



Moonstruck

Susan Grant

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Coalition starship captain Brit Bandar is one tough woman. A mere intergalactic treaty can never get her to trust the Drakken Horde. Now a peaceful accord has made Finn Rorkken, a notorious Drakken rogue, second in command on her starship. Original.

Moonstruck Details

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From Reader Review Moonstruck for online ebook

Felicia says

I mean, I dunno what to say with this one. When you're in a SF universe and a character is referencing "Devil meets Prada" which only THREE years later dates the book, how in the world can you believe that you're in a world where there are space ships and alternate races? UUUUUGH.

In the VERY narrow category of SF/Romance genre, I list this on my shelf because there was something cool going on with the main character and her hero, namely that SHE was the hard edged and alpha one, and the dude didn't try to dominate her in a macho way, which is so rare in romance novels that I want to list it on my shelf for that quality alone. The relationship between the main characters is definitely the selling point here, not the believability of the SF world. In a completely fluffy way I ok enjoyed it. And the cover with the woman stroking his "gun" made me laugh, haha.

Lizzy says

Gave up many times on Moonstruck, I might have been a bit too stubborn just because I hate to leave books unfinished. So it was a stop and go task for me in the end, and not worth my time.

Why was it so disappointing? Despite some good passages, it was not believable and sometimes even irritating. The story revolves over how two crews of former enemies come together just behind peace to work as one. Susan Grant's theme could have been loss, hatred, racial discrimination versus acceptance and integration leading to overall maturity. However, all these were bypassed.

My feelings of disappointment while I trying to muddle through the pages came in essence from how the two main protagonists were portrayed: Brit overcame her demons too easily: how could she so soon have forgotten that these same enemies had murdered her family? But we see her transformed from a cold person, that paid strangers for sex, into an understanding human being offhand and so fast. Finn had less hurdles to overcome.

Further, as a military fiction it was also inconceivable: the affair of a commanding officer with her subordinate should have been a big NO, but it passed as normal and unquestioned. Moreover, the simple acceptance of heavy drinking by great part of the crew demonstrated total lack of military discipline.

Therefore, for me Moonstruck came through simply shallow and unsatisfying.

Carrie says

SFR Reading Challenge 2011

SFR Group Book of the Month, October 2011

Romance Lovers Book Club July 2012

3.5*

Moonstruck started off well, with an interesting storyline and some foreshadowing of trouble ahead for all concerned. With the strong set-up, I expected more than Grant delivered in what followed. Finn and Brit were both interesting characters, but they weren't developed as well as they could have been. The backstories for both characters had so much untapped potential for tension, emotion, and drama. Also, even though their relationship was often sweet (and hot) it was too easy. Many issues beyond their control existed that could have kept them apart, made them work for their happy ending. Instead, an excuse was found to get them together much too quickly. As far as being complex and well-drawn, the secondary story involving Hadley was more interesting.

Moonstruck was definitely science fiction ROMANCE, with the emphasis being the romance, and the sci-fi world-building and plot coming in second. While that sometimes works well, it was a shame with this book since the set-up had the potential to be an edge-of-your seat action read.

On the positive side, even though the story was less complex and developed than I would have liked, it was a solid story with characters worth caring about. *Moonstruck* is definitely worth reading, and I plan to pick up the second book in the Borderlands series. The Warlord's Daughter

Victoria O says

Readable but shallow indeed. I skimmed it to finish it only because it's a snow storm outside and I had nothing better to do. Poor character development. Thin plot.

Miriam says

A huge interstellar war has just ended and as a symbol of the new peace soldiers from both side are to serve together on the spaceship Unity. Finn, a former captain from the losing Horde side is assigned to be second-in-command under the famous Admiral Brit Bandar, who is still mad that she failed to blow him to bits during the war. She additionally hates the Horde because they killed her husband and son. In a pleasant change from standard romance trope, both Brit and Finn mostly behave like the intelligent and responsible military leaders they are supposed to be and try to work together respectfully.

Pretty fluffy, but pleasant enough as a light read. The sci-fi elements were well developed as to world building but the action was pretty minimal and there never seemed to be any real danger or suspense. The romances were unconvincing but all the characters were nice enough that I could feel positively about them, no tsstl heroine or overwhelmingly alpha hero.

Di says

This was a silly attempt at sci-fi romance. Something about spaceships and warring factions that unite over a treaty... Basically, two people on opposite sides fall in lust and then in love, conquering impossible odds (seriously, she was the leading Admiral that killed a bunch of people of his race and he was one of the leading warleaders who was heavily involved in the war). Not believable and not particularly enjoyable.

Christy says

An okay read. I thought the beginning was interesting and the set-up had lots of potential, but the execution just wasn't all that great. I didn't feel really confident in her world-building; I was always aware that this was a story written by someone instead of being immersed in it and feeling that these people and their world really existed. This book definitely suffered in comparison by being read at the same time as *A Civil Campaign* by Lois McMaster Bujold. Now there is someone whose world-building is rock solid and not just a facade against which to prop her story. But to give it its due, *Moonstruck* was definitely hotter.

Cheesecake says

I revisited this one on audio. Suzanne Toren was a fantastic reader.

The story is full of intrigue and assassins and there's no telling whose side anyone is on despite their uniforms.

