



Rogue

Anna Hackett

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Abducted by alien slavers and taken to a lawless desert world, the last thing she expects is to be claimed by a handsome alien rogue. Rogue contains two action-packed novellas in the Galactic Gladiators series.

Information Rogue: arrogant information merchant Zhim doesn't know what hits him when he collides with feisty human hacker Ryan.

Rescued by the humans and gladiators from the House of Galen, Ryan Nagano is working hard to piece her life back together. Her priorities are conquering her anxiety, recovering from her captivity, and using her exceptional computer skills to help the House of Galen decrypt alien data that could reveal the location of other abducted humans. That's all she's focused on. But when she needs help, she finds herself having to work with arrogant genius Zhim...and discovers that the two of them redefine the word explosive.

Zhim thrives on the need to uncover information and ensure his wealthy, carefully constructed life is exactly as he wants it. Then one infuriating menace of a woman blasts into his life. Ryan matches him skill for skill, drives him crazy, and worms her way under his skin. But forced to take her deep into Kor Magma's shadowy hacker underworld, Zhim soon learns exactly what he's willing to risk to keep Ryan safe.

Desert Rogue: prickly, independent human Neve doesn't want or need any help...but a certain cocky desert rogue isn't taking no for an answer.

Neve Haynes survived her abduction through grit and determination. She's always made her own way through life, depends on no one, and is determined to achieve her own personal mission. So as she sneaks out of the House of Galen, the last thing she needs is help in the form of a tawny-haired, lean-hipped caravan master with more confidence and swagger than any man she's met before.

Corsair is a man of the desert and leader of the Corsair Caravan. He listens to his gut and something about Neve draws him in. He can't let her go off and get herself killed, but she's the most skittish, strongest woman he's ever met. As they trek deep into the desert on a dangerous mission to find a map to an infamous desert arena, they will fight side by side and be forced to depend only on each other to survive. And in Carthago's desert sands, they will uncover a desire that burns hotter than the desert sun

Rogue Details

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From Reader Review Rogue for online ebook

Victoria says

4.5 Stars! Two novellas!
Information Rogue, 4.5 stars
Desert Rogue, 4 Stars

Kelly says

I'm LOVING where this series has gone and how these characters (ALL of them) have had to fight to save the things that matter to them. Loooooove!

Information Rogue - Zhim! I like that guy. He thrives on being juuuust on this side of irritating, but he's got a heart of gold under all that arrogance. And Ryan DOES IT for him. I mean, she can keep up with his intellect and she can crack his security and he's down with that.

Plus, she's pretty fearless when she's put on the spot. Given the type of people Zhim sometimes has to deal with, this is important. I mean, when a person agrees to go into the lair of a notorious, shadowy being, they need to have someone like Ryan at their back.

Desert Rogue - Neve and Corsair! She's got a reason for pushing as hard as she does and she's completely unwilling to back down. Because family is everything and Neve's not going to sit idly by while her sister is still out there.

Which puts Corsair in a bit of a bind. Because as wily and smart as Neve is, she doesn't know the desert like he does. So he steps in to make sure she makes it where she needs to get to. And if they happen to act on that chemistry while they're out in the dangerous desert, so it goes.

But seriously, Corsair and Neve work together. And their journey nets them another of the stolen human slaves, so not only did they end up in a serious relationship, they also saved one of the good guys. *thumbs up*

-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

Tiblu says

I loved Zhim and Ryan ??

I loved Zhim and Ryan together ,the chemistry wasn't perfect or as electric ??as maybe I'd have liked but there was no denying these two were made for each other

Even though we'd seen both scattered in several in several stories, Zhim of course more than Ryan , personally I only really felt like I got to know Ryan, watching Ryan's tenacity is fighting her captors for others and then herself I felt like I got to know her....

