



## Red Heat

*Nina Bruhns*

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## **Red Heat** Nina Bruhns

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When Julie's life is suddenly threatened by an enemy agent hunting the same hidden microcard, she must turn to her nemesis for help. But the killer handsome Russian captain is hiding his own shocking secrets...

Or this hot...

Daring rogue submarine driver Captain Nikolai Kirill Romanoff is having the worst year of his life. Unfairly disgraced and demoted to driving the oldest, most dilapidated excuse for a diesel submarine in the entire Russian Navy, Nikolai's youthful KGB past has come back to haunt him in a way he never anticipated: a compulsory undercover mission that will require all his considerable skill as an operative , a submariner...and as a man. Nikolai, his crew, and nine innocent scientists are now hovering at the bottom of the Bering Strait in a 2000 sq foot tin coffin, under attack from an unknown enemy, and he must extract information vital to their survival from a beautiful American spy—by any means necessary.

As Nikolai and Julie frantically join forces to save the floundering vessel from a treacherous blitz attack that threatens to send them all to a watery grave, the two former adversaries find themselves fighting a losing battle against a sizzling attraction that far surpasses international borders, ancient hurts, and a ruthless common enemy.

## **Red Heat Details**

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Author : Nina Bruhns

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## From Reader Review Red Heat for online ebook

### Saly says

How often do you get to read a book based on a submarine going on scientific expedition, with a hot Russian naval commander ex-FSB as a hero and an American CIA analyst in search for a SD card, wanted by the Chinese. None, and the book was amazingly awesome and different.

Nikolai is a navy commander, after a mission gone wrong he has been demoted and to make sure his career doesn't go downwards he's called by his ex-FSB handler, to handle a reporter who he believes to be CIA on his new submarine command. Nikolai hates the FSB, after all they blackmailed him the first time with his mother to work for them and he refuses to be their gigolo and then he sees Julie and plants one hot kiss on her in the elevator.

Julie is a former journalist turned CIA analyst, an expert on China, she is shocked when her boss sends her into the field. First, she hates the sea(she almost drowned) and Russians(her CIA father was killed in Moscow), and second she can't lie worth shit and prefers being behind a desk. The day she boards, she first loses her luggage and then finds out that they guy who kissed her is the commander Nikolai, she has to share a stateroom with him and he doubts her, and outright tells her he knows who she is.

He follows her around, the entire crew seems to think they have a thing going on, Julie tries to take pictures to find out the SD card with Nikolai not far behind her. He thinks he'll turn her into an asset for his career but of course that doesn't happen. What happens is that they end up in bed together, they both find out that they share the loss of losing a parent. Nikolai even helps her face the sea.

I enjoyed the book, the setting was unusual, then there was sabotage and the big stumbling block in their relationship he's Russian, she's American and they both love their countries.

Let's just say there was never a dull moment in the book. Julie is honest to admit what she is upto while she isn't that sure about Nikolai but she still falls for him and is willing to make compromises, he on the other hand is not sure.

I can't wait for Clint's book.

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### Erin says

#### 4.5 Heated Stars!

I need a Nikolai Romanov!

**“She glanced down at her chest. “What about it?”**

**“Has anyone on the crew seen it?”**

**“Sure. Probably all of them. Why?”**

**“It says ‘Commander Nikolai Romanov.’ You’re wearing his uniform. Therefore, there isn’t a man on this boat who doesn’t know he’s your . . . protector.”**

This book was very good but a tad longer than necessary, though the plot was never lost. It has a strong hero and sassy heroine.

And though sometimes I was just

He always made up for it

**“Just then the sub made another sharp turn, throwing her off balance. She landed in Clint’s arms. Instantly Nikolai was there, yanking her away from him. 'Do not touch her,' he growled”**

I recommend this book to anyone who likes hot, protective, Russian naval officers

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### **Danielle says**

The first thing I thought when I finished this book is that I am moving to Russia!!! Now I know I have said this before but I have this thing will men in Uniform and this guy is a Navy Guy! squeeee!!! This is my first book by the talented Nina Bruhns and I was far from disappointed. Not only is it Hot and Sexy ,but will bring you to your knees and want your own Navy Hottie!

