



Ashwin

Kit Rocha

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The first book in the follow-up to Kit Rocha's bestselling BEYOND series...

Gideon's Riders, Book One

Lieutenant Ashwin Malhotra is a Makhai soldier--genetically engineered to be cold, ruthless. Unfeeling. His commanding officers consider him the perfect operative, and they're right. Now, he has a simple mission: to infiltrate Gideon's Riders, the infamous sect of holy warriors that protects the people of Sector One.

He's never failed to execute an objective, but there's one thing he didn't anticipate--running into Dr. Kora Bellamy, the only woman to ever break through his icy exterior.

When Kora fled her life as a military doctor for the Makhai Project, all she wanted was peace--a quiet life where she could heal the sick and injured. The royal Rios family welcomed her like a sister, but she could never forget Ashwin. His sudden reappearance is a second chance--if she can manage to touch his heart.

When the simmering tension between them finally ignites, Kora doesn't realize she's playing with fire. Because she's not just falling in love with a man who may not be able to love her back. Ashwin has too many secrets--and one of them could destroy her.

Ashwin Details

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From Reader Review Ashwin for online ebook

Robin (Bridge Four) says

Ashwin is the first book in the new Dystopian Erotica series by Kit Rocha. They write some of the best erotica out there in my humble opinion and while the **Beyond** series is not for the faint of smut this might be a little bit tamer but just as hot.

General FYI's

1 – You do not have to have read any of the Beyond books to start this series. It is set in the same world and so there are some cameos from characters from the Beyond series in it but you don't need to have read those books to enjoy this one.

2 – There is sex, some really hot sex BUT it was completely monogamous. *If you read the Beyond series you know that was a very sharing anything and everything goes kind of series.*

3 – There are a few religious undertones to Gideon's Riders. I was worried about the mixing of religion of any kind with my smut. However it is more a cultural lifestyle and the Riders protect the community. I never felt like it was weird, everything worked for the set up of this story and series.

Ashwin is my catnip. He is so broken. Ashwin has trained his entire life to be an elite soldier and told that he has no capacity for emotion. He is highly intelligent and resourceful and has been sent in infiltrate Gideon's Riders because the military is afraid that he will gain too much power and go bad like his Grandfather before him.

Kora and Ashwin have a past. She had been his doctor for years, cleaning up his scrapes and boo boos from different missions and she was sure that there was more to him than what the base tried to make him believe he was. Kora escaped the military base and is in hiding within Gideon's inner circle. Ashwin didn't think he would ever see her again and she believed he was dead. Now Ashwin is torn because he feels a great need to protect her but he also wants to complete his mission and he will have to chose just one. One path will lead to his destabilization and a possibility that he will go crazy, while the other means he will betray Kora the only person he has ever had any kind of connection with.

I loved this book. It is rare in erotica that I'm just as into the story as I am into the sex scenes or more into the story than sex scenes *gasp*. But this is one of those times that there is a great blend of story to sex that makes everything fantastic. Ashwin is so great!!!

"I want you in my bed, Kora. But not until you've considered all the risks. Not unless you know that the possibility is there."

"Which one?"

"That I'm empty," he answered simply. "That I'm broken. That I can promise to protect your body, but I may never have the capacity to make the same promise about your heart. That I might destroy it without meaning to."

I liked the set up of the new series. There are a lot of possibilities and Gideon, well I'm totally interested in

all the faces of that guy. He is like a new king in a Dystopian world and the people around him lords and ladies. But he also gets people and I think he was one of the most interesting characters in this world.

“Have a seat.” Ashwin crossed the room, but hadn’t yet sat when Gideon continued, “And decide which conversation you want to have, too. We can have the one where we tell each other barely concealed lies and analyze the subtext of every word, or we can have the one where we tell the truth and make a wager.”

There are some really cool sub stories going on and I totally wanted to get to the other characters stories right after this one...but alas they aren’t written just yet. Deacon and Zeke are the ones I’m most interested in seeing next.

Very excited about this new series from Kit Rocha. But if you want something totally dirty with a great story line as well try out there other series Beyond.

Thanks to Kit Rocha and Netgalley for the ARC for review

Deborah says

This is the first book in the new series 'Gideon's Riders' and while I've been looking forward to this I've also been a little apprehensive hence the reason for my delay in starting it.

