



Space in His Heart

Roxanne St. Claire

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When PR superstar Jessica Marlowe is tasked with making America fall in love with space exploration, she knows exactly what to do: find some smokin' hot astronaut eye-candy and make him NASA's poster boy. When she meets Commander Deke Stockard, the shiver down her spine tells her she's found her man.

Consumed with the safety of the upcoming shuttle launch, Deke has zero interest in being part of a lame media blitz—but orders can't be ignored. He also can't ignore the way Jessica's sexy smile and single-minded determination throw his life into a tailspin....and ignite an undeniable attraction.

But when the next launch becomes a ticking time bomb that could spell the end for NASA, passion and courage won't be enough to reach the stars. Deke and Jessica will have to work together, and hope they both have space in their hearts...for love

Space in His Heart Details

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From Reader Review Space in His Heart for online ebook

Saly says

This is one rocking and enjoyable story with great characters, smoking hot chemistry and a pace that never lags and instead flows seamlessly, making you not want to stop.

Jessica is a dedicated professional who lives for success and her job at her PR firm because that is what she learnt from her much older, but absent father and her newest job is to make NASA popular, so she comes with a plan make it sexy and her model is Commander Deke.

Deke on the other hand wants no part of it, he'd rather do his job and look into the safety issues that seem to be at play, so well sparks fly between these two from the first, antagonistic one's with Jess trying to train him in the media game and Deke not wanting to play ball.

Deke is a great guy, dedicated to his job, family but not willing to bring someone into his life to live with the uncertainty of what he does.

Jess has too much on her hands, with her job in the line with a competitor threatening her way of life, to trying to handle the attraction she feels for Deke and not give into it. But best laid plans don't always go that way, so we see career minded, Boston-loving Jess fall for Deke and Deke for her.

Honestly, the romance was so great and I loved this book, even the over the top last chapters. It was just cute as hell.

Elizabeth (Liz) says

The Story:

Jessica Marlowe, PR whiz, is brought in to remake NASA's image, to make space exploration matter to the average American again. Her master plan involves singling out one of the only unattached, childless, and extremely handsome astronauts at NASA, and pitching him to America as the 'face' of the agency and space flight in general. At the same time, she is focused on furthering her career, and waging her own battle against internal power struggles at her PR firm. The last thing she truly has any real interest in is NASA, and especially not some arrogant, overbearing astronaut who has no desire to cooperate. Or....does she?

Commander Deke Stockard, astronaut, assisting in the preparation of the shuttle for its upcoming launch, as well as readying to command his own launch, does not have the time or inclination to be the new 'face' of NASA. Upon first meeting, he makes this overwhelming clear to Ms. Jessica Marlowe. However, unable to disobey a direct order, he is forced to participate in the PR campaign to improve the agency's image. Along the way, there are deep concerns about the safety of the next launch, not to mention due consideration must be given to the timing and reason for the launch. Eventually, major changes must be made. This astronaut has no interest in a lasting relationship, particularly with a PR guru bent on making a name for herself. Or....does he?

My Thoughts:

WOW!!! I almost (almost;) don't have the words for how incredible this book is! You could easily believe from the set-up of this story, that this would simply be yet one more typical, formulaic romantic suspense tale. Sure, maybe the astronaut hero is new, but, other than that? The plot sounds more than a little familiar. It *can't* be anything special. Right? WRONG. More than once, I was a little choked-up and emotional while reading this book. I had zero idea on what to expect before I began, and yet it managed to shock me in the best possible way. For as much as I ever knew about the space program (almost nothing), this, to me, for the most part, seems quite detailed and realistic. Really, this story reads almost like a love letter to a now-defunct part of our history. It is passionate, intense, honorable, sweet, sexy, charming, and extremely well written. It seems very personal, and makes me wonder if the author was somehow involved with and/or part of the NASA community.

However you look at it, this book is NOT to be missed! Without a doubt, this is an absolutely AMAZING story, and quite possibly the best I've read this year! 5 HUGE stars!!

FV Angela says

I've been reading Roxanne St. Claire for years, all of her contemporaries and all of her romantic suspense, this is one of my favorites. As someone who has lived near Johnson Space Center my whole life this story struck a cord with me. I loved both Deke and Jessie and their story was both believable and sweet.

Anne OK says

This is a brand new, full-length never-been-published, stand alone romantic suspense by Roxanne St. Claire written with the author's trademark wit, sass and sizzle. It is truly SUPERB! I hated to see it end. It is the type of romance that leaves you smiling ear-to-ear and completely satisfied.

