



## Wild Ride

*Julie Ann Walker*

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# Wild Ride

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**Wild Ride** Julie Ann Walker  
**The hero we've all been waiting for...**

Ethan "Ozzie" Sykes

?Former Navy SEAL

?Underground operator for Black Knights Inc., the covert government defense firm disguised as a custom motorcycle shop.

In a black-on-black international mission that went seriously sideways, Ozzie was badly injured—now he's stuck at BKI headquarters in Chicago, champing at the bit to get out into the field again. To his disgust, he's tasked with distracting Chicago Tribune ace reporter Samantha Tate, who's been trying to dig up the dirt on BKI for years. Turns out Samantha's beauty, intelligence and sense of humor are a seriously big distraction, and Ozzie's losing his desire to keep her at bay.

Ozzie's tired of hiding, and Samantha may be the best-and worst—person to share his secrets with...

"A nail-biter from start to finish". —Publishers Weekly for *Too Hard to Handle*

## Wild Ride Details

Date : Published April 4th 2017 by Sourcebooks Casablanca

ISBN :

Author : Julie Ann Walker

Format : Kindle Edition 384 pages

Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, War, Military Fiction, Suspense, Contemporary

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## From Reader Review Wild Ride for online ebook

### Rachel says

Ethan "Ozzie" Sykes has long been the guy who kept everything light within BKI, as long as you were an 80's music fan. Now he's stuck behind while the rest of the crew runs missions, waiting for his injury to heal, and he's not happy about it. He's also been tasked with keeping an eye on reporter Samantha Tate.

Samantha has been trying to get the scoop on BKI for years. She's sure there is more to the motorcycle shop than there appears. A new lead has her looking once more at the shop for nefarious acts, only this time she might be closer to danger than she anticipated.

Samantha is a good reporter, and this time her search for information has landed her in hot water. She has a hard time believing that the men she has spent so much time around are into the things she has heard, and for the first time she isn't sure who to trust.

Ozzie's interest in the pretty reporter has been sidelined, because having a reporter in the shop is a bad idea. But when she finds herself in real danger, he has little choice but to keep her close, but keep her distracted. Too bad that distraction is as much for him as it is for her.

These two were so much fun to read. Ozzie is not happy at being left back at headquarters. But watching him skate around Samantha and try to get her to trust him again was just so entertaining. He has a way about him that makes it difficult to take things too seriously, even when danger is high.

As the twists and turns in this story were revealed, I couldn't help but be pulled back into the BKI world. I loved watching Ozzie and Christian try to figure out how to handle the threats while keeping Samantha in the dark, and loved Ozzie's self-realization about the feelings he had for Samantha. There isn't a lot of outside play from the other members of BKI, but the wives are present to watch (and razz) Ozzie as he tries to keep a lid on things around Samantha. Though the danger was high throughout, there was a lightness here that isn't always in these books, and I think it is solely due to Ozzie's normally light hearted self.

I was gifted a copy in exchange for an honest review.

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### Sissy's Romance Book Review says

Review for: Wild Ride Julie Ann Walker

'Wild Ride' by Julie Ann Walker is book Nine in the "Black Knights Inc." series. This is the story of Ethan "Ozzie" Sykes and Samantha Tate. I have not yet read the other books in this series so for me this was a standalone book. The Black Knights are a team of people actually working for the Government but only a few Government people know about them. Ozzie is one of the members and he knows that things have to be kept secret. But when Sam starts to looking around for information it ends up putting her in danger and that doesn't leave Ozzie many options. This was an exciting, drama filled romance that was hard to put down!\*A Book Obsessed Chicks Review Team Selection\*<https://www.amazon.com/gp/profile/A2H...>  
<https://www.facebook.com/RomanceBookR...> <https://twitter.com/soapsrus68https://...>  
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## Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

FINALLY!!! We get Ozzie in all his sexy, geeky, nerdy glory and I absolutely LOVED IT!!! Wild Ride is full of action, drama, laughs, hot chemistry, 80's hair band music and the BKI women we all love!

Samantha and Ozzie are perfect for each other, well except for the fact he is a member of a super, super, secret, secret agency and she is a nosey reporter looking for a story. Samantha suspects there is more to BKI than meets the eye and in the midst of snooping she uncovers something that puts her life in danger. Ozzie steps in to protect her and that is when the sizzling chemistry between them explodes.

The road to Ozzie and Samantha's HEA is a long one full of mistrust, secrets, danger, passion and love. Along the road you will see some much loved characters from previous books who add laughter and help Ozzie and Samantha maneuver their slippery and bumpy trip. A trip you definitely want to travel if you love romantic suspense!