The 'Beyond' series was fabulous, the world these authors created is simply fascinating, my only problem was in some of the books, for me anyway the balance was out, too much sex and too little story. Now don't get me wrong I love a nice hot read but I need the balance, enough actual story to hold it all together and a couple of the books failed on this.

Now I know the O'Kanes are a debauched lot and we loved them for it but with Ashwin I was hoping for something different as opposed to more of the same and we get it.

In Ashwin the balance is exactly right, well for me anyway.

Lieutenant Ashwin Malhotra is a Makhai soldier genetically engineered to be cold, ruthless and unfeeling. He's always been an intriguing character on one hand he's a ruthless and efficient killer who completes his missions with deadly accuracy yet on the other hand he's besotted with Dr. Kora Bellamy to the extent where he'll do anything to keep her safe.

Ashwin disappeared after the uprising and six months later there's still no sign of him, Kora assumes he's dead, why else wouldn't he contact her?

Then Ashwin reappears and we discover he returned to base for six agonising months of recalibration where they tortured Kora from his mind.

Despite the recalibration and hell that Ashwin has suffered this is a softer sweeter read than 'Beyond' there's an innocence here that just wasn't in the previous series.

Ashwin is sent to infiltrate Gideon's Riders but once there he finds not only Kora but maybe a chance at a life he hadn't even thought possible.

Okay....so I really enjoyed this book, I love Gideon's Riders and I'm so excited about this series.

Why not 5*?

I'm not sure I just felt something was missing. This is crazy because I'm all about the romance but I think I wanted more action (gasp....I know) after all Ashwin is a genetically engineered soldier and I can't believe I'm saying this but I wanted him to seriously kick some ass.

As I said I'm really looking forward to Deacon and Ana despite the cover. I'm terrible with covers but this

just isn't working for me, Ana looks fabulous but Deacon is just not how I pictured him at all, is it me or has he got a sixties porn star look going on?

River says

Ashwin is the start of the new Kit Rocha series, Gideon's Riders. The series is a spin-off of the Beyond series but it can be read as a stand alone.

Ashwin is a Makhai soldier, he was basically created in a lab, he was part of an experiment, you can say he is a super human without human emotions, or at least that's what he was told.

I personally liked Ashwin a lot, I knew from the beginning he wasn't going to be like a normal H because he's just not, he doesn't feel like a normal person and he rationalizes every one of his steps, he never makes a decision without thinking of a logical reason why.

His weakness is Doctor Kora, when they were at the base she would patch him up and he got attached. The problem is that Makhai soldiers are dangerous and there has only been one recorded case of a Makhai fixated on someone and it ended badly so Ashwin is going to do anything to protect Kora even from himself.

Kora is a doctor trained by Eden, she is one of the best. After the war between Eden and the sectors, Kora went to sector 1, Gideon considers her his sister and she has his protection.

Kora believed Ashwin to be dead in the war so she has been mourning him for months because she feels the same connection he feels.

Kora is different from a lot of people, she feels more deeply especially bad things. There's a reason, she just doesn't know it yet.

I like Kora very much too, I feel like it was great decision to introduce this new series from two characters that were not as deep in sector 1 because we are introduced to a lot of things along with them.

I don't know about the series but at least this book is very different from the Beyond series, this a complete new ride, there's no orgies and there's no sex all the time, Kora and Ashwin just grew up very differently and seeing them develop their connection was great.

I really enjoyed the way this series and this book specially was set, It's a stand alone and the events of the war are explained, you understand what took the main characters to the point where they are now. As a person that read all the book's i did skipped a few lines because I already knew things BUT there were a few appearances that made me swoon but at the same time like I said, things are explained so even if you read about a character from another sector you don't get lost.

The world building was really good, I've always appreciated how Donna and Bree write, they create stories with a purpose, you just don't follow the couple in their romance, there's a bigger story in play that affects everyone around, so I'm very curious what's the end game here and how the religion in sector 1 is going to affect things. I'm so so curious about Gideon, he seems like a great character.

The only two little things that didn't bother me per say but gave me a bit of problems:

1. there are too many characters mentioned, there were in the beyond books too and trust me I didn't kept up there and I'm not keeping up here, too many families and too many people with a lot of siblings and husbands and wives and kids, I'm super lost, I remember Deacon and Zeke.. oh and the girl rider because badass lady but that's it.
2. The descriptions of skin color, maybe I'm being a bit picky but Ashwin was described like two times with "brown skin" so my mind went to "ok, he's black" but from the cover of the book he is obviously not, and there was another character, I think Deacon that was described with brown skin too and I'm just pointing this out because when I eventually do read about a black character I'm not gonna know and I like to picture my hero/heroine when I'm reading. Besides that everything was great.