(Full review to follow soon.)

Liza says

I bought this book the day it was released in digital format back in November, but somehow it got lost in my TBR list on my kindle. I saw several people talking about it on twitter and various blogs and knew I had to move it up my list. I'm so glad I did too. I've read almost every book Roxanne St. Claire has published and I'm a huge fan. I love her Bullet Catchers books and her Guardian Angelinos books so much, and she once again delivers with Space in His Heart.

I loved Deke from the very first. He was a bit of a hard-ass to Jessica in the beginning, but he was trying to make sure everything was safe for the upcoming shuttle launch. He also really didn't want to be the "face of NASA" and be pulled away from ensuring a safe launch. The fact that even when he was annoyed with Jessica, he was still attracted to her only made things better.

I also really liked Jessica. She was at NASA to save her career. The fact that someone in her office is trying to sabotage her job, only makes her work harder to be successful. She is attracted to Deke from the moment she sees his photo, and even when he is being ugly to her, she can't totally fight that attraction. Deke and Jessica grow closer with each passing day and soon neither can fight their attraction for the other. Deke and

Jessica have some of the best chemistry ever. I loved them together whether they were getting along or arguing.

The revelation of who was trying to sabotage Jessica kind of surprised me. I thought it was someone else for much of the book. The person behind the mistakes at NASA was no surprise, but how everyone learned what was happening floored me.

I loved Space in His Heart and only wished I hadn't waited so long to read it. It can be purchased from your favorite online bookstore. I bought mine for my kindle, and didn't realize there were print copies too. Might just have to add the print copy to my Rocki keeper shelf at home.

Kelly Moran says

Roxanne St. Claire is a NY Times bestselling author of more than twenty-five novels of suspense and romance. In addition to being a four-time RITA nominee, her books have won the National Reader's Choice Award for best romantic suspense for two consecutive years, as well as the Daphne du Maurier Award, the HOLT Medallion, the Maggie, Booksellers Best, Book Buyers Best, several Awards of Excellence, the Aspen Gold and multiple Gayle Wilson Awards of Excellence. Other titles include: Hunt Her Down, Make Her Pay, First You Run, Then You Hide, Now You Die, and Hit Reply.

BLURB:

When PR superstar Jessica Marlowe is tasked with making America fall in love with space exploration, she knows exactly what to do: find some smokin' hot astronaut eye-candy and make him NASA's poster boy. When she meets Navy fighter pilot turned astronaut Commander Deke Stockard, the shiver down her spine tells her she's found her man. Consumed with the safety of the upcoming shuttle launch, Deke has zero interest in being part of a lame media blitz--but orders can't be ignored. He also can't ignore the way Jessica's sexy smile and single-minded determination throw his well-ordered life into a tailspin....and ignite an undeniable attraction. But when the next launch becomes a ticking time bomb that could spell the end for NASA, passion and courage won't be enough to reach the stars. Deke and Jessica will have to work together, and hope they both have space in their hearts...for love.

I've said it before, and I'll say it again, Roxanne St. Claire never disappoints. Never. The chemistry she creates between her hero and heroine is one for the record books. That alone is enough to keep readers locked on. Add in the space program, and you've got yourself a winner. I can't imagine how much research this took, but the amount of info the reader learns about NASA is amazing. There's an issue with the shuttle launch, and Deke is responsible for bringing the astronauts home safe. Jessica is in charge of a new publicity campaign for NASA and needs a face for her project. These two go at it, then form a friendship, then something more. Though this ventures away from the style of her latest releases, Roxanne's humor and fast plot hold steady. Highly recommended!

Christi Snow says

My Review:

Let me just preface this review by saying, that there is NO WAY that I can eloquently express how truly wonderful this book is. OMG, I loved this book!! The whole story line in this book is based around the fact

that America has lost interest in NASA and Jessica, the heroine, has been hired as the new PR person to take care of that. Well, like the story line, I wasn't too interested in the NASA aspect of this story. But I knew that I loved Roxanne's writing so I knew that I wanted to read this regardless. I was so wrong. The NASA aspect to this story is sexy and exciting and intriguing and truly made for an amazing suspenseful story. Roxanne St. Claire, you ROCKED the writing in this book!

