



## Pandora Project: Runaway Star

*Anah Crow , Dianne Fox*

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## **Pandora Project: Runaway Star** Anah Crow , Dianne Fox

Elios Campbell is working on a top-secret project: translating messages from the Pandora, an alien spaceship on the edge of human territory. A favor from his mentor drops Elios into the arms of Sender Kinnison, a pilot who seems like everything Elios has ever wanted.

Their attraction is immediate and threatens to lead to more in a hurry. Even Elios' wary heart and Sender's burdened soul can't keep them apart, until a single tragic moment changes their lives forever. Elios is helpless, as Sender, driven by ghosts and duty, goes racing out of reach. Fate brings them together one last time, but can Elios take another chance on his runaway star?

## **Pandora Project: Runaway Star Details**

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Author : Anah Crow , Dianne Fox

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## From Reader Review Pandora Project: Runaway Star for online ebook

### Marc | Rainbow Gold Reviews says

I really liked the characters and their struggles with their religion and duties, family, love and happiness. Even if the story takes place in the future (with nice world-building and an authentic feeling), the problems addressed are relevant in our time and give the story depth. I felt the sympathy I had for the characters made me like them and feel for them, even when their decision hurt others. I knew where the decisions came from, could understand the why and love the way the outfall was dealt with.

I did however feel like there was a big science-fiction arc started in the beginning that ended no-where for me. While I loved the way the relationship played out, I really expected a greater fallout from the danger that is teased. The conclusion of the book is very open and almost enthusiastic. It felt like the whole subplot was given much too little weight.

I think this story could have been turned into an amazing book series or a super novel. The sci-fi aspects were very well done, but the focus is almost exclusively on the romance and emotional struggles.

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### Nikyta \*Miss Forgetful\* says

I enjoyed this one a lot. The world is extremely fascinating as well as the conflict between the characters and their duties but this was one book I didn't want to put down.

I loved how broken both these characters are. Elios, an important linguist, is afraid to get into a relationship because of how hurt he still is over his last lover leaving him for someone else right when they were supposed to start a family. Sender, a pilot, is ashamed of his desire for other men since it's against his religion. Both these characters aren't looking for anything serious but once they get together they can't stop the feelings that grow. Unfortunately, when something happens back at Sender's home colony, it starts to drift them apart and requires Sender to choose between duty and love.

This world is extremely fascinating with the different colonies and the Pandora project that Elios and Sender's world revolves around. It had a lot of potential but one thing that kept annoying me was how confused I'd get at times. It's a great sci-fi book but while some things are explained, it's not as detailed as I would have liked which caused my confusion. When talk of Pandora happened, I would always have questions about it. What is it? Why do they need to look at it? What is the point of the project? Why would the project take five years? By the end of the book, some things are explained but not everything so I was still left with unanswered questions. I also felt like the story ended too soon. I was hoping to see them go up to Pandora and how they'd make a relationship work up there but it ends before that which makes it feel a bit like a cliffhanger.

However, while I was confused, I truly loved this book. I fell in love with Sender and Elios, Macy and Sender's sister, Katy. Macy is extremely hilarious and does everything he can to smooth Sender and Elios' relationship when it gets rocky because he just wants Sender to be happy and he knows Elios makes Sender happy.

Overall, this was a great book. It's entertaining, fascinating and was very easy for me to immerse myself in. It lacked a few details in places I thought were important but the conflict and the characters more than made

up for that especially with how easily I was able to connect with all of them. The problems they go through were fascinating to me and I was happy to see them work through them. It's a fun read while at the same time a tad angsty and intense. Definitely recommended.

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## **Kerry sullivan says**

### **This is the summary off the back of the book.**

Linguist Elios Campbell is thrilled to be granted flight time in a Colonial Guard fighter jet, until he catches sight of his pilot. Spending time with Sender Kinnison holds even more appeal than the flight itself.

Sender's desire for other men is forbidden by his faith and his family. He tries to resist his attraction to Elios, who is unlike anyone he's ever known. When he fails, the incredible sex quickly leads to something deeper, forcing Sender to question his long-held beliefs.

Then, duty calls Sender home to the repressed colony of Themis. Will he be forced to give up a future with Elios to honor the ghosts of his past?