To end things with a positive note, There's a cameo of my favorite trio being parents and they are beautiful and Daddy Ace is the most precious thing on earth and I'm so happy and I can't wait to read more.

****ARC provided by authors in exchange for an honest review****

Pam says

ARC kindly provided by the author, via NetGalley, for an honest review.

Sarah says

Buddy read with Aly

It's no secret that I'm a fully paid up member of the O'Kane fan club, I absolutely love the Beyond series and the only thing that made that series ending bearable was knowing that **Kit Rocha** was writing a spin off series set in Sector One. I have been looking forward to reading this book ever since it was announced, we've already seen how obsessed Ashwin is with Kora throughout the other series and I couldn't wait for them to finally figure things out. Sometimes when a book is as highly anticipated as this one there is a worry at the back of your mind that it might be a disappointment but I never had that fear here, I completely trust these authors to give me a story that I'm going to adore and they 100% delivered with **Ashwin**.

If you're new to this world then you probably could pick up the story here, this spin off is designed to be a starting point for newbies but it also has plenty of cameo appearances and little hints at things that have gone before for fans of the previous books. I'm incredibly happy to recommend any of the books set in this world though, this is post-apocalyptic erotica at it's very best and the stories are so hot they should come with a warning label. It looks like things are going to be slightly different in Sector One though, the riders are still completely open about their sexuality and pretty much anything goes but they seem a little less into public displays than the O'Kane are. Of course that could change as the series continues but it's an interesting change to the dynamics and it didn't make this book any less hot.

If you're new to this world there are a few things you need to know about our hero Ashwin. He was genetically engineered as part of the Makhai project to be a super soldier, the Makhai were created to be the

perfect killing machines, ruthless, unfeeling killers who follow out their orders unconditionally. Ashwin has always had a little trouble when it comes to Kora though, and he has been fighting his obsession with her for a long time now. Kora is the complete opposite of Ashwin, she's a dedicated doctor who loves deeply and would do anything to protect those she cares for. She was one of the doctors tasked with looking after the Makhai soldiers and she's one of the few people who isn't terrified of them. The Makhai have such a ruthless reputation that even other soldiers on the base stay well clear of them but Kora cares about them and balks at carrying out duties that she believes will harm them.

Kora escaped from the military base in the previous book and she's now been accepted into Gideon's family where she is treated like a princess. She has found a home but she often thinks about the soldier she left behind, she was convinced that Ashwin had feelings for her and it hurt her when he didn't escape with her. Ashwin has been sent on a mission to infiltrate the Riders and find out what Gideon's plans are, the military high ups are concerned that he could be a powerful enemy and they want to have eyes on the inside in case he starts plotting against them. Now Ashwin is in an impossible situation, he either risks everything to be with Kora or he breaks her heart by moving against the only family she has ever had.

I don't think I have the words to tell you how much I loved Ashwin, I'm a sucker for brooding mysterious guys who have their emotions tightly under wraps, especially in Ashwin's case where it's obvious that he isn't the unfeeling and emotionless robot that he was raised to believe he is. Everything about Kora brings Ashwin's protective instincts to the fore and I can't imagine him ever doing anything to purposefully hurt her. Kora is the sweetest and most caring character you'll ever come across but she also has a backbone of steel and there is nothing she won't do to show Ashwin that he's loved and accepted. They make such a brilliant couple and I'm already looking forward to rereading their story.

This book isn't just about their romance though, it's also about introducing us to the main players in Sector One. We've met a lot of them before but they've only been on the sidelines in previous stories and this series will be their chance to shine. Gideon is treated like a god by the rest of the sector, I was a little nervous about the weird, almost cult-like, religion they have going on here but it was actually really interesting and not at all what I was expecting. I think it works so well because Gideon is a responsible leader, he never asked for this responsibility and would probably walk away from it if he could but it's exactly because he doesn't want the power that makes him such a good leader. He has earned the respect of the Riders and as a group they do huge amounts to protect the whole sector and make sure their people have everything they need. I enjoyed meeting all the different Riders and I loved seeing Ashwin trying to find a place with them, he has a lot of strengths that are going to be a real asset as the series continues.

