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Thorn's Bondmate (Zarronian Warriors Book 2)



Synopsis

Reporter Daria Zane put a target on her back when she investigated rumors about hundreds of missing Earth women. The culprits, a coalition of local authorities and aliens, discover what she's doing and send killers after her. She survived the first attempt on her life but knows time is running out and only the Zarronian Council can protect her. If she can reach them. The Zarronians are a secretive warrior culture. They've warned the Earthlings that anyone caught spying on them will be put to death, and the Earth women who have bonded with the warriors are taken to Zarronia and never heard from again. Left with no choice Daria risks her life and stows away on a warship that's leaving for Zarronia. Thorn Valanson is the Captain of The Invincible. A past betrayal by a female spy turned him into a ruthless and unforgiving warrior. He's spent several frustrating months on Earth dealing with their military leaders and avoiding the liberated Earth females. With his business concluded he's ready to leave the small blue planet behind and return to Zarronia. A night of celebration with friends ends in the Pleasure Giver's quarters where he finds Daria asleep in a room. Her scent triggers his mating fever and the bonding takes place. Enraged, Thorn accuses her of spying and has her arrested. Daria can't tell Thorn the truth because she can't be sure he's not involved with the kidnappings. Thorn can't reveal the Zarronians' bonding secrets to Daria because he knows she's lying to him and he doesn't trust her. He forms a ruthless plan to keep her from learning that they're bonded while keeping the mating fever he's shared with her from killing her. He gives her an ultimatum, earn her passage to Zarronia as his mistress or return to the brig where she's hated by the guard. Daria chooses the pleasure to be found in Thorn's bed. Their secrets keep them apart but will it be too late for love and forgiveness when the truth is known? Note from the author: Zarronian Warriors is a series of science fiction alien romances. The warriors mate for life but they've never had to work for their bondmate's love. They're alpha males who are about to learn how to love and earn their HEA.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It PAINS me to write this review. I love SciFi romance and when I started reading I was surprised I hadn't come across this author before. The meet-cute was complex, the main heroine dynamic and strong, and the secondary character well developed and important to the plot. However, there were some MAJOR issues. 1. There's a rapey feel to the beginning of the relationship. No, let me correct that. It is rape. Medically mandated, but rape none-the-less and I have some serious concerns with how often this rape-to-love appears in romance. But as the heroine CLEARLY says "no" more than once, and despite her orgasms, it is definitely rape. 1.a. Now this is a sub-note of the first issue. The author does a fairly strong job of showing the heroine's suffering here and we as readers are struggling along with her which is really the only thing that kept me reading. However, this is ruined because the "hero" NEVER seems to share our sympathy except when the heroine is on death's door. And then he promptly forgets about it. 2. The ending. I won't give anything away here, but around three-quarters of the way in it sort of felt like the author was tired of trying to figure out how the messed up history between the hero and heroine was ever going to lead to a happy ending and just decided a quick about-face was what the story really needed (it wasn't). So not only was the conflict never really resolved (merely erased) but the build up to the big piece-de-resistance where our heroine is vindicated and the jerk hero is finally put in his place NEVER COMES! And instead the HEROINE (WHO HAS BEEN RAPED, TORTURED, SHUNNED, and EMOTIONALLY ABUSED) is the one to make peace and APOLOGIZE. I'm sorry, what? Were we reading the same plotline?

So to recap: Hero is a douche, rapist, and abuser. Heroine is demoralized and used until she succumbs to his will. Nothing is resolved. So with such a vitriolic dislike of the conclusion why didn't I give this 1 star? The writing isn't half bad and the plot is far more complex and engaging than most romance stories (although I was also disappointed that despite an entire sub plot of espionage and slave trafficking there was no follow up and the sub plot was neatly tied up with "we caught them").

This was a pretty good read. Human female fleeing danger on Earth hides on hero's starship; he thinks she's a spy. Basically, he distrusts most women, so right away, he wants to think the worst of her. She's locked in the brig and, in my opinion, treated badly, then locked in a room beside his quarters, for his convenience and pleasure. Lots of sex, and I wish I'd had more time with h/H getting to know each other in deeper ways, as most of their interaction is a mating heat/fever. But it did make for some hot scenes. There's some capture theme and coercion, so if you like that, it's here. The H is like some futuristic Viking, sexy and domineering, and if you like jerk heroes, you'll like this hero. I do love the cold, ruthless jerk heroes, but even I have to say this guy got my back up. Stuff I'd hold against him until my grave! But the heroine didn't call him on it enough for me. Sure, she'd say that he hurt her, she even slaps him once, but then he's right back in her bed, and she lets him, when I just really wanted her to bust him in the b@lls and make him cry. He wanted to hold his first mate's crimes against our heroine, and his hurt, mistrust and stubbornness make sense at first, but he could be a real azzhat at times. I wanted him to grovel more. A nice ending (H finally pulls his head out of his azz), plenty of sexy times, but I think I enjoyed the hero's adorable little twin boys probably the most. So cute and sweet. Loved the way the motherless boys wanted to claim the h, make her theirs, and protect her. Would love them to have a future story. Next book should be about H's twin brother, and I'm thinking he'll be more of a charmer, so I'll check that one out.

Overall Rating: 4.5 Rockin'!

Among the stars they fought a battle for dominance, equality and love and found something more than they expected a bond so intense it fused their souls together forever. In the second book of the Zarronian Warriors series by author extraordinaire Mardi Maxwell, we are transported into the future. In Thorn's Bondmate Daria, a journalist from Earth and Thorn, a fierce guardian of the galaxy collide. As the story unfolds we are captured by the intensity of their journey to a happily ever after ending. Daria Zane is an accomplished reporter. She is caught up in a web of deceit and crime when

she is contacted by one of her sources about missing women from Earth being sold into slavery. Daria knows the only person that she can trust is Ambassador Valan and she must somehow reach him with the information she has gathered. With that in mind she comes up with a plan on how to reach him on his home world. What she had not planned on was meeting Thorn! Since Thorn's mate betrayed his trust, he doesn't allow anyone close enough to know him. He is suspicious of all females. He left his home when his twin sons were born and returns only when he must. He is the Commander of the Invisible, so when it is brought to his attention that there is a spy onboard his ship, he will stop at nothing to find the perpetrator and bring them to justice. When he captures Daria, he knows instantly that his life has been changed, but he still continues to fight to keep her at a distance. I absolutely enjoyed every page of this science fiction romance. The author's imagination came alive with the detailed descriptions in the scenes she created. Her characters were multi-dimensional and continued to grow as the storyline progressed. I laughed at Eirik and Borg's humor and their continuous pranks on the oblivious warriors. Giggled at the precious twin boys, Dev and Dane, which helps soften the tough exterior of the warriors and bridged a gap between the hero and heroine. The love shared by Lia and Valan (the couple from book one) for their family, friends, and each other leaves the reader content and happy. Daria's tattoo is foreshadowing of things to come and stands out as a prophetic symbol. There was so much more to this novel. The underlying emotion was love. Love for family, friends, and the galaxy where they live. Perfect addition to my growing library and I highly recommend you read this book.

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