



Aliens, Smith and Jones

Blaine D. Arden

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“It’s not all about serving coffee and typing reports.”

Working for a secret organisation specialising in alien cover-ups, Connor Smith is no stranger to the abnormal or dangerous. His love life on the other hand... not so exciting. Until he reluctantly agrees to a blind date and meets the perfect bloke, Jason.

Things are finally falling into place for Connor, so of course that's when he attracts an alien stalker.

Noah Jones, ex-alien, has been stranded on Earth and forced to live as a human since 1648. Alone and detached from the world around him, Noah has spent centuries observing and recording humankind. In all that time, he's only experienced a connection with a human once... until he finds Connor.

Even knowing Connor is in a relationship, Noah can't ignore their potential bond, or stay away.

While dealing with missing alien artefacts, a dangerous and shadowy group of collectors, and the ever-present Noah, Connor finds his orderly life crumbling around him. At least he still has the perfect boyfriend...

When Noah goes missing, Connor is forced to face the feelings growing between them and the mounting evidence that Jason isn't who he says he is...

wordcount: 73,900 - Novel

Honourable Mention in the Best Gay Sci-Fi / Fantasy category of the Rainbow Awards 2012

NOTE: This is the second revised/re-edited edition. It was previously published by Storm Moon Press.

Aliens, Smith and Jones Details

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From Reader Review Aliens, Smith and Jones for online ebook

Mandapanda says

Interesting Scifi novel about an organisation that monitors alien life on Earth. The story follows Connor, an operative of the organisation, who has been suffering blackouts possibly caused by an alien attack. Connor's superiors stop at nothing to find the cause of his attacks. When they bring in the perpetrator, Noah, a strange tale emerges of Noah's history and his connection with Connor.

Some things didn't really gel for me in this story. Firstly describing Noah's true state as being like 'flubber' and his spaceship as being a big egg, totally put me off. It sounded too juvenile for a serious scifi story. Secondly it was obvious Jason (view spoiler) so the fact that his relationship with Connor continued for 70% of the novel made Connor seem a bit clueless and wasted time that should have been spent creating chemistry between him and Noah.

So it was a nice way to pass the time but just an OK read for me.

Sadie Forsythe says

2.5

I suppose this was ok. It was just painfully predictable, with basic, unexciting writing. The characters were cute, but one of the main characters spent half the book in a relationship with someone else and I barely felt any spark between him and the second main character. Further, there was just too much assuming and non-communicating going on. In fact, a lot of the book is predicated on it and it didn't make any sense to me. All in all, I found the whole thing uninspiring, even if not quite bad.

Cole Riann says

Review posted at The Armchair Reader.

3.75 stars

Connor is an agent of Primrose and the PA of a well-known lieutenant within the organization. He's worked hard at his job, doing detective work in the office and field finding aliens and alien artifacts, and the fact that he was handpicked for his job and works well with his very picky boss shows how well regarded he is by his colleagues. He works strange hours, just like regular detectives, which leaves little time for a love life. His best friend Isa, also a Primrose agent under a different team, is constantly trying to set him up... if only Isa was a good judge of character, or even a relatively competent matchmaker.

Connor is surprised and pleased when Isa sets him up with the perfect guy, Jason. Their relationship is steadily progressing as Connor's work duties pile up. The whole organization has been working tirelessly for

months trying to figure out why their search for alien artifacts has been recently returning empty handed, and where some of the aliens are disappearing to. On top of his dating life with Jason and the work that is always on his mind, Connor starts to feel as if he's being stalked. He's almost certain of it when he starts to feel a strange sensation of another being entering his mind.

For the most part, this was a thoroughly satisfying read. Though the situations thrust upon Connor are quite serious and the danger often very high, the tone of the story is light, and combined with the subject matter, somewhat reminiscent of the movie *MIB* (Men in Black). The story is quite different, however, not limited to the addition of the romance in this story. In addition, the case that Primrose is trying to solve, with Connor thrust into the middle, is engaging. There are really two cases at the heart of the story, the wider investigation by Primrose into the missing aliens and artifacts and the case of the man stalking Connor. It is easy to guess from the beginning that they're somehow connected, and while the overall outcome was no real surprise to me, the details of it were satisfying enough for me to become increasingly engaged with the progression of the case. Added together, it made the story very easy to become involved in, without an overly intricate plot.

An important part of the progression of the story is the link between the characters and the cases, and I was happy to see that play out with little previous information about how they're all connected. So, I don't really want to get into a character analysis, lest I give anything away. Without getting into that, this is the part of the story that I had wished had gone in a bit of a different direction, because I found myself wishing that the central couple would have gotten more on page time to spend together. The time they do have together is often used to explore their psychic connection, which by nature is best shown while they're apart. I would have liked to see them spend more time together in addition to that. Much of the second half of the book seemed devoted to the resolution to the cases, rather than exploring their relationship while together. The story doesn't take this to the extreme, or ignore their relationship, but I still wished that they had more time to get to know one another (there's a reason for this in the story, but I wasn't quite sure that the *idea* of it translated through words to its best benefit).