Ashwin took everything I loved about the Beyond series and made it fresh and exciting again. I absolutely can't wait to read the rest of the series!

Source: Received from the author in exchange for an honest review

Kate's Corner says

I love these authors and what they can bring to paper or to the ebook is incredible. Now after experiencing the rise and fall of Eden and the ups and downs of the O'Kanes in Sector 4 it is now

So my fellow fans & friends

Now for my thoughts on this gem of a book.

“Revolution was supposed to make things simpler, but here we are. Things might be better, but they're not simpler.”

Ashwin Malhotra is a Makhai soldier a genetically modified human being that has been programmed not to feel. If they start to destabilize and fracture or in layman terms become more human they are reconditioned.

After six months of reconditioning to forget Kora Bellamy he is sent to Sector One to get rid of the deserters but also to infiltrate and get closer to Gideon Rios the leader of Sector One. All is going according to plan. But Gideon Rios is not a stupid man. He offers something Ashwin has always wanted.

The Base also miscalculated his loyalty his one loyalty will always be to Kora and as Kora has a loyalty to the Rios family. Ashwin has already broken so many rules when it comes to Kora amongst them treason.

Kora Bellamy doctor extraordinaire. The Base doesn't know that she is there. She has been made to heal one of the last ones of the Project Panacea the sister project to the Makhai soldier. She is the last one and she somehow managed to compartmentalise. Kora mourned Ashwin after the last battle for freedom and then she finds out that she is alive.

They are perfect for one another. There is no point in fighting it.

Placing his hand between her shoulder blades was dangerous. Guiding her onto the mattress was reckless. Stretching out beside her was foolish.

After a night full of sex, passion and letting go is psyche is broken beyond repair.

The plot has everything I love and need in a story. Action-packed full of suspense, deception and subterfuge. Ashwin does what is the most important for Kora and no one else even if that means hurting her by accident although that was never his intention. But it will take a strong woman with compassion and understanding to deal with it for a life time of hurt. Nevertheless Ashwin goes above and beyond. He becomes a rider.

“Welcome to the ranks of the damned. Fun never stops.”

But what I loved as well as the sense of belonging what they both gained and that Sector One became their home.

Fights with Reyes. Glares from Ana. Threats from Deacon. He was actually starting to like the perverse, irrational things that soothed him. Being irrational made him feel human.

Sector One and Gideon Rios is subtle but it is a good subtlety. They love just as hard as Four but there is a stronger sense of worship of a different kind of loyalty of trust of belonging. It is the same and yet different. The introduction to so many new characters, the world building of sector One the detail, the story, the comrades of the Riders. All of it is just brilliant. Sector One every moment to the fullest, wide open, because every moment could be your last. It was fact, something to be mourned and revered in equal measure.

My adjustment problem was that Sector One can't be compared to Sector Four in any way and I had problems at the beginning. Sector Four is raw, gritty, filthy and lead by a barbarian ? I also found the worship and the religious aspect to get used to but that also in the end was smooth sailing. Icing on the cake? We get to see Rachel, Ace & Lorenzo. Rosalie & Isaac.

Review can also be found @<http://jerisbookattic-reviewblog.blog...>

Jen Davis says

I was a little concerned when I realized that this book was a spinoff of Kit Rocha's Beyond series. I've read from this duo's alter ego, Moira Rogers, before, but I have not read the books featuring the famous O'Kanes, so I figured I might be lost here. I am happy to report that this is a great place to step into this world. I had absolutely no problem acclimating to it and I was never lost, nor did I feel like I was the odd man out of an inside joke. So if the same fear has you on the fence about this book, don't worry about it. Let yourself jump in. You'll be glad you did.

Ashwin is my favorite kind of hero. He is strong and powerful physically, but he is emotionally stunted. Think: the Psy heroes in Nalini Singh's Psy-Changeling books. He was a genetically engineered soldier, never allowed to feel. He and the heroine, Cora, have met before. She was the doctor at the base where he served. There was a connection between them back then, but his growing feelings for her overwhelmed him and he feared he could be a threat to her safety. He turned himself in for reconditioning, a painful process to try to burn the feelings out. It didn't quite work.

