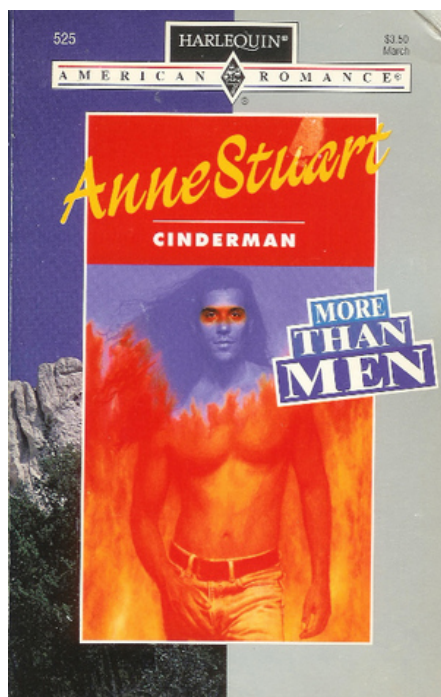




Cinderman

Anne Stuart

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He'd Been so Elusive

Suzanna Molloy was trailing top-secret Dr. Daniel Crompton - a man reputed to be as hot as his experiments with chemical fusion. But even Suzanna didn't expect their meeting to be so explosive!

He was so Dangerous

A suspect lab accident gave Daniel fantastical powers - and threw Suzanna right into his arms. Now she was on the run with a man whose fiery gaze could reduce objects - and her resistance - to cinders.

He'd Become More Than a Man...

With his newfound power of invisibility, Daniel kept catching - and kissing - Suzanna unawares. She'd found her fantasy man, but the only way to keep him was to keep him alive!

Cinderman Details

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Author : Anne Stuart

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From Reader Review Cinderman for online ebook

Linda says

2.5 Stars. Better than OK but nothing I could recommend to anyone.

Dr. Daniel Crompton is a hottie, literally. He had been working in secret on matters for the government but something went wrong in his lab. There was an explosion. Minutes before, he had just found scientific news-reporter Suzanna Malloy trespassing so he threw himself on top of her. Greenish goop burned his skin but this was the least of his troubles.

Keen hearing, an increase in his strength and, oh, yeah, he would turn invisible for a couple of hours twice a day. A superhero? Maybe for Suzanna, if she would stop arguing with him every moment. And so they went on the run.

This is one of Ms. Stuart's personal favorites and an 'out of print gem': "over the top, with a dollop of humor, a streak of darkness, quirky heroine, devastating hero and a really satisfying happy ending you can only find in a series romance".

Personally, I thought there could have been more depth to the plot. The pretense was interesting but the storyline was formulaic. There was some mild chemistry between Daniel and Suzanna but their relationship lacked passion. I know, I know...it's a Harlequin but I have read other short stories that had this element. I just expected more because it was Anne Stuart and the ratings were high.

Coral says

This book had so much potential, but took too long to spark.

I picked this up for 99 cents because I wanted some mid 90s Anne Stuart crazysauce. It only semi delivered. The hero is the typical unfeeling super genius, only with an unpleasant side of misogyny included. Naturally he's smokin' hot. The heroine was a bit more fun - a sassy science reporter with a penchant for rudely fun t-shirts. Of course even though they fight like cats and dogs (the banter dialogue was fun) they can't resist each other.

The story took a long time to get going, despite starting with a bang (literally). Once they were on the run, things improved.

There was a major issue with a seemingly haphazard attempt to modernise the book. They mention "motivational tapes" and "satellite radio" in the same paragraph. Cell phones are only mentioned once (as a car phone) and the heroine specifically says, oh they can't track that. Um, wrong. There's a random Taylor Swift shoutout. The internet is mentioned only once. He uses a CD-ROM as a storage device (LOL). They refer to the "first Gulf War". And the hero's parents are in their late 80s, but he's in his mid thirties - the math doesn't work out on that one.

I wish they had just left it in its full mid 90s glory.

Fer says

1.5 stars

Dina says

Nice characters, great story with the right touch of scientific stuff to satisfy the geek in me, and there you have it: another winner by Ms. Stuart! I really like her oldies and I'm more than happy to having found this one.

Christine says

I really enjoy Anne Stuart, and thought that I'd read this golden oldie of hers.

