



Taken Hostage

Ranae Rose

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Tiffany isn't the type to waste time daydreaming about men, but when a hot stranger smoking – in more ways than one – on the steps of the bank she works at takes her breath away, she can't help it. He catches her attention as she exits the building on her way to lunch break, and she leaves fantasizing about helping the bank's newest customer-to-be with much more than just his finances. When he finally approaches the counter, it's not to open a new account, but to demand that Tiffany fill a pillowcase to the brim with cash – at gunpoint. The gorgeous gunman takes Tiffany on the run as his hostage, and her fear can't stand up to her attraction. When he offers to let her return to safety unharmed she realizes that there are many things she wants to do to him, but that walking away isn't one of them.

Taken Hostage Details

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Romance

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From Reader Review Taken Hostage for online ebook

Cara Bristol says

Tiffany is instantly attracted to the hot, sexy guy she spots standing outside the bank where she's a teller. She hurries through her lunch hoping he'll still be there when she gets back. He is, and she primps in anticipation of him coming to her window.

He does come to her window – but it's with a gun, and he demands all the money. He takes her hostage and steals a customer's car as a getaway vehicle. At first Tiffany fears the worst – that he's going to rape her. But after she discovers he means her no harm, the attraction she felt for him resurfaces and she becomes his lover and his accomplice.

I give author Ranae Rose five stars for tackling a romance of this nature.

At first I was a bit taken aback by the hero being a criminal. I had trouble adjusting to the idea of a romantic lead who had robbed a bank and stolen people's money. It could have been MY money – if I kept my savings in a fictitious bank, that is. And although I would have liked a tad more insight into the heroine's willingness to abet his crime, I did empathize with the hero's motivation. The chemistry was potent and believable, the sex scenes were hot, and the author skillfully employed the use of all five senses in her descriptions. The beginning hooked me and the story took me on a fast-paced ride.

I look forward to reading more of Ranae Rose's books.

~*~Brooke's Stripped Down Reviews~*~ says

Wow! My new guilty pleasure...being Taken Hostage! Its a quick read and I couldnt put it down. It's unrealistic so you cant take the story too seriously however I think thats the point...to get carried away in a story that is thrilling and erotic. I just loved it!

Romancing the Book says

Reviewed by Shyla

Book provided by author for review

Taken Hostage starts off when our Heroine Tiffany leaves her job as a bank teller for lunch and runs into a sexy customer outside. The sun kissed blue eyes stranger appears to be out her league. But as they flirt back and forth she senses a spark. Tiffany is a sweet, somewhat shy girl who still blushes, and never gets the guys. So when Mr. Mysterious approaches her at the counter after her lunch break she's sure her luck is about to change. Until he pulls a gun, makes her collect the money and takes her with him on the run. James is really an anti hero. Built like a brick house with blonde hair and stunning blue eyes he's a man sick of the hand he's been dealt. Sweet and sincere one moment, and fierce the next he is a man shaped by his circumstances.

The unlikely duo find that spark between them is worth holding on to, and Tiffany stays on with James as a willing partner. Twists and turns, and heated sex spice this unusual romance. I loved the concept, but the ending threw me for a loop I have yet to recover from. This story started of full speed ahead, but fizzled in the middle, and fell short of what I thought it was capable of achieving. I would have liked to learn more about the characters, and see where the wild ride they'd embarked upon landed them.

Angie says

I WON THIS BOOK FROM LIBRARYTHING MEMBERS GIVAWAYS. I HAVE TO SAY THIS BOOK IS STEAMY, HOTT, AND STILL HAS ROOM FOR LOVE. THE MAIN CHARACTERS FACE SEVERAL OBSTACLES TOGETHER BUT THEY WERE WELL WORTH IT. WHO KNEW BEING A HOSTAGE WOULD BE SO GOOD...

Purr More says

A bank worker is taken hostage by a gorgeous bank robber and is given a choice of going free or joining him in his life on the run.