Cora is now an adopted sister to Gideon Rios, the leader of sector one. Ashwin does not know this when he is assigned to infiltrate Gideon's team of enforcers. But he quickly realizes that he will have to choose between his mission and protecting the life that Cora has built among Gideon's people.

I loved Ashwin. His intentions are always so pure when it comes to Cora. He puts himself on the line. He

puts his mission on the line. He doesn't care about any vows he's made or responsibilities he should have when any of that is put against protecting Cora. She is always number one. The only thing in his heart. The heart he doesn't think he has. And it's so delicious and satisfying as he begins to understand and accept that he does care. That he is a man. And that she really is everything.

I liked Cora OK. She saw a spark of humanity in Ash when when no one else ever did. She tried to reach out. She tried to love him. And I got all the feels.

As always with these authors, the sex is smoking hot. The writing is just fantastic. I was all in. I did not want it to end.

There so much rich ground for future books to mine. I can't wait for Deacon and Ana's story or Zeke's.

All I can say is, go read this book. Go buy it now. You'll be glad you did. Whether you were a fan of the Beyond books or if this is your first trip to the rodeo. Really good stuff.

**ARC provided by authors*

Bj says

5 "Opposite Ends of the Feeling Spectrum Unite" Stars!

A new top favorite! I have been meaning to read or listen to Kit Rocha's Beyond Series forever. Of course, as is frequently the case with long-running PNR/UF series that must be read in sequential order, starting such a series can be a daunting exercise. So when I saw that Kit Rocha (the pen name for the collaboration between co-authors Donna Herren and Bree Bridges) was releasing the first book in a spin-off series, I jumped at the chance to review it, and I must say I'm in love!

Everything from the UF world building, hero/heroine character development, relationship building among secondary characters who will no doubt be the heroes/heroines in books to come, to the romance and passion department was top-notch! Moreover, Kit Rocha towed the line between the perfect balance of explaining this UF world, which takes place in the same one that her Beyond Series takes place (just later in time after the war between the sectors has ended), while at the same time not belaboring or slowing down this story.

The heroine of this story is Dr. Kora Bellamy. The royal Rios family of Sector 1, including its leader Gideon Rios, took Kora in after she escaped a military facility for the Makhai Project, which features genetically engineered soldiers who have been bred to be the super soldiers that are incapable of feeling. Everything in Sector 1 is so completely different from where she came from both at the base and Eden where she once lived. There is an innate almost religious goodness in this Sector, where people believe in Gideon, not because he rules by might, but because of his beliefs, goals and most all his actual treatment of Sector 1's people (actions speak louder than words!).

Sector 1 is policed by Gideon's Riders--a number of whom are influential in their own right but who choose to enforce Sector 1's rules for the better of the whole (even if it means they must kill and therefore are giving up their eternal ever after for the collective good of Sector 1's people). Because of their sacrifice all of Gideon's Riders are revered by Sector 1's inhabitants, and Kora's role in the affair is ensuring Gideon's Riders always get the best medical care so they can continue to protect Sector 1. This comes naturally to

Kora as she innately has a drive to heal others.

After years of disappointment at the military base's inhumane and unnecessarily cruel treatment of its soldiers, Kora is finally happy in her new life with the Rios family which has not only given her a place to stay, but has actually officially taken her in as if she were one of their own. Kora's only regret is Ashwin, a soldier of the Makhai Project who she thought she had had a special connection with--something which they were strictly forbidden from having (as a matter of professional courtesy on her part and because Ashwin as a Makhai soldier should never have felt anything much less had feelings for her). However, Kora assumes that Ashwin died in the war as he never came back for her as he had promised.

So imagine Kora's surprise when Ashwin shows up in Sector 1 and just in the nick of time to save them from a dangerous plot. Gideon questions Ashwin's real mission in Sector 1 notwithstanding Ashwin's help--nothing gets by Gideon though he doesn't necessarily react as others would. Instead he also quickly assesses Kora's seeming power over Ashwin and allows him to stay for at least a while. Just why is Ashwin in Sector 1? Does he still have feelings for Kora? Is he even capable of true feelings? And how will Kora respond to this second chance?

What a powerful book that proves that true love can never be denied. Additionally, there are so many twists and turns that you will be glued to your Kindle until the very end. There are also some fantastic secondary characters--namely the other Gideon's Riders--as well as a number of the women in Rio's family who also have compelling stories that I can't wait to hear. I will definitely be looking to carry on with this series (as well as finally read or listen to the Beyond Series)!

