



## Desafiando las normas

*Suzanne Brockmann*

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El almirante Jake Robinson debía recuperar por cualquier medio posible seis cartuchos de un gas nervioso letal sustraídos de un laboratorio de experimentación del ejército. Para ello necesitaba la ayuda de la doctora Zoe Lange. Desafiando las normas se infiltraron, como marido y mujer, en el complejo en el que un grupo de fanáticos religiosos ocultaba la mortífera toxina. Pero la atracción que Jake sentía por Zoe estaba poniendo en peligro algo más que su corazón...

*Brockmann ha creado un argumento lleno de tensión brillantemente combinado con unos personajes muy bien caracterizados y un romance muy intenso*

### Booklist

## Desafiando las normas Details

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## From Reader Review Desafiando las normas for online ebook

### Melanie♥ says

I found the first half of this book to be rather dull and slow moving, but it improved greatly during the second half. It had been highly recommended and I went into it with high expectations that were not quite met. Still, all in all, a decent read. Plan to check out the rest of the series.

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### AG Reads says

Reread.

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### Emily says

First things first, where oh where can I find an Admiral Jake Robinson of my very own? Alas, the pages of this Brockmann are probably the only place someone like him truly exists. \*sigh\* But somehow, I'm okay with that. Partially because I can pick it up and reread any time I want. But mostly because his relationship with Zoe was one where I found myself actually grinning like a loon at some of their interactions and nearly (NOT quite, but as nearly as I can get whilst reading) swooning at other times.

I enjoyed the SEAL interactions as well. There's a little bit about every one of them that I fell in love with, and I can only hope that my library has the entire series in stock.

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### Brigitte says

I was entertained by this story (enough to finish the book), but there were a number of aspects concerning it that left me scratching my head in disbelief. The depiction of the military in this book is laughable at best (especially for those of us who have actually served in the military). The scenes where the Navy SEAL team are discussing Jake and Zoe's feelings for each other are laughably bad. I mean, seriously, to have one Navy SEAL telling another SEAL as they watch their team leader and the heroine on a monitor, "I think it must be very difficult for both of them. He cares a great deal for her. And Zoe..." He sighed. "She's falling in love with Jake." These are supposed to be Navy SEALS on a mission! Not girlfriends chatting on a lazy Sunday afternoon over a dessert coffee.

The characters were a little "Mary Sue-ish" at times (too good to be true). The Admiral has too many moments of indecision for me, as a reader, to believe that he is supposed to be as heroic and strategically gifted as the book keeps reminding us he is. And the heroine, Zoe, bounces back and forth between being a first rate operative to a wounded barbie doll.

There is some witty banter between characters, and I was curious enough to finish the book so I could see how the story would wrap up, but if you decide to read this book.... be warned that you will need to leave reality checked at the door.

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## Marlene says

Originally published at Reading Reality

I borrowed this one from the library because I was jonesing for a good older man/younger woman romance. I read a lot of fanfic, and one of the pairings that I'm following from a video game I'm playing deals with this trope, so I had a taste for it. And I'll admit that I was looking for one where the story was finished. As much as I love fanfic, one of the problems with reading a lot of it is that even the best stories don't always get finished, and I'm as guilty of this as anyone.

But it gave me a yen for a story with this trope, and browsing the Goodreads list brought this one to the top. That it also reminds me a another fanfic pairing was an added bonus.

The Admiral's Bride was originally written in 1999. Technology has changed, and has certainly become more ubiquitous. On that other hand, the terrorist militia group that the Admiral and his Bride have to infiltrate could be ripped from today's headlines. Technology may change, but human nature doesn't seem to.

The Admiral in this story is Jake Robinson. And he really is an Admiral, or at least he is now. But he's a former Navy SEAL, and Admiral is the nickname that his unit gave him back in Vietnam, where he seems to have made it his own personal mission to rescue units that Command said couldn't be saved from the enemy.

The hospital started keeping track, calling the men he saved "Jake's Boys". There were nearly 500 of them by the end, and one of the last ones was intelligence agent Zoe Lange's father. As Zoe wasn't conceived until after her dad came home from Vietnam, Zoe quite literally owes Jake Robinson her life.

She's hero-worshipped him from afar for almost her entire life. Which does add a certain amount of complication when they finally meet face-to-face. Because the man hasn't lost a scintilla of his looks or his charisma in the 30 years since 'Nam. He's already the fuel for entirely too many of Zoe's fantasies, but meeting him in real life turns out to be much more electrifying than she ever imagined.

And it's completely mutual, as much as Jake keeps telling himself it shouldn't be. He's only been a widower for three years, and he still thinks of himself as married. Zoe is a member of his team, and should be off-limits. And if that wasn't enough of a reason to back off, she's 24 years younger than he is, she couldn't possibly be interested in him.

