



Deadly Strain

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Major Grace Samuels, a trauma surgeon deployed to Afghanistan, spends her life helping her fellow soldiers overcome disease and combat injuries. But her own wounds are harder to heal. Wracked with guilt over the death of a fellow soldier, she finds comfort in her only friend and appointed bodyguard, weapons sergeant Jacob “Sharp” Foster.

Sharp feels more for Grace than a soldier should, more than he wants to admit. When the team discovers a new, quick-to-kill strain of Anthrax, he tries to focus on the mission to find its source. He knows he can help Grace defeat her demons, but first they must defeat the deadly outbreak.

Sharp is Grace’s most loyal ally, but in close quarters, he starts to feel like more. She can’t watch someone else she cares about die—but she might not have a choice. The closer they get to finding the source of the strain, the closer it gets to finding them.

Deadly Strain Details

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From Reader Review Deadly Strain for online ebook

Kathleen says

In *Deadly Strain*, the first book in the Biological Response Team series, author Julie Rowe introduces the reader to trauma surgeon Major Grace Samuels, who is deployed to Afghanistan with the Green Beret Special Forces Unit on a mission along with her appointed bodyguard, weapons sergeant Jacob “Sharp” Foster, to discover the source of a new, quick-to-kill strain of anthrax that has been used as a weapon to kill. Grace and Jacob have to find the source before the deadly outbreak can strike again, but their mission is wrought with danger lurking around every corner.

This is a intriguing romantic suspense military tale that takes the reader on an exhilarating thrill ride. Grace and Jacob's story is a fast-paced, action packed tale filled with an exciting mixture of romance, suspense, and unexpected twists and turns that easily keeps the reader sitting on the edge of their seats.

I loved the mystery, suspense, drama, sense of danger, and intense military action used in the search to find the source of the anthrax outbreak, and when you add in the electric sexual chemistry and tension between Grace and Jacob, you have one hell of a thriller that will keep you thoroughly captivated and wanting more. I can't wait to see what new adventures the author will take her readers on in the next book in the series.

If you are looking for a romantic military suspense tale that will give you an adrenaline rush and get your heart racing, look no further, *Deadly Strain* is the book for you!

Disclaimer: I received a copy of the book from the author / publisher in exchange for my honest review and participation in a virtual book tour event hosted by Pump Up Your Book.

<http://jerseygirlbookreviews.blogspot...>

Gloriamarie says

Read this as part of the on-going project to help a friend develop a booklist for her group, Adult Children of Parents with PTSD.

Quite enjoyed this. Great suspense. Grace has PTSD, she deals with it responsibly. Complex.

Calisto says

A solid 3.5 read.

Likeable characters and interesting, intense environment. I love military romances, esp when there's a conflict between enlisted and officers. (It's catnip, what can I say.) The characters are very likeable and there's a great little curveball as to who is actually sequel bait and who is just a red-shirt destined to die.

What keeps this from being a 4 star read is some of my personal preference. I detest the... 'we interrupt this story for a quick sex break'. No, they stop running for a quickie while the barbarians are at the gates, but there's a quick hand job scene that I found frustrating and jarring. To me, it just didn't belong. Also, I felt

there was too much falling back into well-worn military tropes: dead soldier with vindictive relative, can't shoot a kid, oh noes, I've shot and killed people (insurgents) now I have to have a wangstfest about it. I felt that the heroine should have been a bigger badass and that all the wangst about the results of her badassery is just a short cut to show how TROUBLED!!! and human she really is. That despite her doing her job and doing it well, if she's haunted by her actions, then she's still feminine and a worthy heroine. For me, it had the opposite affect and I felt her ghosts just made her be whiney. Personally, I would have preferred the wangst to be from the fact that relationships between officers and enlisted personnel is forbidden. Finally, I thought that some of the actions, what moves the plot along, became a bit cartoonish. Like in the movies when none of the villains can shoot the side of barn, but the hero who's never picked up a gun before can shoot like an expert. What ultimately saves this from being ridiculous, is that there's an explanation that makes sense.

Considering all those complaints, which are really about my own preferences, I have to say I did enjoy this story overall and will definitely look for more in the series. This is a solid and entertaining military/suspense romance and Carina Press continues to impress me with the variety of stories they publish.

Pam says

Deadly Strain: Biological Response Team, Book 1 is a psychological biochemical novel by Julie Rowe. It is not my first choice of genre; but I was asked to read book 3 and then had to go back and read the first two. What would the US do if someone started using biological warfare?