Source: Review copy provided for review purposes.

MischaS_ says

****An advance reading copy of Ashwin by Kit Rocha was generously provided to me in exchange for an honest review.

I did not expect to get Gideon's Riders book so soon after the end of Beyond series. Overall it was a bit calmer than the Beyond series was which is pretty logical if you take into account where the previous series ended.

I like how Ashwin is calculated and strictly logical. He can find a logical explanation for anything he does or almost for everything.

But ever since we met Kora, I had the feeling that she was more washed up than him. Except for healing others, I could not see anything else to her. But through this book, I could finally see that there was also more to her. And I got an explanation why I felt like that about her before.

I would just like more scenes with Gideon. I got used so much to Dallas looming everywhere that I expected the same from Gideon. I would love some (view spoiler) scene between him and Kora. I always liked Gideon, but now I like him even more. He is brilliant! or if I use Ace's words: "Goddamn genius."

As for the rest of the Riders. The next to get a book is Deacon (view spoiler) then Ivan (view spoiler). But the Riders I like the most are not listed in a book yet. But I hope that it will change soon.

The one I like the most is Reyes who got some sort of inner Ace in him. He is just adorable, wicked and bit crazy.

A shot rang out, followed by another. Reyes was on his feet, his gun still in his hand, standing over the now-dead deserters, he'd fought with.

*Hunter pinched the bridge of his nose and sighed. "If you were going to fucking shoot them, man, why didn't you just **shoot them**?"*

Reyes dragged his across his bloodied mouth and shrugged. "Didn't seem fair not to give 'em a fighting chance."

Jo ★The Book Sloth★ says

5 Love Conquers All Stars

Ashwin Malhotra was "bred" for one purpose only, to be the best, most loyal, most efficient soldier he could be. As a result, he is feared by all, as only a dog trained to kill by birth, can be feared. As a Makhai soldier, emotion should have been tortured out of him long ago. And it is... or so he tells himself. The one true exception to that rule is the most forbidden of them all.... Dr. Kora Bellamy.

Kora is everything a Makhai soldier isn't. Emotional and compassionate to an extreme degree, she is the best at what she does, which is saving other people's lives. Being naturally kind, she sees in Makhai soldiers what other people overlook... emotion may be hidden deep within after someone teaches you to relay it with pain but it doesn't really go away. And especially in Ashwin's case, she needs to believe that the emotions he stirs in her aren't one-sided.

But a relationship between them isn't simple... Ashwin is a man not allowed to love and Kora is a woman many would kill to have. But the worst enemy may not be outsiders but Ashwin's fierce need to protect her, no matter how much protecting her may damage them...

I was curious how Kit Rocha would go about spinning off the Beyond series. I was both hopeful that it would be as awesome as the original series and apprehensive that it would be exactly the same and have nothing fresh to offer. I shouldn't have worried. Sector One is just as complicated as Sector Four, just as interesting, just as captivating but at the same time, completely different. The cult-like political structure isn't something we see often, at least not on the good guys' side, but it has great potential. Mostly because the people in power are actually nice people.

Unlike Dallas who ruled his sector with brutal strength but also complete loyalty to his people, Gideon doesn't need strength or brutality to rule. In Sector One, Gideon Rios is god and his word not only law, but also followed with complete faith that it is right by his people. A man with that much power could have easily been corrupted but Gideon is well aware of the burden that being worshipped like that can be. Insightful, loyal and compassionate but also ruthless when the situation demands it, Gideon is what a leader should be. It will be a treat watching his character's development.

The romance aspect was as expected my favorite part. While I enjoyed the Beyond novels, the romance sometimes felt... completely sex-based. Don't get me wrong, the emotions were there but most of the time I

thought that they were too widely spread with all the different partners and public sex. I'm not against it, hell, I loved Beyond, but this felt more real. Probably because I can't imagine wanting to share someone you're in love with. And the "only you can make me feel" storyline always hooks me. There's just something incredibly romantic in managing to bring a man, trained to feel nothing, to his knees. Not to mention that both characters were beautiful people, and I don't mean externally.

