



Hell or High Water

Julie Ann Walker

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In a world on the brink

Six men. One sunken Spanish galleon. Millions in gold and silver coins lying on the ocean floor. And a past that refuses to let the guys of Deep Six Salvage forget the Navy SEAL motto: the only easy day was yesterday...

There's more than one kind of treasure

The nation's security has always been CIA agent Olivia Mortier's top priority. But a mission-gone-wrong has begun to make her wonder if there's more to life than risking hers.

And more than one secret at the bottom of the sea

Only two things could make Leo Anderson abandon his hunt for the legendary lost ship, La Santa Christina, and return to the world of weapons and warfare he swore to leave behind: a capsule of enriched uranium, lost on the ocean floor, and a plea for assistance from the one woman he can't seem to forget...

Praise for *Full Throttle*:

"Quick witted and action packed." -*RT Book Reviews*, 4 stars

"Heart-pounding...Walker has outdone herself." ?*Publishers Weekly*, Starred Review

"Amazing...took me on the ride of my life." -*The Book Whisperer*

"A wonderful, intense story with fabulous romantic tension." -*Tome Tender*

Hell or High Water Details

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Author : Julie Ann Walker

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From Reader Review Hell or High Water for online ebook

WhiskeyintheJar/Kyraryker says

Hell or High Water was a fantastic start to a new series! It was fun, suspenseful, and sexy. The old saying location, location, location definitely was true here. We have the common elements of Navy SEALs and dangerous situations but all in a fresh new location of high seas adventure; the setting was a huge factor in how much I liked this.

I read this along with the other ladies of the blog and you can read and find out more what we liked about this at: [Reading Between the Wines book club](#)

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Rhayne's review posted at [Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews](#)

Hell or High Water is the first book in Ms. Walker's new series, Deep Six. If you have read her Black Knights, Inc. series, you will find this new series right up along the same line. The intensity, action, and mix of sexy is the same, it's just wrapped around a new and exciting plot.

I fell in love with Walker's writing style after reading the first chapter of her first book, and I have been held hostage in her book worlds. She is a master at writing descriptive scenes that transports you right into the center of the action. Whether it's a scene of passion, fighting or adventure, you get a front row seat as it all unfolds before your eyes.

This book is told in multiple POV's. There are three separate situations happening at the same time that all mingle together perfectly into one story. The balance between the different plots is well developed and kept me invested in each one.

In this story we follow along as six retired SEALs are on a quest for adventure and treasure. From the very beginning, nothing goes as planned. Things gradually get worse as their voyage progresses. Leo and Olivia share with us their journey for finding terrorists, finding traitors, finding stolen bombs and finally finding everlasting love.

I love the new characters we get introduced to in this series. As with all of her books, they are very strong, but have a sweet side that melts your heart. The sarcastic banter back and forth provides a great mix of humor even in some very dark and troubling times.

There is no limit to the future of this series. There are so many great introductions that could easily lead off into different novels. I can't wait to see what lies ahead.

Where this is the first book in the series be prepared for a lot of back story and character introductions. It took me a few chapters to get completely pulled in, but once it happened there was no stopping until I hit the last page. Ms. Walker will always have a spot of my auto buy list. I am guaranteed a story filled with intense moments, hot alpha men, enough action to make it impossible to put down, and it's all enfolded around a sexy, passionate, epic love story.

Review copy provided for an honest review.

Julie says

Hell or High Water by Julie Ann Walker is a 2015 Sourcebooks Casablanca publication. I was provided a copy of this book by the publisher and Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Most of us know JAW from her mega popular Black Knight series and we've come to expect high octane, fast paced, action packed romantic suspense. This new series gets off to a solid start as we meet Leo and his crew, a group of Navy SEALs who have officially "retired" after a failed mission that took the life of one of their comrades.

Leo was on a operation in Syria working with CIA agent Olivia Mortier, and the two were close to acting on the sizzling chemistry between them when things imploded and Leo found himself out of the SEALs forever. But, now Olivia is in need of a topnotch diving team for a highly secretive, off the record, operation in which innocent lives are at stake. Leo and his team are the best there is, but could Olivia have an ulterior motive in asking for their help? Can she convince Leo to put his plans of locating an old Spanish Galleon and going on a treasure hunt on the back burner for awhile in order to help her?