### **This is what I think of the book.**

I am officially a sap, I cried through out the second half of this book. If I am honest I didn't want to like this book, because it deals with religion and I try to avoid those, but it won me over really quickly. I decided to read it because it has a couple of my favourite themes for a fantasy/scifi book, space pilots and man on man love.

This is a really passionate story of learning to be yourself with out guilt and duty. I liked that in this book you got two different view of religion. One very intolerant and how that can effect you when you don't fit the mould and the other is supportive so there is no strict mould. this gave the story a whole different dynamic and emotional backdrop that really effected me. if this is how this authors book are in general then I will be looking out for more but keeping hankies at the ready!!

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## **Vivian says**

Not what I expected from this author. The science fiction elements weren't very strong and the societies were based on ancient Rome and Early Christian communities. The story was character driven and revolved around a highly skilled linguist, Elios, and his interactions with a conservatively-reared fighter pilot, Sender. The main conflict is Sender's internal crisis of faith caused by his desires.

While I appreciate this is a big issue for many individuals marginalized by religion due to non-heteronormative desires, I found it heavy-handed and clumsy. I needed more plot and more world building for this to be successful for me.

Favorite quote:

“It’s difficult to travel in new territory. Frightening. Old paths are easier to find.

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## Zuyuan says

It has good elements but all coming unbalance. The first half are too slow and too much about sex. Problems solved too easily in a few sentences. Even I expected a si-fi and found that it's not (just happened in some AU world that pp lived in space and story opened like some of si-fi but it's really not the one), I still want to like it but really can't.

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## ? BookAddict ✍ La Crimson Femme says

Religions and cultures collide when Elios and Sender meet. Sender is from a conservative planet which is in poverty. Leaving the planet was the only way for him to have a better life and give his parents a chance to have another child. As a pilot in the military on Luna, Sender has it made. If only he could find a person to marry and be with for the rest of his life. The problem? He's gay and extrapolating from context clues we learn this is a bad thing based on how he's raised.

This story gives a very clear picture on how the duo of authors want a certain religion presented. They use negative terms like "backward" or "back water" to describe Sender's home. In addition, they make a point to say this one conservative world is the ONLY one that isn't thriving and is the poorest colony. Because...as the reader infers, it's due to their conservative ways and rigid religious ways. This comes across a bit heavy handed which caused me to not enjoy this book as much. This plot device is the reason for the break up between Elios and Sender.

Elios, he's a linguistics specialist who apparently has a terrible taste in men. Elios is no saint. I felt sorry for him at first but after a bit, I realized he's not able to communicate and just shuts people down. I'm not really sure what happened between him and Aric, but I'm left wondering if there was more to it than Elios' accusations. Especially after Elios gives Sender no chance to explain and leaves in a huff. Elios is a black or white, all or nothing kind of guy, despite his claims of wanting a compromise. I don't think anyone can live to Elios's standards.

These flawed characters were interesting to observe. It's nice to have main character who aren't perfect and yet somehow manage to find a way to work it out. I like this in a story. The two coming together through growth is a sweet journey if sad at times. Macy I think is my favourite in the story because he's the one who tries the best. He actually sees it from different perspectives and that is what I liked most. He wasn't judgmental. I would have liked to have learned more about Pandora but it never materialized. Perhaps another story will be written where we finally learn about Pandora. This book is recommended for m/m readers who enjoy a bit of futuristic fantasy.

*\*Review Copy from <http://www.netgalley.com/>\**

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## Vfields Don't touch my happy! says

I don't know why but I didn't enjoy this. I've enjoyed other Anah Crow so because of that I finished Escape Velocity. Three days later I can't honestly remember what it was about. It really wasn't very science fictiony.

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## Shira Anthony says

[The story is set in the future, when mankind is faced with a challenge in the guise of the Pandora, an alien ship of some sort, which is on i

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## Kassa says

Elios Campbell and Sender Kinnison are part of a top secret government project that was formed when messages from an alien spaceship were heard with a sense of urgency and warning. The appropriate response of course is to build a similar spaceship to go meet the aliens and see what they've been saying. While the premise sounds like a cliché gambit, don't worry; the authors have delivered a superbly written story filled with engaging characters and enough hints of the project to grab interest without diverting the focus from the romance of the main characters.

