



# Dangerous Race

*Dee J. Adams*

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## **Dangerous Race** Dee J. Adams

Four years ago, race car driver Tracey Bradshaw almost died in a horrific crash. Now scarred inside and out, she's making a comeback, but her team is plagued by a series of "accidents".

When the team leader dies under mysterious circumstances, former driver Mac Reynolds takes charge. The pair clash as Trace resents his high-handed attempts to control her, while Mac fears Trace's recklessness will get her killed. Neither can throttle back the desire that spins out of control whenever they touch. Trace lets herself be seduced when Mac convinces her he finds her beautiful despite her scars, and she begins to hope for more. But Mac knows he's not nearly good enough for Trace...

## **Dangerous Race Details**

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# From Reader Review Dangerous Race for online ebook

## Emily says

Race Car Driver Trace Bradshaw was at the top of her game when a horrible crash halted her future. Despite the odds, Trace was never one to give up, four years later she is ready to reenter the racing world and prove she is a serious contender in racing.

As a favor Mac Reynolds has agreed to be the team leader to Trace's team. The friction is instant, Trace likes having things done her way but Mac is no slacker and his only goal is to get Trace to the finish line. When it becomes apparent someone is trying to sabotage Trace, Mac is by her side but he has his own demons that need to be confronted in order to have any type of future with Trace.

Several surprises in this one. I actually have read the third and fourth in the series and not sure if that wavered my thoughts on this book because you do know a bit about the main characters. I thought this was good and can see where the series gets better with each new addition. Trace is not the softest of characters but I think that is because she is driven for a young woman and has not really experienced the normal adolescence you would normally have.

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## UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

*This is not a review*

Dangerous Race, the first book in Dee J. Adam's Adrenaline Highs series is free today (12/24) at Carina Press! Use coupon code **DANGEROUSFREE**

<http://ebooks.carinapress.com/F0D3379...>

Cover: Four years ago, race car driver Tracey Bradshaw almost died in a horrific crash. Now scarred inside and out, she's making a comeback, but her team is plagued by a series of "accidents".

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106,000 words

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## Laura Wright says

High Octane Awesomeness!

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## Tracy says

### **Romantic Suspense Puts the Pedal to the Metal**

Tracey Bradshaw was only nineteen when she learned that, at a whim, life can explode into shards of agony and loss...and in the briefest of instants a bright future can be ripped away from you forever.

She was doing what she loved, what she was born to do, and making a name for herself in the male-dominated racing world. Breaking track records left and right during her practices for an upcoming race, she was high on life, lucky in love with the man of her dreams, and had a future that looked like the brightest of stars. Until someone threw oil on the track she was circling at over two hundred miles an hour. Until her tires ran over that oil. Until she slid into an uncontrolled spin and slammed into the wall. Until her car disintegrated around her and her body was ravaged by steel and speed and brutal impact.

It took three long, grueling years to heal...as much as she ever would...from the massive injuries she suffered that day and another year before she was back at the track that so drastically altered her life. Intent on conquering the race that almost saw her death, she and her crew were running hell bent through the qualifying and practice rounds, everything working with the slick speed of a well-oiled machine. But the nightmare wasn't over for Tracey, and that lesson learned four years ago almost to the day reared its head for a refresher course.

Her crew chief and surrogate uncle dies under suspicious circumstances and before she knows it, she's faced with the fact that someone wants her out of commission at best, at worst, dead. With mere days before the biggest race of her career and still reeling from grief, Tracey has a new crew chief thrust upon her and her team. Mac Reynolds is bullheaded, opinionated, and wrong about how to run a race, and Tracey goes toe to toe with the man on almost every detail. She may be forced to suffer him, but she sure as hell doesn't plan to do it silently.

She knows the world is watching. She knows someone is intent on making sure she never races again. That's not enough to make Tracey quit. Nothing is. Not even a man who is too good looking to be trusted, too obstinate to be liked...and too seductive to be ignored.