Who doesn't love a high seas adventure? Leo "the lion" is a perfect hero with a SEAL background, and just the right amount of that military alpha male trait, but not over the top macho. Olivia is also a great character, a woman who has been forced to keep her emotions in check due to her career in the CIA, but who is approaching thirty , and wishing for a little more from life outside of her job. She's smart, holds her own under pressure, but has a softer, human side too.

"Remaining aloof and unloved would be her decision and – Whoa there, Nelly. Don't go getting all maudlin. Next thing you know, you'll be sporting sweats, eating frozen dinners, and drinking boxed wine. Olivia Mortier: cover girl of Woe is Me magazine."

Sometimes, the first book in a new series can leave me feeling a little disoriented, and I did suffer from that a little with this one. Setting the stage for the series, introducing us to all the players, setting up the next book, and still coming up with a plot line interesting enough to entice readers to return for the follow up, can make the story a little too busy, and at times I did think there was a little too much going on or too many people involved. However, I enjoyed this one mainly because of it's setting on the high seas, which is kind of different for a change, and I thought it added a little panache to the adventure side of things plus the dialogue between Olivia and Leo was snappy and sharp, and I thought the chemistry between them was palpable, not forced or focused solely on the physical aspect of the relationship.

The secondary characters rounded out the story nicely and added humor and comic relief to this tense thriller.

Overall, I think this is story gives the series a strong lead in and I'm really looking forward to the next installment. 4 stars

Angela (Angel's Guilty Pleasures) says

~ 3 Hell or High Water Stars ~

Hell or High Water is book one in Julie Ann Walker's new *Deep Six* series. I have to say I LOVE her *Black Knights Inc.* series and was expecting something along this line. I was not disappointed per say, just not as into this first book as I hoped to be.

Hell or High Water is told in multiple POV's. We are given lots of pop culture references throughout. The plot was interesting with flushing out a CIA mole and retrieving chemical weapons. The prologue was confusing until I read the first chapter, which explains that our retired Navy SEAL's are now treasure hunters instead of working for the government. JAW does a good jump introducing us to our seven Hot and Sexy retired Navy SEAL's. I enjoyed getting to see each of these men and learning why they choose not to reenlist, though the reason is a very sad and an emotional one. This story has some very strong emotions and lots of upheaval for our leads and secondary characters. The start of the story is kinda on the slow side for me and it really never picked up. We don't get as much action/adventure as I am use too from JAW and what action we do get I was not as into.

I like Leo "The Lion" Anderson our team leader. He is loyal and even after retirement he still feels a responsibility towards his men. I liked that he differed to the others before making a decision and that he put others before himself. As for Olive, she is confident and has courage, but I still went back and forth on liking her or not. I think it had to do with her past and the emotional issues it caused her. Also I was bothered that Olive did not confess what happened in Syria, when it became obvious that this secret would come out. Our secondary characters especially Bran where amazing. Bran added some great humor, which kept the story going for me. I really enjoyed the times he interrupted Olive and Leo's sexy time. The set up for Bran and Madison was great too and I can't wait for his story. He really stood out in this one.

Hell or High Water was an enjoyable read and a good start, but it did not wow me as her *Black Knights Inc* series. I will be picking up the next book in the *Deep Six* series.

***Disclaimer:** Review copy provided by Sourcebooks Casablanca via NetGalley with the sole purpose of an honest review. All thoughts, comments and ratings are my own.

Jessica says

I tried, I just could t connect with anyone in this book. It's not a bad book. I personally could t connect with anyone so I will give it 2.5 stars because the idea was awesome, the author is awesome. This book just wasn't for me. From the other reviews I've read it does get better, but if I can't get into a book by 15% it's not for me.

Mandy says

I love my little sister. I love her a lot. I love her enough that when she asks for more romantic suspense recommendations and I've already exhausted my limited knowledge of the genre, I start reading more romantic suspense. Do you hear that, Bethany????!?? I'm taking the bullet for you! GR friends, feel free to send her recommendations.