This doesn't seem to be a planned series, but the world created and the resolution of the story seem perfect for a sequel. I'd like to see one, because I enjoyed this story and world so much, and I would like to get to know some of the characters even better. This is the first story I've read by this author, and it won't be the last. This author made some choices in the plot and the writing that I didn't expect but had impact and intrigued me to read more of her work. I have been looking forward to reading this book for the last few months, and I have to say that I feel it mostly lived up to my expectations. Sometimes the greatest part about being a reader is when a book is so easy to just fall into to pass the time, and the tone of this story in combination with the world allowed me to do that. So I'm pleased :)

Pixie Mmgoodbookreviews says

4 1/2 Hearts

First published at MM Good Book Reviews

<http://mmgoodbookreviews.wordpress.co...>

Connor works for a company that secretly investigates anything alien, making sure alien artifacts don't fall into the wrong hands. But, just recently somebody is getting to the artifacts before they can. On top of that

worry, Conner seems to have gained a stalker who he has a very strange connection with, is it friend or foe? Noah has managed to stay under Primrose's radar since the company came into being, but now he has inadvertently connected to one of its workers, Conner. Noah tries to keep clear, but it's not long before Primrose comes for him. Will the connection between Noah and Conner work for them or against them?

This is a great alien story that has a wealth of detail, great characters and an intriguing plot. Noah has been stranded on Earth for hundreds of years, living a quite unassuming life and not drawing attention to himself. Inadvertently he makes a connection that he hasn't felt in 270 years, he has high hopes, but then finds out Conner has a boyfriend. And that isn't the least of his problems when he receives a visit from Primrose. Conner is shocked when something strange happens to him, but he tries to push it to the back of his mind as he starts dating a new man. Unfortunately, things become confusing for him when he discovers he has a connection to an alien and then he comes under suspicion when alien artifacts disappear from his work place and then Noah disappears as well.

Aliens, Smith and Jones is far from the typical alien story. Noah Jones might have been found by Primrose, but they never experimented on him, okay so he went through a lot of tests but he wasn't treated badly. I really liked the way that Primrose is portrayed in this book, although they do hunt aliens and alien artifacts it is more for the safety of the world, but without the need to experiment. I really was puzzled by Conner's boyfriends' role at first, but it soon began to come clear and it added a really good twist. I liked how we were drawn into the workings of Primrose and what they actually do, so we didn't see them as the enemy.

What happens between Noah and Conner because of their connection I won't say much about, but let's just say that it saves both of them on more than one occasion. The action is well written and I liked how the mystery was done. There is some betrayal and a really horrific time in store for Noah at the hands of unscrupulous characters. The sex in this book is really hot and it is intense when Noah and Conner finally get it together. Their connection is something that is quite beautiful. There are some times when anguish and fear shine through and the descriptions are impressive and you can imagine just how emotionally painful it is.

I am going to recommend this one to those who like clandestine agencies, aliens, secret agendas, alien loving, a great storyline and a happy ending.

Serena Yates says

A secret government agency à la James Bond. A mission to discover, neutralize, or fight aliens on Earth with a distinct Men-in-Black flavor. And a set of characters in a pretty unique world with lots of surprises, special features, and a touching interspecies romance with more than one obstacle. All of these ingredients and more are part of an exciting action/adventure that had me leaning back to enjoy this futuristic story with all its twists and turns. Based on this first book, I think that 'The Primrose Files' – see an explanation of how this agency came to exist – is a very promising series for anyone who likes tongue-in-cheek science fiction with a healthy dose of mystery and suspense.

Please find my full review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

Lamar54 says

Not very original, predictable, and some what loosely written. With that said, I would have given the story three stars, except for the science Noah used when he completed his transformation to human.

First, dermis is a term first use in the 19th century, which is several hundred years later than when Noah did his transformation. Next, Van Leeuwenhoek did not publish his work with the microscope until 1673(c). At that time merely discussing the size & shape of the body's cells was a big deal. Very little was known about the actual function of the body's organs or how they worked.

The four humors of Hippocratic medicine, black bile, yellow bile, phlegm, and blood, would dominate Western & Middle Eastern medicine until the advent of modern medicine in the 19th century. Finding books to help him in his transformation would have been impossible.

I did complete the book and generally liked the characters, Connor & Noah, but the poor research put me off the story. I would not make a recommendation to read this novel.