But of course she is. And in the circumstances in which they find themselves, pretending a relationship is the only way to get the mission done. And when the pretense turns real, it gives them both a reason to survive.

If the entire mission doesn't go totally FUBAR first.

Escape Rating B+: This was exactly what I was looking for. So I dove right in and came up for air about four hours later, ready to read the book I was supposed to read (actually yesterday's review of Cover Fire).

In spite of Cover Fire being science fiction romance and The Admiral's Bride being an almost 20-year-old contemporary, they have a surprising amount in common. In both cases, the black hats are a repressive,

conservative cult conducting terrorist attacks. And in both stories, the man is career military while the woman is an intelligence operative. Both romances feature people who believe that the person they have fallen for could not possibly be interested in them, and that they have no possible future together. The reasons may be different, but the emotions they engender are surprisingly similar.

And both cults contain entirely too many people who are absolutely fucking futz. The crazy, hate-fueled BS gets a bit hard to read. In neither case are the heads of these arseholes places we want to stay for any length of time.

But one does get caught up in both the action and the romance of The Admiral's Bride. Jake and Zoe are in tremendous danger, and they have to work together (and get their heads out of their emotional asses) in order to survive and succeed.

At the same time, one of the things that this book does well is to air the doubts that are all going through Jake's head. 24 years is a big age gap. He and Zoe are not at the same places in their lives. It is hard to think about forever with someone, when your version of forever is 20 or 30 years shorter than theirs. The other person is potentially signing up for a lot of pain at the end. There are ways to deal with all of those issues, and this story doesn't gloss them over. That Zoe's job is so dangerous actually helps the situation. The mess they are in together brings home the possibility that she could be cut down in the line of duty at any moment.

That this story reminded me of a lot of early NCIS fanfic (which I love) was just a bonus. It was all too easy to see Gibbs as Jake Robinson, even though he's not nearly tall enough. But it still added to my enjoyment of a story that just plain hit the spot.

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### **Preeti ♥? (Romance She Reads) says**

Hmmm, in a minority but I am more disappointed/disconcerted than happy with this one.

A May-Dec romance with a 53 yrs. old silver fox H (I have a particular weakness for them!) made me scramble to get this book. A rare breed, this old Hs especially in a non-erotica genre.

The book sounded sublime on paper (blurb and reviews) but it didn't deliver (to me) as promised and also I expected more from this author after reading Night Watch from this very series.

\*With Spoilers\* The H is less problematic so let me start with him first.

As lionised and deified as he is, his character lacks conviction. He's a SEAL, a war hero of superhero proportions, a demigod/'diety' in the h's eyes. He's so gorgeously handsome that she feels *he needed a completely new word invented to describe the sheer beauty of his face*. He's a fine, principled man having been in a faithful relationship with a woman for 30 years!

So where lies the problem?

For one, with all the above qualities, he should have been an easy alpha. But no, he's an almost beta who's uncertain and confused around her while it's the h who's the aggressive pursuer. Generally, I have no problems with betas, and I enjoy a h in pursuit when the H is troubled or is uninterested. But here, the H comes across as unsure and diffident. Okay, he's still in love with his dead wife and maybe the author did not want him to seem a 'dirty old man' (and that phrase is thrown around a few times in his mind) but all this takes away from his said charisma.

And I don't know what I feel about a man/woman, in love and in a committed relationship for around 30 years but not marrying (at least not till she gets diagnosed with cancer). So, I'm a deep down traditionalist!

But it's not just him, the h and the plot lets down too.

The h, a 30 y.o. sexy blonde, a biochemist with the 'agency' is a thorough professional and 'one of the boys'. A love 'em and leave 'em type. The H saved her father's life in Nam and she feels she owes her own life to him as the father could come back and so she got conceived! She has a bad case of hero-worship and *she'd wanted to kiss him since she'd first found out about kissing, back in seventh grade..*

My problem wasn't her obsession with H or even her personal life but her professional attitude. It seemed that she tried too hard. Too hard to be blasé and tough, too hard to be 'one of the boys'. Whether it's her attitude to her sexuality or even her body. I was completely put off when she tries to say that sexual attention/groping/molesting as part of her undercover jobs was completely okay and something she took in her stride and even laughed about - when in truth it was not so for her! I know and understand the difficulties and scepticism a woman might face in such a (female)-rarified environment but she did not have to cover it with lies - even to herself.

And she lost me when she acts insouciant about having sex with the H in a room with hidden cameras to prove her dedication! Whoa lady, don't be so noble. The baddies as well as your colleagues would be watching.

Just the thought was darn icky and I wasn't in a vey happy place. Thankfully it doesn't come to pass, at least not exactly in that way. So instead of a true professional she comes across as an imposter. She accepts as much later on.