The premise of this story is just so stupid. An FBI agent sets up a sting to catch a mole. In the process, the FBI agent loses canisters of bioweapons. The ONLY people who can help her retrieve the weapons from the terrorists are a team of recently retired SEALs led by the super hot SEAL dude that she wants. Yeah, it's like that.

I did enjoy some of the more technical aspects in the story. Finally, in a romance novel featuring SEALs, they're actually in the water!! Imagine that! I swear in romance books the authors just randomly choose occupations. So, what occupations have hot guys? I know. Firemen, FBI, and military. *eyeroll* I liked the references to BUD/S and the velocity of a bullet traveling underwater. There were some pretty cool killing bad guys under water scenes, too. Stuff blows up. I'm always a fan when stuff blows up.

As always, I do get suckered into good secondary characters. That would be the only reason to read the next book. Even then, I'm not sure it's worth the effort.

Laura the Highland Hussy says

Read this review on Got Fiction? book blog

2.5

This book is a case of it's not you, it's me. The voice and tone of the author just did not work for me. The plot is excellent, the characters are developed...yet the sense of humor and the voice just irritated the crap out of me.

Okay, so we have a very recently retired SEAL lieutenant and his team...they now have sunk everything they own into an underwater salvage company. They're relaxing in the Florida Keys when the woman he can't get out of his head, CIA agent Olivia Mortier, walks onto his island with a job for him. The CIA "gave" some terrorists chemicals but had trackers on them, so they could find who was in charge of said terrorists. But the shipment is dead in the water (literally). I've simplified it, really it's a great plot.

Meanwhile, Leo is ready to go hunt down a certain Spanish galleon that is loaded with treasure. But Olivia needs him, and he needs the money. So he and his team are off to intercept and then deep water dive down to fetch the chemicals. But it's not that easy, of course. The terrorists have commandeered a yacht from a good Samaritan passing by, and they are waiting for further instructions.

The Deep Six guys make it to the location, and there's a yacht just hanging out. They hail it, and the captain says it's all okay, but, Leo and his team aren't certain. Then all hell breaks loose. His ship is sunk, he's got Olivia floating in the open ocean, and he can't keep his mind off of her even though his team is ready to go. Pushing her out of his mind for a moment, he and the guys take back the yacht.

Now the part I had issue with-the sense of humor and voice. This author loves her punny similes. But they're awful. Seriously awful. Mind you I have the dorkiest sense of humor and I love puns. This was bad.

"Wound tighter than a suicide bomber..."

"...leaking out like hazardous chemicals."

"Exploded in his brain like an IED."

"He burst through the door like the cool aid pitcher guy burst through walls..."

They really get worse, and they were seriously ever other sentence. These were some of the better ones, although I don't know a single military guy who would make awful similes like those. (I'm married to a former Airman, so I know a few guys from living on-base for years. I even asked a few about the bad jokes they tell...one guy told me he thought the IED and suicide bomber one were in bad taste...I agree).

The biggest issue that I had with this book is that when Olivia and Leo met, they were both stationed in the Desert, and yet, as an active duty SEAL, he's described as having a bushy beard. NO. Full stop. It's not allowed. His beard continues to feature in his new career as a deep sea diver--well...even his stubble would cause his SCBA apparatus to not seal against his skin. If he'd had a beard on land, and then shaved it before he went in the water, hey that's normal, I get that. But as an active-duty SEAL? It's actually not allowed. I looked it up. The author's note went on about how much she thanked the guys who taught her about deep sea diving, and she lived on a boat in the Keys for a couple of weeks...why put that much effort into getting it right, just to not even get a very simple detail right? Seriously? A full bushy beard? NO.

I am seriously debating whether to try the next book, because on one hand, SUPER interesting characters. On the other...I might get another book full of stupid similes.

***ARC courtesy of Sourcebooks Casablanca

Jade Lee says

Great fun

Julie Ann Walker is one talented woman. I've enjoyed her Black Knights series. And this one looks to be even better. Plus, we get a sunken treasure ship! Or we will as the rest of the series continues...