The premise of the story relies on an average woman suddenly giving up everything about her life as she knows it to be with a potentially dangerous bank robber/kidnapper, albeit a gorgeous and sexy one, whom she has only known for a few hours and running off to be an outlaw with him. This is either a good example of Stockholm syndrome or an indulgent fantasy for the work-a-day woman who wants a story that provides a safe yet sexy escape from reality. I'm going with the latter, but I can't say I totally bought into Tiffany's actions. She didn't really think too hard about her decision. As I think back on her character, I can't say there is anything that really stands out about her.

Then there is James..mmm, mmm, mmm...he was your typical bad-boy with a heart. He waved around a gun a lot. It was clear that he could and would hurt someone, if necessary, but I also got the sense that it was more of a bluff and if it came down to it then he would try to find another way to deal with the situation. He never showed any threat to Tiffany. He was protective of her and comes to her defense like any good alpha-male bad-boy hero should. He was tough but he had that sensitive side too.

There were also a couple of secondary characters that didn't seem to add a whole lot to the story and basically disappeared at the end without any explanation.

The smoking thing at the beginning... I just don't get it. Other than setting up a convenient opening to the story and contributing to James's bad-boy persona, it didn't make any sense to me when I realized that at no other point in the book does James show any smoking behavior. He doesn't have a cigarette again, doesn't mention cigarettes, doesn't crave a cigarette, doesn't buy cigarettes... no mention or action involving cigarettes. That's a good thing for Tiffany since she finds smoking offensive as gleaned from her thoughts at the beginning of the story, but for me, as the reader, it is an inconsistency in the character that keeps popping into my head.

The use of single quote marks for dialog jarred me a bit. I think this might be UK style but I'm not used to seeing it even in British books. It felt strange and I was constantly aware of it. I don't know if the author is

from the UK originally but her bio states she lives in the US.

Taken Hostage is a Contemporary Erotic Romance novella. I hesitate to call it Romantic Suspense because it just wasn't that suspenseful in the true sense of a romantic suspense story, but it did have some elements of suspense. They were on the run, but it didn't feel like they were being chased or in any immediate danger of getting caught. It felt more like a road trip with urgency...and a lot of sex. Speaking of which, the sex scenes flowed pretty well, though a couple of them were unfulfilled, but you do get an HEA and whether I bought into the premise of the story or not, I have to admit it kept me turning the pages and provided a yummy escape for a few hours. I'm struggling a bit on whether this is a 3.5 or 4 star, but I think I'll call it 4 stars as it did keep me up late reading so I could finish it and in the end I really liked it despite my nitpicks.

I was interested enough to find out what else Ranae Rose has available. Among some other titles, it looks like she has a paranormal erotic romance in the works that I'll be checking out.

Word count: 23,823 (Novella)

Kindle Locations: 1327

PDF length: 44 pgs

EPUB length: 57 pgs

Cate (The Professional Fangirl) says

This is a **Reading Good Books** review.

I am very picky with my erotica. I've read some that I liked such as Belinda by Anne Rampling. Some are just pure sleaze. I'm constantly on the look out for other really good ones.

This one was just okay. It was well constructed and the sex scenes were hot. The author knew how to write it tastefully. It wasn't sleazy at all. The cover art certainly added to the image in my head of what the "gorgeous gunman" would look like.

I didn't like Tiffany. Really. I had an issue with her being so "lie there and take it", no pun intended. It could be some very serious case of Stockholm Syndrome or love at first sight, I don't know. I mean, imagine being taken hostage and your hostage taker is a hot piece of ass. I think I would be afraid for my life first and foremost than having sexual fantasies about him. There's a lot of screwing in the woods, in the car, in public... with a complete stranger while on the run from the law. Yes, that's the main point of this book but still.

There were a couple of interrupted moments too. And I admit, it was a good move from the author. It was just getting to the good part and then something gets in the way and the characters – and possibly, the reader – were left frustrated. Character development aside, the writing was very good. It's a very enjoyable quick read.

Rating: 3/5.

Recommendation: Fans of erotica. If you're new to the genre, this is a good place to start.

I ♥ Bookie Nookie (bookienookiereviews.blogspot.com) says

I really wanted to love TAKEN HOSTAGE. It started out with a bang, loaded with promise, but as the story progressed, it became a little convoluted, ultimately watering down a solid story.

