



The Iron Admiral: Conspiracy

Greta van der Rol

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NOTE: Alternate cover edition for ASIN B00I90OGEY.

Peace in the Galaxy hangs in the balance.

Amid rising inter-species tensions, brilliant systems Engineer Allysha Marten takes one last job to rid her of debts and her cheating husband. On the mysterious planet Tisyphor she meets a security guard who wins her trust and her affection. Like her, he suspects that there's more to the operation on Tisyphor than reopening an abandoned mine. Together, they uncover a plot that threatens to plunge the Galaxy into inter-species war. As they scramble to prevent the coming holocaust, Allysha is horrified to learn that her new lover is ex-Admiral Chaka Saahren, the man the Ptorix call Chozhu the Destroyer, the man responsible for the death of her father, along with millions of other innocent civilians.

In a race against time, Saahren must convince Allysha to set aside her conflicted emotions about him to help him prevent the coming conflagration. And perhaps while he's doing that, he'll win back the only woman he's ever loved.

The Iron Admiral: Conspiracy Details

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From Reader Review The Iron Admiral: Conspiracy for online ebook

Felicia says

This book was kind of a guilty pleasure, actually. It is a SF/Romance, which is already SO hard to pull off, and it looks like it's self-published from the looks of it, but I actually kind of enjoyed it in a REALLY simplistic way. "Girl falls for man she thinks is enemy" is a good plot I enjoy, and the heroine was a kind of too-perfect character but I dug her being so gifted with the hacking thing. Did I believe the hero was actually one of the most ruthless generals in the universe? Nah. Was it weird that he was proposing marriage to her so early in their relationship? YES. But I kept reading anyway for some weird reason. I dunno, if you wanna delve into the SF/Romance you can DEFINITELY do worse than this book.

Mara says

Plenty of potential lost in the murky waters of "genre mixing", not good enough (for me) to be Sci-Fi, way too absurdly quick to be a believable love story.

The lack of an ending doesn't make the love any more real. (He falls for her the moment he sees her.) Pity, there could have been a good story here.

Thinxspinx says

There's a lot Allysha needs to sort out in this adventurous space opera. 3.5 stars

Frankie Saxx says

Conspiracy was a fast-paced scifi adventure romance that would be comfortable rubbing covers on the shelf with Lois Bujold and Anne McCaffrey. It hit the exact note I want in a book like this--rollicking escapism with a sound conclusion. Looking forward to the next one.

Shasha says

Nice science fiction adventure with a side dish of aliens. The back story on the characters is piecy so why they feel or act the way they do has to be put together slowly.

The romance was sweet but unbelievable--he wants to instantly marry her (even though she already is). The heroine is naive and is ill used by many, but mostly her husband. I was disappointed she didn't divorce him immediately after his adultery. It also made the romance between the wife and the hero very uncomfortable. Infidelity, even if your marriage partner isn't faithful and is a bad person, shows a weakness of character that

doesn't bode well for future relationships. Also, lying about your identity and saying you love someone is cheap. Makes for drama, that's it. I would have loved this story otherwise.

mature content

Elaina says

How to describe Iron Admiral? Sci-fi? Absolutely. Romance? Yep. Adventure? Another yep. This is a quick read (the kind you pick up...and then don't put down until done!), fast-paced with loads of action and changes and scenery.

Iron Admiral is also cleverly constructed, the details of other worlds, politics and races woven throughout to create a synergy of backstory and tale that never feels contrived (I am somewhat in awe of that!). World descriptions are good, with everything the reader needs without resorting to huge chunks of words. The plot is excellent, from weapons trading and a nasty virus to the shenanigans of politicians and two races in conflict. I am very impressed by Greta van der Rol's writing style: she uses minimal words to say much and really pulls it off.

Characters are believable. Allysha is a likable heroine and seriously clever. Saarehn is the kind of man we like to read about- strong and capable, but also enigmatic. The lesser characters are colourful, some downright dastardly- but we like that!

I got to the end of Iron Admiral...and wanted to find out what happens next...and that is always a good sign. Can't wait to read the next one!

Elaina J Davidson
April 2011

Misti says

I hope I didn't pay more than .99 for this. Insta-love, insta-marriage proposal, TSTL heroine and I just can't finish it.

Kati says

3.5 stars

Shawnie says

I enjoyed the sci-fi elements, but the characters and relationships were flat. I also couldn't get behind the hero at all.

