



In Discretion

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Thanson Nez thought his career as a Discretionary would take him to the stars, not strand him on a space station at the ass-end of the Empire. Thanks to his last client, he's carrying a secret he can't get rid of fast enough, but his oath to the guild means a swift, painful death if he shares it. Already desperate for help, he runs into yet more trouble: his ex, and an explosion that paralyzes the station moments after their uncomfortable reunion.

Kazra Ferdow, Station 43's communications officer, is almost as blindsided by the return of his first love as he is by the sudden loss of power and life support. The station is a floating graveyard in the making, and something is turning its inhabitants into savage killers. Fighting human monsters and damaged tech, Kazra and Thanson must put aside their past long enough to try to save everyone.

The more light they shine into dark corners, the more Thanson realizes how many people might die for the secrets locked in his head—and what he's willing to sacrifice to make sure Kazra isn't one of them.

In Discretion Details

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From Reader Review In Discretion for online ebook

Gayathri Kamath says

Quick fun second chance

Space opera love story with great world buildings. Enjoyed the characters, plots, dangers and other obstacles to true love. Or at least adults in love

Sophia says

I love Sci-Fi Romance particularly when its paired with 'race against death' and 'hidden agenda' stuff to really make things interesting. This novella offers so much for all its shorter length. This is the third book in a series, but it can easily be read as a standalone.

Two men who haven't seen each other for years are suddenly brought together in the least likely place- a rundown space station at the outer edge of the universe.

Thanson Nez is a discretionary- a high paid prostitute who gathers secrets, keeps secrets, and sends them on to his House authorities when need be. He terminates his latest contract and seeks to make communication with his people over the secret he has learned- a deadly secret that someone will kill to keep him from revealing.

In a shocking turn of fate, the communications officer is Kazra Ferdow, the man Thans left behind on their backwater home world. Kazra isn't too thrilled about seeing him, but he covers for him when someone suspicious comes looking for him and helps him get through to his people. The communication- and well everything else- is lost when an explosion rocks the space station.

Life support will probably not last long enough before the next ship is due. Their only hope is restoring communication so they can send out distress calls to anyone close. Things go from critical to worse when something has caused the majority of the people left alive to turn into crazed and mindless killers. As the two men seek to make their way to the core to restore communication, they must now dodge the infected people. And do they have a shadow too? While they work for survival, it is the added pressure needed for them to air out their differences and maybe share their secrets. But will it be too late to matter?

I was into this one from the beginning. The danger is right there and pushing even before I got the worldbuilding sorted out. I loved the pace on this one. It kept the story moving even as the backdrop, characters, and relationships were revealed and developed. The tension element both in the action and passion was just right. The secrets dropped away slowly until what was a mystery became revealed and there were even a couple of surprises thrown in for good measure.

I really liked both Thanson and Kazra even though the character development didn't go very deep. I liked how they worked together to survive and help everyone else survive and it was this working together that helped restore what was once lost between them. It's not a particularly steamy book, but it was satisfying the way the build up and pace on that was handled. Their story had the main plot tied up, but there were a few loose strings that maybe are a series thing or maybe not. Would have liked to have spent a little longer with them, but ending was still satisfying.

Those who enjoy M/M Sci-Fi Romance full of intense action should give this one a go.

My thanks to Riptide Publishing for the opportunity to read the book in exchange for my honest review thoughts.

Vanessa theJeepDiva says

I totally got and liked the concept of a Discretionary. A Discretionary is basically a high priced prostitute that can't spill your secrets. They are members of a highly regulated guild, a guild that specializes in obtaining secrets for the purposes of blackmail. I got a little lost on the fact that Thanson's latest contract spilled some secrets in front of Thanson. I completely understand that Thanson cannot let the secrets be known. Common sense tells anyone who is enjoying a rent boy (who obtains info for blackmailing) to be careful about what said rent boy sees or hears. That is where this tale took a weird detour for me that it never came back from.

Thanson manages to get off the ship he has been traveling on while working. Thanson found out something that is going to get him killed. While trying to send a distress message to the guild that he is employed by he stumbles into his ex. Kazra is the only person on the space station that can help Thanson. As soon as the communication line is open things go from bad to worse as the space station is attacked by something far more dangerous than anyone has ever experienced.