And then we have the secondary characters... The Riders are just yummy! And the women sufficiently sassy and independent to satisfy my high expectations. I can't wait for Zeke's, Deacon's and Maricela's books. And of course, creating a male or/and female strong enough to be with Gideon and all the responsibility he carries on his shoulders will definitely be a challenge for the author but I have every faith in them. We also had a few cameo appearances of characters we know and love, mainly our favorite O'Kane trio.

All in all, this was a great start to the series. I look forward to seeing what comes next!

I was so happy when I saw this on Netgalley, my fingers went on autopilot requesting it. But, it being Friday, I thought I'd have to wait for Monday at least. So here I was, browsing my shelves, trying to find something interesting to read, when I get my reply... less than 10 minutes later!!!

I'm so happy to see what Kit Rocha have done with this spin-off!!

Sue (Hollywood News Source) says

Ashwin is the first book in Gideon's Riders, the spin-off of Beyond series. For a beginner with a minimal knowledge of the former series, I wasn't really confused with the world-building. I find everything easier to digest.

I really love that the authors have set up the plot for the upcoming books like I can *already* feel the simmering tension between the upcoming characters. This book also contains my fave archetypes: selfless cunning leader, raunchy scenes, royal family, and etc. I'm really impressed with the concept. I can feel this becoming a new fave.

I'm excited to read the rest of the titles in this series. For now, I'll finish A Summer for Scandal and catch up on my YA tbr before research assignments and projects decided to take over my life.

Jilly says

I know a lot of reviewers are telling you that you could read this series without having read the "Beyond" series by the same authors, but if you haven't read Beyond, you will be more lost than an elderly man in Victoria's Secret. You will find yourself thinking "huh?" a lot, and you will wonder if you missed out on something important. Again: lost old man.

You shouldn't have, honey. Really. Don't do it again.

This series is set in a dystopian world where food and electricity are scarce but condoms are more than plentiful. The future world people are having a lot more sex than today-people. You would think that building a new society, scavenging for food, and not having a shower would put a damper on the sexy times. But, you'd be wrong. These people are trying to repopulate the world, dammit!!

Surprisingly, though, the district featured in this book is more religious than our last series' districts. This means that they are having more monogamous sex and less three-ways, four-ways, and whatever-the-hell-those-people-are-doing sex. But, this is still smut, don't worry! It just means we have to let the couple build their relationship a little bit first. And, then it's on!!

Ashwin is our guy and he is some sort of mutated super-soldier who is unable to feel emotions. Supposedly. But, he is feeling all kinds of things about Kora. Look at this emotional confession he makes to one of the other guys:

"Seeing her sad is... unsatisfactory."

Ashwin, you romantic devil you! You had me at unsatisfactory.

Kora is also a mutated freak but doesn't know it. Her problem is feeling too much. She is emotional and oozes empathy. This relationship is going to work out great!!

She was just as helpless as Ashwin when it came to emotion - he couldn't feel it, and she felt too much.

Creepy Spidey is right. I see great things for their future. Mainly her crying and screaming at him while he is completely clueless. You know, marriage.

So, basically the book is setting us up in this world, introducing us to all of the guys who will undoubtedly be getting their books next, and waiting for the tin man to get his heart from the wizard.

If you liked the Beyond series a lot, but maybe thought the smut got a little too out of control and you were so ashamed of yourself that you bought extra girl scout cookies to help charity (not at all for the thin mints), then this is the book for you. If you are a smut-loving machine with no remorse who thought the Beyond series was a "starter" book for the porn, this one may not have enough bow-chicka-bow-wow for you.

Marta Cox says

Four and a half from me

Well the duo that form Kit Rocha are back and doing it in style! Having loved their Beyond series that unashamedly crossed boundaries I felt trepidation about this spin off. Sector One is so very different with its religious ideology and royal family that are anything but ordinary. This book features Gideon and his Riders, those who follow him whilst knowing their time is limited but the joy of serving their community is everything. Prepare for a new insight into everything that happened in and around Eden, whilst meeting new