Airwreckah says

Interesting, but the admiral seemed more like a green boy than a man, as did the heroine quite frequently. I was a bit squicked out by his weird insta love professions and obsession with marriage.

Rebecca says

This book was way fun, but dang it, I didn't know before I began that it was not a complete volume unto itself. I read, fully expecting there to be resolution at the end, and when I came to the last page, I was yelling "NOOOOOOOO!" which the author probably heard in Australia.

Anyway, I am now salivating for book two. This is one of the beauties of a trilogy or series. I don't know why some people are so set against them. I like them. Of course, if it takes an author ten years to come out with book two, I might feel differently.

I liked Allysha a lot. She's well fleshed out and likeable. I rooted for her (and her green eyes) all the way through, and I understood completely how she got herself into the mess with Sean. I been there, sista! As far as the Admiral? I fell for him myself, very early on, I must confess. He's delicious. How Allysha can resist him, I don't know. She has far more willpower than I. There is a lot of sexual tension in this book.

Another thing I really liked is how the author doesn't over explain anything. Either you get it, or you don't, but it doesn't really matter. If you don't understand things like space travel and military probe droids, (which sounds a little concerning) that's okay. She doesn't go into long info blocks describing what these things are and how they work. You, the reader, just gradually pick it up as you read. I LOVE that.

I want the second book NOW! I need more Iron Admiral!

Heikki says

Greta van der Rol's The Iron Admiral – Conspiracy is the first Scifi book I have liked in the past ten years.

I've read Scifi since I was a kid. Lem, Asimov, Heinlein, Clarke and Bradbury filled my teen years too and well into adulthood, but then I found myself falling off the genre. For example, everyone touted Ender's Game as something that everyone should read, but I dropped it halfway through. Since then I have taken up Scifi with lukewarm results.

Now, however, I picked up Greta van der Rol's The Iron Admiral. I found the same elements in it that I used to like so much in the past: a solid, interesting plotline, good writing, and the most important thing: the Science in Science Fiction delivered so well that it simply doesn't attack the reader. There are the shift-space-capable battle cruisers, stun guns and alien species, but as in the best of the genre books, they simply exist and are not elaborated upon, let alone explained to death. I especially liked the portable hyperspace gate – when can we buy them?

I have read van der Rol's excellent debut *To Die a Dry Death*, in which her voice was clear and lucid already, but I am happy to see development even in this department. The way she carries the story and its multitude of characters is very readable and it is easy to follow the convoluted storyline. Allysha and Saahren come across as very human characters, complete with little quirks and habits. I have never met a live Ptorix, but I am willing to take van der Rol's portrayal of them as a species with their own agenda (and tentacles).

I am willing to recommend this book to any fan of the genre, and even to fans of just romance: you should check how romance can bloom while an interspecies war looms in the future.

Pippa Jay says

What I liked:

Excellent world building, technology, and I love the non-human Ptorix - a concept underdone in the SFR I've read so far. I especially enjoyed the alien planet Tisyphor with its deadly fauna and interesting flora, and the almost poetic descriptions of Ptorix architecture, plus the complex, well-thought out politics and inevitable friction between two species (bearing in mind how difficult it is for human beings alone to get along with one another as it is). And while I didn't buy the hero's insta-love, nor that he was the notorious(?) Iron Admiral, he wasn't a jerk and he cared about her in a way that wasn't totally focused on having sex with her as soon as possible.

What I didn't like:

A bit disjointed and rough at the start, and I really didn't buy the main hero's insta-love for the heroine. I liked Allysha: a bit naive, a little bit 'helpless maiden' at times, but also a tech nerd and unassuming. I was also slightly disturbed by the hero's continued conviction that she would marry him eventually even when she was saying no. Love his conviction but found it rather stalkerish/obsessive.

In conclusion:

A book for those who like the ST/Firefly kind of SF with a romantic element, and providing the insta-love thing doesn't prove too big an obstacle. I would read them more for the SF concepts and the action than for the slightly less than believable 'romance' - the ending is more a dubious status quo than the HEA/HFN required to be a true romance. However, as this is only book one I'm assuming there's an overall romantic arc to the series to satisfy the romance fans by the end.

Helen says

[(obsessing about the heroine much?!?) (hide spoiler)]

Carolyn F. says

Anthology - part of Nebula Nights: Love Among The Stars

I liked the beginning, I liked the fast pace and then it slowed down so incredibly much that I read another

book in the meantime. The ending felt incomplete. **1/2