As for the romance between Kazra and Thanson... its mostly thoughts from ten years ago with the thoughts of getting to know each other again. There was nothing there that made it obvious why these two men were ever together much less why they were going to give it another shot. The romance is light and seemed to be added in as an afterthought to this sci fi tale.

I knew going into In Discretion that it was book three in Reesa Herberth's Ylendrian Empire series. I also knew from Riptide Publishing's website that the book should work as a stand-alone. I felt like I was missing something the entire time I was reading this title. By the end of the book I was never able to put my finger on exactly what I was missing though.

MLE says

I received this book as an ARC through Net Galley in exchange for an honest review.

I really enjoyed this story. The plot felt nicely tense, and well developed. I like how Thanson and Kazra's past was worked into the story, and revealed in bits and pieces instead of one big awkward information dump in the beginning. It helped to draw me into the story, and the characters.

I liked both men. They had a great connection, and I liked learning what happened between them. It played a big role in the story, but never felt like it took over the plot. I really liked Thanson's profession, and the complexity of what it means to be a Discretionary. Sex and secrets are a potent combination.

The writing felt nicely tense, and it fit the nature of the story, and the characters well. I loved the sense of humor as well. Thanson and Kazra had some great byplay, and was just what I was looking for.

The ending was nicely done. It wrapped up the action well, but there were no huge out of character heroics,

and they had to rely on others to save the day. The epilogue was set nicely ahead of the ending, but not in the too distant future. It added a happy note without being too sappy or feeling like a fairy tale ending. Overall a good science fiction tale with a little romance and more than a little danger, and intrigue.

Aviva says

You know how it's hard to find good science-fiction with a great romance ? Let me tell you it's even harder to find good m-m science-fiction!

Sci-Fi is my favourite genre so finding a great m/m sci-fi book is like opening my freezer and realizing I had a tub of chocolate ice-cream with brownies and chocolate sauce left (yes I like my ice-cream with a lot of chocolate in it.)

Anyway this book was fantastic, the setting on the space-station realistic, with a good amount of details without sounding too much technical, the plot was highly believable with everything tied up together and progressively unfolding until the big final in the end, and the little glimpses of the Ylendrian Empire were interesting and settled down the whole universe of the book (It's a good thing that I like it since I already bought the two other Ylendrian titles but well I can't resist promising SF.)

And because I couldn't stop yell it until I had the book on my kindle, then write it to everyone, it's zombies in space!!!! An highly believable form of zombie epidemy! ZOMBIES IN SPACE!!!!

Now about the characters, just in a few pages they were fully alive, with a present, a past and full of emotions; especially terribly angry (I'm looking at you Kaz! This anger was hot, angry and bloody hot).

I can't choose a favorite between the twoguys btw, they were each special and I feel connected to them now, which sucks since the book is over. But it's okay I'm gonna drown my sadness in the other two books in this fantastic universe.

Just letting some of my favorite quotes here since the writing is amazing:

"Cut someone down, hurt them enough, and they'd draw back before they could undo him."

"[...]And all Thanson could take from it for a moment was the memory of being in love, and Kazra pressing words into his skin like invisible tattoos."

"All he had to do was outlive his problems, and that was easier to do when he had an arsenal at his disposal."

Chris, the Dalek King says

“My secrets are as heavy as any ever borne. My contract is terminated under duress. I need a Head of House to share my burden. Do you understand?”

Thanson Nez is a Discretionary. That is, in plain terms, a very highly sought after, and paid, escort. An escort that has some very strict rules when it comes to divulging the secrets gained while under contract—he must never speak about what he learns. It is an oath. And it is backed up with some pretty nasty neural-software to insure his oath is never broken. The problem is that he knows something that he has to share. Something important. Something dangerous. Something that is going to get him, his ex, and everyone on board Station 43 killed.

He expected a lot of things when he de-shipped himself onto Station 43, but there is no way that Thanson was prepared for what would follow: power cuts, explosions, the crew and passengers slowly going mad and

hunting him down. But what he really didn't expect was to stumble upon the one thing in his past that he cherished best, and regretted the most. KazraFerdow. But reminiscing, and apologizing, will have to wait, because the air is running out, the crew is getting closer, and the secrets tucked away in Thanson's head could be the key to their salvation, or the reason they all fade into the black.