characters along the way oh and of course a sneak peek at what old friends are currently up to! So Gideon might not rule through brutality but his is most definitely an iron fist in a velvet glove! He has taken in Kora the talented doctor whose empathy could be her undoing so when her past walks through the door it's clear life is about to get more complicated or is it? Ashwin is one seriously scary super soldier with his genetically modified body but he's starting to unravel around sweet Kora. His mission is to infiltrate Gideons Riders but as his cracks widen its Kora who holds his sanity in her capable hands. Problem is though too many secrets surround Kora and mission or no all Ashwin wants to do is protect the woman who has filled his heart and soul. Kora knows what she wants but sometimes it's possible to go a step too far! So a terrifying super soldier and the most humane doctor ever come together to introduce this series and it's everything I'd hoped for and more. Sometimes life in Sector Four with the O'Kanes was too much about obtaining freedom through sexuality and if honest the exhibitionism and sharing felt gratuitous . Don't get me wrong as I loved those books and yes I believed in the emotional pull but I wanted something that felt less intense and more focussed on what a relationship truly is. This story felt intrinsically about the couple coming to terms with their feelings in a realistic manner and although trust me there's plenty of heat it's not a story that revolves around their passionate encounters. There is some referencing to previous events that fans who've read the Beyond books might find irritating but it does give background so that's relevant to new readers. Hurrah for this new series though and I'm so looking forward to learning much more about the Riders oh and of course catching up with the O'Kanes!

This voluntary take is of an advance reader copy and my thoughts are my honest opinion

Sh3lly (grumpybookgrrrl.com) says

Wow. I guess I am the unpopular opinion here. What. A. Snoozefest. I had to force myself to get to 12%. It's doing absolutely nothing for me. I hate to DNF a book I got through Netgalley, and I wish I had never requested it. How much of a setup does a person have to go through for a book to start getting decent? I only requested it because of so many advanced rave reviews. It's set in a dystopian world, but that is very much in the background. The male lead is a Super Soldier type and he knew the female from a mission they were part of together before. They've only had one small scene together at 12% and are already pining for each other. I can only imagine how far I'd have to read before they started accepting they still had feelings for each other...

This is obviously not for me. I wanted to give this author another chance because I DNF'd and one-starred Beyond Shame due to (view spoiler). I thought this was going to be different, but even that one had better pacing.

I guess I just don't get it. :/

Thank you to Netgalley and publisher for providing a digital copy to read and review. I'm really sorry I don't have anything better to say about this. My bad. :(

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Java Girl's review:

I have been excitedly and impatiently waiting for Kit Rocha's brand-new series, Gideon's Riders. The first book, Ashwin, was everything I hoped it would be, and more. Ashwin Molhotra, the genetically modified

Makhai soldier, has fascinated me from the start. When we last saw Ashwin, his fixation on Dr. Kora Bellamy had lead to a breakdown of sorts, and he was headed for recalibration, while Kora was hidden away in a safe place by Cruz, as repayment for a favor. Kora has been taken in by the Rios family, and has become a sister to Gideon Rios, the religious and governing leader of Sector One. I was familiar with the Rios family, and the Riders from the Beyond series, with most of the history coming from Adrian Maddox, Gideon's cousin and member of the O'Kane's. I am captivated by Gideon, his Riders, and his people--their belief system, values, customs, history, and lifestyle, and was eager to learn more. In Ashwin, as we get to know the Rios family and their followers, I found it even more compelling than I expected. Gideon seems like the perfect leader-kind, compassionate, and strong. He almost seems too good to be true, and I can't wait for more of him, and to see who the woman is who is strong enough to win his heart. I have my suspicions, but I'll have to wait and see.

Kora has been living with them and providing medical care for the sector, as well as tending to victims of the recent revolution. When Ashwin assists the Riders during an ambush, he is welcomed into Sector One. Kora and Ashwin have had feelings for one another for years, and I was curious about Ashwin's ability to have a normal relationship. I was delighted by his reactions and his thought process, not only with Kora, but with Gideon and the other Riders. Even though he has been a soldier his entire life, being a part of the Riders and the Rios family is very unfamiliar, an entirely new experience for him. He has been trained to believe he can't feel, so his feelings for Kora are a revelation. Kora, on the other hand, is the opposite-she feels very deeply. I found this book to be very sweet and romantic, a bit of a departure from the hedonistic, anything goes attitude about sex and relationships of the O'Kanes. Don't get me wrong, I love that about the O'Kanes--it fits the people of Sector Four perfectly and the Beyond series is one of my all-time favorites, but the differences fit these characters and this Sector. So while the sex isn't as wild and crazy, it's still intense, emotional, and very hot.

Gideon's Riders is off to an amazing start and I can't wait for Deacon's book..

Review copy provided for a voluntary review.