Review copy provided for a voluntary review.

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## Bambi Unbridled says

I'm late to the game on this series... not because I was not interested but because I haven't had time to add the 8 previous books to my reading calendar. I finally decided to jump in with the current release and read the stories out of order (even though that drives my reading OCD a little bonkers). So while I don't have the backstory of Black Knights Inc. (BKI), I managed to get through *Wild Ride* without feeling too lost or uninformed. If you have not read the earlier books and want to jump in and test the waters with this book, I think you will be fine.

From what I understand, BKI is a group of covert operatives working as a strike force directly for the White House and Joint Chiefs of Staff. Based in Chicago, the group runs a custom motorcycle shop as a cover for their clandestine government activity. In this installment, most of the team is away overseas on a mission, so I only "met" two team members and some of their wives.

Our hero is Ethan "Ozzie" Sykes, a charming ladies man and tech genius. I really liked this hero. He was fun and flirty, but with a good dose of vulnerability that made me want to hug him and pet him and squeeze him... and love him forever. I don't know how much of Ozzie's backstory was given in the earlier books, but I do believe his injury by IED was a major event. Now Ozzie is scarred and in pain, and feeling down in the dumps with the state of his personal and professional life. But no matter his inner turmoil, Ozzie learned from a young age to be outwardly charming, particularly to women. My heart ached for Ethan, the child, and I understood how his early life has had lasting affects for Ozzie, the man.

Samantha Tate is an investigative reporter always looking for the truth and the next big story. I admit that I groaned when I realized our heroine was a reporter... I don't typically enjoy reading reporter heroines as they always seem more concerned with their story than the people, and jump to the wrong conclusion way too often. So I had some bias against our heroine, and her actions early in *Wild Ride* did not endear her to me. Luckily, she had her come-to-Jesus moment early on and her characters smoothed out a bit after that. I won't

say that I ever fully liked her, but she was tolerable after we got past her first mistake.

I can't say that the relationship between these two was instalove, because they have been hanging out as friends for a few months. All of that activity pre-dates this story, so I am not sure how much of it appeared in earlier books. So this is somewhat of a friends-to-lovers romance, but I would be hesitant to call Samantha a "friend" of Ozzie when she suspected him of being a criminal for the duration of their friendship. I did enjoy the banter between the couple, and the suspense plot. The humor and banter contrasted to the suspense to give this book a lighter feel than I was expecting from a romantic suspense story. The danger was not overblown or extreme, as the focus was more on building the relationship than a sense of impending doom.

Overall, I enjoyed this story and the concept of the series. I am definitely interested enough to go back and read the earlier books (as soon as I can fit them in). I recommend this to readers who enjoy a lighter romantic suspense, or fun and flirty heroes. I voluntarily reviewed an advanced copy of this book that I received from the publisher, Sourcebooks Casablanca.

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## Reading In Pajamas says

◆Spotlight, Review & Giveaway: WILD RIDE (Black Knights Inc. Book 9) by Julie Ann Walker

<http://wp.me/p3d0RZ-8ig>

Publication Date: April 4, 2017

Genre: Romantic Suspense

Reviewed by: Reading in Pajamas/ Donna

Rated 5 Stars

This is my favorite Black Knights Inc. Even though I've thought the same on each one I've read. The banter between Ozzie and Christian was so much fun, and Samantha showed that she could hold her own with Ozzie as well. I found it fascinating that Ozzie and Samantha – both involved with communication in one form or another – had trouble with the one-on-one communication. I'm not complaining, it added a great element to the story. The romance was smoking and realistic in its progression. (I want an Ozzie!) Then you add the danger and action to get a well-rounded romantic suspense novel. The bad-guy was perfect for this story. This is one that I will read again...especially when it's time to gear-up for the next installment, Ms. Walker has my interest peaked for that!

\*Review copy provided by Sourcebooks in exchange for an honest review.

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◆9. WILD RIDE > <http://amzn.to/2eSpez2> | Review 5 Stars: <http://wp.me/p3d0RZ-8ig>

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## Abi says

Update- 4/11/2017: OMG! This book was really amazing and great! It was very interesting to see a different side of Ozzie and to understand why he acted the way he did. At first, I was hesitant about Samantha, but as I kept on reading, she turned out to be a spunky and amazing character. Samantha and Ozzie lit up the pages and their relationship was endearing and hot! There were some rough patches in the book that made me teary-eyed but it all worked out in the end. I loved the action that took place in the novel in regards to the Basilisk's. Although it wasn't as intense as previous books (and it made sense due to Ozzie's injury), it was a thrill. I enjoyed the dynamic between Christian and Emily. It kind of reminded me of Lily and Ambrose's relationship in the Storm of Silence series. I look forward to reading their book (which is Hot Pursuit).