There were some definite upsides to this story. I really enjoyed the non-stop pace. The drum beat in the background of the story basically pounding "time is running out" over and over till you are never quite sure if they are going to make it. The air is slowly running out, the cold is creeping in, there are crazy crewmembers trying to rip everyone apart...and there is something hunting them. Someone who just might not be crazy, but who will do anything in their power to stop Than and Kaz. It made for a nice bit of tension that slowly amped up through the entire story.

I also enjoyed the sense of backstory that slowly filtered into the present day crisis. There wasn't a big info dump at the beginning, so there was always a sense of mystery to their past that I enjoyed exploring. Because you were never quite sure about them, everything else was also unsure, unstable. It was a nice side beat to the main mystery of this story.

There did seem to be, for me at least, a definite lack of chemistry between the two for a majority of the story. I get that making up, or *making out*, is not exactly on your top-ten list of things to do when death is imminent, but the lack of heat between them made their anger feel shallow at times. Like we were just hitting the surface emotions, and if there was anything deeper it was hidden from us. It did ramp-up nicely at the end there, but I wish I could have felt the build-up a lot better.

I also had a hard time visualizing some of the technical aspects of the station. I guess it is not practical to expect a blue print model of Station 43, but there were time when I was unsure if they were heading in, or heading out, or where they were in a room, so when the time to run came, I was a little lost as to where everyone was and where they were going.

Overall, it wasn't a bad story, and there were some parts that I really enjoyed—nothing quite like screw-it-we-are-going-to-die-anyway sex—but there was a sense of disconnection between me and the characters that I was never really able to overcome. Maybe if we had stuck with just one POV or if I got a better feel of what they felt for each other, I might have had a better go at it, but as it was, it was very much like reading a story, not living it. It wasn't a bad story...just didn't quite get there, for me.

This book was provided free in exchange for a fair and honest review for Love Bytes. Go there to check out other reviews, author interviews, and all those awesome giveaways. Click below.

Tina says

In Discretion by the author, Reesa Herberth is the third installment of the Ylendrian Empire series. I will say I found this book completely confusing. There is a ton of information given to you and it borders on overload for me. I think maybe you should read this series in order, might help that? I don't know I started with this one and I was bombarded.

Thanson is a career Discretionary. He wanted to see the stars but got stuck on a space station on the edge of the Empire. He has been hurt badly by love and doesn't want to go through that again.

Kazra communications officer. He is Thanson's ex. He still has feelings for the man. Wants him back but he doesn't think he has a shot at it.

Overall we do get a great feel for this world. There is a ton of story here. Not much romance though. I would have liked more romance personally. This is not one of those easily read books your gonna have to take your

time and sink into this one. Overall was bit much for me, but again I am sure it is cause I started with the third book. Read this series in order and I bet you will love it.

Four Twinkling Stars

Teri says

[the way the secrets worked, with physically not being able to tell them (hide spoiler)]

LiveYourLife BuyTheBook says

4 Stars

A "*Live Your Life, Buy The Book*" Review

Thanson Nez was getting away from his current contract as fast as possible. He had information he had to deliver to his guild. Minister Rannah didn't exactly want Thanson to leave but was unable to stop him. Thanson then had to contact his guild as urgently as possible so he made his way to the communications office of the small space station he found himself on. Thanson gets quite the surprise when he finds the communications officer is his ex-boyfriend, Kazra Ferdow. The two men aren't exactly thrilled to be seeing each other. Kazra isn't exactly in the mood to open an urgent line of communication for the boyfriend who abandoned him and became a Discretionary, but he's got a job and he does it. Just as Thanson manages to get a message to his Cohort the station loses power. It gets creepier when someone comes knocking on the door of the communications office looking for a man that could fit Thanson's description. Emergency protocol dictates Kazra and Thanson make their way to a common area of the ship to close down life support in areas without people and conserve whatever power is available for emergency life support. When they get there they find people clearly infected with some kind of illness that causes extreme aggression and violence.

Kazra and Thanson realize pretty fast that whatever secrets are in Thanson's head are really important. Thanson is unable to divulge anything. It's not willpower that makes a Discretionary such a vault of secrets. Thanson is physically incapable of telling Kazra anything that pertains to their current situation. He is able to explain why he suddenly left Kazra and their home planet so many years ago. While Thanson and Kazra begin to realize they're still very much in love and trust each other implicitly with their lives they also see the space station has been sabotaged. It doesn't take a genius to figure it was Thanson's former client. Thanson and Kazra have to battle old technology, the diseased inhabitants of the space station, and the saboteurs looking to kill Thanson for the secrets he holds in his head. Rescue seems so far away.

