't buy into. I won't be reading any more books by this author.

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### **Mbojar says**

Typical book by Lowell - Little mystery, little romance. This time the mystery is diving for treasure from Ship wrecks. Fun romp.

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### **Jodi says**

I saw a review that described this book as similar to her older romances. This is true and that is a good thing. Kate and Holden were solid characters, the sparks they set off each other felt real, the sex was hot, and the end was quite good. Almost enough to bring the book to three stars. Unfortunately, the rest of the book was dull. Kate lost her parents when she was 17. They were treasure hunters of the deep sea. She hasn't gone back

into the water since then. It had been a stormy night but they were on the trail of a tremendous find. It cost them their lives. Now she's afraid the sea is going to take what's left of her family because her brother and grandfather are trying to salvage the same wreck. Holden Cameron comes in as the salvage diver there to check the books for the company paying for the salvage. Nothing much has been brought up and the company is getting antsy. He doesn't expect Kate and vice versa. But I didn't find the treasure concept particularly interesting. Kate wasn't doing the diving. She was mostly dealing with her panic. So while that was well written, it didn't keep me turning pages. Lowell tried to get the action going by having rumors that the dive was cursed but there was no evidence of that so it was a bizarre red herring. I really liked the greater romance aspect but the story needed work.

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## **Zoey says**

Free from Goodreads Giveaway

This book is more in the style of her older Romantic Suspense novels, with equal parts romance and suspense, which I prefer to her more recent suspense-heavy works. Unlike the older ones, however, there is very little conflict about/within the romance; hero and heroine are attracted from the beginning, both behave like intelligent adults, and don't let misinformation or illogical feelings stand in their way. A nice change, actually, from the usual "I love you against my better judgement" and "You've betrayed me! How can I still love you?" angst.

As for the suspense, it was more a puzzled "Everything looks right, so why isn't it working?" sort of plot...until a few chapters from the end. THEN it got interesting and fast-paced. Not that the rest of the book was boring; far from it. I found myself reading as fast as I could, wondering if my guess was correct.

The writing wasn't as smooth as I've come to expect from Elizabeth Lowell, though it only jarred me a few times. The biggest problem I had was following which character's thoughts and observations were being provided. Perspectives changed frequently and without warning, often going back and forth between two or three characters in a single page. There were a few spelling errors ("Silently," "It" instead of "At," and "himm"), but they were all single instances, not repeated. And there was one scene where the hero did the same thing twice, clearly just an oversight in the writing/editing process.

All in all, it was a satisfying and entertaining read, but not as polished as I expected.

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## **Denise says**

I won a copy of this book thru the Goodreads First Reads Giveaways.

I really enjoyed this book. Loved the characters and the storyline. If I had the time I would have probably read it in one sitting.

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## **Cheryl says**

Let the lover be. - Rumi

I am a huge fan of Elizabeth Lowell and I love treasure hunt books. How could I go wrong with NIGHT DIVER, right?

Well, this is not Lowell's best. I think back to some of my favorites, which are some of my favorite romances of all time - "Amber Beach / Jade Island / Pearl Cove : Three Books In One" or "Beautiful Dreamer" or "The Diamond Tiger"(written under Ann Maxwell) - and this book doesn't come close to being as good.

It is readable. I would probably give it 3 1/2 stars if I could. But it is repetitive, light on character development (which is a must, in my opinion, for a good romance) and the chemistry between the two lovers just seems rushed and rather unbelievable. It is also an adventure tale and details are light for that portion of the book too.

Not the worst but just okay...

NOTE: I received a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Sonia says**

2.5? He leído esta historia para el Reto rita 2, tirándome al agua, sin saber nada de la autora ni de la novela. Se trata de una historia bien escrita y que incluye tanto el punto de vista de Kate como de Holden, algo que siempre se agradece. No obstante, el peso del relato está muy basado en el buceo y lo que sucede en el barco (no digo más para no dar spoilers a nadie); la relación entre Kate y Holden se explica muy por encima, no se explica casi nada de sus sentimientos ni de como se van conociendo; de repente se sueltan que se quieren, sin más... Además, tampoco se exploran cosas que podrían haber dado más de si, como los traumas que arrastran los protagonistas del pasado, que además resulta que se solucionan por arte de magia... Ha habido cosas puntuales que me han gustado e incluso hecho reír, como el constante paralelismo de los protagonistas con los dragones, pero en general me ha parecido una novela bastante flojita. Me tendré que pensar si leo algo más de Elizabeth Lowell en el futuro...

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### **Shauni says**

Originally Reviewed For: Bodice Rippers, Femme Fatales and Fantasy

There is just something special about an Elizabeth Lowell Book. The depth and feel to her characters create instant classics. Night Diver does not disappoint. Set on the Caribbean Isle of St. Vincent, Lowell takes us on an adventure of Love, Greed, Avarice and Betrayal.