The second half is used up reminiscing about his past laurels (by one and all) and tricking their way around the cameras. The cameras were another major problem - the baddies weren't shown watching them but their colleagues did as part of surveillance and stupidly maybe, I felt upset and queasy.

I detested him (and took back my dibs-worthy tag) for putting the onus of *the* decision on her. Deciding whether to give in and have sex with the commune leader or blow their cover. All those hyped up stories of heroics of decades and instead of telling her a plain loud NO as the team leader, he has the gall to imply that as technically he isn't her boss, so the decision's hers!

And for her, her crowing chickens come home to roost!

The ending was still okay and I liked the action bit which is too little, too late.

Usually, I get irked by the hovering ghosts of loves past but here I didn't much care as I didn't feel as invested on this h/H's behalf.

I know I'm against the general opinion regarding this book but I feel majorly let down myself.

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### **Katherine ??? says**

Jake, admiral gaek diatas 50 thn, bertemu dengan Zoe Lange, ilmuwati yang ditugaskan membantu Jake dalam operasi utk menyelamatkan zar kimia berbahaya Triple-X. Operasi ini mengharuskan mereka menjadi sepasang suami istri pura-pura. Di lain pihak, Christopher Vincent, gembong gila itu juga menyukai Zoe dan memakai berbagai cara untuk mendapatkan Zoe bahkan memaksa Jake untuk berbagi istri!!

Jake yang langsung jatuh cinta saat pertama kali melihat Zoe, tidak bisa menahan diri lagi selama operasi ini bersama Zoe. Bahkan cintanya juga tidak bertepuk sebelah tangan. Zoe juga membalas cintanya dgn lebih bersemangat.

Membaca buku ini sangat bagus dan komplit.. ada krisis paro baya pria yang ditampilkan dengan sempurna oleh Jack. Ada kisah mengharukan emosional dimana pertentangan hati Jack antara membiarkan Zoe pergi bercinta dgn Christopher Vincent atau melarangnya pergi. [image error] Ada sisi-sisi kocaknya dilihat dari sudut pandang Lucky O'Donlon (sayangnya pas di serial Lucky sendiri, karakternya kurang terlihat).

Menurutku ini salah satu buku terbaik dari seri Tall Dark and Dangerous nya Suzanne Brockmann selain Prince Joe

Dan aku merasa admiral Jake mengingatkanku pada misuaku Tom Cruise... [image error]

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### **Amafile says**

El mejor libro de toda la serie

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### **CaliGirlRae says**

This is my first read of a Suzanne Brockmann book and now I know what all the fuss was about! The Admiral's Bride is a reissue from her Silhouette Intimate Moments edition and it's a meaty one. I grabbed this because I was looking for some older heroes/younger heroines contemporaries and since I loved romantic suspense I thought this would be a good start. What an awesome story this turned out to be. I had planned to only read it in between my others but I ended up devouring it in one day!

Where can I find a guy like Admiral Jake Robinson? A complex, sexy, strong, resolute alpha male who's not afraid to be sensitive show his feelings and tell what's on his mind will go on my list of memorable heroes. He matches well with Zoe a headstrong, whip smart biochemical weapons expert whose father was saved by Jake in the prologue. The connections are weaved from the beginning and the suspense, thrills and romance both progress nicely as the story unfolds. I was bummed when this story came to an end!

I also love the chemistry and camaraderie between the SEALs team. From Star Trek and X-Men references to the way they worked and joked with each other, they felt real and like peeking in on old friends. I found myself laughing out loud at their sayings.

I'm definitely going to check out more of Ms. Brockmann's works as I've good things about her Troubleshooters series (especially the couple of Sam and Alyssa) but first I'm going to dive into Taylor's Temptation. I hope that story has a scene to rival the scorching hot shower and rooftop scenes!!

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### **Rebecca says**

Every time I read Brockmann, it's light a breath of fresh air. I loved that hero was older and still really fit and good looking. I loved that he worried about being so much older than her. I just thought the whole thing was really well done. Great book. Great series.

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## **Carrie says**

TBR Challenge 2012: January category- Category/Series Romance. The Admiral's Bride has been on my to-read list since May 2010.

Maybe 3.5\* Good solid story, with some twists and turns that take it above the "business as usual" for series romance. Brockmann does a great job with Jake's confused feelings. That was the best part of the book, in fact. Zoe is a likeable character as well, and although there is some lack of communication between them, it feels right for the story and the characters, so that wasn't a problem for me.

The actual suspense plot is weak, however, and character development for all but Jake is also on the weak side. Still, it was an enjoyable read!