Dee says

Two-haiku review:

Former Navy SEAL
CIA babe needs his team
Recover weapons

Suspense, lots of sex
Looking forward to next one
Enjoyable read

Jonel Boyko says

What a rush! Walker launches her latest series with suspense, intrigue, action, and unbridled passion. The

story comes to life through her vivid narrative, bringing you along for the ride. The intricate and unforgettable plot weaves together in such a manner that you can feel the action of the tale. At the same time, the danger and intrigue kept my heart pounding.

I loved getting to know these characters in such an up-close and personal manner. The camaraderie between the characters really did it for me. These aren't simply individuals thrown together by circumstances; they are friends who've been to hell and back together. The verbal and nonverbal communication between them highlighted just how close they are while also showing who they are as individuals. And let's not forget the fantastic main characters that Walker introduces us to. They were the type of individuals that I could really root for. The chemistry between them was undeniable, and I couldn't help but laugh at everything that came between them.

This novel was fast paced, captivating and hauntingly suspenseful from beginning to end. Walker has definitely created a crew that will do this series proud.

Please note that I received a complimentary copy of this work in exchange for an honest review.

Marta Cox says

Well having read some of this authors Black Knights inc series I could not resist this the first book in her new Deep Six series. This series features a group of ex Navy seals who are working together as salvage operatives and their dream is to live life to the full and hopefully find the ultimate prize, a wrecked Spanish galleon carrying treasure. Though they may be retired the work they did with the CIA has not been forgotten and when chemical weapons go missing near Key West a blast from the past shows up requesting their help. Olivia has never forgotten the searing kiss she shared with sexy seal Leo but things are really kind of complicated. Now she needs his help but there's still a lot she is hiding from him. What starts out as a straightforward retrieval quickly escalates into an action packed battle with terrorists and then there's the mystery of a particularly nasty mole to solve. Add in kidnapping, a hi jacked yacht and seriously alpha males and this story just rockets along to bring an adrenaline fuelled high seas adventure . Romance , humour and non stop action seem to be the name of the game here and it's a different style from the author compared to what I'm used to. Multiple points of view add to the very fast pace and it's hard to believe that most of the plot takes place all in one day! It was an odd mixture of funny dialogue (featuring lots of popular culture references), coupled with romance that constantly got interrupted ! Leo is likeable and a great hero but at times I struggled with Olivia as she's an agent who just isn't really that tough . Brave yes, self sacrificing yes but still a little girl in so many ways. If you enjoy a fast paced action fuelled romance that's bouncy and almost jovial at times then the Deep Six will entertain you , just suspend all belief and go with the flow! I was gifted a copy in exchange for an honest review

The_Book_Queen says

Mixed feelings on this one. The story itself was okay -- I'd say 3 stars, max.

But there were two things that pulled the rating down.

1) Racist remarks/views. Including a (I assume) future heroine who refers to the Native American team member as "Dances with Wolves Extra". While all the white team members get nicknames like "Mr Swoony", "Sir Lifts A Lot", and "Golden God". Fuck that shit.

2) The writing was . . . at times confusing, not great, and OTT. Like "He was so hard a cat couldn't scratch him" [which is apparently also a line in an old Linda Howard . . . AND STILL MAKES ZERO DAMN SENSE IN 2018]. Or her womb "twanging" during sex, like some fucking country music singer. There were a bunch of other phrases and analogies that just didn't work, and if I had been reading this, rather than listening during my walks, I can guarantee I'd have quite the list of WTF examples.

On top of that, I didn't believe the romance by the end. This story takes place over the course of maybe 3 days or so? Yeah, heavy lust, sure. Maybe some like. But love? In between trying to not be killed by terrorists and complete this dangerous, time sensitive mission? Nah.

Oh! And I hated that every chapter/scene told us the day and time. I kinda get why -- so we know that this is a very short time frame to get this mission pulled off -- but it backfired, at least for this reader, because I spent far too much time going "Wait, all this chapter of events happened in this amount of time? IDK, let me over think this time frame because that does not seem right...".

The sex was hot . . . and yet, like I said before, some of those odd phrases and word choices showed up there, too.

Was this book a waste of my time? No. Did I love it? Not by a long shot, especially after the racist shit. Will I try another from JAW (this was my first)? I . . . don't know. I won't say "HARD NO" yet but I'm not dying to grab another one, either.