Investigative reporter Suzanna Molloy is checking out the goings-on at a top secret lab run by Dr. Daniel Crompton when there's an explosion, and she finds herself and the gorgeous Dr. Crompton on the run. After going to ground at Daniel's mountain hideaway, she learns the Dark Secrets behind the lab, and he discovers there's more to life than working at the bench, and soon they're falling hard for each other. However, the villains behind the lab explosion eventually track them down and disaster strikes again. Will Suzanna and Daniel ever get the HEA they so richly deserve? (hint: probably).

Some of these old romances don't age well. But I was surprised to see, even years ago, Stuart's abundant talent in evidence. There's good pacing between the action and suspense and the characters' downtime. And...while there's absolutely nothing new in this story, the characters still have some depth, and when they do get together, there's lots of sizzle -- or what passed for sizzle back in the day....:)

So...3 stars.

Ana T. says

I never cease to be amazed at what Stuart can come up with...

HE'D BEEN SO ELUSIVE

Suzanna Molloy was trailing top-secret Dr. Daniel Crompton-a man reputed to be as hot as his experiments with chemical fusion. But even Suzanna didn't expect their meeting to be so explosive!

HE WAS SO DANGEROUS

A suspect lab accident gave Daniel fantastical powers-and threw Suzanna right into his arms. Now she was on the run with a man whose fiery gaze could reduce objects--and her resistance--to cinders.

HE'D BECOME MORE THAN A MAN...

With his newfound power of invisibility, Daniel kept catching--and kissing--Suzanna unawares. She'd found her fantasy man, but the only way to keep him was to keep him alive!

In this story her hero not only becomes invisible due to an explosion on his lab but he also manages to reduce cars to ashes just by looking at them. Anyone would think this to be a highly unbelievable story but the truth is that Stuart writes it so well I never thought about that.

Both the main characters are interesting people with several layers to them, Daniel looked just like your ordinary scientist but when Suzanna reaches his house she discovers that there is more to him than that (any male fictional character who has a huge library that includes Jane Austen and Georgette Heyer is a man worth knowing IMO). Suzanna was just trying to make some investigation journalism when she is caught up in the lab's explosion and soon they discover it was no accident but an attempt on Daniel's life, independent and determined it will take her some time to believe in Daniel. But soon they have to join forces and go on the run from the baddies at the same time as trying to discover what is really happening in the lab.

The book is read in one sitting, it has a great sense of adventure and fun with Suzanna and Daniel sparring all the way while trying to discover the conspiracy behind the attempts on their lives. Somehow I could even imagine this has one of those old movies with Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy on the lead roles.

Grade: A-

Debbie "Buried in Her TBR Pile" says

This one not holding my attention. Have I found an Anne Stuart book that I don't like? I've never been a fan of *The Invisible Man* and it has taken me 2 months to get to 28%. Don't know if it is a total DNF yet.

Alex G says

I wanted to like this book but it fell short for me. I love superhero stories but this one was so far fetched. The characters were not well developed and not very realistic with a genius scientist who ended up doing no so genius things.

Jane Stewart says

Not recommended. Characters were not interesting.

I was angry at stupid things Suzanna did. Plot and action were not interesting. I tried to read faster than normal to get it over with. The only thing I enjoyed were the sayings on the t-shirts Suzanna wore. Sexual content: moderate.

Incy Black says

I side-eyed Cinderman at first, 'super heroes' not being my thing in print. Jolly glad I didn't let that personal aversion stand in my way, because not once was my credulity tested. Frankly, I became so immersed in the story, and the characters themselves, I BELIEVED!

Melanie says

Featured in 'Anne Stuart's Out of Print Gems'.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

I reread this out of the Anne Stuart's Out-of-Print Gems, which I've been working my way through for many months (almost a year, actually). I think this is definitely a gem. I mean, who doesn't like the idea of a superhero romance? I'm a comic book geek, and Dr. Daniel Crompton could be right out of the comic book school of superhero origin stories. A lab accident grants him some crazy abilities that he has to learn to master. Add in a love interest with whom he shares an adversarial relationship and crazy chemistry, and that romance story actually writes itself.

