



Antidote

R.A. Steffan

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Her survival depends on a dangerous alien fugitive.

Skye Chantrell has just escaped a war zone.
She's carrying the stolen antidote to a deadly bioweapon.

When her damaged shuttle crashes on a remote lunar outpost, she's captured by the leader of a rogue group of barbaric aliens. Now her people's fate—not to mention her own—rests in the hands of the Seven Systems' most feared and hated criminal.

A man with the face of a brutal thug, and the eyes of an angel.

* * *

Hunter Tarthasian has every reason to hate the Regime.

He and his comrades have gone rogue, vowing to use every means at their disposal to bring down the evil Premiere. Now, they're wanted and on the run, holed up in an abandoned outpost while they plan their next move. The last thing Hunter needs is a female human civvy with a terrible secret crash-landing on his doorstep. Especially when she starts to awaken feelings in him that have no place in his life as a rebel leader.

Feelings that could very easily get all of them killed.

* * *

From USA Today bestselling author R. A. Steffan comes a sizzling new sci-fi romance series, perfect for fans of J. R. Ward and Sherrilyn Kenyon.

Strap in tight, because all's fair in LOVE AND WAR.

Antidote Details

Date : Published April 15th 2018 (first published July 29th 2017)

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From Reader Review Antidote for online ebook

Angela Lover of all Books No Matter How Horrid They Are ♥*? says

I received this audiobook in exchange for an honest review.

I have to admit that when I first received this audiobook I was 100% excited!!! I love Sci-Fi and I love finding new authors and I love a new take and new 'aliens'. I love that Earth was not the planet that the humans were on. I would have loved a back story on this new world and how humans and 'aliens' came to live on one planet.

I love Sky and Hunter. I loved the fact that it was not an instant love fest. They did not meet fall into bed and the fall in love within 6 hours. I like the gradual build up of their relationship. I also loved all the other characters. There are so many questions that I need answered and I cannot wait to continue to follow this journey.

I like the narrator as well. She did a wonderful job doing different voices when it came to the characters. Sometimes every character seems to sound a like however Gwendolyn did not do that. She brought all the characters to life. This is the first audiobook that I have heard from her and I will be on the lookout for other books that she has narrated.

I need to know more about Ash and what he does for the information that he seems to get. Why does Ash have a sardonic look on his face when it comes to mentioning family. Also what is between him and Draven? Ryder is keeping secrets and I need to know what happened to her in her past. Cade is also someone that I need to know more about. We got some information however we need to know more about his family dynamic. I need to know about Hunter and about Skye. Will Skye ever find out what happened to the rest of her family? I need to know ALL the answers to these questions.

Serena Buffaloe says

What a wonderful start !!

I enjoyed book ! Wasn't quite sure what to expect, but what I got was action , adventure , suspense , and even some laughter ! The characters feed off of each other in the most delightful ways , and I am looking forward to more on the this series i!!

Shari Kay says

3.5 ☆ New to me author with an easy writing style...may round up, haven't decided yet. Another GR rating fail.

I went into this a bit leery because of Steffan's backlog of polyamorous books and I **do not** do sharing in my romances, but Antidote was perfectly safe. I liked it enough that I'm looking into her Circle of Blood series as it appears to be M/F.

So...Skye's father is a scientist who has been captured by the evil Regime and forced to create a biochemical

that will kill only the humans living among the Vithii in a major city not on Earth. The two species have coexisted for a hundred years...but politics have changed. Humans are in the unfortunate minority now, their rights methodically taken away with--it seems--an eye toward slavery in the near future. A civilian accountant, Skye is thrust into the fight when her father is killed smuggling her an antidote he hopes she can somehow get out to the people before the Vithii Premiere releases the deadly bioweapon.

Hunter is a rebel and a Vithii outlaw. He and his comrades are hiding on a moon Skye's spaceship crashes on after eluding the Regime with her father's formula. A lucky coincidence. Hunter and his crew save Skye's life and with a deadly timeline hanging over her head, she has little choice but to trust them with her secret.

Hunter recognized fairly early on that his Mating Heat has kicked in at the sight of Skye, which really shouldn't happen with a human. He fights the pull, but Skye also feels the connection which doesn't make it any easier to resist.

This was very insta-lust/love, but the Vithii MH was not explained enough for me. Does Heat only happen for their species' males with certain females or any? How often? The 'breeding' (she cannot get pregnant from him being human btw) part of the mating was unclear as to whether or not the *knotting* and other 'differences' happen only with the onset of Heat or every time the Vithii have sex? I wanted to know. FYI: there is only one graphic sex scene and the way it's written it wasn't very sexy to me as it was too "broken up" for my liking. Totally subjective, of course.

