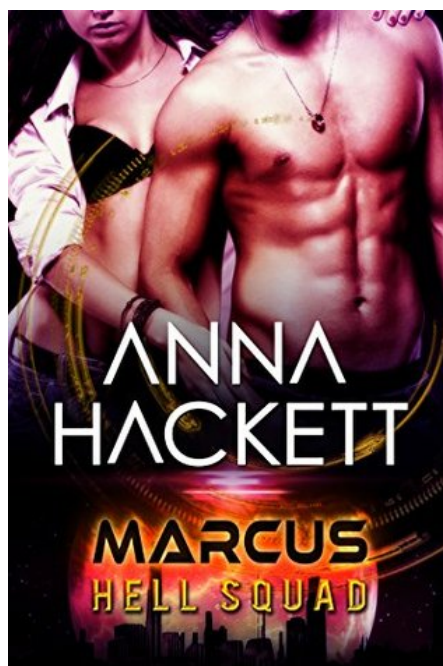




Marcus

Anna Hackett

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In the aftermath of a deadly alien invasion, a band of survivors fights on...

In a world gone to hell, Elle Milton—once the darling of the Sydney social scene—has carved a role for herself as the communications officer for the toughest commando team fighting for humanity's survival—Hell Squad. It's her chance to make a difference and make up for horrible past mistakes...despite the fact that its battle-hardened commander never wanted her on his team.

When Hell Squad is tasked with destroying a strategic alien facility, Elle knows they need her skills in the field. But first she must go head to head with Marcus Steele and convince him she won't be a liability.

Marcus Steele is a warrior through and through. He fights to protect the innocent and give the human race a chance to survive. And that includes the beautiful, gutsy Elle who twists him up inside with a single look. The last thing he wants is to take her into a warzone, but soon they are thrown together battling both the alien invaders and their overwhelming attraction. And Marcus will learn just how much he'll sacrifice to keep her safe.

Marcus Details

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Author : Anna Hackett

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From Reader Review Marcus for online ebook

Tink Magoo is bad at reviews says

Lots of action, tension, aliens, hot soldiers and steamy sex.

Not my usual read, but I really enjoyed it.

Maida»-(^v^)-» says

RATING: 3.5 Quick, Sexy & Fun Hearts!! :)

Jen says

Look, I'm not generally one for straight up romance, it's just... not for me. But then I found myself 5 hours into a 10 hour flight having just finished one book and the cabin lights were still dimmed and this little eBook was sitting there on my Kindle... And, well, it turns out even an apocalyptic post alien invasion setting isn't enough to make romance a thing for me. Apparently I need characters to have a least half a personality and the plot to be even a little bit complex. Honestly I would have DNF this if I hadn't been stuck in a metal tube thousands of feet above the pacific (yes I had other books on my kindle and yes, I had downloaded it before the flight but shhh), but it entertained me for a few hours and I got a giggle about the action being set in Sydney airport while en route there. But no, this was not my kind read, and unless I find myself on a long haul flight again in the near future (credit card says no...) I doubt I'll be meeting the Hell Squad again.

CC says

[
Both were non virgins but celibate. No specific details. Both were into each other since they met - but in denial. But we know Marcus turned down women.

Sex is pretty free flowing in this world so some of the guys seem to be kinda manwhoreish but not too

Hollie says

This was an ok sci-fi read. Here's my breakdown:

Pros:

- * Offered as a freebie on Amazon
 - * No angst or unnecessary drama
 - * I liked the hero - he wasn't a manwhore and was smitten and protective of the heroine
-

Cons:

- * I wanted a little more with the aliens - the encounters involving them was limited (they were the villains in this read, not the romantic interest etc.)
- * It was overly predictable and very cliché

Overall, I doubt this will be a series I personally continue. I like sci-fi alien reads but this felt more like an apocalypse read than anything.

?? Carmen the Bootyshaker Temptress ?? says

Good start

Well I wasn't sure how I was going to like this book but I really enjoyed how two total opposites attracted. Marcus is a kick-ass alpha male where Elle is or was the timid previous party girl who didn't see herself worthy but since the invasion. There has been so much change in both characters and can't wait to read about Cruz and his mysterious Santha.

Pamela says

For a novel that's only 148 pages, this one packs a punch, and sexy alpha-male soldiers. The author does a terrific job of weaving a sci-fi thriller full of action and romance. Talk about intriguing characters, the protagonists and supporting characters that make the story come alive. I loved them all, especially the protagonists. Marcus and Elle have been denying their feelings for one another. However, when they finally kiss their passion explodes. Though not descriptive, the sexcapades are still steamy. A big thank you to the author for not adding in any (ridiculous) "angst," something I wish more authors would consider. I highly recommend this novel especially if you're into sci-fi romance with hunky soldiers and strong females. I just wish it was a little longer. No matter, I look forward to reading the next installment, "*Cruz*."

