



Beyond Cloud Nine

Greg Spry

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Ace star fighter pilot Brooke Davis lives for pushing hundreds of gees in orbital combat, but she'd give it all up in a moment to become the first human to fly faster than light. When Brooke stumbles upon a conspiracy involving terrorists, aliens, and the highest levels of government, she finds their goals seductive but their methods abhorrent. With the moral core of human civilization hanging in the balance, she must risk her shot at history, her family, and her life to prevent the schemers from forcing their nefarious brand of salvation upon the solar system.

Beyond Cloud Nine Details

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Author : Greg Spry

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From Reader Review Beyond Cloud Nine for online ebook

Joshua Thomas says

I won this book in a Goodreads Giveaway.

Beyond Cloud Nine is a very entertaining YA science fiction that really sets itself apart from the others - that commonly share dystopian cliches. Unfortunately, the dystopian genre has become quite overused in recent years, but that only makes this novel stand out more impressively as something positively different.

Bill says

space warfare and intrigue

Tori (InToriLex) says

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Actual Rating 3.5

This was fun to get through and kept me engaged the entire time. Brooke's adventure through space and her troubled family relationships kept things interesting. In this future dystopian world things are not what they seem. I enjoyed this plot driven novel because of the constant action and occasional humor. The science behind the futuristic tech was explained well, and never got overwhelming or dense. I really enjoy reading speculative fiction because authors can be as imaginative as they want. There's a description of a cereal box that turns into a bowl of milk and cereal when you touch a button, and that sounds awesome to me.

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However characters were undeveloped, you had to accept some personality's with little description. Brooke was well described in the present, but there's not enough about who makes her who she is to connect with her emotionally. Brooke has a twin sister Marie, the novel switches point of views between the sisters, but their upbringing and experience as twins is not described. Brooke and Marie are also half Japanese, but the challenges of being mixed race was glossed over and only briefly mentioned as a sore spot for Brooke. I wanted to learn more about concepts of race and discrimination because of it.

Overall the plot and future tech was great, if at times a little cliché. The ending left some loose ends, which I didn't like but the main arc of the story was concluded. I'm interested to learn what's in store for Book Two, so I'll be continuing on with the series. I appreciated the diverse characters, strong female protagonists and twisting story line, although it wasn't the most original plot. I would recommend this to readers who enjoy sci-fi, future tech and space battles.

I received this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Archit Ojha says

Brooke Davis has got ambitions.

She is not made of perfect features. She has flaws. She is scared. Born to Japanese and American parents, the world around her seems to make her entitled to discriminate. Medical technologies has done her no favors, causing her genetic disorders.

Her innocence pulls you closer and *she becomes one of us. You become her.*

Blend of family drama and the narrator's ambitions for space traveling remind you of the aspirations you had in your childhood.

I always find something or other curious about dystopian settings. Throwing frequent humors at me, this action packed book did it all too well.

Well written books are of those kind which could be read by even the laymen of that genre. So was with Beyond Saga.

I'm sure that a newbie in space technology would have no trouble figuring out what happened when. Greg Spry makes a rocket-science-look-alike subject as blowing dandelion flower during a summertime. Smooth and crisp.

Books can be anything and everything. They have no limits. No Standard Operating Protocol to follow and when an imaginative mind like the author's collides with it, the world is set to recognize no boundaries. However, some character development could have done wonders.

An excellent approach to the futuristic technologies. Someone has said it correctly that if you want to build up novel things, you should read sci-fi. Beyond Saga proves that it is aptly so.

Those who are interested in space battles, would find it interesting. There is no waiting to read the second installment.

Read Ng says

In anticipation of book 3, I started reading this e-book.

This started as a "B" movie conspiracy plot. At about the mid point, it pleasantly turned into more. I liked the way it spun. I have to admit that I had read the synopsis' for the next two books, so I let my mind wander ahead and came up with so many other story endings that were wildly different than what I got. This book reads more like a prequel, but that presupposes my guess for where the next book will take me.

Spry does do a credible job sticking to the hard sciences. I think he may have miss a few finer details in some brief segments of low gravity action, but that would likely just bog the story flow down, so it has good pacing. There are hints to technologies that help our low gravity hero deal with higher gravities, so it is all good. I do have a hard time imagining how the gravgel works. I would think the entire head has to be immersed in the stuff, but again it would bog down the flow to explain it in detail.

This was a GoodReads. Now onto the book 2.

Lorene says

I received a copy free through Goodreads Giveaways. This book is set in the future. We are exploring space but have not gone past Jupiter. Brooke Davis is star fighter pilot. She is the best in the fleet. She survives a fire fight she was not supposed to and uncovers a plot involving humans and aliens.