Upon returning from lunch, bank teller Tiffany encounters a mysterious and sexy stranger. Realizing he is out of her league, she drags herself back to work and the mundane routine that consists of her day. While standing at her counter fantasizing about the flirtations she exchanged just moments ago with her sexy stranger, she is jarred back to reality as the dark barrel of a gun is shoved in her face by none other than Mr. Psycho Sexy, demanding she fill his bag with cash. If that wasn't enough drama for her otherwise boring day, he snatches her up as a hostage.

Sweet and shy Tiffany is conflicted by the emotions her kidnapper, James, has stirred within her, but it doesn't take her long to get past her confusion. There were several missed opportunities, in my opinion, to take this book from steamy to smokin' hot. With the thoughts that were streaming through Tiffany's mind, I thought for sure Ms. Rose was gearing up for a little forced seduction, but alas, I was wrong, James had a totally willing victim.

When bank robber #2, Rolando and his cousin entered the picture, things started to go downhill with the story very quickly. There was entirely too much going on in the story for a novella, there just wasn't enough time to properly develop the characters or the story. There was no closure with the secondary characters...what happened to them anyway? The epilogue gave closure to Tiffany and James' story, but it ended abruptly and was a little too neat for my taste.

****Reviewed on I ♥ Bookie Nookie Reviews and The Romance Reviews.**

**** *Copy provided by the author/publisher for an honest review.***

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Bookie Nookie's Erotic eBook Exchange

April says

TAKEN HOSTAGE by Ranae Rose is an interesting erotic romance. It has erotic romance, bank robbery, taking a hostage, and sexy romance. While robbing a bank the hero takes a female hostage. He then gives her the option of leaving or staying with him. Of course she stays and what follows is sex, sex and more sex, while they try to keep from getting caught. While the story is interesting it is also a little unbelievable to me. The heroine is taken as a hostage, and from the beginning has wet dreams of the hero and herself. This is

a fast paced,short story and a quick read. WARNING: This story has hot,sexy romance. This book was received for the purpose of review from the Library Thing and the author.Details can be found at Embrace and My Book Addiction Reviews.

Tara Chevestt says

A quick, entertaining read, half story, half sex. The story is about Tiffany who works in a bank. One day, a sexy man whisks her away at gunpoint in a red Mustang.

James eventually gives her a choice: he will let her go or she can be his partner. She chooses to be his sex buddy. And while avoiding the police, hooking up with a partner she didn't know about, and trying to get some of the stash from a crazy cousin, Tiffany and James get it on.

Quibbles: They don't even know each others names and they have unprotected sex within a day. There is no mention of pregnancy or disease and come on, this guy is robbing banks. They also never once bathe or shower but days later, still do it. Ew. Last, I would have preferred more story, less sex. The sex was steamy but it rather dominated it being such a short read.

Netanella says

Decent but short. This was definitely female escape from everyday life reading, similar to the Calgon commercial. A female bank teller is taken hostage by a thief, and she gets not only Stockholm syndrome, but a series case of the hots for her captor. The book is well written, to the extent that I did feel some empathy for the characters, despite the fact that I couldn't relate to them much. Still, a fun read, almost like Thelma and Louise.

Nikki says

Yep, that about sums it up.

Mindy says

Taken Hostage is a short and exciting romp of a novella. Our heroine Tiffany is longing to escape her mundane plain Jane bank teller life. During a bank robbery she meets the diversion she has been craving in the form of the handsome bank robber extraordinaire James, who takes her hostage. They embark on a mad dangerous adventure to outrun the law. Along the way will she discover that she was more of a hostage in her old life and perhaps now James has actually liberated her?

She transitions from victim to accomplice a little too quickly to be realistic, but Ranae Rose is so wicked gifted when it comes to weaving some serious sexual tension that I allowed suspension of disbelief and focused on the heat and romance whole heartedly. This is my first time reading her work and I enjoyed it. I'm very much looking forward to checking out her full length works now. Reviewed for LT Member Giveaway.