It also had some notable inconsistencies. One minute it felt like a scifi...the next...not so much. Spaceships/nanobots/cyborgs/matter transfer/plasma guns exist...but so does low tech things like water tanks with a wheel shut-off valve. Idk. Sometimes it just felt *off* to me.

I had some trouble with Skye's character at times. For most of the book, I thought she was very consistent. Her reactions reasonable for an accountant in her situation. I doubted a few things: like why Hunter and the others would include her at all in their mission planning, but I took it as a courtesy to her since she lost so much and risked her life to get the information out. But then, out of the blue, she's a badass marksman and **demanding** to join the mission. I was actually fine with her background in firearms through her father, it was more how acerbic she was with Kade and Hunter that bothered me. Why didn't the author stick to Skye's personality and have her let them know in a reasonable way that she could help them out and why? I never thought she was a weak woman just because she wasn't military and cried over her grief. Throughout the entire book she did what she needed to do, including (view spoiler) I don't understand why authors feel a strong woman has to be a bitchy one.

Hunter was actually quite sweet (not quite as Alpha as I prefer) and so was Skye for the most part. The side characters all have stories I want to learn about, especially Kade's and Ash's (though his story will almost certainly be M/M and I'm guessing with another crew member which for me is a bummer as it's not my genre and I'll have to skip it). My heart hurts for them though and I want them both to get a HEA...with whomever.

The epilogue focuses on another character that we hadn't met until that point, but he was mentioned and played an important role in the overall story. I will definitely be checking it out. This is one of those books I wish had been a little longer...not a bad thing.

Sue Davis says

Very Enjoyable Story, Well Worth Reading Over 18+READING

A young woman has been charged by her father to escape with the antidote to a virus to kill all the humans while her foster brother tried to lead them away with a fake antidote. She happened to be accidentally crash through a wormhole and landed right where she really needed to be. Skye didn't know it when she came to after they healed her from the crash. The Lithii leader of this group who are fighting the Regime is Hunter who is said to be a very bad guy but the Regime is the one claiming he is so dangerous that he should be killed. Skye comes to realize they mean to help her save all the humans she is so afraid that they would die because her father gave her the antidote and she had no idea what to do with it or who to take it to do she decides to trust Hunter and his group. As they risk everything to make and dispense the antidote they also find love.

Marta Cox says

Three and a half

Skye and Hunter are the couple who dominate this book but I actually found myself wanting to know more about the supporting characters. It's a sci fi romance but the plot about the humans being in danger of annihilation had great possibilities. Our heroine has the formula for the antidote to a biological weapon devised by her own father but has to find help and that's where Hunter and his cohorts come in. This had all the elements of what could be a very interesting space opera. Interesting plot, diverse characters and romance. On the romance front I was quite surprised by the authors unique idea of 'knotting' which made me smile as I couldn't help but feel there was a sense of role reversal and girl power! This was free on kindle and well worth a read

Julie says

This is a solid sci-fi adventure romance from an author whose works have been in the fantasy genre. What we have here is a human (Skye) trying to bring the antidote (book title) to people how can help get it out before the story's big bad can release it onto the unsuspecting public. Skye's damaged shuttle lands with the aliens (the humanoid-looking Vithii) she's been conditioned to think are the enemy. This almost Robin Hood like band of miscreants (Yes, it's lampshaded in the story) try to help Skye, and in the process, she and the imposing leader she feared the most, Hunter, fall in love.

The story doesn't break new ground, but it doesn't intend to, either. It's just fun! It highlights science in a very cool way as the team use nanobots to synthesize the antidote. The Firefly reference for me is when Ash, the only other human on the crew, rather merrily tells Skye that they are most definitely criminals. [Simon: So, what are we doing? Kaylee: [looks up] Oh, crime. Simon: Crime! Good! Okay! Crime.] As for the Star Wars similarities, it's that small band of rebels fighting the big bad, here called the Regime.

Some of the best parts of the story are the side characters. My personal favorites are Ash and Ryder, the Vithii medic with an acerbic tongue. Ash's prequel story is available as an author extra. I hope we see more of him. As for Ryder, something about her prickly personality and what might have made her no longer a doctor intrigues me. The author intends on writing more with this series, and I do hope both these characters get further treatment.

I was also hoping that Skye's missing brother Temple would get a story even though we don't learn much of him because that seemed a logical place to go. Not to drop too many spoilers, but I might get my wish for that one after all.

This book was narrated by Gwendolyn Druyor, who once again did an exemplary job. She is always very clear and distinct with the tones she uses from the narrative passages and to the speaking parts. She manages different voices for her people that sound similar to other works she's performed without being direct copies. (I thought her Skye voice was rather similar to her Favian voice from The Horse Mistress world but without the "stuck on the precipice of puberty" pinch.) Some listeners dislike when a female narrator tries a male voice, or vice versa, but I have never had a problem with Druyor's male voices.

