



# In Heaven and Earth

*Amy Rae Durreson*

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## **In Heaven and Earth** Amy Rae Durreson

When the crew of the Medical Explorer Juniper arrive at the space city of Caelestia, they are horrified to find it floating airless in space with thousands of its people dead. The only survivor is a cyborg gardener, Vairya, who has been left amnesiac and terrified, barely able to choke out a few words: "It could happen again." As ex-military doctor Reuben Cooper explores the illusory rose garden of Vairya's memory, where Vairya himself flirts and hides among the flowers, he discovers a terrible threat, not just to the crew of the Juniper but to all humanity.

Can four doctors and a cyborg fight a merciless enemy that can kill with a touch?

This story was written as a part of the M/M Romance Group's "**Love is an Open Road**" event. Group members were asked to write a story prompt inspired by a photo of their choice. Authors of the group selected a photo and prompt that spoke to them and wrote a short story.

### **Photo Description:**

A cyborg stands in a ruined city, dressed in a thin robe, with his face lifted towards the stars. His hands are outstretched, as if in supplication, and his whole pose suggests sorrow.

This story may contain sexually explicit content and is **intended for adult readers**. It may contain content that is disagreeable or distressing to some readers. The M/M Romance Group strongly recommends that each reader review the General Information section before each story for story tags as well as for content warnings.

## **In Heaven and Earth Details**

Date : Published July 12th 2015 by M/M Romance Group @ Goodreads

ISBN :

Author : Amy Rae Durreson

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Genre : Science Fiction, Romance, M M Romance

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## From Reader Review In Heaven and Earth for online ebook

### Kristan says

#### 4.5 holy heck, that was incredible! stars

I'm in awe. I knew this would be good. I had no idea it would be *that* good. There was detail and history with this that was fluid and interesting, and insanely well written. Even the action had the right tone and urgency to it to make it entertaining and dangerous.

Really, this was

The world building, the characters, and the sweet chemistry and between our two MCs? Their snark in the form of poetry, and how Varyia softened the rough edges around Reuben; all of it came together to make the perfect read.

I would have liked to know how they planned on tackling the issue of aging. How Varyia will endure the passage of time while Reuben will grow older, but their time together on page was more than enough to blow me away. I'd revisit this universe any day.

My thanks to the author for their participation in the Love is an Open Road event.

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### Maya says

Really enjoyed this imaginative and clever story. The writing drew me in quickly and made it easy to connect with the characters and hope for the best outcome of the dark situation they were in.

It's set in the far future and the world building involved a lot of technology but I was never overwhelmed. Things were explained and revealed just at the right times to satisfy my curiosity.

I loved how Reuben's dry wit and Vairyra's playful sense of humor complimented each other and made for a fantastic dialogue. The smiles it gave me were much appreciated.

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### Tess says

#### 4.25 stars

I didn't quite get everything that was going on in this crazy futuristic world *but* the romance was absolutely delightful, sexy and unexpectedly sweet.

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### **Sunny says**

I loved this story. The creative elements, the characters, the dialogue. Omg, the dialogue. Loved it. So many grins. They were a nice balance for the serious, nerve wracking parts of the story.

More thoughts for BMBR favorites post:

This was a fantastic read for me. The well developed characters, the thought provoking quotes, the humor, the emotions, the fascinating world. It all worked together to keep my interest throughout the story, and still makes me smile when I think of it. Will definitely re-read this one :)

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### **Erika says**

Really, really lovely, and yes I can say that about a sci fi novel. This was well written! All the tech and the concepts were well thought and legitimate sounding and I never had a moment of disbelief. I can't believe I read this for free.

A hearty thank you to the author for participating in this event

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### **Meep says**

Re-read - really enjoyed this and wish there was more like it.

*Thanks to the author for participating and offering this freebie*

Well what a fascinating story!

Robotics and nano-technology; imaginings, dreams, questions of humanity, quotes, strong characters and love.

This had me liking the characters; absorbed and curious about the world. For a sci-fi with so many aspects there was never info-dump, everything was revealed naturally with some foreshadowing to tease the way. The technology seemed accessible; rather than baffling the reader with science, I could understand what was going on when it could have gotten complicated.

I did predict the solution (which I wont spoil) and was wanting to shout at them to try it before they did, but even how that played out moved me.

As well as the main characters falling in love, there are a few side-characters; there enough to be real but not crowd the couple and the relationships there develop as the story progresses too. The dialogue is good. There are plenty of feels, some darkness, and the ending has a fresh sweet new beginning feel.