Nikolai happens to be a Russian submarine captain whose last decision earned him a demotion. Instead of getting more important missions like he wanted he is stuck o escorting a crew of national scientists to the Arctic. Things start to get interesting when Nikolai finds himself blackmailed by a secret in his family's past to watch a supposed CIA agent on this mission which is this supposed female reporter named, Julie Severin. Mission: Discover what she is after by any means necessary. Not liking the idea of this any means necessary idea, well that was until he finally sees Julie for the first time.

Julie can't believe she has been put on this mission considering what happened to her father. This undercover agent is now on an expedition to the Arctic. Now she really hasn't been trained as a spy; but she is is ready to get this secret information for the United Sates and get back on safe land. Meets the sexy Russian in the bar for the first time and why yes tells him to "fuck off". Nikolai follows her after she leaves and the sparks begin to fly but little does she know she will be stuck with this man on the trip to the Arctic. Now she has to figure out who she can really trust on this mission she isn't all that keen about.

When I first met the characters I fell in love. Two different people but yet the same.The tension and passion between them will set you a blaze and keep you reading for more. Julie is smart, beautiful and passionate. Nikolai is sexy, clever and an actual hero.They way they end up becoming close to figure out what is really going on is what got me all caught up in the story. I couldn't put it down and when it came till the end all the secrets will shock you and just make you die for more. Bruhns makes you feel you are there living what they are actually living. I loved this book to the very last page.

Nina Bruhns brings you not only passion and suspense but love and secrets that you will die to uncover. I was in love with the book from the very beginning and I truly couldn't put it down and to think I didn't want

to read it. Gods, I am so glad I changed my mind on that one. I would have never forgiven myself for missing such a hot read. Welcome Nina Bruhns to my auto buy list and I will making my way through her back list when I can get some time. A must read for anyone who loves the high seas and a man in uniform. The second book in the series is White Hot which is do out in the Winter of 2012 but in the mean time Happy Reading!

Merged review:

"The first thing I thought when I finished this book is that I am moving to Russia!!! Now I know I have said this before but I have this thing will men in Uniform and this guy is a Navy Guy! squeeee!!! This is my first book by the talented Nina Bruhns and I was far from disappointed. Not only is it Hot and Sexy ,but will bring you to your knees and want your own Navy Hottie!

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**Kellie Maddox-Ward says**

[ this one scene! Holy Hell. Our heroine Julie walks into Nikolai's cabin and he had just come out of the shower and only has a towel **ar**

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## Vilia says

Review from Backchatting Books

CIA Analyst Julie Severin has been ordered to go undercover as a journalist reporting on a group of scientists heading for the Arctic Circle. Her mission is to search for a SD card that has been hidden somewhere in the bowels of the dilapidated Russian submarine that is taking them there. Her mission gets off to a rocky start as Captain Nikolai Kirill Romanoff is informed that she is a spy and is determined to find out what she is doing on his sub.

Julie is unfortunately a TSTL heroine. Julie oscillated between being this incredibly smart woman who could quote famed Chinese military strategist Sun Tzu and assist with complicated military manoeuvring and a terrified ditz who clung to her manly Nikolai. Her TSTL crimes are as follows:

- failed to integrate herself with the scientists at the start or work out where her journal articles would be published and thereby add verisimilitude to her cover
- contacted her 'boss' using unsecured lines
- wore high heels on a submarine where they could get stuck in the grating, make climbing the numerous ladders difficult and increase her height in a small and cramped interior
- made the fact she was searching for something really obvious and then took photos of pipes and labels of all things. FYI an SD card would be kept somewhere safe and that's not inside a water or air pipe where it could be dislodged or on an old label
- was surprised that people were treating her differently because she was sharing quarters with Nikolai, wearing his clothes (coupled with her high heels) and clutching or kissing him at regular intervals
- was shocked that Nikolai might actually betray her because, you know, his allegiance lay elsewhere and he was an ex KGB agent
- disclosed her mission to just about everyone who challenged her even though as she herself stated, to be caught as a spy would mean death
- shared sensitive information with Nikolai and another individual about her mission where others could hear