While Zhim's true character had mostly stayed hidden til now,soo while these two came together soo easily I

see why the writer might not feel the needed a longer story, I really wish they had been given one
No, not as long as say Harper or Rory or Mia or Blaine or Dayna ,Yeah I haven't enjoyed all the h's , I would have liked to have finally gotten to really know the Zhim behind his mask and the Zhim no one else has ever seen and probably never will except Ryan and any children they have ...

Which personally I think the first one should be a little girl, with her mother's Japanese features but her fathers eyes...

Zhim and his girls, just sounds right ;) Maybe a a girl who has their brains but maybe a bit of a warriors soul,if for not other reason of all the gladiators kids that will most likely be her best friends ;) a little girl overflowing with brawn and lots of brains ;)

Ryan was also in my short list of females/heroines that a) didn't get in my last nerve and stay there (like say Neve) and b) didn't just mindlessly run into danger,she actually had a good reason to be there other than just wanting to be...

Yeah, the secret must now be released,the four stars ? are PURELY for Zhim and Ryan,I . Could. Not . Stand. Neve!

While physically strong and definitely a huge bad A when it comes to fighting etc., in my opinion no matter how battle savvy you might be,no matter physically strong you are, and no matter how good a fighter you are if you think you should be an island and only lean in your own strength and understanding ?

You. Are. Weak...

We ALL need someone to watch our backs, we all need help from time to time and hard,unyielding stubborn women like her wok my last nerve

If it weren't for Ryan and Zhim and co. Not only would she have gotten killed she'd NEVER have found her sister on her own...

Ever suffered while Neve ran around butting with her own head...

Soo read it if your following the series and definitely read it for Ryan and Zhim....

Neve ? Just depends on your taste ...

Thank Ms. Hackett I love this series ...

And if you ever redo anything please please give more to Ryan and Zhim and let us know ...

Paraphrodite says

4 stars.

2 for the price of one! We have the stories of Zhim the info merchant and Corsair the caravan leader. They are not gladiators but they still pack quite a punch.

Dísir says

Anna Hackett's 'Rogue' is in fact, a collection of 2 stories (and 2 pairings) fitted into the typical length of her book, which is kind of a surprise considering how her Galactic Gladiators series has hit its stride. Still, 'Rogue' is as always, an adventure-filled book that follows a certain pattern that Hackett subscribes to: a pairing that is cemented through the undertaking of a massive quest—typically a search for something or someone—in which sparks fly, and love eventually comes along.

I'm a little uncertain about the short length of this novella duo—most of my other reviews of Hackett's books often gripe about length and/or development of plot or relationships—though it's easy to say as always, that there's a lot packed into the 70-odd pages allotted to each couple here. For something already so

short, Hackett's couples do run the risk of instalove and I did get the feeling that things got hot and heavy way too quickly (along with the revelation that they're falling in love with each other, which leaves me feeling sceptical) despite the slight buildup in the previous books.

'Rogue', for its 2 novellas, magnifies this problem of believability (I'm just speaking pairing-wise), but it isn't to say that the ride isn't a fun one. It's wild, crazy and showcases the author's sheer imaginative power that always brings to mind the great adventure movies with the backdrop of an epic syfy series. And obviously, I'm left still wanting more.

*ARC by the author

Yvonne says

Ok, two short novellas so there is little if any character development.

Marta Cox says

I've very much enjoyed this series with its big tough alien gladiators discovering just how tenacious humans can be but this book is a delightful step away. First of all it's not exactly about the warriors who fight for and defend the House of Galen and secondly it brings into the foreground a couple of characters who we've previously met . Yes here we are treated to two short stories that really help to expand this world that the author has created.

The first story has two tech geniuses pitting their wits against each other and the word banter comes springing into my mind in glorious technicolor! Zhim is the one to go to when you need information and always has his hand on the pulse or mouse! So imagine his bafflement when challenged by the human hacker Ryan. Ryan is determined to help find the remaining missing humans but this alien technology is not exactly cooperating. Maybe two heads are better than one ?