One of the many things I loved about this is that both Daniel and Suzanna are highly intelligent. Suzanna has a PhD in physics, although she doesn't lord it over. Instead, she uses her snark and her sarcastic t-shirts as her offensive and defensive weapons. Daniel is one of those genius guys that rightfully you will find slightly obnoxious because he's not a people person, and he doesn't even try to be a friendly person. He actually starts this book as a jerk, but their experiences melt that icy shell around him and his heart. and all along, even if he wasn't a nice guy, he had good morals (for the most part). And he doesn't take crap from people. Personally, I really like a cold hero who melts for the heroine. In real life, I've met some smart guys who were pretty annoying. I've never met a super-duper hot smart guy who was annoying. I'd actually look forward to that.

I like that Stuart doesn't try to explain his powers. All we know is that he got doused in goo created by a lab explosion. It's vague enough that I can go with it. I liked the description of his abilities and how he learns to control them. It makes for a fun story. I like all the subtle references to his heat and how it seems to attract Suzanna, who seems to always be cold. Even though that is a factor of his abilities, you know it's also a metaphor of their attraction to each other.

But the best thing about this book was the chemistry between Daniel and Suzanna. The kind of chemistry you don't have to go to college to appreciate. Although they start out as mental adversaries, their journey to happy ever after makes sense and is believable. Stuart knows how to write chemistry. The love scenes are great, sexy and emotional, even though this is a category romance, so it doesn't get descriptive. I don't care what anyone says, Anne Stuart is a master writer, and this little gem of a category romance proves it.

Daniel's got the allure that makes a woman want to dive in, once he stops freezing Suzanna out with this facade of arrogance. It feels organic to see Suzanna's perception change of him as she gets to know him. And it's apparent that Daniel was probably mean and freezing Suzanna out because he never was indifferent to her in the first place. To think he remembers what shirt she was wearing when they first met at a press conference. Aww, how sweet!

If I could make a list of Anne Stuart books I would love to see as movies, this would be near the top of my list. It would be just plain fun and it's really an awesome romance story.

I'm really glad I got to reread this! I hope it gets rereleased again, even though I have a print copy already. :)

Jill says

I'm reviewing Cinderman by Anne Stuart for Wendy the Super Librarian's TBR challenge for 2015. February's challenge was a "recommended read" and I read a few books that fit the bill, but this was by far my favorite, so it seemed like a natural choice.

I loved this book, but with the caveat that I had a long personal relationship with the book before I read it. I read a review on All About Romance in the dark ages of the Internet before Kindle and it stuck out as something I might want to read, but it was out of print. When Anne Stuart announced she was epubublishing some of her out of print category romances, I happily snapped it up.

I don't know if I'm the only who remembers the silly 80s action comedy, Super Fuzz, but it was one of my favorites growing up and this brought back happy nostalgic feeling. With the added benefit of sexual tension. :-)

The hero (nerdy scientist) and heroine (feisty reporter) hate each other and yet are somewhat attracted to each other on first sight. They are involved in an accident in a top secret lab. Now have to run from the bad guys and figure out the hero's new super powers. If you're already cringing, run away. There is nothing dark or realistic here. It felt like almost pure bubblegum and I loved it.

It had Anne Stuart 's trademark alpha hero, but I don't feel like he ever went to full Jerk territory. Plus, he was smart with sense of humor I enjoyed. The heroine was also a smart aleck, so I felt they fit together well. Throw in some decent action scenes, good love scenes, and a gorgeous house in the woods and you hit all my sweet spots. This was lighthearted, quirky Anne Stuart, not dark, angsty Anne Stuart (which I also enjoy at times). Her books don't always work for me, but this one really, really did. I felt like it did what it promised, hence the 5 star review.

Jessica says

Generally pretty funny. A snarky-romantic take on superheroes, and it fits in with my memories of the pop culture approach to the topic at the time it was written. The heroine seems to have been reinvisioned between the beginning and end of the story: from an heiress who never blushes despite her pale complexion to a working stiff who blushes because of her pale complexion. It's not a long story and I know it had an editor, so that was very ???

The interactions between the h/h were engaging, though the hero engages in decidedly alphahole behavior at times. (But this is Anne Stuart, so that shouldn't be a surprise.)

Applefruit says

This one was quite different! A lab explosion leaves Dr. Crompton with some fantastic powers--including super strength, invisibility, and the ability to turn objects to cinders (hence, Cinderman). It's not her best book, but it gets points for a HOT and smart hero, plenty of action, and Suzanna's hilarious t-shirts!
