



Stranded with the Cyborg

Cara Bristol

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The daughter of the Terran president, Penelope Aaron resented the restrictions imposed upon her, but that was no reason to take it out on the man assigned to protect her. She regrets how she got Agent Brock Mann booted from the security force. But now that she's an interplanetary ambassador about to embark on her first diplomatic mission, she still doesn't want him tagging along. Especially since he seems to be stronger, faster, more muscled, and sexier than she remembers. And pretending to be her husband? This mission couldn't get more impossible!

Ten years ago Penelope Isabella Aaron had been a pain in Brock Mann's you-know-what. Much has changed in a decade: "PIA" as he code-named her, has grown up and is about to attend her first Alliance of Planets summit conference, and Brock was transformed into a cyborg after a near-fatal attack. Now a secret agent with Cyber Operations, a covert paramilitary organization, Brock gets called in, not when the going gets tough, but when the going gets impossible. So when he's unexpectedly assigned to escort Penelope to the summit meeting, he balks at babysitting a prissy ambassador. But after a terrorist bombing, a crash landing on a hostile planet, and a growing attraction to his protectee, Operation: PIA may become his most impossible assignment yet.

Stranded with the Cyborg Details

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From Reader Review Stranded with the Cyborg for online ebook

Maren Lee says

I read this with my book club and did not expect to love it, but I did. Brock and Pia were electric. The storyline was interesting. The suspense was intense. Once I started reading I could not stop. I'll be reading more cyborg romance in the future!

Marcia says

Stranded with a Cyborg included plenty of adventure for such a short read and we knew Penelope was destined to be with Brock. They did have history after all, the history being the major road block in Penelope's mind to a future since she did not know her now hot bodyguard is a cyborg.

I liked Penelope and Brock well enough and in the age of short sci-fi reads being more xxx and filter the opposites hold true for Stranded with a Cyborg. We are treated to romance, plot, XXX and a HEA. I would have liked to see the couple connect more but with the page count and action we were given a good solid read.

ARC provided for honest review

Val Shameless ?? Steamy Reads ?? says

3 Stars

Review later.

Corinne Alexander says

What I really loved about this book is the creative world building. The sci-fi aspects of this book had me at hello. While I liked the two main characters I wish there had been a bit more of a spark. A little extra umph in that department would have brought this from four star territory right into five star ranking.

Erin says

I rather enjoyed this one.

Okay so PIA was a little dumb at first because she thought she didn't need protection and so changed her travel plans. I'm sorry, but no ambassador in their right mind would ever do that.

Other than that, I really enjoyed it, and look forward to reading the next.

I liked Brock.

PIA wasn't annoying. (other than her first moment of stupidity.)

And the terrorism plot... well... considering what is going on in the world today... felt rather close to home, just on the planetary scale. I rather liked that.

Liz ~ Liz's Reading Life says

Ten years may have passed, but Brock doesn't believe Pia has changed her childish ways.

Pia has devoted her life to making a name for herself without help from her mother. She wants to prove that she is more than a name, plus in some ways, make up for a disastrous decision she made when she was younger.

Now thrown together, they must work together to find a way to survive after an attack on Pia's life. But all their time together brings feeling to the surface that Brock feels he can't act on. He's not the man that Pia thinks he is and he believes he can't give her what she deserves.

But Pia's defiance is strong and pushes Brock to the limits until the truth about his upgrades is revealed. Now Pia must decide if Brock is still the man she believes him to be or a machine. But even if she wants him, no questions asked, does he want her?

I really enjoyed this story. It's a fast paced story about two people that first meet under usual circumstances, parted after a misguided decision, and thrust back together years later. Brock is the same man he used to be, but with certain improvements that makes him believe a normal life will never be within his grasps. Pia wants to be wanted by the one man that she's always wanted. Both have their issues, but I love that even though it may never last, they take the risk. If it's just for the day or for a lifetime, they need to express their feelings.

In the end, this story proves that sometimes you have to take a risk, no matter the consequences. And you just get the one thing your heart desires.

I can't wait to see what Cara will bring us next in this exciting new series.

Talltree says

3.75 stars!

Sophia says

I discovered this series when I found Mated to the Cyborg, book two, and loved it so I kept reading and anticipating each new release. But, guess what? I forgot to go back and read book one. The author made it

free and I still managed to wait forever. I'm reading it now though. Yay for getting Brock and Penelope's story finally.

Stranded with the Cyborg begins with Brock Mann, a covert ops cyborg, getting assigned to the dreaded brat that he'd been forced to do protection detail aka babysit through her snits and teenage rebellion back in the day. Now, Pia as he called her is a grown woman and an ambassador on her first important mission. And, she might be hot to trot, but she's still impulsive, naive, and a touch bratty.