I think this was a good story but not necessarily great. I had no trouble reading and mostly sat and read the whole thing at once. I did enjoy the world building and the concept of the Discretionary as well as the relationship between Thanson and Kazra. I enjoyed them a great deal and in some ways I felt the length of the story was a bit of a hindrance. I wanted more. I wanted more time for Thanson and Kazra to stop being angry with each other. I wanted more time for them to air their grievances. I wanted more time for them work together. This felt rushed.

Despite feeling this book was rushed I did enjoy it. As I said I enjoyed the world building and the concepts of the Discretionary in particular. I also particularly like science fiction, so in many ways this book was a

shoe in for me. It's definitely worth it for any science fiction fan.

Lisa Arbitrary - AttentionIsArbitrary M/M Blog says

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Banter – check!

Incremental Tension – check!

Believable Characters – check!

Really Great Writing – check check check!

They couldn't borrow enough time to fix the past now.

I'm probably supposed to tell you about the suspense, tension, pending doom and gory horror, but I'll leave that to someone else, because what stood out for me was a moment in this book that was a shock to my romanticalistic system! I had been completely wrapped up in the action when suddenly the concern for everything these two were going through, and had gone through, just flat out punched me in the heart. I felt them. I was reading, engaged, caught up in the intensity of the danger when, BAM, the love and care totally hit me. This is like the best of sci-fi with a heart of romance!

THE CHARACTERS

Thanson Nez - The Discretionary, he has to keep secrets. Refined, graceful and carrying the weight of the world in his head.

"I'm a glorified message-taker exiled to the ass-end of nowhere, and you left Corve to fuck half the 'verse for blackmail material. Big win, right there."

"A sixteenth." Thanson's smirk held all the mirth he'd abandoned, his negligent hand wave almost dismissive. "An eighth, at most. I have to sleep sometime, you know."

Kazra Ferdow - A fighter, a scrapper, a survivor. "Kazra needed to die trying..."

THE STORY

Kazra and Thanson have a past, but it's the immediate future that's out to get them. At every turn a new obstacle tries to cut them off from their one chance at rescue. Between being chased by not!zombies and an impending support system failure on an outlying space station these two show us glimpses of their difficult teenage relationship. Through their banter and recollections there is no doubt that these two have a lot to work through, and they do, all while being chased and running out of time.

You find out that escaping is what these two do best, unfortunately, the last time, they lost each other along the way. Now that they've caught up again their long hidden emotions rise to the surface for better or worse. It's shocking, tender, heart-wrenching and all the while I was being pulled deeper into their relationship.

It ends with a HFN and I really, really hope this series will give me future glimpses of these guys.

THE WRITING

This is my first Reesa Herberth book, but it will not be my last. I found the writing to be tight, with no wasted words. In fact, I thought, there were moments of writing brilliance. Not fluffy or drippy (how wrong would that be in sci-fi?), but emotional and tender in a way that fit the story-line, perfectly.

If I have one issue with the story it's about my failure to understand how it's going to connect into the rest of the series. I think I'm missing something here. It didn't detract from the story though and there will be more explanation in future books, so I can be patient. I am most certainly not done with this series, or this 'verse. I really feel like this is going to be one to sink my teeth into.

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I would like to thank Riptide Publishing for providing me with an advanced copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

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Take a look at my Male/Male Romance Book Blog:

<http://www.attentionisarbitrary.blogspot.com>

Sarah says

In Discretion takes place in deep space and is part of a larger series/universe of books, although it stands on its own well enough. Our main character, Thanson, is a Discretionary, which is kind of like a cross between an escort and a secret keeper. You can imagine that he's heard all sorts of things, so the fact that something has spooked him enough to abandon his job at the beginning of the book means that something big is going to go down.

Things get complicated when Thanson finds his ex, Kazra, on the space station he's stuck on. Their backstory comes out slowly -- starting off, all you know is that they separated under less than wonderful circumstances. Their reunion was kind of bittersweet, because neither of them think that they've got a chance to patch things back up -- their lives are very different now, and besides, their lives are in danger, thanks to Thanson's secrets. I had mixed feelings about not knowing all of their backstory at first, because it really felt like I had started reading in the middle of a book, like I was expected to know already what broke Thanson and Kazra up. The slow reveal worked, though, and the moments where both men let their guard down to tell the truth behind their parting were really effective and emotional.