~\*~

Taking high octane romance and suspense to a whole other level, Adams goes green flag with a prologue that left me shaken and a story that both thrilled and chilled.

I loved the characters, especially Tracey (something I don't say often about the female leads). I couldn't help but adore her for her career choice and the strength and unflinching determination she showed on every single page. She wasn't perfect, but her imperfections shaped her into a realistically flawed and still slightly broken heroine who was ultimately sympathetic. Stubborn, prideful, and waspish at times, she was also fiercely devoted to those she cared about and had enough soft spots to smooth out the tomboy rough edges a little. I was thrilled with her as a character.

Mac was a slightly more traditional male romantic lead, with few surprises to his character, but I appreciated how Adams wrote and incorporated into that character his own weaknesses and flaws, and I especially appreciated that the man knew he was himself a little broken. His respect for Tracey was just a tiny bit tinted

with envy and jealousy and again I thought it was a particularly realistic and sympathetic portrayal of his character given defined history.

The sparks that fly between Tracey and Mac as they snipe and gripe at each other hide a deliciously banked sexuality that fought to erupt from them every time they butted heads. Which they did. All the time. Their relationship had the air of an enemies-to-lovers theme, though they were never really enemies, per se, but that aspect sure appealed to me.

What totally impressed me, and what made me hungry for more from Adams, was the crafty and deft hand she used on the racing elements of her story. I don't even like car racing but I'd be hard pressed living in the Daytona state not to at least catch snippets and hear things about it. Not enough to be an expert by any means, but enough to feel comfortable in saying Adams caught the spirit of racing from the perspectives of the pit, the track, and the stands with such casual ease that I forgot I wasn't a fan of the sport and not only enjoyed, but felt included in the world she created for her characters. Very nicely done.

I wasn't nearly as pleased with the secondary romance plot thread and never warmed to the storyline of Tracey's sister or her sister's friend. There was a disconnect for me somewhere in that thread and I was left feeling that some of the author's intention for that thread didn't quite make it to the page in a clear enough way for me to grasp it. Whether the sister's motivations and character development were kept murky for the sake of the suspense or the thread wasn't as developed as it should have been, I don't know, but the story would have been better for me if there had been a more clearly defined relationship evolution between her and Tracey and better transitions between the shifts in focus.

The main romance in the book worked slightly better for me than the suspense, which I felt stumbled a bit around the big reveal. Not enough to disappoint, but just enough to dim my enthusiasm a touch. Still, for a book surrounding a sport I don't favor and a world that is mostly foreign to me, Adams hit so many high notes that I was completely and thoroughly entertained by the read. I can't wait for the next in her *Adrenaline Highs* series and can only wish it would be out sooner than 2012. Like now. Now would be good.

*Disclosure: An ARC of this book was provided to me by Carina Press via NetGalley. This rating, review, and all included thoughts and comments are my own.*

~\*~\*~\*~

Reviewed for One Good Book Deserves Another.

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## **Mrs. Badass says**

Dangerous Race had all the makings of a wicked novel. Fast Cars, Interesting premise, but it fell flat for me.

The main hero and heroine, Mac and Trace just never clicked for me. Some of it had to do with their respective ages and maturity levels, Trace being a hot-shot 23 year old Race Driver and Mac being a 35 year old Former race car driver who has been living abroad for the past ten years. They just didn't mesh well.

The other thing that Bothered me, and this is something that doesn't bother most readers, is that there are TWO story lines and 'romances' in this novel. The secondary romance between Chelsea and Matthew overtook Mac and Trace. Their connection was better, their dialogue was better and they had better chemistry. However, I didn't like the "why" of Chelsea, and I thought her and Matthew was a little weird

with the whole (view spoiler) But again, it's a personal thing.

The whole Suspense aspect of *Dangerous Race* was done well, and was compelling. The Villain what a freaking nut job.