I liked Nikolai a little more even though he is a walking, talking Russian cliche as he is a distant descendent of the Romanov family and ex KGB. He might be a bit of a rogue and ordered to seduce Julie but he has a sensitive side and he showed this when he signed a note to her 'kisses, Nikolai'. His way of dealing with the unknown enemy was clever and reminded me of The Hunt for Red October. His success intrigued me as he spent very little time actually running the submarine and most of it following Julie around, dealing with her phobias or spending quality time with her. There is a mystery concerning his deceased mother which unfortunately wasn't fleshed out enough – I wanted to know more about the mother's death and the dynamics between his parents. Nikolai says 'da' and 'nyet' an awful lot even though his American English is nearly flawless (from time spent there when he was younger). It made me wonder if the author was afraid we would forget he was Russian.

You will need to suspend quite a bit of disbelief to get absorbed in the plot but it is definitely worth it for the cat and mouse games that play out towards the end. Julie's boss at Langley would have known she had no qualifications in the area, was scared of large bodies of water and had a beef with Russians when they sent

her on the mission so I'm wondering whether they actually wanted her to fail and they had planted an SD card with fake info on it. A data analyst focussing on China had no business doing field work on board a Russian ship. The relationship between Julie and Nikolai would never have been allowed to occur and if it had, I think there would have been a lot more than eyebrows being raised. Their interactions are often contrived leading to a predictable conclusion.

So where does that leave us? The book felt uneven as I couldn't get invested in the romance aspect but really enjoyed the suspense component. I also didn't like Julie but I enjoyed Nikolai. Bruhns' concept very original but I think the execution could have used a little more polish.

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### **Sheryl says**

HOT HOT HOT!!!! Only Ms. Bruhns could make a RUSSIAN submarine captain a total hottie, that had me fanning myself SEVERAL times... the one scene where Julie goes into Nikolai's cabin and he had just come out of the shower and only has a towel around his neck (eeeeekkkkkkk!!!) and Julie can see ALL his tattoos, seriously had me reaching for a cold glass to press against my flushed skin...in other words...YOWZA, Nikolai is HOT!!!

And oh yeah, i would really like to lick the model hottie on the cover as well!

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### **Yvonne says**

Ready for some "Red Heat".....can you blame me really?! :)

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### **Tina says**

I was really expecting a lot more from this book. It had all the ingredients for a great suspense romance novel: Sexy Russian + military + submarine + espionage. However, this book just fell flat for me. I loved Captain Nikolai Romanov. Everything about him was likeable. The heroine Julie--she just plain got on my nerves. She was not TSTL but she came close. I never felt the connection between Nikolai and Julie. I mean the heroine professed her feelings for the hero and vice versa- I just never felt it. I kept reading hoping it would get better-for me it did not. The book was not bad but it was not great either. Like I said earlier I did not feel the romance therefore everything else just fell flat for me. The small cramped quarters of the submarine, the suspense--of why the heroine was sent on the submarine, the conclusion of the suspense--it all just fell flat. I grew ever tired of the whole dialogue about "we want to be together but it is just not possible" Again, with me not fully committed to the romance/plot this internal repetitive dialogue was annoying. Lastly, I could not believe it when the heroine had nerve enough to question Nikolai, a well decorated military captain, about what he was doing when it came to commanding the submarine. I mean I even said aloud "No she didn't". For example, "Nikolai, what are you doing?, Are you sure that is going to work?" Really?! How many submarines have she commanded, Oh I forgot, she is afraid of water.

So maybe my rating should be 2.5 since I did get kinda emotionally involved. \*shrug\*

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## **Nina Bruhns says**

Men In Uniform, book 1

The Cold War was never this cold...