In Discretion is only about 100 pages long, and things move along at a pretty fast clip. Sometimes things felt like they moved too fast, though. Maybe it's just me, but I kept getting confused as to why things were happening or where the characters were, and I feel like if maybe a little more time had been given to establishing scenes and character motivations, it would have been less of a bumpy ride. Like I mentioned, the book can be read as a stand-alone, although I'd be interested to check out the rest of the universe to better put this one in context.

Elena says

This story had its moments, but in the end I just didn't buy the relationship between the two leads, which makes a romance novella fall a little flat. The author's attempt at generating chemistry always felt forced and like the characters were trying too hard.

I've read a few romances where an exciting plot can make up for a lackluster romance, but the plot here wasn't strong enough to compensate, alas.

Thanks to Riptide and NetGalley for providing a review copy.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

Even though I read a good amount of sci-fi and I can usually get into that mindset fairly quickly, I thought the beginning of this book was confusing for some reason. The world was kind of thrust upon the reader and it took me a while to catch up. I kept putting the book down and going back to other reads until I finally got into the groove with this one. But, I have to say, I liked it once it got going. Overall, I think this book was a nice, fast-paced, adventure book for M/M sci-fi lovers.

There is a lot of stuff going on for only a 100 page novella but somehow the author makes it work. The writing is super tight and concise, and has that crisp feel that works so well for sci-fi. The plot centers around two men who used to be lovers who are reunited years later under less than ideal circumstances. One is a Discretionary (basically a high priced prostitute who can't spill secrets) and the other works on the spaceship where the other is stranded. There is a lot of history between them and I liked when they finally talked a bit about their shared past.

I wish there was more about what drew these two men together in the first place. I wanted a bit more chemistry between them than I got. I think I tend to prefer books that are more focused on the developing romance and less on action, and this is more action with a side of romance. However, I think the author did a really nice job with her storytelling and I liked her brisk style of writing. Though this wasn't a home run, it was a pretty enjoyable little read.

Copy provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Online Eccentric Librarian says

More reviews (and no fluff) on the blog <http://surrealtalvi.wordpress.com/>

Indiscretion is a densely written M/M novella without gratuitous sex or romance and instead concentrating on action. I admit I had a hard time following the story due to the writing but appreciated that this was a solid sci fi effort with some romance thrown in - not the other way around.

Thanson is a Discretionary - an high priced escort whose guild is known for their confidentiality and pleasure. But he has unwittingly overheard information that could shift the balance of the galaxy and he needs to get away from his contract and off the remote mining station to safety. As he communicates a help signal to his guild, he encounters a man he had not seen since he was young. A man who helped him escape a life of hell and come into his own. Then the station's power is cut, the inhabitants begin to act strangely, and the two men must overcome their past and fight to survive.

This is the third in the Ylendrian series. I have not read any of the other books and admittedly was a bit confused. The writing is a bit dense and hard to follow - there aren't enough segue ways and information to get a good grounding. Descriptive are also lacking - I had a hard time understanding why characters were reacting as they did or what they were trying to say to each other. I definitely understand subtexts - but I'm not sure if the writer was playing with nuances or just didn't include enough to make the story understandable. As a result, I ended up reading on auto-pilot and resigned to missing key plot points.

The above was enough to keep this at a 4 star for me. I liked that this book wasn't about sex or sappy romance. It was all action from beginning to end, though the end did tidy up a bit fast, even for a novella.

Tully Vincent says

This well-written book is the second I've read set in Ylendrian Empire universe. Fast-paced action with a sweet love story woven throughout and a small dollop of sex near the end (perfect read for those who prefer their sci-fi light on the lighter end when it comes to on-page sex scenes). Thanson and Kazra had history together that made the tension (sexual and otherwise) between them combust from the start. I enjoyed both characters, and felt that the way their backstory came out was handled quite well. Interesting premise revolving around (view spoiler) My only criticism was that I found it just a tiny bit confusing in parts. Still a solidly enjoyable off-world m/m!

3.75 stars rounded up