The second story was right up my street with the ever so slightly shady Corsair. I'd been undecided on him but he steps up here and really steals the show! This pirate of the desert is paired with the somewhat elusive Neve who seems to excel at constantly confounding everyone! Still she has very good reasons and is set on going into the desert but she is going to need a guide and who better than the swaggering Corsair .

This book had all the elements that I love about this series with action, danger, fun and romance. I honestly wasn't sure what to expect but in terms of the overall story arc there is progression and indeed even enticing elements added as it's revealed that there are more survivors to save. Best of all is we still get to see glimpses of our favourite gladiators and now it seems that there's a huge clue as to just who Galen himself might end up with but my lips are sealed so you really need to read this book !

This is a voluntary take of an advance copy and my thoughts and comments are honest and I believe fair

Mary Clark says

In this book we are gifted with two very exceptional stories that are totally different in content. They are both very well-written and contain all the right twists and turns to keep the reader interested. I thoroughly enjoyed both of these stories and would have no hesitation in recommending the book.

Information Rogue:

It is time for Ryan to embrace her new life, so the lists she makes highlight her most secret wishes and fantasizes. Ryan loves the District, the glitz, the glamor and the action, but the only time she feels good is when she is on her comp. Ryan and Zhim have been trying to encrypt stolen data from the Srinar, but it is proving a challenge. Neve and Dayna were out there somewhere and Ryan will not stop until they are found. There is a rapport between Ryan and Zhim and a mutual respect for each other's computer skills, but Zhim has so many secrets and Ryan wants to learn them all. Ryan views Zhim as an insanely intelligent and arrogant information merchant, while Zhim has learned from a young age that love and caring were risky emotions. While extremely rich now, Zhim came from poverty; he survived his own hell and for years has only focused on himself. With Ryan, Zhim wants more; he doesn't feel that ever present drive to know and have. When Zhim discovers that the Srinar data has a liquescent lock, there is only one option open; he has to take it to a hacking den, a place he has been to before, a dangerous, unpredictable place, but Ryan will not let him go alone. At last the data is decoded and on it there is information about Neve; she has been captured by a shapeshifter, Gabriez, a black-market dealer, whose home is an underground labyrinth. People that go in, never come out, but every base has a weakness. A rescue mission is planned, but Gabriez is playing games, making everyone confront their deepest, darkest fears and secrets. Will Ryan and Zhim's hacking skills be sufficient to bring about Gabriez's own downfall.

Desert Rogue:

Neve is used to sneaking around; it started during her childhood, but her years as a corporate spy helped her to hone her stealth skills. For so long it had just been her and her sister, Ever; but Ever is lost somewhere on Carthago, a place neither of them ever expected to be. No matter how many times Neve leaves the House of Galen to gather information, no one knows anything useful about Zaabha. Corsair is annoying, tempting and a distraction and she didn't need him getting in her way. Corsair knows Neve is trouble; he had learned to predict trouble at a very young age and yet he is still drawn to her; she is all strength and agility that he finds insanely attractive. Corsair has a lead; the desert witch at Solitude Oasis has a map to Zaabha. Neve is not content to wait for Galen to gather data, but Corsair cannot understand why Neve is so distrusting. Running his Caravan was Corsair's passion and everyone obeyed his orders, always, but Neve does everything to challenge him. Corsair knows the desert better than anyone else; but will Neve ever ask him for help? Neve liked the desert; it is quiet, wild and open, but Corsair upsets her equilibrium and her only goal is to find her sister. Corsair is far more complicated than his desert adventurer persona and something about him throws her off balance; he saw through her, like no one ever had before. The two set off toward Solitude Oasis accompanied by Rogue, a desert shrike. Their journey is thwart with danger, with the desert witch laying traps along the way. Corsair wants to make Neve happy and for that he has to find her sister; Neve wonders how Corsair could know her so well in such a short time and what would it be like to call the Caravan home. Neve and Corsair are heading to a safe house close to Solitude Oasis, but before they reach it they are attacked by Desert Raiders. Corsair is hurt, but Neve will not abandon him; she is strong and stubborn and practically kills herself rescuing him, unaware of his healing haze. The desert witch agrees to hand over the map on condition the two pass her trial, but really she is more interested in adding them to her collection. When Corsair is pinned to a stone wall, he realises he has underestimated the desert witch, a being that feeds off the energy of other living creatures. Dayna is supposed to be at Zaabha, but here she is in the desert witch's cave dying. Neve is given the map, but in exchange she has to walk away, leaving Corsair behind; this she does without a single hesitation or look at Corsair. Now Neve needs a plan to rescue him and Dayna, knowing it will probably be a suicide mission. Neve cannot do this alone, but the one time she is ready to ask for help there is no one around. Rogue is circling overhead and Neve has to trust that the desert shrike can bring her help. As Neve tackles the desert witch, she realises she is risking everything to save Corsair and Dayna.