AH says

About 3.5 stars...

After a promising start and a very intriguing prologue, I found that the beginning of the book was a little slow for me. I figured it may have been a mood thing so I put the book down and tried again later on. I'm glad I went back to this book because it did have its entertaining moments.

The romance aspect was nicely done with our hero and heroine pining for each other but being in denial about their feelings. Leo lives in Florida on a private island in the keys while Olivia is a CIA operative. Their paths have crossed 18 months earlier in Syria and now Olivia recommends Leo and his men for a salvage operation. The romance build up slowly and our couple is rudely interrupted many times.

I enjoyed reading **Hell or High Water** and I'm looking forward to reading more books by this author in the future.

Thank you to NetGalley and Sourcebooks Casablanca for a review copy of this book.

MsRomanticReads says

Rating: 4.5 out of 5

*Complimentary ARC provided by the publisher via NetGalley for the purpose of an honest review.

Man down!

When the Crazy Eight lost one of their own, it changed everything.

An oath sworn

With his dying breath, Rusty Lawrence made his band of brothers promise him they would leave the Navy and live life to the fullest.

After reading the prequel to this new series in the *Way of the Warrior anthology* (which was fantastic, and author and publisher proceeds go to the Wounded Warrior Project), I knew I'd want to read the first, full-length novel. If Navy SEALs are your thing, you need this book! Julie Ann Walker did an amazing job of transporting me to the Florida Keys, and she kept me on the edge of my seat with the brilliantly described scenes of deep sea diving and tactical (underwater) SEAL action. The biggest bonus of all was the humor interlaced throughout, courtesy of Bran, the suspense and tough female characters.

Leo "The Lion" Anderson and his former SEAL team had honored their friend's dying wish and embarked on a new adventure: the quest for high-seas adventure and treasure hunting. Even after "retirement", Leo still felt a responsibility towards his men; to make sure their venture would be profitable since they'd thrown their lot in with him. On the personal front, he couldn't get CIA agent Olivia Mortier out of his head since a mission in Syria. What I really liked about him was that he put others before himself, and he always deferred to the others before making big decisions. As Bran put it, that made him an excellent and trustworthy leader. Once in mission mode, he was calm, focused and deadly.

Olivia (30) was a kicka** heroine. I loved her confidence and courage. Despite having grown up in an orphanage and excelling in a job that didn't allow much room for romantic stability, I loved that she didn't shy away from her growing feelings for Leo. She embraced them and took what she could. I understood the guilt she carried over Rusty's death, misplaced as it was.

Bran wasn't off the mark with his jokes about their combustible chemistry. I enjoyed all the times Bran coc...interrupted their sexy time because duty called. The push and pull between them developed at a good, steady pace, so that when they finally came together, it made the wait well worth while. There were several sexy scenes and one very steamy (pun intended) sex scene. I didn't really like that she didn't dare confess to Leo what had happened in Syria, especially when it became predictable that the truth would come out in a way she couldn't control.

The story was paced well, and above all else, a page turner. The romance didn't overshadow the great suspense. Along with the retrieval of chemical weapons plot, there was also the matter of flushing out a CIA mole, and the setup of Bran's story with the feisty Madison Powers. From the interaction between Bran and Madison, I can't wait for their story as they seemed to make quite a good match. Bran really stood out in this story. I loved how protective he was of Leo, and his team mates in general.

The story was told from multiple POVs (Leo, Olivia, Bran, Mason, and the CIA mole). I deducted half a star

for the many pop culture references, mostly movies. Don't get me wrong, they were funny, and I got all of them, especially the Lethal Weapon reference (one of my favorite Murtaugh moments, by the way). It was cute the first few times, but eventually I found it a bit overkill. There was also a brief case of head hopping between Mason and Bran that threw me off a little. But aside from that, this book had EVERYTHING I love in romantic suspense—men of honor, strong female characters, good action and humor. I'd definitely recommend it to anyone who shares my taste in books in that genre.

Margaret says

I'm so excited about this series! Hell or High Water is well-researched with great attention to detail. It maintains the feel of the BKI books with great action and sexy times but is still fresh and exciting.

Full review to come.