I enjoyed the book immensely. The plot was different. It was well written. Readers will like the good guys and hate the bad guys. I am really looking forward to reading book 2.

Dawn says

"Beyond Cloud Nine" is a fascinating book that is well-written and enjoyable.

There are a lot of elements to it - though they are all integrated to the point where it doesn't feel like too much.

The scary thing is that a lot of what happens in this book could happen - some of it could already be happening...

Nia Markos says

For those who believe science fiction is better seen than read (I being one of those), will be pleasantly surprised by Greg Spry's novel. From the imagining of a future two hundred years in the future, to political intrigue familiar to us all, the story develops slowly in the first half of the book, as we are introduced to Brooke Davis, the young fighter pilot who is the main character, to all the supporting characters.

I found the setting, the drama, all too believable. Washed-up, "Spark" addicted Brooke's journey into becoming a heroine develops at just the right speed. We grow to care about her, her family, and what she has gone through.

Beyond Cloud Nine delivers a compelling story which many science fiction readers will enjoy. I give it 4.5 Stars instead of 5 due to it taking me a quarter into the book to really become invested. I suggest you keep reading. It is a great story.

Lara says

This book follows a military pilot who isn't good with people as she pursues her quest to be part of flying the latest and greatest space ships. She has a little problem that helps her when she's in battle, but hurts her when she's outside the cockpit. She also has a twin sister who is her opposite in terms of personality, but who can read her like an open book. As the pilot is pursuing her dreams of space flight, her sister is pursuing her dreams as a journalist. However, things aren't quite what they seem. During the course of a battle with extremists, Brooke finds herself in battle with an unknown craft. Following that craft she comes across a

puzzle. One that eventually kills thousands of people. She is told to keep quiet, and we readers know that something hinky is going on with some bigwigs.

As time passes, Brooke is used for her skills, including her willingness to be self-destructive in her quest. However, she has been developing some interpersonal skills and starts to also develop a conscience. Much is unknown until near the end of the book, when Brooke decides to look deeper into the purported first contact. Her sister is on board, as is a friend and Brooke's amazing AI, Bob. Eventually, they have to make a decision about how far to push things--while they may abhor the means, are they justified by the ends?

It was a fun story, but I felt that it lacked strong character development. There were starts to relationships that never went anywhere. Brooke's motivation was partially explained, but the references to her difficult teen years weren't. I was left with a lot of unanswered questions, one of which was how Brooke came across and developed her working relationship with Bob. The supporting characters were fairly flat beyond their basic roles, and even Brooke's sister didn't seem to have any growth. It was an interesting concept, I just wasn't satisfied with the depth of the story.

I received this book free for an honest review.

William Stuart says

I'm off on a sci-fi tangent for a couple of weeks. First up in my TBR is *Beyond Cloud Nine* (*Beyond Saga*, #1) by Greg Spry. Goodreads recommended this one. Good choice!

Synopsis (from the author):

Brooke was flying high until abruptly halted by a mysterious crime
Ace fighter pilot, Brooke Davis, is speeding through Jupiter's orbit, dreaming of becoming the first human to fly faster than light. Instead, she is drawn into a criminal conspiracy— involving terrorists, aliens, and the highest level of government, including her boss at the U.N. — that threatens not only her shot at history, but the future of the solar system.

Will the entire solar system break down in this futuristic thriller?

The solar system is destabilizing. Separatists attempt to assassinate the U.N. Secretary-General. Territories are seceding and acquiring antimatter weaponry. Just as all-out war seems inevitable, alleged extraterrestrials attack colonies throughout the solar system, forcing humankind to work together to combat the invaders. If the U.N. loses its ability to keep the peace, human civilization may stumble back into the dark ages.

Brooke's excruciating dilemma could determine the future of the human race

Brooke is ordered to keep quiet about the crime she witnessed by the U.N. Security Council President. As the invaders draw closer to Earth, Brooke must decide whether to reveal what she knows. Keeping quiet might allow mankind to triumph and usher in a golden age, albeit one based on lies and deception. But revealing the truth could send the human race down a path toward self-annihilation.

What I liked:

Beyond Cloud Nine had great sci-fi elements. First-rate technology, towering buildings, interplanetary travel, awesome star fighters, and much more made this a fun read. Add to it the "sparking" hotshot pilot, familial strife, and the military industrial complex, and everything is there. I enjoyed Brooke Davis' character, and the AI attached to her fighter was amazing. Overall a good sci-fi read!

What I didn't like:

Despite the cool technology, I didn't understand why the pollution problem wasn't solved. It seemed out of sync with the advances made in the world. I mean how can you have light speed and interplanetary travel, but still burn hydrocarbons? In addition, the communication technology didn't seem as advanced as it should in comparison to the other advances.