Elios Campbell is one of the linguists assigned to decipher the sounds recorded from Pandora, the alien spaceship. A workaholic and reeling from a disastrous breakup with a co-worker, Elias is settled into a safe, if somewhat mundane existence that feeds the love of his work and need to recover from heartbreak. His one gift to himself was to ask for a favor from an influential senator which allowed Elios to experience a flight in the prototype spaceships built for protection and attack, if needed, against Pandora. Although not overly adventurous, Elios is caught between his need for safety and the risks inherent in experiencing life to its fullest.

Sender Kinnison is the hotshot pilot that takes Elios on his brief trip through the sky. The attraction is immediate between the two men, but both are cautious requiring a touch of alcohol and some meddling from Sender's squad to get the two together. They end up going to Elios' apartment for a fun filled night of surprisingly hot and sizzling sex, which leads to much more. For all his adrenaline seeking ways, Sender is a contrast from his innate nature and his upbringing. He is at times tender and sweet, at others aggressive and demanding, but struggles against his strict, religious background and parental expectations. Sender has accepted who and what he is yet it conflicts with his deep held belief that the person Sender has become is innately wrong.

This internal conflict of Sender's comes to a head when his parents are killed and he must take responsibility for his much younger sister. Now he must reconcile his upbringing with his current dreams and happiness against his sister's future. It's not an easy task to handle and it's no wonder that Sender is sent into an emotional tailspin and retreats to the familiar in his confusion. Both characters have flaws and fears which shape not only the people they are but how they react to problems and conflicts. Their relationship develops quickly but has enough depth and emotion to give weight regardless of the short time it has to build. Elios and Sender's struggle to come to terms with their past and their hope for a future makes for a genuine and captivating tale, much like the characters themselves.

The science fiction backdrop was interesting with enough world building to capture my attention (and I love science fiction) without giving into the futuristic lure of too many details and unnecessary information. Between the characters budding relationship and then conflict, the premise of the book as related to the alien ship provided a few teasing hints while giving enough references to a future sequel. Added to the charming secondary characters that rounded out a well-defined set of characters, the authors have given a wonderful first offering in a new series.

Sender and Elios are immediate favorite characters, even though at times their struggle was described perfectly as someone with a blind spot that just can't figure out how to go around it. Thankfully both find

their path together and set up future appearances that will be eagerly awaited. Hopefully in subsequent books, there will be more about the Pandora project and Macy charmingly begs for his own story. There is not too much science fiction that this book can't be enjoyed by anyone and I highly recommend this book to anyone who loves a well-written romance with wonderful characters and an engaging story with honest anguish on the path to a happy ever after.

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## Mandapanda says

3.25 stars. A moving romance coupled with a fascinating setting lift this story above the rest.

This story had an amazing amount of depth for its length. Elios is a linguist working on deciphering the alien language coming from an enormous (but deserted) space vessel on the outreaches of the galaxy. Sender is the leader of a small team of space pilots competing with other teams for the chance to accompany the five-year research trip to investigate this mysterious vessel (called Pandora).

Both men have issues that threaten their new relationship. Elios' previous partner left him for the mother of their surrogate child, but they still all work together. So he has trouble letting go of this lost relationship and the child he won't get to raise. As a teen Sender was plucked from his backward, overcrowded and fundamentalist colony (Themis) to be trained as a pilot. His physical attraction towards men clashes with his religious beliefs and causes him much guilt and angst. Despite his reservations Sender starts a relationship with Elios and they fall in love. However a tragedy on Themis seems to ruin everything.

I became quite attached to these characters to the point where I shed a few tears when their relationship was threatened. The religious aspects of the story were well done. Not overly laboured and without any condemnation for religion in general. The science fiction back story was excellent. I would dearly have loved more. I wanted to travel to Pandora with them and find the mystery of why the ship was on its way to warn Earth. But the story ends just as they all embark on this momentous voyage.

Recommended for m/m scifi fans.