The imagination here impressed me and more importantly I enjoyed reading it.

## Julio Genao says

[the anti-implant bigot general and the whole shit with the end of earth on account of out-of-control nanotechnology set to turn everything into diamond on account of (i presume) greed? and the cybern

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~☆~Doni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

~4.5~

Creative, exciting, romantic, and utterly unexpected, *In Heaven and Earth* is sexy dystopian sci-fi at its best.

Dream sequences, nanos, cyborgs ... it's all here.

Also included: one tough, damaged captain with a penchant for quoting dead poets; one lonely cyborg gardener, the keeper of roses and memories; a cast of complex secondary characters; and explosively dirty kisses.

Reuben and Vairya for the win!

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## Vivian says

Surprised me.

What an optimistic ending to such a dark beginning. Redeemed a hero, saved a planet, recreated what was lost, and amidst that was the charming repartee between our main characters. There was fun with quotes, and honestly, I stumbled over a few. BUT... that made the ones I got all the sweeter.

Solid world building and charismatic characters that you'd expect from Durreson. Here the focus is scifi, you can see how all the knowledge and mechanical ability that has played so well in steampunk stories has been transformed to serve the far future. A future beyond Earth.

Overall, two lone figures discover that they aren't destined to walk alone.

Favorite quote:

“I was made to remember,” he said softly, “and to protect what should never be forgotten. What use is remembering if everything just dies?”

Thanks to the author for participating in the MM Group's 2015 DRitC event, Love is an Open Road

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### **Adam says**

Sci-fi by Amy Rae Durreson?

Durreson mainly writes fantasy, so I wasn't sure what to expect when I saw that her entry in this year's DRitC event was sci-fi. I'm happy to report that 'In Heaven and Earth' is awesome!

Reuben and Vairya made a great pair. Both are outcasts for different reasons, and find in each other acceptance and understanding. I don't think I've read any MM before where the love interest is a cyborg, so that was interesting. The romance is insta-love, but that didn't bother me at all. Vairya and Reuben just clicked together so perfectly, so it made sense that they'd fall for each other quickly, especially given the circumstances of their meeting.

The worldbuilding was very well done. Durreson painted a futuristic world that had complex technology, but it was easy to follow along without becoming lost in techno-babble.

I also have to give kudos to the author for coming up with a very unique plot. Yes, the staples of sci-fi are here (humanity at the brink of destruction, space crew battles impossible odds, government/military aren't the best of allies), but the specifics were very different from any MM sci-fi I've read before. The plot worked very well, and kept me hooked to the end.

Overall, 'In Heaven and Earth' is a great addition to the 'Love is an Open Road' event. In this book you'll find action, romance, a bit heartbreak, and some much-needed redemption. Highly recommended for fans of MM sci-fi.

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### **Eugenia says**

My friend, Michaëlle, recommended this book and I just have to thank her cause I loved it! It was creative, interesting, and raised a lot of ethical questions in regards to AI. If you like sci-fi, you'll love this quick read!

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### **Elena says**

Good writing, great world-building and characters. The plot was original and I especially loved the second half.

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### **Rachel says**

5 Shining Stars

This jewel of a story is bursting with beauty, creativity, luminosity, and love! I am in awe, and thank the

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author for sharing her talents for this event. Loved it!!

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### **Lilia Ford says**

Three years and three fantastic stories from this author for the Don't Read in the Closet event. Durreson did an amazing job with a strong prompt, creating an ambitious sci-fi world, complex, satisfying backstories, a ship's crew worth of well-drawn secondary characters, and above all her two great-books quoting leads, two lovely souls who discover love and trust in the most unlikely circumstances.

Many, many thanks to the author for her generosity over the years, and to everyone involved in creating this event.

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### **Katharina says**

4.5

Oh Gods, what does Amy Rae Durreson do to me? I hadn't read any Sci-Fi stories of her before this one (are there even any?), but let me tell you, she rocked the genre. Very much so.

Amy Rae Durreson has just *so much imagination*. Can come up with the craziest of shit. And it's awesome - it almost always is. Who would have thought that I'd ever want to read a love story between a cyborg gardener and a human medic? I certainly didn't. The whole doing it with artificial lifeforms (as sentient as they may be) isn't really for me, usually. ... well, it was in this case.

Crazy shit, I tell you.

So, time for a reread of Reawakening, it seems.

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