The book starts off with in July, 2011 with the final space shuttle lift off and a truly startling prologue, that immediately made me want to start flipping to the back of the book (this is where e-books are a lifesaver because they make it so much harder to do that.) But the book takes place in 1999 (twelve years before) when Deke (astronaut commander and engineer) and Jessica (PR consultant for NASA) meet. Jessica has been hired to re-energize NASA's image. She decides that the best way to do this is to make NASA sexy through gorgeous, sexy, single Commander Deke Stockard. Deke has other issues on his mind, specifically a space shuttle riddled with safety issues and inspections that seem to be going wrong or getting lost with only a couple of months until launch. He does NOT want to have anything to do with Jessica's PR schemes....he doesn't have the time or patience for them and treats her accordingly.

I ADORED the slow build-up of the relationship between Deke and Jessica. It was so natural and so real the way that Roxanne wrote it. At first, they truly don't like each other. Jessica is a thorn and a roadblock that Deke doesn't need. He does everything he can to thwart her requests and to be as obstinate and difficult as possible, but slowly their attitudes towards each other change. I loved watching them VERY slowly become friends and then more. That whole aspect of the story was written so incredibly well.

But so much about this story was really done well. Immediately from the prologue, the suspense is amazing and addicting. I NEVER put this book down once I started reading it. There is a lot going on that makes it suspenseful...those first glimpses of Jessica in present day that are so shocking, the implied subterfuge/sabotage at NASA, the vulnerability of Jessica's position in her PR firm as she gets more and more separated from her Boston office, the simple danger of the NASA mission and Deke's job, and finally the amazing romance between these two highly-charged highly-motivated characters.

This is easily one of the best books that I have read this year and will definitely be making my top reads of the year. I HIGHLY recommend that you pick this one up...if you love contemporary or romantic suspense, I truly think that you are going to enjoy reading this book. Trust me on this. ;o)

Tonya Loose Dawson says

Anytime I cannot put a book down to do the things I NEED to do, its five stars for me. That was the case when I started Space in His Heart.

This book has so much anticipation revolving around the characters relationship & how no matter how hard you try, you cannot control your feelings or destiny.

The setting takes place at Cape Canaveral (NASA). This book makes you think about the importance of the work the people at NASA do and how it affects our daily lives. Throw in a Public Relations nightmare, back stabbing co-workers & how the experiences of our childhood color our adult relationships and you have one of the best books I've read in a long time!

Claudia says

Roxanne St Claire has always been a favorite author and Space in his Heart does not disappoint. This book had me from the prologue which hooked me and left a sense of foreboding. I was already invested in the heroine by chapter one. The hero was strong and the sexual tension almost instantaneous. Don't miss this or any of Roxanne's other awesome books!!

Maureen Miller says

Ms. St. Claire's knowledge of the space program is so extensive I had to check the NASA roster to make sure she wasn't an employee. I always felt that movies like the Bourne series excel because they are filmed on location. SPACE IN HIS HEART was 'filmed' on location, with authentic references that gave the book complete legitimacy. The romance *sigh*, the romance was one that will make me sigh for the next week at least. I am humbled by Ms. St. Claire's writing skills. Bravo on a fantastic romantic suspense novel.

ElaineY says

I loved this book. I mean, I *seriously* loved it. I still think Julie James top my current list of contemporary romance authors but if Roxanne continues publishing books like SiHH, she's going to give Julie a run for her money.

I won't go into the synopsis of the story since the other reviewers have already done that. This review is about my reaction to this astronaut-romance. This is the first I've read and don't recall any other romance writer having an astronaut as a hero. I'd asked Roxanne if Deke was inspired by Bill Oeferlein, the NASA astronaut at the center of the love triangle. That had come to mind because Oeferlein is the only NASA astronaut I've read about in the news and realized that both Oeferlein and Deke were from the Navy and both flew fighter jets during the Gulf War. I thought the author was giving us a more positive side, albeit a fictional one, to NASA.

But no, Rocki says Deke is no way connected to Oeferlein but was, instead, inspired by Harmon Rabb, from JAG. I had such a crush on Rabb and wish I had known that when I started reading! So if you haven't read Space yet, and was a Harmon Rabb fan...

Space is one of the few romances that got me teary-eyed, not because it's sad but because the images St Claire evoked were so powerful. That this is a straightforward contemporary romance with no paranormal elements, no serial killers or secret agencies speaks for her talent. I felt for Jessica right from the start though I delighted in Deke's reaction to all that he was required to do as the poster-boy for NASA.

There is some tension and it comes in the form of what appears to be sabotage but Deke isn't sure and his entire concentration is on getting the shuttle up and bringing a seriously ill Russian cosmonaut back to earth. This tension rams up towards the end and the climax, as I hugged myself mentally, is one I don't often get in a book not of the Romantic Suspense genre. It was suspenseful, it was so touching and I teared-up. I loved the way Deke's and Jessica's romance built up - taking its time and keeping me in a state of constant expectation and longing. I loved that I knew how Deke felt, too, as almost all the books these days give me mostly one MC's POV only. This couple belonged together from their first face-off and the ending was just lovely.