Lala says

I loved this story, it has all the elements I like, sci fi, strong characters, solid story-line, action-packed and swoon worthy hot romance. I can't wait to read the next installment!

Erika says

3 to 4 stars

Decided to round up because I would prefer to help instead of hinder the author's overall ratings. :-)

Writing is reasonably cliched, in that the characters, action, etc pretty much fit any military-action-sci-fi-with-romance summer movie I have seen. Despite the cliches, it was entertaining and angst-free. I liked the build-up to the main characters getting together. Their romance was sweet. I think my favorite parts in the

book were the action scenes with the Hell Squad out on the post-alien invasion streets.

I probably will get around to the next two books at some point.

Ashleyjo says

I realize that romance mixed with aliens in a post apocalyptic world isn't everyone's flavor of literature. But, this type of story happens to be one of my very guilty pleasures... Sssshhhh, don't tell!)

So, of course, if aliens and a dystopian/ post apocalyptic type world isn't your thing, then you aren't going to like the book and it's best to just move on along.

If you do dig it, then this book has a decent storyline with lots of action, a nice little romance, some interesting characters for future installments, fair world building, a high speed pace, and a wham-bam writing style that packs a serious punch.

It's kind of a smorgasbord of "Starship Troopers," "Jurassic Park," "War of The Worlds," & "Terminator" meets a sci fi version of "Mission Impossible" and "Indiana Jones" type action. It's wild and tightly packed into less than 150 pages.

The Writing

While I really like the author's pace and nuts and bolts writing style that omits any and all irrelevant fluff, I'd say the author's weakest point is her tone, especially in the narrative.

^ It's a little stiff in tone of voice. I think this problem stems from NOT having this be a first person narrative where the character is addressing the reader with his or her own thoughts vs having a third person narration of the thoughts, feelings, and musings.

It would've been a much smoother ride and easier to connect with the characters, especially given this is such a short book with tons of characters, had the author done a dual first person POV between Marcus and Ellianna.

Characters

I liked the characters. It just took me a long time to emotionally connect with them because of how they were written in voice. The reader to character connection was purely through respect of their actions vs that multidimensional feature of connecting with characters through their thoughts, dialogue, *and* physical actions. Again, it needed first person narration. I've never liked when a third party narrator tell me what a character(s) is thinking and feeling vs giving each a unique voice of their own to tell me themselves!

Marcus is that sexy badass mfer that you'd want beside you, under you, and atop you during an alien invasion! Nuff said~

Ellia was a sheltered chick that survived somehow & now realizes that mall trips and BMWs aren't the epitome of *life*. She's a little *slow* naive when it comes to sexuality... 'no, he couldn't like me like *that*' ... kinda Bambi between headlights chick when it comes to men.

However, I LOVE that she's brave, otherwise intelligent, & is neither a constantly yelping damsel in distress nor a socialite turned Rambo. It's true to form of what would happen if you take a pampered princess with underlying grit, intelligence, and determination and place her in the apocalypse. I love *real* characters! She's brave enough to risk her life to help, but isn't so unreal as to not admit that she's f'ing nervous about going up against a bunch of alien supermen.

The Plot

There's a little disconnect here on the time frame. A timeline and current time is never given. There are a lot of techy futuristic elements that infer years into the future, but I'd have liked a little bit more detail on when the alien invasion happened & present time?!? A prologue, perhaps, is needed to give detail to the invasion and solidify a timeline of events.

Otherwise, the storyline itself is pretty unique to the genre. The aliens are unique. Think Jurassic Park meets Terminator.

There's a motley crew of alpha, military badasses from all different backgrounds and countries fighting to save humanity.

"It's always darkest before dawn, sweetheart. But even the longest night always ends." "For now, we just have to find whatever light we can, hold on to it, and use it to guide us until the sun comes up."