Overall impression:

Beyond Cloud Nine (Beyond Saga, #1) was an enjoyable read. There was enough action and adventure to keep me interested, and the story itself was excellent. Despite a few issues for me as a reader (see what I didn't like above), this was a good read. I recommend it to any sci-fi readers.

My rating:

4 Stars

Valery says

3.5 stars

I enjoyed the different spin on alien invasion and development of space travel, but the science and consistency needs a little tune up. One minute we're talking FTL and anti-matter drives and the next we're using wormholes and extradimensional travel. Pick one idea for your fancy new toy and stick with it. Don't change the names and theories, it made it sound like you're not sure which route to pick and messed with your credibility.

Don't get me wrong, most of the science is pretty sound, it just really bothers me when people are NOT consistent.

There were some undeniable similarities to Babylon 5 that made me wonder if the author is a fan. Did the show inspire some of the ideas? If you're not a B5 fan, you wouldn't get it, but every time I read ISN I just couldn't get past it without saying InterStellar News in my head. Lol.

While it's refreshing to dismiss the cookie cutter perfect female character, I felt like all the men in this story fell under cliché flatness. You have your cocksure pilot who hates being under the command of a woman, your evil mastermind who has little personality, other than creepy, and your dorky IT boys who become attractive later in life. None of the men had any real personality...except Bob.

The gel idea is ingenious, however I do have technical concerns about it frying certain parts and wiring of the fighters.

I felt like the conspiracy was a little cliché as well, but it was executed well, so it works. I didn't love the ending, nor is the grammar 100%, but it is better than some of the books I've read lately.

All in all, an intriguing premise and an engaging story.

For my clean readers:

Language(including 1 F-bomb), violence, illicit drug use, kidnapping of young child, and murder.

Iori says

That's an awesome story!

Conspiracy, murder, human drama there is so much to like in this series. There was so much feels in the book I cried at the end. This book is worth every cent, no regret!

Artemis says

Another sci fi to my wall bookshelf! Looking forward to reading this!

Dawn Jazzhands says

What a wonderfully unexpected adventure! Set in the year 2247 there are aspects of the sci-fi genre present that we have all grown to expect and love but then parts of this book that are different and will surprise you. I stayed fully engrossed in Brooke Davis as your lead heroine, especially because she is anything but typical and what you would expect but it makes her all the more relatable and tangible. Really looking forward to the next instalment by Greg Spry, loved the action fighter pilot scenes, the drama's involving every character and seeing every character evolve in different ways, you never get bored!

Kelly Knapp says

Really fast paced, well written, alternate space faring world with characters that seem very realistic in that they have lots of emotional and past baggage. Spry's first story in the "Saga" shows great potential for the sequels.

Sue Lyssa Stone Shaffer says

Well done!

As I read Beyond Cloud Nine I found myself fully engaged.. enfolded in gravgel, pursuing the dream of interstellar flight. I could taste the need to reach the stars. Explorer, officer, warrior, scientist, parent all reaching for a future away from our self polluted nest, all of them with a part to play and decisions to make. And one and all fully human..

Having finished Book 1 of the Beyond Saga I am reminded of the feel as if I am once more discovering The Moon is a Harsh Mistress's Mike, Podkayne of Mars... Brooke joins the likes of Honor Harrington, Miles Vorkosigan or Herra Serrano. The mix of youthful adventure, and the questions facing any newcomer to the realms of the combat. What defines our obligations to the moment... or to the future?

I look forward to cracking the cover of the next volume, to dancing with the next generation in zero gee. To

be honest, I can't wait to get there, beyond the speed of light.

Like Heinlein, Greg Spry has met the challenge of exploring the ethical and emotional dilemmas of the human spirit. What price is too high? How might humanity end its love affair with self conflict? What will be the moral cost and who will pay it?

Brooke Davis is a heroine with feet of clay... and I still admire her with a whole heart. She is the woman on the brink of birthing a new age for mankind. Will she succeed?

Edward says

An awesome book apart from the conspiracy theory crap. I mean at one point I thought wait... there is no way he is going to be that cliché. In short this is an easy read, its fun, but it feels like the author wants to inject some political theory or philosophy, miserably failing in that area. The people and gadgets are realistic but the society as a whole is the usual backward dystopian take that modern sci-fi likes to use. If not for the lame conspiracy theory I would have given this book 5/5, despite its many other flaws.

The battles in the book are not many, but in most cases they make sense and are fun. The philosophical part in the book is ironical because by the end of it I actually took the side of her enemy, which was clearly not the intention of the writer.

What I extremely loved about this book was the effect of causality on action scenes. Often her actions have repercussions that you'd not consider at the time, as in real life.