Penelope doesn't want or feel she needs a bodyguard against a terrorist threat so she attempts to just do her thing. Then, ugh, it's the man she totally crushed on and was a total jerk teenager to, and he sees her latest action to ditch her bodyguard as proof that she hasn't matured at all.

This one started off iffy for me because I rather thought Brock had the right of it about Penelope. She is more mature in some ways, but her behavior and naivety for the first part of the book were dangerous. She knows better... she's on a mission... those terrorists aren't as bad as everyone says... and it can never happen to me... And how dare the highly skilled, trained, and experienced security expert try to do his job.

But, thankfully, she got a clue about the time she was in the middle of a terrorist attack and things progressed better. Part of the conflict was the sizzle of attraction between them and Brock trying to keep his cyborg side a secret. I loved it when they are stranded and working together on the alien planet. I really feel that one of the author's strengths is her creative backdrops and settings along with character development. Oh, and let's not forget some melty hot love scenes.

So, hoorah, I made it back to the beginning and loved what I got of Brock and Penelope's story. Sci-Fi Romance fans need to do themselves a solid and get going on this series.

Ally says

Quick read. Good story. Surprised me a bit.

Read for the URR 2018 New Year challenge, 39. Science Fiction Romance

I'm kinda liking the fact that my current TBR list is meeting most of the sub-genres for the URR challenge. So, it's not even like I have to change my reading plan for the challenge. Yay, me.

Anyhoo, this was a bit of a surprise as I thought the book to be a decent read. I was expecting some meh here, but instead it was a decent story, some interplanetary action, some diplomatic action, some alien interaction and of course, some cyborg - human romancing.

Not gonna say great, but truly decent. The characters did not annoy me too terribly much. =)

Merry says

*** I received a free copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review ***

Penelope Isabella Aaron (PIA...yeah, that too!) had crossed paths with Brock Mann 10 years earlier, and now regrets what she did to him. That doesn't mean she wants him as a bodyguard again, though. But when they're forced together in life-threatening circumstances, she gets to see him in a different light. Brock has suffered much in those 10 years, and initially views his latest "mission" with disdain. They're both in for some big surprises.

I love Science Fiction Romance and especially cyborg stories and, holy moly, does *Stranded With the Cyborg* deliver! It's short but ever so heartwarmingly poignant...and very steamy. I truly felt connected to Pia and Brock because their anguish and hurt is so vividly realised and relatable, which makes their HEA all the more awesome...and so deserving.

All of the elements I enjoy in Sci-Fi Romance and space opera are there: adventure-filled space travel, well-balanced and descriptive world building, political intrigue (no, actually I hate politics, but when it's set in outer space, it's enthralling!), engaging secondary characters whose actions help to propel the plot forward at high speed and, of course, a likeable kick-ass girl and a very sexy guy-turned-cyborg who's almost hot enough to melt his metal parts.

Stranded With the Cyborg is Book 1 in the Cy-Ops Sci-Fi Romance series, and the next book, and hopefully more, can't come soon enough for this Sci-Fi Romance aficionado. Definitely on the auto-buy list.

Shari Kay says

3.5 ★

I really wish GR would expand their rating system as this book really deserves more than a 3 but can't really reflect that without going up to a 4 and it was just too short for that. *sigh*

Anyhow, I've been in a Sci-fi romance mood lately and have read some real clunkers. Ones so bad that I was embarrassed to admit I read them at all and didn't leave a rating or review because I would have been ratting myself out! Needless to say, I'm happy I can admit I finally liked one. *SwtC* was a sweet, easy read.

Pia and Brock have history. Pia was out of bounds as a teenager and what she accused Brock of doing was so hard to forgive that I put this book off for a long time. I didn't need to as Bristol addresses the issue right away. Pia is aware of how badly she acted and is guilt ridden many years afterwards, immediately apologetic to Brock when she gets the opportunity to be and the incident ultimately affected her entire life and career. So, along with Brock, I ended up forgiving her fairly quickly.

Story: Pia is now an ambassador with an important meeting with another planet/species that she is trying to get to agree to joining a futuristic kind of galactic United Nations. Terrorists have threatened her life over this and Brock is assigned to protect her.

Brock was wounded horrifically in a military operation that went bad(after his time with teenage Pia), with him being the only survivor on his team. His life was saved and changed forever by getting cyborg body part replacements and enhancements to his brain. He doesn't feel human anymore and feels no real woman could ever want him. Due to his cyborg-ops status, he will always be thrown into the front lines, endangering

himself or anyone he might care about so it would never be fair to form a lasting relationship with a woman if he can find one that would ever want "half a man". He will never have a normal life...though he longs for one. Of course, the heart never listens to logic and he quickly begins to have feelings for Pia.