Wonderfully-written. Whenever I start reading a book written by one of these established MF authors, the difference between them and the new MF and MM writers is so stark. I'm reading an MM now and the change in quality is quite jarring.

If you enjoy plain, simple contemporary romances without frills and contrivances, maybe even a little old-fashioned in its feel-good aura, you should not miss Roxanne St Claire's latest. I believe it's self-published since I bought mine from Smashwords.

Judi says

5 big out of this world amazeball stars!

I've been a big fan of Roxanne St. Claire for years. Whether I'm reading about Bullet Catchers or Guardian Angelinos she's an auto-buy author for me and now she has a brand new contemporary with a side of suspense, a wonderful, amazing story called Space In His Heart featuring a "Top Gun" Astronaut in Deke Stockard.

I was hooked from the prologue.

From the moment Deke spots the PR whiz from *Bahston* Jessica Marlowe that NASA has hired to give the space program a higher public profile - he is checking her out. He may be a workaholic and totally focused on his latest mission - but he's not dead and Jessica Marlowe just brought him to full attention.

Holy hell, after staring at frayed wires and the inside of a shuttle exhaust all day, this girl was a vacation for the eyes. And he took it.

Maybe he'd stay at the presentation longer than five minutes and listen to her pitch. That was until he saw his mug on the big screen and her words about NASA getting some sex appeal and that sex sells. Hell no!

Ooooohhh their relationship definitely got off to a rocky start and it was so fun to read. These two may have started out on opposing sides and Deke did his best to be as uncooperative as possible, gave Jessica as much grief as he could, but he couldn't deny that he was a natural when it came to the interviews and TV appearances and photo shoots - the camera loved him (and you will too). Their banter, initial dislike for one another and their enforced, close working relationship was sooooooo good to watch develop...there were enough sparks between them to launch that space shuttle Endeavour all by themselves.

Jessica is a pure professional. Her job means everything to her and really it's her whole life. Spending three months in Florida working on this "make NASA sexy" campaign was threatening her position thanks to a spiteful and vengeful co-worker back in Boston, but Jessica handled it all with amazing aplomb and dignity...I would have punched that bitch Carla in the mouth. Jessica knows that no matter how attracted she is to Deke and seriously how could she not be since he is so scrumpdillyicious, she can't act on her feelings because he's a "client" and fraternization is frowned upon. With her job hanging in the balance, she just can't make any wrong moves...even if she wants to make all the right moves with Deke. Their relationship progressed naturally, slowly and simmered at a slow burn until they both couldn't resist the attraction any longer. The misunderstanding about Jessica's friend Jo was priceless. It's J-O Deke...not J-O-E.

I stayed up way to late reading this book and then when I woke up, immediately had to finish it (good think it wasn't a work day).

The ending was action packed, a risky flight, a life and death rescue at the International Space Station and

even Jessica's own life was in grave danger. St. Claire managed to inject enough suspense into the plot that I just couldn't and didn't want to put it down.

Once I was finished, I went back and re-read the prologue and frankly - it was brilliant and quite sneaky on Ms. St. Claire's part. It was a great hook made even better on a second read considering how Space In His Heart ended.

Leave lots of space in your day if you plan on reading this one because you aren't going to want to put it down once you start.

Dee says

I loved this book right from the start all the way through to the finish.

The author has a talent for capturing her reader and not letting them go and by the end of the Epilogue I was caught hook, line and sinker and didn't want put this book down until I got to the end and got some answers!.

I am not going to spoil it and give the reason why or give any hints as I think it would spoil it if you but will say that it is a good read.

Jess says

Review posted: Happily Ever After - Reads

As I was reading this book, I was trying to remember if I've ever read a book centered around space and astronauts. Pretty sure I haven't. I was also trying to remember the last time I read a book with a prologue that started out 12 years in the future. Can't say I remember that happening either, at least not recently. The start of the story is so strong, and starting us out in the current year, 2011 for the prologue, but going back 12 years to tell the main story ended up with me furiously clicking through the pages on my Kindle to figure out HOW in the world the prologue came to be. It was a fabulous and pretty creative start to a book that I couldn't put down.