So if you even vaguely like scifi adventure where the little guy defeats the big bad... this will work for you. It doesn't hurt that there's a nice little romance tied with an HEA bow.

Punkin says

Hmm

Interesting premise. Major instalove with random alien proclivities. Likeable characters. SHrug on the conflict. No interest in the second. .

Lindap says

4 Stars - I enjoyed this story.

Skye Chantrall is thrust into a deadly situation by her father. He was scientist who was taken and forced to create a poison that will only effect the humans in the Capital of the Vithii Regime. This wasn't something he wanted to do, so he secretly created an antidote to the poison. Only problem is he has to get it into the right hands so this genocide is stopped. He places it on a chip and uses Skye to get it off the planet. Only she doesn't make her destination.

Hunter is a Vithii who will do whatever he can to stop the corrupt Regime. His big problem is the Regime has gone to great length to create a persona that cause people to fear him. Which in turn makes him a target. So he and his band of men/women do their best to stay hidden.

Skye's relic of a ship is fired upon and she ends up crash landing. Hunter and his group find her, which scares the crap out of her because she's grown up with propaganda the Regime has feed the pubic. Only to find out she's found the perfect group of people to try and help her prevent the annihilation of the human population.

JodyL says

Skye's father worked as a scientist for the "Regime". He was forced to make a biological weapon that would kill all of the humans in the Capital City. He designed an antidote to be used against the weapon. Her father gave her the formula hidden electronically in an earring right before they killed him. Skye then runs and crashes a stolen spaceship. She is saved by a group of Vithii(alien) and a cyborg that were hiding on the small planet.

Hunter is the leader of the rebel group that does anything and everything to go against the evil Premiere and his Regime soldiers. They all want revenge because of things done to themselves or their family by the

Regime.

I truly enjoyed the book. There was plenty of action involved, some mystery, lots of technological equipment used as well as romance. I agree with some of the reviewers that there needed to be some more explanation into who the Vithii are and other world building attributes, but I still enjoyed the story none the less. This is a new author to me and I will definitely be reading more in this series!

Mari (Smut Duchess) says

4.25 ***

I liked this sci fi audio book. Skye is a human accountant living under a strict political regime who's majority is made up of aliens. Her father's a scientist who has been coerced into developing a bio weapon to kill humans. Along with the bio weapon he also creates the antidote. As Skye escapes with the antidote but crash lands on a moon that happens to be occupied with rebels. Working together they come up with a plan to disperse the antidote and strike a blow against the Regime. I thought Skye and Hunter made a good couple. Hunter felt his species mating instinct toward Skye but he wasn't ruled by it. I also liked that there was more story then sex. I'm looking forward to the next book in the series.

Pam says

Rating 2.5 stars. I felt it could have been much better. Not really much world or character building. Just enough to hold you for a moment. More about the science than action. I was disappointed about that fact. Was hoping for an adventure. I did not know how humans came to live on this planet and so dominated. Nothing was really explained. Bit by bit we learned a little about the Shadow Wing crew, but still too many holes. Because of this, I'm not moving forward with the series. I had more questions than answers. I will say I was interested enough in the characters to complete the story. Not much to Skye, but the situation she was forced into was believable. Hunter and the crew in the beginning, had me salivating. I just knew this was going to be a great adventure. Not really. No action. With Hunter being the most feared, why we never found out, you would have expected some type of action. Nope. The relationship between Skye and Hunter was not very believable. The story felt thrown together. The premise, interesting, the execution, lost. I will try other writings by this author. I did enjoy the read after I got over my disappointment.

LAB? says

This was pretty good, but a little too "insta-love" for me.

Stephanie says

Good but could be better

Good story but there wasn't enough world-building for me. I'm getting the feeling that there are other novels out there that contain the information I'm looking for, but how would I have known that? The title and

description are misleading - it's the first book, so it should contain more information re: setting. Plus it's said it could be read as a stand-alone novel. It can, but there are too many questions unanswered for that to be an accurate and acceptable description. Additionally, character development seemed a bit superficial. I definitely would have loved to know more of the back story for the two main characters, though I can certainly understand why it seemed inopportune, given the nature of the plot. On the whole, this novel is ok but unsatisfying.

TheCuriousOtter says

Despite this being a very interesting idea, i felt there were too many conflicting characterizations. Unfortunately this book didn't do it for me.

Jocelyne says

This is the first book in the Love and War Series. I really love R.A. Steffan's writing, she never disappoints. This is a great Sci-Fi Romance, entertaining, with great and complex world and wonderful characters. I love Skye and Hunter's story and I loved to follow them in their journey. I can't wait for the next book in the Series. The narration was really well done and easy to listen, as always with Gwendolyn Druyor. She does a great job with all the characters and accents. I enjoyed my listening. I received this free review copy audiobook at my request and I have voluntarily left this review.