CIA analyst Julie Severin hates anything to do with Russia—the country that killed her cold war spy father. She also has a phobia about large bodies of water. Needless to say, she is horrified when she is ordered at the last minute to join an international team of scientists going deep under the frigid waters of the Arctic on an ancient Russian rust bucket of a submarine. Her mission: to recover a tiny data card hidden somewhere on the sub by a murdered CIA mole...and while she's at it, acquire the sub's arrogant but annoyingly attractive commander as the asset's replacement.

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## **Bookaholics says**

Red Heat by Nina Bruhns  
Romantic Suspense -June 7th, 2011  
4 ½ stars

Red Heat is a fantastic new book that lovers of hot suspense will greatly enjoy! The hero is sexy and noble and made me wish I had a Russian submarine captain of my own.

Nikolai is a decorated Russian submarine captain whose last decision to rescue survivors earned him a demotion to a rickety low level submarine that should have been sent to the ship yard ages ago. Now instead of a new state of the art submarine and important missions, he is delegated to escorting a crew of national

scientists to the Artic. This is a routine and boring assignment until he is called by a devious FSB (Russian Federal Security Bureau ) leader. Soon Nikolai finds himself blackmailed by a secret in his family's past to watch a supposed CIA on this expedition - a female reporter named, Julie Severin. His mission is to discover her secrets by ANY means! Nikolai is offended. He isn't going to pimp himself out to discover secrets not matter how much his government pressures him. That is until he spies the beautiful agent...

Julie can't believe she has been roped into being an undercover agent on an expedition to the Artic. She is afraid of water. And she isn't crazy about Russians since they murdered her father. Plus, she hasn't been trained as a spy; she is a desk analyst for goodness sakes! But when she meets the attractive and noble hero, sparks fly. But can she trust a Russian especially when he confronts her with his brazen sexuality?

This book was Red Hot! I loved the passion between the two main characters. I really felt that they fell in love. At first I wasn't sure about the hero, but soon I came to adore him. He is caught between his ideals and his honor. He is an admirable and very human character who cleverly tries to find a way out. Julie is also a smart character who feels out of her depth especially when it comes to the hunky captain. I loved that they both try to find a way to be with each other despite the terrible odds against them. I also liked how the author really conveys the feeling of being on a cramped submarine. It gave me great admiration for those who serve on submarines and made me feel like I was living on/in the ocean when I read this book.

Brimming with passion and suspense, the book had me spellbound from the first page. You will not be disappointed in this thrilling book.

Reviewed by Steph from the Bookaholics Romance Book Club

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### **WhiskeyintheJar/Kyraryker says**

Many unbelievable events and actions taking place but in the end I just didn't care because this was such a intriguingly different story. The suspense, who is the saboteur, part completely eclipsed the romance side of the story. Heroine was borderline TSTL which dropped this from being a 5star book because the interaction between her and the hero didn't quite gel for me at times. The hero, Nikolai was hot, hot, hot. Seriously, top 5 hottest male characters I've read all year.

Read this for the suspense, hero, and just plain old interesting-something-new aspects.

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### **Sharon says**

<http://obsessionwithbooks.blogspot.com>

#### **REVIEW: 4 out of 5 stars**

I absolutely loved Bruhns Passion for Danger series so I have been anxiously awaiting the release of 'Red Heat', the first book in the Men in Uniform series.

CIA analyst Julie Severin has been given a field assignment to board a submarine, pose as a reporter writing about the international scientific team studying the effects of global warming on the pacific arctic and locate

a hidden mini SD card, not an easy mission when she has an irrational fear of water and a true dislike of Russians, holding them accountable for the murder of her father.

Captain First Rank Nikolai Kirillovich Romanov is a decorated officer of the Russian Navy and from a politically suspect family. He is in charge of commanding the Ostrov, an ancient, broken-down submarine; a demotion after his last mission went wrong. He has orders to find out why a CIA agent has been sent on a routine, unclassified expedition and to do it by any means necessary.