The war has ended and an uneasy peace is to be demonstrated by the bridge of Brit Bandar's (aka Admiral Stone-Heart) new 'peace' ship. Her second in command, Drakken Warleader 'Finn' Rorrken was her a frustratingly elusive enemy not that long ago... before he lost the war. Then there's the 3rd part of the crew, humans. Not many, but they add pop culture and a touch of irreverent humour to the mix.

There are two romances in this story, the side romance being more tentative and sweet.

Admiral Bandar is set reeling at the beginning of the book, when she discovers that not only is her second in command the same man she has chased across the galaxy, but he closely resembles her dead husband. But being 'ol Stoney Heart, she manages to hide most of her reaction... mostly.

This is a slow build romance, although their attraction was immediate. It's not as angsty as I feared what with them being enemies in the recent past, and Britt's hatred for all things Drakken.

Susan Grant's heroes are always Alpha's who almost seem beta in that they usually think before they act. Rather refreshing really. Think, Captain Picard rather than Captain Kirk. The heroines can take care of themselves. They are strong heroines whose actions follow through and help build the character. Rather than the author just saying the heroine is a strong woman and then having her run straight into danger without a plan.

The pacing is a wee bit slow here and there. Perhaps a wee bit too much introspection on the part of the main characters, but they have a LOT of prejudices to overcome, so I was OK going with the flow. But I really appreciated how they both used their intelligence when faced with a problem and weren't afraid to rethink anything. Both of them had the minds of leaders.

Finn is super sexy with the tattoos and braided hair etc. Mmmm, Mmmm, Mm!

I was really kept on the edge of my seat reading this and the intrigue kept me guessing!

Although this follows 'The Star Princess', you don't need to read it to enjoy this book.

Safety is good (view spoiler)

Hannah says

Moonstruck is moderately entertaining, but shallow. Ordinarily that would be fine with me; sometimes a fun, fluffy space opera is exactly what I want. But for a book whose major themes include loss, vengeance, racial discrimination, and cultural integration, the lack of depth is disappointing.

One problem I have with this novel is that the major characters surrender their prejudices and overcome their demons a little too easily, given how much those failings defined them at the beginning of the novel. Brit in particular seems like two completely different people from the beginning of the novel to the end. She starts out cold, practically soulless, but she is warm and passionate by the end of the novel. The transition happens too quickly to be believable. I think if she were a little less icy and prejudiced in the beginning, her moments of warmth and humanity would feel more natural. Finn's development is a bit more stable. He decides pretty early on that he wants Brit, and that is the foremost thought in his mind for the rest of the book. I guess that makes him a better lover than a first officer, but at least he's easy to like.

The biggest problem with *Moonstruck*, however, is that the plot is just so damned predictable. I knew from start to finish exactly what was going to happen next and who the bad guys were. No surprises, no interesting world building, no unexpected character interactions. As a result, it didn't hold my attention very well. When I put the book down, I didn't feel any urgency to pick it back up and keep reading.

In spite of these issues, this is still a three star book. Many of the characters are rather endearing (even Brit, some of the time), and some of the dialog is cute. I just couldn't read it without thinking about how much better it could have been. So although it isn't bad, *Moonstruck* is definitely not my favorite book by this author.

Darlene says

I enjoyed this newest offering from Grant and I'm looking forward to more in the series. Her characters are richly drawn and the story pulls the reader in.

Summer says

I wanted this to be a bit longer and it got a little bit silly with some romance cliches thrown in. It seemed like the ending was a bit tacked on. But in general I was really impressed with this book. It kept me pretty glued to the pages and made me want to read more by the author.

Kerry says

Moonstruck - Susan Grant

Borderlands, Book 1; SF Romance; 7/10

I like Susan Grant. Again, fun reads in a realistic but not overly complicated setting. This is the first in a new

series that follows on from her last trilogy of books about the Jasper family. Those finished with an internal coup and peace after decades of war. Now the opposing sides have to learn to live together. In particular, Brit Bandar, starship commander and her second in command Finn Rokken. Both have past issues to get past as well as the fact they used to be on opposite sides. I liked Finn best as a character as he struggled to find a balance between fitting in and staying an individual (both for himself and for his crew) as well as loving Brit. I found Brit's attitudes and history a little over the top and so liked Finn's progression to love more than hers, but she was still a nice, strong character. Nice book. Keep up the good work, Susan.

Laz the Sailor says

This was a good solid scifi romance. It contains all the usual themes, the H and h should hate each other, they both have tormented pasts, they are surrounded by interesting secondary characters (who will get their own books someday). All that said, the scifi was reasonably strong, and the characters were unique. The surrounding troubles were well constructed, and I did not anticipate the end twist until just before it was unveiled.

The sex was more NC-17 than XXX, which seems to be the author's style. I'd read The Legend of Banzai Maguire, which had the same level of heat. I'll read more from her.

Sarah S says

As a romance, solid characters. As military science fiction, no. Just, no.

Gwen (The Gwendolyn Reading Method) says

3.5 Stars, I really liked it. Dealt with PTSD and other issues of war, so it was a tad deeper than your typical romance novel. Was my first Susan Grant book, definitely makes me want to read more.

Watch my video review