A copy of this book was provided to me with no requirements for a review. I voluntarily read this book and my comments here are my honest opinion.

makes it work quite well, usually introducing us to another aspect of Carthago that's interesting enough to keep me interested. If you liked previous books in the series, these two are particularly good.

Information Rogue gives us two technical people who fall in love with each other's brains as much as their bodies or souls. Zhim and Ryan keep each other on their toes and show you don't have to be able to physically kick ass to do dangerous or heroic work. Speaking of work, the villain of this piece is really a piece of work! I liked her a lot.

Desert Rogue, on the other hand, features a lady fighter and a caravan captain. She's not very good at accepting help, but he's certain she's worth the effort. I got to learn more about the deserts of Kor Magna and their varied inhabitants. The novella leaves some open ends to the series, creating fascinating possibilities for the next story.

I received a copy for review.

Ira says

3.5 stars.

Two fun stories in this book, it just too short for my taste. ?

But I really like Ryan and Zhim's story. Earth nerd girl and Alien info boy!? ♡?

Nikki Brooks says

Our favourite Inter-Stellar Gladiators take a back seat to the action in these 2 little gems!

House of Galen is more than just the Warriors who fight in the arena. There are the background staff and her allies that are just as important. In the first we get to see our favourite Information Master come out of the shadows long enough to get a HEA.

Zhim doesn't believe in hiding his tech genius under a bushel but his past is a different matter. You'd need a decade or two probably to unlock that but Ryan is no ordinary hacker and she can give Zhim a run for his money. She truly loves to annoy the man and beat him at his own game.

Ryan wants to get her other friends back safely but she doesn't want to wait..or share with Zhim. But when she finally has to admit that she needs Zhim and his murky tech contacts, the action increases. A very Medusa like creature is holding her friend and it's all hands on deck to get her back!

In the 2nd story we get Corsair's story! He may be a pirate of the desert but that doesn't mean he is a bad guy. He is very close to his friends and his caravan of travellers are his family. He is definitely hiding a whole lot of sweet under that crusty exterior!

Neve is like a Ninja! If she wants out of a place she'll get out! She is another human female who can't seem to sit still whilst her friends are in danger. But she has added danger, her sister is out there somewhere!

What a great way for some of the essential but less well known characters to get a HEA. Zhim is kind of Neo from Matrix in my opinion and Corsair has a very Han like appeal!!!

Lots of new twists and turns and new characters to get interested in. There is a hint at Galen's HEA but that is super-secret and could be a total red herring! Loving this series so much!

AvidReader says

Can I give 5++?!

I am definitely in love with Anna Hackett's Galactic Gladiator series. It contains all the ingredients and more which I love in a good book. The adventure, danger component, fun, romance and steamy scenes. The main characters and secondary characters are equally good. If I love a writer's book I tend to read all her books.

So, soon I'm going to spread my wings with this writer.(fingers ?)

Hatsoff to her imagination and the way she weaves a story. The alien world she created, it's Very fascinating .And the villains and new comers are sooo good.