Julie had been railroaded into a mission she was unprepared for and ill equipped to deal with; she was pitted up against Nikolai who was smart, irresistible and completely relentless. She couldn't lie if her life depended on it so her top-secret mission wasn't so secret for too long.

I enjoyed Nikolai and Julie as a couple, who would have thought operatives from different agencies and countries could make the relationship work; the odds were certainly against them but their chemistry and attraction was instantaneous and I loved the Russian terms of endearment he used with her.

Red Heat is a fast-paced adventure through the Bering Seas filled with intrigue, action, mystery, politics and a steamy hot romance.

I love Bruhns writing style, you can tell she has certainly done her research. The dialogue was smart and witty and held my interest and the plot kept me riveted and I absolutely love the scorching hot man candy on the cover!

A great start to a new series, I am looking forward to reading Clint Walker's story in *White Hot* which is due to be released in 2012.

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### **Shawna says**

HOLY S%\*@! WHAT A SMOKIN' HOT COVER STUD! Nina Bruhns wins big again in the cover hunk lottery! :)

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### **Kelly22 says**

Wow!! This one is one heck of a super hot romantic suspense read! It features a sexy Russian military hunk, exactly like the one in the cover!! :)

The hero is Captain Nikolai Kirillovich Romanov who happens to be a Russian naval officer is one really hot hot hot guy!! He is currently facing tribulations with his work for an episode that occurs a month ago while he was playing a commander in a high-profile Russian Nuclear submarine. Suddenly he violates direct order and takes off when a mishap transpires. Due to that he was designated as a commander of the a crashed and almost wrecked, old-fashioned submarine called B-403 Ostrov, leading a group of scientists into the Arctic to do his new assigned job of collecting climate data.

The heroine Julie Severin, a CIA analyst, is an undercover agent who is acting as some reporter and is in the

same submarine. She is not a pro in going underground and moreover this one actually proves to be a major challenge for her since she has a fear of water due to her one childhood incident when her father was killed in Moscow.

Meanwhile Russian Federal Security Bureau aka FSB, reports Nikolai about an American CIA agent feigning as a reporter in his submarine crew. That's where the story gets very interesting!

Nikolai meets the Julie and flirts with her and she asks him to buzz off. They feel the magnetic pull among themselves. Nikolai proves to be man in a mission with his bold seduction schemes and shameless persuasion! It gets impossible for Julie to overlook his advances and his excellent skills at being a spy and keep on her façade.

The guy has the upper hand on her in this spy thingy since he is much experienced. The chemistry between these two floats up out and they try to fight it. But finally, we see, the two nemeses stumble on combating a trailing battle against a scorching magnetism that they feel against each other which proves to be deeper than the Arctic Ocean itself and primitive than the force of nature herself!

People who loves an indisputably hot alpha hero with a uniform who triumphs the water better than any dangerous pirate ever did and a determined beautiful heroine who is failing miserably in posing as a con and is afraid of water like death, and a sizzling hot chemistry between these two individual with a decent story plot, will definitely want to read this book!

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### **gert says**

my first thought when i finished this book? how the hell did it get so many positive reviews?

this book was the pits, imho. by 62% complete, i started forcing myself to finish it.

in order to enjoy this book, you need:

- to totally suspend any feelings of realism regarding international waters, the russian, chinese and american navies, the cia and politics. seriously. it bandies about political intrigue w/russia, china, the states. we get names/types of nuclear subs. all wrapped up in TOTALLY UNBELIEVABLE. author should have bypassed any tidbits of political intrigue and just stuck with "romance".
- to not be bothered by a heroine who appears to have multiple personality disorder. one minute she's smart and brave. the next minute, eyes widened, she's just a helpless waif, caught up in a situation she can't control. the next minute she's spouting the art of war and able to categorize the strategy of a chinese sub commander.
- to believe that a romance could occur in a sub between a captain and a 'visiting journalist'. there's, like, 75 levels of hierarchy, and yet NO ONE calls him on it? just a couple of disgruntled/suspicious looks?
- not care about fleshed out relationships.

will not bother with the rest of the series.

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