Commander Deke Stockard is busy inspecting a shuttle that's heading up for the next mission, before he prepares for his own mission after that. With recent budget cuts and safety issues with past shuttles, he's working endless hours going through every square inch of the shuttle to make sure everything's checked out and as safe as it can be for the trip up to the International Space Station (ISS). The mission is time sensitive since a Russian cosmonaut, currently on the ISS, is badly ill and dealing with a blood clot that will turn deadly when his medication runs out right around the time the shuttle is scheduled to head up to get him. The last thing Deke needs is any distractions as he commits all his free time to making sure the shuttle is mission ready.

NASA has taken some hits in the press lately, and with budget cuts come questions about safety and inspection processes that may not be as thorough as they could and should be. Enter public relations wiz, Jessica Marlowe, whose pitch that NASA needs to become more "sexy" wins her a spot down in Florida at

the Kennedy Space Center as she attempts to bring positive press to NASA and the space program, and it all rests on Deke's gorgeous shoulders. She needs a cover model and with Deke's good looks, his single status and his astronaut profession, she can't go wrong with getting his picture in every magazine, lining up interviews and making Deke the face of NASA. Deke...doesn't agree.

They spend much of the first part of the book butting heads repeatedly. He wants and needs to concentrate on inspecting the shuttle. She wants and needs him to do a guest appearance on Leno. While he never fully jumps onboard the media blitz Jessica is managing, he comes around somewhat and ends up coming across as a genuine spokesman, and gives NASA a shot of positive press that they badly need.

Jessica and Deke don't get off to the best start. Their careers are both important to them, but they keep clashing, be it over interviews or photo opportunities or traveling, which Deke doesn't want to do with the shuttle launch getting closer. When word leaks out to the media about internal concerns at NASA over the safety of the next launch and the danger the Russian is in at the ISS, Jessica starts to wonder who exactly is leaking this information, and if it's coming from a rival at her PR firm who wants Jessica's position, or even worse, if it's coming from inside NASA.

There is so much to love about these two characters. Deke is dedicated to his job, he loves his family, but he's always been hesitant to be in any relationship because his job is so dangerous. He can't think of anything worse than to leave a loved one behind if he were to not make it back from a mission and he's stayed single, focusing solely on his job. Jessica is a workaholic who thinks that success will make her happy. The longer she spends around Deke and his parents, who they visit during a publicity trip to New York, makes her see the real man behind the "image" and she finds herself actually starting to enjoy living in Florida and thoughts of going back to her job in Boston don't hold that much appeal the more she's around Deke. They have such a sweet romance and one of the many things that I absolutely loved was their slow building romance. They don't spend one week together and start declaring their love for each other. They work together for many weeks and the time passage is very realistic and it made me even that much more invested in their relationship. The attraction and sparks are there from their first meeting, and when they finally give in and be together, it's sweet and hot and perfect to read.

...Deke guided her up to the pillows, and they climbed under the sheet, wrapping their bodies together and drifting in and out of sleep. He quietly got up to extinguish the candles throughout the house and close the sliding doors. Then he slipped back in her bed, loving the length of her taut, bare legs as they curled around his. Her hair fell on his shoulder, tickling him, as he tucked her comfortable under his arm.

"All right," she sighed. "You are good at everything."

The action at the end of the story is fast paced as a lot gets packed into the final few chapters. Deke's mission is changed and he's now the one leading the shuttle up to get the sick cosmonaut and questions still remain about the safety of the shuttle he'll be flying. Jessica's job and future at her PR firm comes to a head as well as she makes life changing decisions based on her love for Deke. Both Jessica and Deke face obstacles on their own at the end, surrounding their jobs and issues that they've been dealing with for the whole story. The ending is emotional and the perfect way to end a fantastic story for Deke and Jessica.

The way the scenes are written that center around the shuttle taking off, having problems mid-mission and all the questions surrounding exactly how they're going to get back home are so detailed I felt like I was sitting there watching the shuttle as the countdown started and hearing the crowd and noise during takeoff. This is a must read book, and I will be rereading it again, much more slowly, a second time around. It's a wonderful romance, and while the action doesn't really come into play until the end of the story, the buildup for the upcoming launch and the suspense just around the mission itself and Jessica's job is enough to balance out

the book, and adds to the overall emotion between Deke and Jessica.

Yvonne says

I really had a great time reading this book. I've always been a big fan of Roxanne St. Claire and this book did not disappoint. What's not to love when the hero is a hunky Alpha-Pilot-Astronaut-Engineer....seriously that's pretty darn impressive! Lots of behind the scenes action at NASA and a nice steamy buildup to the romance. Fantastic book!