Julio Genao says

annoyances started piling up, and then it was just a matter of time before i grew too irritated to continue.

it's a pity. some good elements here, but i have a vile temper and zero tolerance for books who posit that a hundred year old men-in-black style agency would employ a man dumb enough to suspect that an alien disguised as a bookseller and living peacefully on our planet since the 17th century was the vanguard of a super-crafty invasion.

because, you know, after nearly four hundred years, e.t. has lulled us into a false sense of security.

he's got us right where he wants us.

Kathleen says

DNF 25%

I was ready to throw in the towel at 19% but decided to give it a bit more of a chance. By 25% it was obvious this book was not going to work for me. Soft on the sci-fi, dry, boring, and a clumsy bad guy reveal. Not my cuppa.

SueM says

I really enjoyed this story of Connor, an agent working for Primrose (an intelligence agency created to investigate and control all things alien) and Noah, a long-stranded alien whose life energy connects unwittingly to Connor's. While this is only the second book I have read from this author, it is obvious that

her writing has matured with time. The story is evenly paced and the characters are, for the most part well-rounded. While it was glaringly obvious who one of the "bad guys" was - and I admit, it seemed out of character for Connor to overlook the obvious signs, particularly as he seemed otherwise very switched-on in all other investigations - the rest of the investigation, as well as the interactions between the various investigators - intrigued me. I think that if the "bad guy" hadn't been painted so clearly, this may well have nudged up into the 5 star category for me.

Duane Colwell says

Totally predictable and very juvenile. Not really recommended for anyone over 12 or 14. Disappointing.

Genre says

I've read and enjoyed a couple of short stories by this author and was keen to see how she wrote over a longer book. It seems like ages since I've read a science fiction story too, so I was looking forward to this one.

The story follows Connor who works as an agent for 'Primrose' an agency who monitors and polices alien activity. He's has a couple of funny 'episodes' where he feels a strange tingling sensation and almost blacks out, but puts it down to stress at work. Through a friend and work colleague he meets Jason who seems to be the most perfect boyfriend ever. Noah is an alien who was forced to take on human form to survive. At over 300 years old he's seen a lot but has only ever found love once. When Noah sees Connor he feels a connection, and exchange of energies which heralds a meeting of souls. Through a series of events Noah and Connor get to know each other but Connor is already taken and Noah is, well, an alien so how can they possibly be together?

There were two parts to this story, one which worked well for me and one that didn't work so well. The part that worked was in the whole AU world with the aliens. The science fiction aspect was very carefully worked out and I liked the incidental details about the different alien species, the technology used to track them down and the whole hierarchy of Primrose. It was all rather clever and well thought out. The sub plot involving the buying and selling of alien species was realistic and provided much of the tension and action in the story. Another part, linked to this, which worked well for me was Noah's physiology as an alien. I don't want to give too much away, but this aspect was very imaginative and allowed not only for Noah to be wholly different to humankind, whilst also being very similar. Noah's feelings about his home planet and his family added a note of pathos to the story, whilst his feelings for humans meant that he was still upbeat about his current situation. I also found parts of his character, such as his love of books, to be charming and overall, I liked Noah a great deal.

The part that didn't work so well was the relationship between Noah and Connor. It tipped too far into the 'soul mates' or 'fated mates' for my comfort and as that is a plot device I rather dislike, so it was inevitable that I wouldn't get into the romance as much as I might. Having said that, the way that the connection is described added to the world building and that of Noah's character, so it wasn't all bad. My feelings for the couple were also partly formed by Connor's actions. I couldn't understand how he allowed himself to be duped the way he did and also he behaved in a very unprofessional way which jarred a little with what we are shown of him at the beginning of the book. These things meant that I didn't warm to Connor as well as I might have done, another reason for the romance to fall a bit flat. Finally, there was too little time when

Noah and Connor were together because they spend much of the early part of the book apart which meant I had to rely too much on the 'soul mates' aspect of their relationship, rather than see that they would work as a couple regardless of the strange bond they feel. This again, affected the romance part for me.

Overall, there were good and bad points to this book for me, but I felt the good parts triumphed over the parts that didn't work so well and therefore this gets a grade four stars from me. Those readers who are looking for a well written and exciting science fiction story with a romantic twist may well find this one to your taste. I enjoyed it and shall be looking out for further stories by this author.

Stephanie GooglyEyes says

I liked this book. It had a lot of original ideas for aliens.

Noah being a Rei from another planet that is basically all energy based and not a "fleshy" life form, gets stranded on Earth. He's beyond the normal amount of time, and must sacrifice his original form to become "human". He has lived on this planet now for 300 + years and has only felt one "energy" connection with one other...until Conner.

Conner works for Primrose, which is an undercover agency to protect stranded aliens from humans and humans from aggressive aliens. He's an assist and to Lt. Tallis, but don't let his paper pusher status fool you, he's also a highly trained agent.