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## Marissa says

3.5 stars

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## ?? Michaelle ♡?? says

4.5 Stars

A M/M Romance Group Team Spin Spellapalooza Challenge read. (Go Team 6 - Living In Spin!!!)

I am a sucker for a scifi romance and this was amazingly well-told. I loved the alternate reality vision of what Earth might have evolved into, the space exploration. It had some elements of BSG that I loved - the differing colonies, the poly families (well, that was more prevalent on the show Caprica), the desire for some to escape the lives their parents' beliefs & backgrounds limited them to. The world-building was nothing

short of spectacular. I felt transported to this other world...and I wouldn't have minded being anywhere in this reality (but not on Themis - thank you, no).

A world that was nice as much as it was functional. Some parts were ugly, others beautiful. The whole story was a bit painful, but it was hopeful, too. It was *life*.

A couple of things I must point out my adoration for:

Co-ed locker rooms. Yes, because that would be the ultimate example of women being treated equally at their jobs as pilots. That one of the characters was able to just whip off her bra in front of her male cohorts without batting an eye took my breath away; naked breasts weren't ogled, nudity not sexually objectified. (The last time that happened to me was, I shit you not, watching Starship Troopers. Even BSG wasn't that progressive.)

Seriously, I **cannot** stress how much I loved the poly families. Elios' family had 4 Moms & 3 Dads. I WANT MORE OF THIS IN ALL FICTION.

The use of music as language. Not just the music, but the emotion projected through the music to convey a deeper (or altogether different) meaning to the words. Someone with a background in both music and linguistics must have written those sections of the book because it was so precisely done, so beautifully explained, that **I** with neither a background nor understanding of either, was able to understand exactly how important each breakthrough was.

Advanced healing techniques and medical treatments, colonized space, space exploration, enormous science funding budgets. Makes me wonder if this isn't how the future would have looked for us if not for the events that lead up to practically eliminating a poly-theistic "modern" (Western) world. \*shrug\* Something to think about...

OMFG I love that they named the tiniest cat, the runt of the litter, the kitten they weren't sure would live or die...Schrödinger. My inner geek approves wholeheartedly.

Finally, I'd love to read about what the *Auriga* crew has to get used to, the growing pains of confinement, and it's five year mission (hey, wait a minute) toward the source of that message and to know what it finds when they finally reach the *Pandora*. But then again, maybe not. That whole myth is a bit terrifying; I can only imagine how horrific the tale could be spun into for a scifi book. \*shudder\* Yeah, no. Never mind.

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## Charming says

Not nearly enough science fiction. The book ended just as it was about to get interesting.

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## Rosie says

I hope there is a sequel. The world the authors set up has left me wanting more. I want to know more about Pandora especially, and I'd also love to read more about Elios and Sender and their life together, how Aric reacts to Elios' new family, and I'd love for Macy to get some happiness of his own too.

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## Sue says

I did enjoy this sci-fi story, set some time in the quite distant future where Earth has a number of colonies which are widely different from each other.

I was fascinated by Luna, where most of the action occurs, and Elios' Roman religion. I wasn't sure how it came about that early gods were being worshipped in this setting, and would like to have seen more of the religion and how it's part of society: it's intriguing. Other religions were mentioned too, and I hope to see more of these cultures later on.

The main characters, Sender and Elios, are very good. They are compelling, human and you really care what happens to them. The secondary characters of their workmates and families are well done too, and came across not as mere sketches but real people.

In the end I wanted more. This volume, the start of the 'Pandora Project' series, has the feel of an extended prologue.

As with some other stories I've read recently, I got the feeling that so much sex was included not to establish a romance, which had been done quite early on and very well, but to pad out a short book into something that would stand alone more convincingly. Maybe others would think the purpose of the book to titillate in every chapter, but I preferred it for its plot, which was interesting and, as I said, I wanted more of. I will definitely get book 2, but hope there's less padding and more progressing the story now we've got the premise out of the way, so to speak.

Very imaginative main story, which I'm looking forward to reading, about alien first contact and the men who are interpreting their communication, and planning to intercept their ship.

Definitely going to follow the series, and had this first volume had a bit less padding and elaborated on the interesting world building instead I'd have given it 4 stars more happily, but as it stands it's 3.5 rounded up.

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