Wild Ride was a definite treat and I look forward to reading more in this series. (Chelsea and Dagan are next followed by Christian and Emily!!) 5/5 stars

I am really excited for this book!

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## Cindy ~ SnS Reviews says

My man Ozzie finally gets his story. Ozzie has been the comic relief through out most of the books with his 80's movie/music trivia. We knew he was a great hacker, ladies man and group joker. But we've never known why he is those things.

Ozzie was hurt badly hurt on a mission recently and he is physically never going to be the same. His self esteem has taken a hit and that's something that has never fully recovered from his childhood which is where the deflecting with his humor comes into play.

I loved that all the men of BKI except for Christian were all out on a mission so the story was mainly concentrated on Ozzie and his lady with the occasional set up of Christian and his lady's story for a future book.

Ozzie's been friend's only dating a reporter. He really likes her but between her job at the Chicago Tribune and his secret black ops work he does for BKI he doesnt see how they can be anything more than friends.

Samantha Tate has always been curious about what exactly goes on inside the warehouse of the Black Knights motorcycle club. She has always had a feeling its more than just a custom bike shop. Even though they always shut down her request for an interview she does manage to become good friends with Ozzie but deep down never really fully trusted him because of the secrets she thinks he and the BKI group are hiding. When she gets some false intel that points to them being gun runners that may have had something to do with the death of a teenager she was using to get intel from she immediately believes it not knowing she is in danger from the real MC who is running the guns.

Lots of trust issues and secrets and some harrowing times for Samantha have to be dealt with before these two find their HEA but its sooo worth it as they are perfect for each other. Seems like its been a while since we've gotten a new BKI story and now there will be 3 this year.. Up next is Dagan's story and after that

Christian and Emily who had a lot of face time in this book and boy does that promise to be one of heck of book with all the sniping and sparks that fly between them.

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## Jo says

*“I don’t want happy-go-lucky all the time, Ozzie. I just want you. All of you. Funny and sad. Light and dark. All of you.”*

I love a heroine who goes after what she wants and Samantha Tate is definitely my kind of heroine. A tragedy at eighteen made her determined to become a reporter, to expose criminals and their evil workings. I loved how strong she was, her independence and what a smart-ass she was. Her dedication to her work and her integrity made me love her even more. I also loved how she saw Ozzie, not just the charm and wit he showed others but also the hurt and sadness he hid so well.

*He wasn’t just fond of Samantha. He didn’t just lust after her. He...adored her. Everything about her—from her natural nosiness to her sharp mind and her quick quips.*

I’m sure that everyone who reads this series loves Ethan “Oz” Sykes. He’s the super geek, brilliant with computers, who loves all things Star Trek, movies and eighties rock music. He’s always seemed like a major flirt, so relaxed and I was pleasantly surprised to see that he had a much deeper and darker side to him, especially after their mission that ended in tragedy and disaster and that injured Ozzie badly. I loved how he was part alpha and part beta, a charming flirt but also a bad-ass with a serious side that he hid very well. Because of his playboy reputation I’ve always assumed he only wanted a good time, and it broke my heart to learn that he’s actually the opposite, the guy all girls saw only as a fun time and never anything more. I loved seeing his vulnerable side, especially around Sam, how he tried so hard not to reveal how strongly he felt about her.

*He loved her. Loved everything about her. Her fierce heart and even fiercer mind. That little gap between her two front teeth and the noises she made when ecstasy overtook her. The list went on and on. And he got it now. Understood the depth of the possessiveness, the devotion, the bonds his brothers-in-arms felt for their women. It was all-consuming. All-encompassing. Wonderful and terrible at the same time.*

I loved the slow burn of their romance. They’ve known of each other distantly for years with Sam wanting to get a story on Black Knights Inc. and recently they’ve become friends. Of course at first it was because BKI wanted to keep giving Sam wrong info and Oz was the elected guy to mislead her, but the more time he spent with her, the more he liked her and wanted her. And Sam felt the same way, but both thought the attraction was one-sided and therefor kept their feelings hidden. I loved seeing the chemistry between them become more intense with every encounter until they couldn’t ignore it anymore. And at times I wanted to shake them both, because both was in love with the other but thought it was only one-sided. Adorable idiots.