Major Grace Samuels is a trauma surgeon who was stationed in Afghanistan. She used her skills to try to affect the outcome of disease and combat injuries in soldiers. She was very good at her job until an accident occurred in which a soldier was killed and she blamed herself for his death. Now she is dealing with that guilt as she begins working for the Biological Response Team. Her only friend, Special Forces Weapons Sergeant Jacob "Sharp" Foster was assigned to be her bodyguard. He was the only one she felt safe enough to talk to. However, even he didn't know of her guilt. When she was transferred to this base, the commander, Colonel Marshall, was very cold to her. Later, he accosted her by her barracks and let her know that the soldier she saw die was his son and the Colonel blamed her for his death. He then tended to make her stay at his base as difficult as possible.

When an unexplained and fast-acting disease broke out in a village, the Colonel sent Major Samuels and her protection team to investigate. He did not know that it was an outbreak of fast-acting anthrax which killed anyone who came in contact with it. Can Grace figure out what it is and what the antidote is before it spreads beyond the village? Can Jacob guard her and find the source of the anthrax before something happens to Grace? Who were they dealing with who was using this to kill innocent people and why?

Darcy says

This one was non-stop action, where you weren't quite sure who the bad guy was and things quickly snowballed out of control. I loved Grace, even though she was a doctor in the army, she was a badass herself and was able to keep up with the guys, even manage to save them a couple of times. Sharp wasn't too bad himself. It was great how he admired Grace's skills, both as a doctor and when she managed to save him and others.

I was glad that they figured out who was behind things, but wish there hadn't been so many innocents killed along the way, especially one where Grace finally made peace with.

With the changes at the end it will be interesting to see where things go with this series.

Celestine says

Non-stop action with a strong STEM heroine who is an Army trauma surgeon and virologist stationed in volatile Afghanistan. Toss in a bit of a Ripley / Hicks vibe (a la "Aliens"), but with more physical contact and falling-in-love-on the run, and you've got an excellent suspense/adventure/romance story. The mushy times are held in check (except for a couple of encounters) and everything felt pretty genuine regarding mixing rank and personnel. This book gives plenty of opportunity for Major Grace Samuels to be the hero, which I really liked. She has a bit of PTSD and is carrying way more baggage than the steady rock of a sniper assigned to protect her. They have great banter, especially in the beginning. Tonally, this book hit all the right notes for me. Don't get too attached to any of the characters, though. The ranks are decimated, which was tough to take. I will be picking up the rest of this series in short order.

Book source: Purchased.

Mei says

Really good, even if a slightly light handed when dealing with anthrax...

Chris says

This was one fast-paced book. One could call it insta-love, but Grace and Sharp have known each other for months by the time you enter their story. A friend pointed me to this author and I'm happy that I picked it up. It hits all the buttons for me to enjoy a military suspense.

Deanna from Deanna's World says

Julie Rowe writes an adrenalin filled, action packed, heart thumping romantic suspense. Right from the first word, the action sequences in this story leap out of the page at you and keep you racing through to the end. Imagine yourself watching a blood pounding action movie like The Fast and The Furious, only this time you're reading it.

Everything about this story is driven by the action. It's non-stop as Sharp and Grace find themselves racing to stop a terrorist who has released a deadly biological weapon that can kill in hours.

Sharp is your typical alpha male. He's what puts the "special" in Special Forces. I love how tough and how protective he is of Grace, his sense of humor and kindness as he sees them through some truly horrific situations. If I found myself in such a situation, I'd definitely want sharp at my back.

Grace is amazing. She's brave and selfless. She's the kind of doctor who truly believes in the oath they take to save human lives. She puts herself at risk in order to protect the many and her selflessness is incredibly admirable. She's also smart, sassy and resilient as all get out. If I had to endure even half the things she had

to, I'd have collapsed in a heap halfway through but then, I also do not have the training and the back up she's had.

This is a great story. There's not a lot of romance in it and I appreciate the fact that Ms Rowe didn't stop for them to have sex while they had bullets flying over their heads. There were a few stolen moments but those were short, sharp and shiny. It hinted at things to come without getting in the way of the story.

This is the start of a great series. I'm looking forward to the next book.