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## **Wendy says**

I really liked this book. I found it second hand and thought it should be good because I like all of Brockmann's books. I loved that both the hero and heroine were smart and strong. The part that intrigued me was that the hero was more than twenty years older than the heroine. They find a strong attraction and can't help but fall for each other. The twists and turns are good and the story is something that as a mountain west resident I can relate to. Though finatics don't always live in the mountains, this one seemed realistic to me. Over all this book was good. Not the same caliber as her Trouble shooters series, but definately worth the read. I give it 4 out of 5 stars.

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## **Buggy says**

Opening Line: "*Dr.Zoe Lange gazed out the window of the limo as the driver pulled up at the Pentagon.*"

What a great addition to the Tall Dark & Dangerous series this turned out to be. I would have to say that THE ADMIRAL'S BRIDE is one of the better (best?) from the series so far and the reason why all stems from its absolutely sigh-worthy hero (and some damn sexy shower scenes) With this 7th addition we get 53 year old Admiral Jake Robinson's story and who knew I'd end up having a thing for older men when I was done? But Jake is just a great hero regardless of his age; accomplished, kind, selfless, more than capable, oh so sexy and kinda awesome.

After first meeting Jake in (Hawken's Heart) I was a little sceptical about his romantic lead abilities however I need not have worried because Brockmann does an excellent job here with the older man/younger woman scenario, writing both characters in such multifaceted ways that I had no trouble in believing that they belonged together despite their considerable age difference. Zoe, with her military background is Jake's perfect match as she understands him in ways even his late wife couldn't. A little hero worship on her part doesn't hurt either.

When six canisters of a deadly nerve agent are stolen from a military testing lab our Admiral defies convention and decides to lead his handpicked team of SEAL's in infiltrating the cult leader's compound where the deadly toxin is being stored. Posing as a married couple Jake's partner on this mission is Dr Zoe Lange, a biological warfare specialist and expert in espionage. She is well aware of the Admiral's reputation

although she seems to be the only one on the team that has faith in his aging capabilities. Jake is still sharp however and in as good of shape as men 30 years his junior.

The love scenes in this one are smoking hot in part because of this 'big brother' scenario our couple finds themselves in. Once inside the compound their every move is being monitored, forcing them into some fake newlywed intimacy. This really added an element of naughty sensuality to an already volatile situation because despite the roles they're playing these two want each other. Zoe however often doesn't know if the affection the Admiral is showing her is real or for the benefit of those watching on the strategically placed cameras? When the shower becomes the one place that they can truly be alone um... Wow!

Of course then we still have the added element of Jake grieving for his wife, the guilt over that and again the age difference. Oh and lets not forget about those canisters of deadly nerve agent, the crazy cult members and the team of wisecracking SEAL's watching everything back at base. Yeah this was super good.

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### **SheLove2Read says**

How much do I love this book.....let me count the ways!

This is my first non-Diana Palmer read with a much older hero/younger heroine (24 years). I have to say I loved it. It was very very believable in terms of the romance and the way our hero was concerned about not only the age difference but about his former wife (deceased) and his feelings about that relationship. Would it be cheating to fall in love again? Could he fall in love again? SHOULD he fall in love again?

Former SEAL and Navy Admiral Jake Robinson is a very virile 53 years old. He's sure his romantic years are behind him after the death of his beloved wife of 30 years to cancer. Zoe Lange is a beautiful 29 year old scientist who works for the Agency (CIA). She's the daughter of a man Jake saved in Vietnam. At first I didn't see how these two could quite make it, but this really is a combination of "beauty in the eye of the beholder / age knows no boundaries" love story.

I highly recommend it.

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### **Taiyesha-Duchess of Indiana says**

#### **The Admiral's Bride (Tall, Dark, and Dangerous #7): Great 5 star read that was just what I needed**

So I'dk why but I had the craving for a book that had a May-December romance. I stumbled upon this book by Suzanne Brockman where the insanely attractive Admiral Jake is 24 years senior to the heroine. He is 54 and she is turning 30. Anywho, who cares because his body is hard as steel and he's in better shape than some 21 year olds. The heroine Zoe, however, can hold her own. Having her PhD and being the most knowledgeable in any and all types of weapons makes her amazing. Also, she works as a spy obtaining information and making the world safer. She's no simpering miss. What ensues is a great paced novel where two unlikely characters fall in love despite of themselves. It was interesting reading a book with a self assured female and an unsure male. Being a widower he was a bit rusty, but boy did he heat the hell up. This

guy could be so frustrating with his sense of honor and need to resist the nubile young pvt who was saddling up to him. However, he did come to his senses.

Anyway, I don't quite think this is a 5 star book in terms of how it is written, but I got an amazingly happy feeling reading this. the pacing was great, the epilogue was cute. And, i understood everything despite it being the seventh book. All in all, it was perfect for me as I've been a little antsy lately due to some impending life changes. The mood i was in before i started the book was similar to this However, afterward I felt like... I can't wait to read some more Brockmann, who knew military romance could be so damn hot!

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