As always the plot was captivating and very suspenseful with Samantha catching the attention of some very bad bikers, Oz having to keep the truth of what BKI really does from her and hating it, and trying to keep her safe from the bad guys. I also enjoyed seeing some of the other BKI operators, especially the British former SAS officer Christian Watson and Emily Scott who used to be CIA. The sparks and sexual tension between these two could start an inferno.

I love the fast paced action of this series and the hot romance and Wild Ride was a fantastic addition to this series. Highly recommended to all RS fans.

## Book Him Danno says

Most of her stories are stand alone books but honestly this one is the one I suggest you read after having read at least one other Black Knight Inc book. I think readers just starting off will get a little lost because Ozzie has been in every single book and his characters has developed over the years creating him to be the one characters readers fell in love with.

For Julie Ann Walker fans this is the book you have been waiting for and trust me you will not be disappointed. Everything about this book is what you expect from the author good laughs, hot sex and romance and believe able because the romance has been building since first book.

I can't think of one thing I would want different from this story. Julie Ann Walker follows her traditional story with the damsel in distress, this time she thinks its Ozzie who is trying to killer. She uses pop cultural references but they work because of Ozzie being a nerd.

I can't tell you how much I loved this story and by far my favorite in the series.

Thank you Netgalley, Publisher and author for the advance Copy

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## Beth says

Samantha Tate is a report and she knows something is going on with the motorcycle club, The Black Knights. She has been trying to get into their circle for years. Ozzie, a member of the Black Knights, has befriended Samantha, but he's made sure that all the secrets of the Knights have stayed under wraps. You see, The Black Knights are actually a black ops group ran by the US government and their missions are so classified only the president of the US and a few high ranging military officers are aware of their status.

When Samantha (Sam) uncovers a lead about guns being sold by a MC club, with terrorist connection, it puts a bulls-eye on her head. Ozzie must decide how best to protect her while keeping The Black Knights' secret.

The smoldering attraction between Ozzie and Sam don't help the up close and person situation they find themselves in.

White knuckle reading at its finest, *Wild Ride* is better than a roller coaster to get your heart pumping.

I love that family atmosphere that the Black Knights have created. Each member of this cast has each other's backs and plays an important role, even if they are no longer the main characters to the storyline. I can't believe this is book 9, if you're a romantic suspense fan you really should check this out.

I received this ARC copy of *Wild Ride* Wild Ride is set for publication April 4, 2017.

My Rating: 4 stars

Written by: Julie Ann Walker

Series: Black Knights Inc. (Book 9)

Mass Market Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Sourcebooks Casablanca

Publication Date: April 4, 2017

ISBN-10: 1492608815

ISBN-13: 978-1492608813

Genre: Romantic Suspense

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Reviewed for:

<http://tometender.blogspot.com>

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### **XxTainaxX says**

Audiobook review. 3.5 stars. The plot of this story was constructed very well. The detail, planning, execution all strong. It was full of action and quite entertaining. The characters, Ozzie and Samantha, had great chemistry and were fleshed out well. They were distinct and unique in thought and mannerism but were still cohesive as a unit. The secondary characters really complimented the story.

An area of opportunity for me lies in the fact that these two don't really talk honestly or openly to one another until way late in the game. I'd say the last 25% or more of the story, which felt like it was dragged out, could have been wrapped up with a few short confessions. It didn't do the story any favors to linger there where the focus could've gone to the development of their romantic relationship or even their relationship with the team. Wasted page space in my opinion.

Aside from that I really enjoyed the story and felt the narrators did a great job. They were a good match for the protagonists and executed the task using great pace, tone, and inflections.

Safety: It appears there were others after they met but none for a while before they actually get together and certainly none after. Yes to abuse and attempted rape.

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### **Jem says**

A motorcycle club that really isn't a motorcycle club but is a cover for a covert ops group working for the president. Clever. This way the bikers can be good guys and the story is still set in the biker world at least partially. The real bikers are as nasty as one would expect.

Ozzie, and his club's, secrets are not at all what Samantha thinks they are but he can't tell her what they really do. Samantha develops a serious friendship/crush even thinking he's part of a gun-running outlaw gang. All this was a bit hard for me to believe. Even harder to believe is that Ozzie is a gorgeous SEAL and consummate flirt emotionally crippled with deep seated self-doubt around women. His insecurities create a lot of tension though since it's so hard for him to trust that Samantha really cares about him. And the president calls to fill Samantha in on Ozzie's secret? Really?