Conner's best friend and colleague, Isa, is constantly trying to get him back in the dating field. Bless her heart, she tries, and they're usually the "wrong" type. This time though, she seems to have nailed it. It's almost too perfect...

This is kind of where things got a little confusing for me, but also a little predictable on other ways. The introduction to Conner and Noah made me a little confused. I wasn't quite sure what was happening...but then I guess, neither did Noah. Now Conner believes he has a stalker on his hands and things go a little belly up for Noah. In the meantime, Conner and Jason's relationship seems to be going really well.

This story contains a lot of the weird connection between Conner and Noah and figuring out (on Conner's end) what it all means and trying to retrieve alien artifacts and finding a group of "collectors" who are stealing said alien items. So it offers romance, aliens and mystery.

For me, having felt the story was a bit predictable, at times I thought it was a little "boring". I struggled to read through parts, while flying through others. I am also very upset about the outcome of my favorite character, so that lost some points in my book. Otherwise I did enjoy Conner's and Noah's unique journey.

DarienMoya says

I have yet to be disappointed by something Blaine has written. I loved her short stories so I was overjoyed when I found out about a full-length book. On the upside, I really enjoyed reading this book; on the downside, it frustrated the crap out of me.

Connor Smith is an agent at Primrose an organization that hunts and keeps track of Aliens or alien artefacts. Connor is a busy little bee with no time for a social/love life. That doesn't mean his best-friend Isa isn't always trying to hook him up, and she isn't exactly good at it. Until there was Jason, finally Isa gets it right and sets Connor up with guy of his dreams. Jason is perfect, Jason is awesome, and I was waiting for Jason to start laying golden eggs. Connor now has both a successful career and relationship.

If only there wasn't that niggling sensation of being stalked and as if someone is trying to get to the deepest part of his mind. To say that Connor has a lot on his plate is understatement. Noah is over 300 years old and he's just found his source for energy but it's a bummer cus he's got a boyfriend, and works for an alien prevention/extraction organization. When Connor has had enough of the stalking and the mind exploring he takes the situation to the big boss and in no time their reigning Noah in. Noah makes a choice to come clean and lay all his cards on table, it's up to the agents at Primrose to believe him or not.

The story then becomes so obvious that it was driving me crazy. There is some crazy involving Noah, the evidence was just staring **everyone** Connor in the face, and his lust-filled brain just could not see it. I wasn't sure about him being good at his job, when he couldn't see the simple things. I am epically frustrated by the small amount of page time that Connor and Noah shared, and when they were together, I wanted to reach into the pages and kick the crap out of Connor. *He frustrates me.*

I am in love with the writing, Ms Arden is one of the few authors able to grip me and have me reading at 3 in the morning cursing and throwing a tantrum like a 2 year old, (*you should have seen in it*). I don't want to say the book reminds me of the Men In Black but it seriously does. Even the very common last names of the main characters in their extraordinary lives ring true of the MIB. It's a fast-paced novel, with a plot, I did not necessarily enjoy but it came together brilliantly.

This would make a fantastic series filled with awesomeness, and I would love to read about Connor and Noah again. Connor has some redeeming to do because I still at this very moment would like to go all Bruce Lee on his ass. Due to the lack of a romantic relationship between Noah and Connor my ire for him is strong, he remained that guy who went on about how perfect Jason was (I am not down with that). He comes off as naïve and I can't believe in his integrity on the job, I just wasn't buying the serious agent role.

Overall, I liked the book, the world building is quite good, and there are some fascinating characters. I love the whole alien hunters, and I really liked Noah. I am just being all pouty face cus I wanna tell Connor to **'Suck It!'**

Eepa *mm loving bookworm* says

What a great book! Very well paced story with good action scenes and then more sedate, life-will-go-on episodes where we get to see the MCs in their everyday lives. Makes the story line that much more believable, when there is actually time where investigation takes place so that we have a reason for the next action scene. It all unfolds without a hurry and even has some setbacks so not everything is given on a golden plate. I do appreciate it when the MCs' have to actually do something in order to get to apprehend the bad guys.

The romance between Connor and Noah is very slow burning and we get to know them both pretty well, which I like. It's not a match without complications and they both has to get used to the bond that is forming between them. There is also the problem of Jason, Connor's boyfriend, to consider and it was handled pretty

well. Not too much hemming and hawing which would have made Connor look bad, but the situation was given due consideration. (view spoiler)

For those who have already read the book:
I have to share my favourite scene. It's just that hilarious!
(view spoiler)

Skirmish says

Book Reaction: <http://neverhollowed.tumblr.com/tagged...>

Soundtrack: <http://neverhollowed.tumblr.com/tagged...>

Rating: 2.5 Stars - far from hate but not quite a like