Kate Donnelly watched her parents die. At the age of seventeen a night dive in stormy waters destroyed her world. Devastated she walked away from what was left of her family and the family business. Refusing to ever face the ocean again. It's been more than a decade and the family is in need. Now Kate's only choice is to return to St. Vincent and face her fears. And even then she doubts she can save anything.

Holden Cameron has spent his navy career as on the underwater mine squad but a near death explosion changed everything. Left with a leg injury he is now the to go man in civilian life. Now he's off to St Vincent to babysit a family of con artists. Holden must investigate the suspicious activity surrounding a Donnelly



dive to recover treasure from the ancient wreck of a pirate ship. Life is complicated enough the last thing he needs is to be attracted to the only Donnelly daughter.

Night Diver plunges into emotional depths.. Kate is forced to face her darkest fears over and over again. With no one to lean on but the one man who is supposed to be the "enemy". But the connection between Holden and Kate grows with each passing day and somehow it comes down to the only person either of them can trust is each other.

I will be honest, I got this book because it was an Elizabeth Lowell book.. I left it on my kindle for months.. I somehow thought that Ms Lowell had made a mistake.. Then I opened the book and fell in love. Kate and Holden have risen to the top of my favorite Lowell couples. And any Lowell fan knows, there are many to choose from.

Night Diver offers you a magic ride under the sea.. fabulous!

Shauni

This review is based on the ARC of The Night Diver provided by edelweiss and scheduled for release on April 8, 2014

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### **Anita says**

One of the things I really love about Elizabeth Lowell is the in depth research she does on the background subject. In Night Diver I think she went a little overboard. The details started getting in the way of the plot and the book suffered for it.

Holden is a representative of the British government who is sent to determine why a salvage operation is not producing what was expected. Kate is the not quite estranged daughter/sister of the salvors, who at 18 lost her parents in a dive on the same wreck and walked away from it all. Her brother, Larry, and grandfather have gotten themselves into a tight spot with a nasty contract and need her to work her magic with the accounting. She works magic alright, on Holden. Holden is drawn to her, but thinks someone on the dive team is a thief and his primary suspect is Larry. The ending is all action and just what you expect from Elizabeth Lowell.

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### **Deborah Ideiosepius says**

This was a pleasant romantic fiction with a theme that I really loved: The setting was the island of St Vincent in the Caribbean where our leading lady, Kate, grew up. She left the island but her remaining family, her brother and grandfather had stayed to continue on the family business of diving and marine recovery. And Bingo! the theme that got me hooked: The descriptions of the boats and the equipment, the routines and practices of salvage diving kept me more than happy with this book, they were so very nicely done. The descriptions of the ocean and it's weather, in all it's moods and colours, behaviour and warnings was also lovely. The descriptions of diving were so vivid that I felt I was there under water myself.

Why only three stars, you are asking yourselves? Well, this book was also a romance and the romance part of

it was rather large and, really, less exciting than the marine part: Leading lady Kate the accountant is returning to the island despite great personal trauma to resurrect the family business from a terrible contract it has signed. Leading man Holder has been sent by the clients who think they are being robbed. Sparks fly. ect.

I found the sexual tension between our two leads pretty believable, well written and readable but their dialogue was insipid and their character interaction ridiculous. The whole will we/won't we theme just juvenile and unnecessarily annoying. Example of how the early romance played in my head as I listlessly read it waiting for the ocean to come back:

Male Lead; I want her

Female Lead; I want him

ML + FL; I know (s)he wants me as much as I want him/her but it would be unprofessional to get together.

Me: WTF? You are both adults, go for it already!

ML + FL; I can't submit to my attraction to him/her! I will just take every opportunity to appear before them wearing as little as possible, run up against them, stare at their crotch. But no, NO! I mustn't...!

Me: My head hurts from this teenage behaviour, can we get back to the diving yet?

That said, the dialogue and their behaviour improved somewhat around page 160, when Kate and Holder finally remembered they were adults and actually allowed to have sex like grown ups. This allowed me to enjoy the diving sections once more with their interesting themes of wrecks in the Caribbean and so on.

While trying to read through the romance to the good bits however, my mind was off the plot, so a few things that might not otherwise have bothered me, jostled for attention; the use of the world doldrums, for example. The doldrums are an equatorial region of the Atlantic Ocean with calms, sudden storms, and light unpredictable winds, but the author seems to use it any time there is no wind on St Vincent island. It did make me wonder.

The use of 'crystal' as an adjective could use a bit of editing I feel; 'crystal eyes' and 'crystal emeralds' and 'crystal intensity' abound. Almost on a paragraph basis at times or at least one per page.

However, still enjoyed it, would recommend to anyone who enjoys modern romances and the sea.

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