Despite these parts of the plot that I never really accepted, the story was well enough written and the characters likable enough that I enjoyed the book. Ozzie is a really good guy. He's a dear and loyal friend to Samantha. I wanted to see the two very likable people get the happily ever after they deserved. I enjoyed the cast of supporting characters as well. Walker does a good job of creating tense situations and fun interactions in the right places to advance the story well. She painted the loathsome outlaws so well that almost made my skin crawl.

Wild Ride is indeed a wild ride and the book is entertaining. I'm curious to see more of Emily and Christian.

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### **Tami says**

This review is based on the ARC provided by the author and/or the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for my honest opinion.

3.5

This is a romantic suspense. I had a few "what the ...." moments, so I would suggest that you read the series in it's entirety. It was a good book.

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### **Suzi (Obsessive Reading Disorder) says**

4.5 Stars

Ahhhh....Ozzie.....Loved getting his story!

Most of the books in the series are stand alones but you will appreciate this book so much more having read at least one or more of the series first. Ozzie is the fun loving, full of life, geek, nerdy cutie pie of the team. He is friends with everyone and everyone else loves him as well. You need some of his history in order to truly appreciate this story.

The story picks up chronologically after the last book. Ozzie is recuperating in Chicago from a serious injury and going a bit stir crazy. Samantha is a reporter that has been on the fringes of the team for years. She knows there is more to their story than just a motorcycle shop.

As happens with the Black Knights, danger comes calling. The suspense along with the possibility of being revealed to the world, makes for a great story. Ozzie and Samantha together are fun but also so poignant once they reveal their true selves to each other.

I liked that the rest of the team was out on mission. This one really focused on Ozzie and the women left behind. Looks like some new love may be on the horizon as well between new team members.

Looking forward to more!

\*Complimentary copy provided via Netgalley for an honest review.

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## Kim says

### 4.5 stars

It is finally Ozzie's book! He has been a stand out in many of the BKI books as the team computer hacker, and we have recently seen him get injured. He is still dealing with some of the after effects of that ill fated mission and his injury.

He was supposed to avoid Samantha Tate...they all were. She is a pesky reporter who has been after a story about the secrets of BKI for years. But while recuperating, Ozzie finds himself enjoying spending more time with her. She has the ability to make him laugh and stimulate him. They are friends, but he has so many secrets...not only about BKI, but also about how he feels about her.

But Samantha's search for information gets her into a big mess. One that makes her question Ozzie even more. But at the same time, he seems to be her self appointed protector. She finds herself staying at the BKI shop...close to Ozzie. During the building of their friendship neither ever mentioned trying for more, but in their minds they are stripping each other naked and having some fun. And being in close quarters will not help that situation.

Ozzie...he's built, hot, and charming, but he's also highly intelligent and a sci-fi geek. He's got a big heart, great sense of humor, and a strong protective streak. He is just irresistible and I adored him. But he's also been in a funk since his injury and feeling useless and restless. He would fall into periods of guilt, remorse, and self pity. But Samantha was starting to help him move on. Her sassy, stubborn, personality and intellectual stimulation hooked him and he was starting to have an inkling of hope. And her needing help and protection gave him new purpose.

I loved seeing Ozzie realize he actually liked her, cared for her, and wanted her. He was formerly known as a player, but due to recent circumstances, he does not feel like playing anymore. They have smoking hot chemistry, but Ozzie also has guilt since he has so many secrets. So it's a bad situation. Ozzie is too good of a guy to want to hurt her when he can't share his secret life and risk that the reporter in her won't be able to resist the big scoop of BKI's hidden agenda. But he is also scared of rejection. My heart just hurt for him when his vulnerability showed. Samantha has her own fears and they are not helped by his mixed signals. These two are not the best at communicating and tend to jump to conclusions and get their feelings hurt. Their only chance would require truth, trust, and a leap of faith.

We get to spend more time with a couple of newer BKI members. Christian is a fashionable, sarcastic, ex-member of SAS, Brit who drives a sports car instead of a motorcycle. And Emily is the new secretary who used to work for the CIA. She is snarky and feisty and loves to ruffle Christian's feathers. There is so much sexual tension underlying their sparring that they were scene stealers. Other BKI family featured in this one were Delilah, Becky, and Michelle. Most of the guys were away on missions, but I liked having Ozzie, Christian, and the women dealing with the situations in this one.

This is more about a dangerous problem closer to home as Samantha has ticked off the wrong people and stirred up trouble. Ozzie and Christian have to work with the police to help keep her safe and try to delve into the layers of dirty dealings. It was funny, sexy, suspenseful, and fast-paced. I think this might be my fave BKI book yet, and I am sure that Ozzie is my favorite hero.

I was gifted a copy in exchange for an honest review.

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