I liked Trace's attitude, her iron will and her drive to succeed. I loved her outlook on life, and how she wanted to start a racing school. She was so strong, but yet so vulnerable, and it's an attractive quality I look for in a novel heroine. She had a scorpion tongue and was quick to fire first in order to protect her heart. In short, she had very real flaws and insecurities. She felt like a lesser woman due to her deformities from her car crash at 19.

Mac has demons of his own, and I thought they were kind of...I thought he should have been able to move past what happened to him so long ago, but he hadn't. I thought what he did at the awards ceremony was assholish, and quite frankly I was mad at him for the aftermath. Both Mac and Tracey were using and seducing each other, and I really didn't like how things turned out between them {At this point}

I would have liked to have seen more of Ed Senior and her crew. These people played an important role in her life, and in her racing career, and we only saw Matthew and Eddie. Who were the rest? What do they do? Since Ed Sr was like father to her, I felt he should have been around more. Just my opinion.

Overall, I liked the novel, but It's not something I would re-read.

Grade: C

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## **Juliana Philippa says**

### ***4.5 stars.***

When I found out that *Dangerous Race* is Dee J. Adams' first book, I was even more impressed than when I finished it. I don't read much romantic suspense, but to me this was an example of the genre at its best: a compelling and (actually!) mysterious suspense subplot, combined with a terrific romance featuring wonderful characters and sizzling chemistry.

The book's heroine is Tracey Bradshaw, the most talented female race car driver in the sport. Four years ago, she survived a horrible crash that took her out of what had been a winning race – and almost took her life. Now, after intensive physical therapy and an unending amount of tenacity, Trace is back at the Arrow 500 and prepared to win the “the biggest, toughest, most grueling car race in the world.” They were never able to find the person who dropped a balloon of oil on the track and caused Trace's crash and when dangerous things start happening again, it's clear that the perpetrator is back and still out to get her. After her team leader and beloved mentor is killed, though she was the intended target, Trace is torn up and feels as lonely as ever.

It doesn't help that Mac Reynolds, a retired race car driver and the man hired to replace Uncle Joe, is stubborn and opinionated – while also being intriguing and gorgeous. She and Mac can't agree on anything –

from how she should take a turn on the track to how they should deal (or not deal) with the growing attraction between them. Trace doesn't need any distractions, but instead of being able to solely focus on winning the race, Tracey is having to balance track practice with repeated attempts on her life, a love interest that could develop into the type of romantic relationship she previously thought impossible, and the sudden appearance of a family member she never knew existed and whose motives are unclear ... Definitely *not* the ideal conditions under which to make a big comeback.

Adams' writing is strong and she creates interesting and varied characters with distinct personalities. Even the secondary characters that don't have much page-time stand on their own and add to the story, no matter how little their role. The mystery was well-done and while I had a theory, it was completely unfounded and I kept looking for clues. I only knew for certain once I reached the point in the book where the hints are obvious and the author is clearly giving us some indication as to the guilty party(ies). Even after that, there were twists and turns that I wasn't expecting.

Tracey (23) is one of those rare things in romance: a kick-butt hard-ass heroine who is likable and relatable. She's what so many PNR authors try to create, but in my mind so often fail to accomplish. Trace has survived a lot, yet she is never self-pitying or whiny. Her fiancé abandoned her after the crash, yet she is not a bitter man-hater. She's afraid of Mac's rejection and ashamed of the scar she sustained on her leg from the crash. Nonetheless, she does slowly and steadily open up to him and it never feels like a Ping-Pong match or a game of two steps forward and one step back.

While Trace is rough around the edges and keeps everyone at arm's length, we see her vulnerability and are able to watch her start to show it to Mac. This is probably the single most important factor that made her such an easy heroine to root for. I adore strong heroines, but in romance books it seems to be a thin line between strong and straight-up bitchy. When all we're shown is the latter, I find it hard to care about the character or to understand what the hero even sees in her. In *Dangerous Race*, Tracey is this type of heroine done right: she's strong, but never bitchy; reserved, but never mean; and driven, but never at the cost of others.