Can't wait for more books from this series! Especially our super emperor Galen's!

Recommended.

Mei says

All the stories in these books are similar, but I enjoy them all the same! :)

Marlene says

Originally published at Reading Reality

Unlike the rest of the Galactic Gladiators series, Rogue consists of two novelettes instead of a single novella. The stories center around a bit of a theme, in that both of the heroes are rogues – as much anti-hero as they are hero, and more in the mold of a rogue-type character in a video game than the gladiators themselves, who are straight-up tanks. Not just tanks, but definitely tanks, big and strong and hard fighters who can take a lot of punishment – even the female gladiators.

But worlds don't consist entirely of straightforward fighters, not even worlds whose economy is based on old-style gladiatorial contests. Fortunately for the gladiators, these interstellar blood and sand games have lots of very high-tech healing operating in the background.

But the heroes of Rogue are cut from another cloth entirely. The first story features the information merchant and data-hacker Zhim, our second hero is Corsair, leader of the desert caravan that assisted in the rescue of the women re-captured from House Galen by the Srinar.

Zhim, the hero of Information Rogue, has been part of the series almost from its beginning. As Galen discovered that there were more victims from Earth than he first believed, he reached out to Zhim to help him discover who they were, where they were hidden and how best to rescue them. As the series has progressed, Zhim's services have been in increasing demand, hunting not just for any remaining Earth captives but also for any other people or creatures who have been enslaved and need rescue.

He's also figured out a way – a very expensive way – for the Earth refugees to “call home” – because they are stuck on the far side of a collapsed wormhole and can't go home again. He's been a lifeline in so many ways, and now it's his turn to find the woman he belongs to, and very much vice versa.

While many of the stories in this series have featured opposites attract romances, Zhim and Ryan have much more in common than they have differences. Both are their own galaxy's variety of nerds, hackers and info-junkies who lust after the latest hardware almost as much as they discover they lust after each other.

But it takes a lot for two people who both have serious trust issues to give anyone else the cipher key to their hearts.

In Desert Rogue it is Corsair's turn to find his HEA. Corsair first appeared out of the desert sands at least as early as Champion, if not before. It is his caravan that Galen trusts to help rescue the women who were kidnapped a second time while under his protection. And Corsair keeps coming back to help as the gladiators find themselves returning to the desert over and over to rescue more slaves and break up more underground fight rings.

Neve Haynes is a fascinating choice for Corsair. She's a very different character from many in the series, because she has a hidden agenda, hiding under yet another hidden agenda, and its hidden agendas pretty much all the way down. She was on the Jupiter Station as a corporate spy, and she's used to hiding herself in plain sight and operating completely alone.

Now that she's stuck on Kor Magna, her agenda has shifted. She needs to rescue her sister, who is still in the hands of the slavers. But as much experience as Neve has in operations under all types of deadly conditions, there are no deserts in space. Or in the corporate headquarters she used to prowl. She may want to rescue Ever all on her own, but she needs Corsair's help to navigate the deadly landscape that is second nature to him.

It takes her a long time to realize that she just needs Corsair, and it takes him every bit as long to convince her of what has become, for him, an unalterable fact.

Escape Rating B: I enjoyed both of these stories, but I wish that they had both been a bit longer. Not that I don't always wish that Anna Hackett's stories were a bit longer, but that seemed particularly true in this case.

If these were not part of an already well-established series, there wouldn't be nearly enough setup to make the stories work. As it is, the romances still felt a bit rushed, especially in Desert Rogue. While Zhim and Corsair have both been around for awhile, and Ryan and Zhim have been teasing each other over their version of the interwebs for a bit, Neve was barely introduced in the previous books, and her backstory is so different from everyone else's that I really wanted to know more of what made her tick and especially about her relationship with her sister, particularly as Ever is set up to be the heroine of one of the future stories in this series.

But I'm always happy to receive a treat from Anna Hackett, and Rogue was no exception. It made for a great Thanksgiving read!