So they fight on to book two! ... Where I'm headed now:)

Rating

For creativity & no-fluff flow, this one is a solid four in this genre of para romantic action. I'm deducting a star because of my issues with the narration, which impacted character likability and my own enjoyment of the storyline. = 3 stars

Marta Cox says

Ok so I admit that most of the sci fi romance I read tends to feature hunky aliens but this author has taken two humans as her lead characters and given her readers quite a creditable story with a hero who is both protective and totally badass! In a world that has been invaded by aliens that sort of resemble prehistoric creatures but are completely lucid and aware of their brutality we meet the survivors fighting to reclaim their land. Hardly any of humanity survived the initial attacks but those who do band together to destroy their enemy and take back their planet. At a secret military base Hell Squad is one of the teams that regularly put themselves in the firing line. Their leader is Marcus, hardened by war, loyal to a fault and totally smitten by former party girl turned communications specialist Elle. Marcus doesn't see how he could ever be worthy of her and tries to hide his feelings but as the war hots up Elle will be integral to defeating the monsters that now roam the Earth.

This is the first book in this series but there's enough information to make it flow very well. Yes we have vicious blood thirsty aliens but the author pits them against the best that humanity can offer. Step forward the courageous men and women working at Blue Mountain military base . It was fun reading how the tough Marcus felt about Elle and at times his thoughts and words were almost poetical which made me smile. Yes he definitely has the woman up on a pedestal but there's a lot more to Elle than just her looks. Elle is braver than Marcus realises, far more stubborn too and a genuine caring person who feels as strongly about him as he does her! Luckily a mission throws them together and when sparks ignite boy does that pair start a fire!

Yes well written sexy scenes appear but they are sensual and just felt integral to this story. I really enjoyed the believable dialogue and loved the teasing and banter amongst Hell Squad. Romance action and well written what more do you need?

I was gifted a copy in exchange for an honest review

Four and a half from me

Chappy says

4.5 woohoo!!! stars

I'm so glad I gave this series and new-to-me author a shot; I'm very impressed.

Elle has worked hard to become an asset to team hell-squad. Her dedication and smarts really pays off. Now if she can only catch Marcus' eye.

Marcus is a soldier down to the core. He wants to protect people and destroy the raptor threat. Too bad he doesn't think he's good enough for Elle.

Rachaelthebiliophile says

Spoilers

A new take on the end of civilization as we know it. Aliens have invaded, weird raptor/humanoid aliens. Survivors have come together and battle against these intelligent creatures for their very survival. Marcus is hell squad's leader and Elle is their comm specialist, the attraction was simmering between them until she was in danger then Marcus showed his alpha male side and they start something that has been brewing since they first saw each other. Minor pushing away by Marcus as he thinks Elle deserves better. My biggest issue was that she thought he slept with Liberty but she didn't ask him. That was just one niggling point straight until the end of the book lol. All in all a quick and interesting read by a new to me author.

Suzanne (Under the Covers Book blog) says

This is the first book in Anna Hackett's action packed Hell Squad series. In Marcus we are introduced to a brand new Earth, where aliens have invaded and humans are barely surviving. But humanity still has some fight left and a rebel force has formed. Hell Squad is one of the teams that go out on missions to destroy the enemy and save as many survivors as they can. Each member of the team fight their own demons as well as the dinosaur like aliens who are trying to destroy Earth.

Marcus is Hell Squad's leader, he's a scarred and battle hardened. Completely wrong for former socialite turned comms officer Elle. Elle knows she doesn't deserve Marcus. He's a brave warrior who fights for humanity. She's a former party girl trying to make up for her previously shallow life by being the best comms officer she can.

When you want an action packed read that still has a sexy as hell romance in it, Anna Hackett is your

woman. With Marcus the first in the Hell Squad series she introduces us to a post apocalyptic world where aliens have invaded and almost won. Hell Squad are part of the operation trying to take the world pack. This means that's plenty of opportunity for some fast paced adventure and sexy romance.

Marcus is the scarred up leader of the Hell Squad and the first to take the plunge into love with the very sweet Elle. They both were clearly in love with one another and just needed to take that final step and do something about it. Despite all the gorey alien action this actually turned into a really cute romance. Marcus and Elle were great together and had smoking hot chemistry in the bedroom.

I can't wait to get started on reading about the other members of the Hell Squad and will be diving head first into this series.

bella ? [bella farren] says

4.5/5 stars

reread:

29/10/17

17/10/18

A post apocalyptic, alien invasion romance set in Australia? Sign me the hell up.

A freaking bomb, post apocalyptic, alien invasion romance set in Australia? YASSSSSS GURL

I love me some ridiculous romance, and this just hit the spot. It was filled with alpha males and strong woman, who made the best of the situation and kicked ass doing it. The story was addicting, action packed, and super easy to fall into. There was no information dumps or confusion with the influx of unknown characters and alien species, it was seamlessly written into the story.

I think I've discovered my new guilty pleasure series and author, I think you're going to see me devouring these over the next couple months.