Mac (34) was a good fit for her, though they were by no means opposites. Reserved and grouchy romance characters are often paired with someone who is much sunnier and happier. Mac is by far more outgoing and approachable than Trace, but he is battling his own demons and they are all the more powerful now that he's around Tracey, inevitably comparing his reaction to a near-death crash with hers. From the beginning, he wants to get beneath her prickly exterior and becomes exasperated when his attempts are spurned, or when right as he thinks they're making progress, she retreats. There is an instant chemistry between the two of them, but it's clear from the start that Mac admires Tracey for much more than just her body.

There is a secondary romance and for the first chunk of the book, I was enjoying it much more than the primary one. Tracey and Mac hadn't really gotten anywhere yet, so it was the other two characters whose story I was paying attention to. The way they "meet" is funny and cute, their developing (and conflicting) feelings for one another are vividly written, and the chemistry between them is *sizzling*! I loved the mix of heavy sexual tension and lovely tenderness – so, so sigh-worthy. Even by the end of the book, after I had become fully invested in Mac and Trace's relationship, the secondary hero remained one of the biggest attractions.

Honestly, there was not much to criticize. One of the things I was bothered by was Tracey's scar. From the description, it definitely doesn't sound pretty, but when I read "scarred inside and out" in the summary I was expecting much worse and the degree of Trace's obsession with it doesn't seem proportional. Especially since much of it is driven by her fiancé's rejection of her four years ago after he saw it. I wanted to shake her

and say, *Tracey, you can't let one guy's reaction determine your entire life, convincing you that you're going to die a virgin and have no hope of having a husband or children!* This may make me sound sick (may? HA!), but I had been looking forward to this aspect of her story. No, I'm not a sadist. What I am is a real life woman who gets tired of the always-drop-dead-model-gorgeous heroines with big breasts, tiny waists, perfect facial features, unbelievably kissable lips, legs that go on forever, and long hair that flips. Give me some imperfections, baby!

The ball was dropped on Trace's history, in that we still don't know why her mother left her behind. I also thought that the final obstacles in Mac and Trace's relationship seemed contrived. The barriers are self-imposed and I found especially annoying the scene towards the end, when after much back and forth Trace puts herself out there and Mac withdraws. To me, it felt like it was done only to prolong the will-they or won't-they ... which doesn't even exist, since this is a romance, but you know what I'm referring to – that last stretch authors always put in before the assured HEA.

Regardless, we get there in the end, evil is conquered, the double-HEA is delivered to us in a wonderful Epilogue that had a funny twist to seal the deal, and I finished the book thinking it was time well-spent. *Dangerous Race* was a great find and I'm glad I took a chance on this new author; I'm already looking forward to Adams' next book in the series, *Danger Zone*, to be published in February 2012.

#### **{ One of My Favorite Quotes }**

His gut tightened; his chest constricted the massive pounding of his heart. "I'm glad you trusted me." He couldn't disguise the raspy emotion of his voice. Didn't try. "You keep trusting me with the most important things you have."

"I do?" she whispered.

"Yes, you do," he told her. Her gaze softened as though the wall she'd erected cracked down the center.

***Originally posted on the Fiction Vixen website.***

*This review is of a galley provided by Carina Press through NetGalley.*

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#### **Lynne Marshall says**

Engorssing romantic adventure. Hunky hero. Kick butt heroine. I highly recommend this book!

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#### **Rein Scott says**

I was listening to this through audio. I'm not sure if that's why, but I couldn't finish it. I liked the idea of the story, but there were so many different storylines happening, it was hard to follow.

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## Malinda says

3.5-4 stars

This was a pretty good story. Tracey and Mac are both likable characters but they get along with each other like oil and water, which certainly kept things interesting. This is the first book I've read by this author and based off this I'll probably try more of her work in the future.

Tracey is a professional race car driver. She was raised in foster care and didn't have a good childhood, spending much of her time hanging out at the race track. Fortunately, Tracey got taken under a wing and grew up to be a great driver. Tracey was engaged to Eddie (the son of Ed, the owner of her race team) but he broke up with her after she was in a horrible wreck 4 years ago and came out of it scarred.