Pia has always had feelings for Brock, and her teenage crush turns quickly to mature love, but there are things about Brock that she doesn't know...that he can't tell her and her heart is in danger of being broken again.

Though things happen at light speed, I liked this book. Pia was not a brat any longer and though her reaction to finding out the truth about Brock was not cool...it was real and she quickly realized what an idiot she was being and tried to make amends. Brock is a sweetheart. (view spoiler) Seriously. Though he is part machine...he doesn't act like one. There is no unfeeling robotic man here, so if you're expecting that kind of cyborg story, you may be disappointed. I was not.

This is book one in a series, so the overall arc is just beginning but Brock and Pia's love is cemented by the end. Will I read the next one? Absolutely.

Jacqueline says

Decent sci fi romance. It was pretty short though. The story and world building were interesting. I wish that some of the sex scenes had been sacrificed to allow more story. There were four or five of them and one would have done it and left those 15 or so pages for more action and plot.

C.A. Szarek says

Adored.

I ADORE Cara Bristol's writing. Everything I read by her is fab & this book was no exception. I LOVED it. Brock was hot & Pia strong yet endearing. Cute! The story was great and original. The world was intriguing and left me wanting more. I'm really glad to find out it's a series! I can't wait to read the next one! It needs to come out now!

Deanna from Deanna's World says

I want to start off this review on a positive note, so I'm saying upfront this was an entertaining read, the writing was good and I like sci-fi romance. I tend not to delve too deeply into the science part of the sci-fi because I allow for the impossible and the suspension of my disbelief, after all I'm a mad keen Marvel fan and I love all the superhero movies and TV shows.

I love the idea Brock is man and machine, a cyborg. I would love to have his enhancements and have a wireless computer in my brain I could use to connect to anything, anytime. Very, very handy. And that database in his brain? Can I please have Wikipedia in mine? Better yet, how about the entire internet and a Google search engine without having to type and I can just think it? My heart ached for Brock, for his isolation and his loneliness, for him thinking he was unlovable because he was a cyborg instead of a full

human. I'm thinking being a cyborg makes him extra special.

Pia on the other hand lives up to her codename: Pain in the ass. Seriously! She was annoying right from the get go and I have a special dislike for people like her, be they male or female. Instead of me ranting about her, I'll just let my status updates as I read speak for themselves.

15.0% "Should have known from the blurb that Pia would be a brat. I hate brats. Irresponsible. Selfish.

Bratty. They have nothing to recommend them."

30.0% "So she's less of a brat now but I still haven't found anything to like about her."

52.0% "Way to finally realise the stupid!!"

69.0% "I don't hate her anymore."

72.0% "Well, there goes the little bit of like I had built up."

74.0% "Pfft! Stupid girl."

88.0% "Yep, that's right. Naive and stupid. Behaving like a rebellious teenager. I'm quoting here""

95.0% "Sheesh! After all that, that was just a little too easy."

If you don't have a special dislike for heroines like Pia, you will probably like this book a lot more than I did, but even then, as I said upfront, it was entertaining. Ms Bristol didn't make their ordeal too easy to overcome and she threw in an interesting twist of what Urgak, the bad guy was. I did, however, take exception to how easy the relationship part of the story was resolved. That was a little too pat and a little too easy. Maybe she hit her word count and needed to resolve the story quickly, since this was not a particularly long story. I don't know. I just felt that Pia, for all the hurt she caused Brock, got an easy out.

One other thing which jumped out at me, and it's something I tend to notice, I don't know if others will, is Ms Bristol did not address the safe sex / protection / birth control issue. I don't know what it's like in the future, if they have managed to cure all disease and no longer have STDs and have some kind of universal prevention of pregnancy thing all women or men are inoculated with, but I totally noticed it. This is kind of a big deal for me, it's not a deal breaker, but I always notice it and it throws me out of the story a little while I'm reading when it's not there. I do understand when it's not necessary, like in a historical, or in most paranormals, though even for paranormals, if it's set in contemporary times, there tends to be a small mention of it.

I think this is the start of a series for Ms Bristol, and if the heroines are less like Pia in the other books, I am interested in reading more.

SH says

Fantastic Sci-fi Romance!

Wow, seriously what a great book! I read it straight through and loved every second of it! Brock and Pia are smoking hot together, whew! Their journey is a wild ride full of danger and suspense in a well written plot with enough detail to help you envision their world. Pia has grown up and Brock takes a chance and together the sparks combust! I can't wait for book two!