Dísir says

Dr. Grace Samuels and Special Forces Weapons Sergeant Jacob "Sharp" Foster have an unusual relationship: he's a Green Beret sniper attached to the Biological Rapid Response Team in Afghanistan who has grown close to the trauma and infectious diseases specialist over the past year. Grace's and Sharp's solid friendship takes a turn in a different direction when weaponised anthrax wipes out an Afghani village in a matter of hours, setting off a chain of events that makes them convinced that there is an insider doing the damage.

Deadly Strain is a solid example of romantic suspense in a military setting, even if the romance is overshadowed by the non-stop action and the unexpected turn of events that sets up a rather laborious story arc that feels incomplete even by the end of the book. I loved the realistic portrayal of Grace who seems the perfect blend of strength, determination and vulnerability, while Sharp's stalwart and unwavering (without the half-arsed Alpha uncommitted type) personality somehow seamlessly complements hers. Both were so likeable in a way that I couldn't help but cheer this pair on to get their act together. The introduction of peripheral characters and their backstories lent emotional weight to this thriller and while the ending seemed inconclusive, this is a series I'd be definitely be watching out for.

N.N. Light says

Dr. Grace Samuels is a hero in the eyes of this civilian. She's a trauma surgeon in Afghanistan and her job is to treat combat soldiers. She's brave, tough and wracked with guilt over the death of a fellow soldier. She buries her feelings and soldiers on (so to speak).

When there's a threat of a deadly strain of anthrax, Grace and Sharp must work together to discover the source of the strain before it's too late. Someone is using anthrax as a weapon and a whole town is dead. Time is against them and the more they work together, the closer Grace and Sharp become. Grace pushes him away, fearing his death more than her own safety. Filled with twists and turns I didn't expect, this book reads like a blockbuster movie.

I'm a huge fan of romantic suspense and this book didn't disappoint. I loved the premise and the medical/military background information is peppered throughout the story. While I know this is fiction, it reads like reality, as if it came straight from the headlines.

That being said, I loved the slow-building of romance between Grace and Sharp. Grace is a hard person to get close to and yet the author shows the soft side of her. Sharp, on the other hand, is what many call an Alpha male. He's strong, sexy and shows Grace it's not life-threatening to love him.

I can't wait for book two this month so I can read the next installment!

Favorite Character: I loved Grace for many reasons but one of them is her humanity. She's been through the wars and seen it all. She knows she shouldn't "feel" for Sharp yet she can't help herself. My aunt is a nurse and I remember her telling me the hardest part in medicine is not dying every time a patient dies. For Grace, it's the soldiers she's surrounded by.

Favorite Quote:

How were they going to stay out of jail long enough to prove they weren't the crazy ones?

Marshall had lost his mind. Ordering his men to fire on them—how was murder an acceptable response to soldiers following orders, even if they were someone else's?

My Rating: 5 stars

Cindy ~ SnS Reviews says

This fast paced, intense suspense keeps you on the edge of your seat till the very end. I think this book has the highest body count I've ever read. Its like watching the Walking Dead, no one is safe.

Having read my fair share of Military romantic suspense I was pleasantly surprised to find this series goes a step further and incorporates bioterrorism and the Biological Response Team who does their best to make the world safe from the terrorists that use it.

The book takes place in Afghanistan where Grace Daniels is both a trauma surgeon and on a Biological Response Team. She has seen the ugly side of war from all sides and its definitely left its mark on her soul. She has become best friends with one of the men assigned to keep her safe and when a village is completely wiped out from an anthrax these two have to depend on each other to not only keep themselves alive but to also stop a terrorist bent on revenge.

Once I started this book I couldnt put it down until I'd finished it. The action is non-stop and every situation was intense. Looks like I've found a new author and series to read and cant wait to start the next book in the series.

Kanoko says

3.5

Superb action but not enough romance for me. Greatly enjoyed it, though.

Teresa says

Loves this start of a new series

Life will deal you a bad hand if you let it but with Dr. Grace Samuels it comes in the form of anthrax.

She knows that without the help of the Green Berets she never find and scientists who created this master who is determined to kill many more once it's released. The book will have from the first page to the very last

To find out who and what the entire plan is to release it everywhere.

There a couple of Green Berets whom will protect her at any cost include their own . Great book and I look forward to reading the next book in the series.

Sunny says

3.5 stars

A taut thriller with lots of medical details...maybe too much? I was wishing for some more romance.

However, it was a page turner and I am eager awaiting the next book!