Mac is an ex-race car driver and currently runs a company in England that designs Formula One race cars. Mac loved racing but after a bad crash he didn't trust himself behind the wheel any more so he decided to help his father with the business designing formula one cars. Mac's dad died around a year ago and now he just has his younger brother (who's in his 20s) to look after.

Tracey is back to racing and has been for a few months. She's getting ready for a race at the same track that she wrecked at 4 years before and things are kind of stressful but alright. Things go downhill when Tracey's head mechanic and the man who was like a father to her dies unexpectedly. Mac (who owes Ed a favor) is brought in to take over as lead mechanic for this race until they can find someone permanent. Tracey and Mac have a definite attraction between them but neither is wanting to go where the attraction is leading them. Mac knows it's not a good idea because she's his driver and he's going back home after the race in a couple weeks. Tracey isn't about to get involved with anyone...ever. When Tracey was in the crash it messed up her leg badly and left her with a horrible scar. Eddie couldn't handle it and broke up with her because of it which devastated Tracey and made her unwilling to trust another man. Things start getting worse when the police inform Tracey (and Mac because he's determined to be there for Tracey when she needs it) that her former lead mechanic was murdered and the poison was actually supposed to be for her. They start suspecting that someone has something against Tracey but they don't know who or why.

Tracey has a lot on her hands as more things go wrong and she doesn't know who to trust. Since Mac has no way to gain from her problems and wasn't there when they started, Tracey is willing to trust him even when it seems like the issues may be coming from an insider. While all this is going on, Tracey's long lost sister, Chelsey, shows up and in addition to meeting Tracey, Chelsey becomes involved with another mechanic on Tracey's team, Matt. Since Tracey has never had a family she's happy at the thought of having a sister (if the blood tests prove the relationship) but she also can't help but wonder if it's a coincidence that Chelsey showed up just when things are going badly (although it doesn't seem like Chelsey has a motive). Things are a mess as they try to figure things out and during this all, Mac and Tracey do lose their restraint and end up in a physical relationship, trying desperately not to let their feelings get involved even though they are from the start. Tracey isn't willing to trust Mac (thinking he'll run from her like Eddie) but figures she'll take what she can get for now. Mac knows he's supposed to go back home and his and Tracey's lives don't mesh and he also doesn't think he's good enough for her. Obviously, they have a lot to work through and the stalker/killer doesn't make things easy. There's some definite drama and danger to get through but thankfully the bad guy is captured and Tracey and Mac come out with a well deserved HEA.

This was a pretty enjoyable story. I liked both Mac and Tracey and their story was a good one. It was interesting enough that I was engaged throughout the story. I did suspect who the bad guy was from the start

and I ended up being right but there was enough hidden that I wasn't sure and kept wondering if I was right until the reveal. I'm planning to read the next book in the series sometime in the future. I'd recommend this story. :)

\* note - I listened to the audio version of this book and the narrator did a very good job.

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### **Christine Ashworth says**

Dangerous Race puts you on an adrenalin high from the very first page, and doesn't let you go. I read this book in one sitting and can only say, "wow"! Not one romance, but two; not one mystery, but two. And one very, very bad villain that you can't even begin to "guess who". The action scenes are written so vividly that you'd swear you can smell the motor oil and feel the car vibrate beneath you. The romances are written with heart and heat, and just the right amount of push-pull between the sexes. Whoever named this series "Adrenalin High" certainly had it right! I'm eagerly looking forward to book two and three. Adams is going on my "keeper shelf" on my Kindle!

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### **Ann says**

What can I say? I LOVED this book! I highly recommend it for anybody who loves great storytelling. Period. It really does have something for everybody - racy cars for the guys, racing hearts for the girls, and masterfully written suspense that will keep you guessing until the end! It was like "reading" a movie - the characters are all well defined and I felt like I knew them personally. I usually find that it takes new authors a few books to hit their stride, but in this case, I think Dee J Adams has hit it out of the park on her first try!

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### **Maria says**

I haven't read Romantic Suspense in quite a while, and then I had to pick this one up. It sounded so good and best of all, it didn't disappoint. This was a kick ass book with incredibly well written characters. I went back and forth several times trying to figure out who amongst the cast of potential baddies was the bad guy. It was a "hold on to the edge of your seat" thrill ride. Two love stories in one book was a HUGE bonus. Cannot wait for Dee J. Adam's next release.

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### **Saly says**

I found this book had potential but I kind of had some problems with it.

- a) I never warmed to Chelsea, Trace's newly discovered twin and her romance with the mechanic felt rushed to me.
- b) We are never told why Trace's mother gave her away
- c) How could Trace be a virgin when she was engaged at 19?
- d) I had the same problem with Mac and Trace's romance, too fast and less believable
- e) I had some problems with the sex scenes as well, dunno didn't feel any emotion or sometimes trying to be

hard to be sexy.

Overall as I said I liked the writing and felt the potential but the book fell short of being amazing.

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### **Christa says**

Dangerous race was a solid, action packed romantic suspense. I enjoyed it from start to finish, and am glad to hear that it is the first book in a series. I will definitely be reading the rest of the series. This book had plenty of suspense, romance, and some great characters. I admired the heroine, Trace, as she fought her way back from a horrific accident to come out at the top of profession. The hero was also a great character - very likeable and protective of the heroine. There were also some really good secondary characters.

Trace Bradshaw is back on the same track where she had a terrible accident four years ago. While she is preparing for a race, her team leader is killed, and his death appears to be linked the Trace's accident years earlier. As danger seems to shadow Trace, she isn't sure who she can trust. Former driver, Mac Reynolds steps in to take the team leader spot, and he tries to protect Trace while helping her to prepare for the race. Trace and Mac clash, but are attracted to one another. As their feelings deepen, they must try to ensure Trace's safety from their unknown stalker both on and off the race track while learning to trust one another.

I enjoyed this romantic suspense that takes place in the racing world. The characters were likeable, and the storyline captured and held my attention. I wavered back and forth as to who I thought was involved in Trace's accident and her team leader's murder. I'm looking forward to more by this author.

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### **Tara Chevreton says**

I didn't like this book for a number of reasons. It has an interesting premise, woman race car driver, someone wants her dead, a long lost twin sister shows up, and two sexy romances, but I made it just past the halfway point before I threw in the towel. It just wasn't for me. Why? Execution.

Quibble 1: I expected more racing and car stuff. I didn't want so much that it got boring or technical. This didn't do that. There wasn't enough racing stuff. Too much of the story is about the sister/twin thing than the racing life.

Quibble 2: (Figuratively here, as I have an egally and cannot really count the pages.) I got ten pages of sex and maybe 4 pages dedicated to the scene where Trace's long lost twin sister that she never knew existed walks into her office and introduces herself. Granted, Chelsea sheds some tears, but I really expected a lot more here. This is a huge deal, a life altering thing.. and I got a brief conversation and then they giggle and accidentally meet up for shopping.. ??

Quibble 3: When Trace and Mac finally have their sex scene, it felt dirty. The setting, the tone, the mood, was not right. He was mad and hurt and she was thinking "he just wants to get laid.." And despite the lust on her part, I felt like he was forcing her cause he was out for revenge. It all felt wrong. And what's up with the lack of protection? She's a race car driver. Pregnancy would really put her career on hold. Her sister was

smart enough to make her guy put on a rubber. I thought Trace was smarter than that?

Quibble 4: The story goes all over the place. From the track to Chelsea and Matthew banging to Trace and Mac banging and then on to a long monologue about how Chelsea got her job....

Something I really did like and appreciate: Trace's self consciousness about her leg. Kinda had a heroine with a minor disability here and that's a great issue to put in any book; how people feel about their disfigurements and how others can react.

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