There are many things to love about this book but I think you can learn more from what I did not like:

The society in the future is very underdeveloped. I mean who makes fun of kids' names in school because they are foreign? I think even today that would be unlikely in a first world country. Racism and xenophobia exist but they are much more subtle. Also, considering the people on Mars have "evolved" into taller creatures its very unlikely people on Earth are unmixed enough to even recognize a Japanese person. There are just so many holes in this theme. I mean Okay, so if you don't want to look foreign why not genetically alter the face?

There are lots of things that make you feel like the plot has not been thought out. Like they want to get into the most secure room on earth and there are only two human guards... Then as usual the heroine knows a guy who can *hack* anything, but wait.. the author feels that would seem too silly so he makes an excuse why the hacking is easier than *what it should be*, making it possible. Why is the AI on the small ship smarter than all the other AIs when they have more resources?... All in all these things are not very annoying but they lower the quality moderately.

A really annoying issue is - who the fuck are the separatists? I mean the whole plot revolves around avoiding the battle with them but their agenda is not mentioned anywhere. Why are they even fighting? If they want to separate so be it... This is the largest hole in this book doubtlessly.

I think the very direction of a futuristic dictatorship is ridiculous considering even Europe has never been united once in its long history (also some countries like the UK are seriously considering leaving the EU). In addition, unification does not even mean improvement of the economy or less fighting (A good book on the

subject of the optimal human group size is "Germes, Guns and Steel").

If you like science fiction in general, you definitely should read the first 10 pages of this book.

Lilyn G. | Sci-Fi & Scary says

Greg Spry is a talented author, that's blatantly obvious. From the first few pages of *Beyond Cloud Nine*, it's clear that he'd built his world/future, he'd got his plot in place, and knew exactly what he was doing. He sends his pilot, Brooke Davis, into the thick of things with one major issue already weighing her down. That's not even counting the discrimination she faces on more than one level, and the family troubles she has from the get-go. Brooke is one of the top fighter pilots in existence. It's what she knows – what she loves – but unfortunately, she finds she can't just be a fighter pilot.

Brooke is found in death-defying situation after situation. Honestly, this is one of the few criticisms worth nothing that I have about the book. It got to the point where I wasn't concerned about the character because she pulled out of everything, and was back in action soon thereafter. It's hard to think of her as 'human' when she's that lucky. Perhaps, though, that's why Spry gives her all the issues he does. It's a way to keep her grounded as a 'real' character. The action is basically non-stop in *Beyond Cloud Nine*. There's just a few breaks here and there to let you catch your breath before it's up and running again.

I absolutely loved, pardon the pun, that romance did not play a huge part in this book. Yes, there was some attraction, flirting, etc, that happened, but it was such a super small part of the story overall that it definitely wasn't bothersome. In fact, it actually provided a bit of comic relief in certain areas, rather than bogging it down with doe eyes, boobs, and hormones. The love that plays a bigger part is familial, and it, too, is realistically displayed. Things are not easy, but that loyalty and love is present.

I termed this speculative fiction, though I could have just as easily called it 'hard' scifi, because a lot of the basic tech that the characters use is only a step or three above what we currently use. Even the current advancement in AI means that some of the bots are not at all unbelievable. Also, the ads, man. The ads are everywhere! That right there ups the realism factor!

Beyond Cloud Nine will keep readers guessing, will happily give conspiracy theorists plenty of material to gnaw on, and will entertain you from beginning to end. The only reasons it's not getting a top rating from Sci-Fi & Scary is relatively minor things that took it down to just below 'gush about' level. I would be shocked if this book/series isn't picked up by a publishing house somewhere down the road. It may not be fantastic, but it is very, very good.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

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Chez Nash says

Great book!! I really want to strangle the Vrill for causing such destruction even for a noble cause. Humanity does tend to pull together in times of trouble though. I hope the next book is just as good.

Jim says

Our hero or should I say heroine, is a drug addict! That right there would throw a lot of people off from reading this book. And the excuse she gives for taking the stuff, Spark, is no better than any other drug addict. Yet, this young woman manages to stay in uniform and even excels at what she does, partly due to the drug and partly due to her amazing piloting skills. Brooke Davis is a Japanese-American which only describes her ethnic background, but means nothing in Earth terminology since about every previous territorial distinction has gone away. Now there are multiple factions all demanding to be heard by the United Nations. Once anything new has been discovered, every little faction now demands a piece of the pie or they will start a war.

Brooke's current job, or as Lieutenant Brooke Davis, is a star-fighter pilot. She's an exceptional star-fighter pilot and is hoping to be accepted for the candidate program that will allow her to compete to become the first ever Faster Than Light (FTL) star-fighter pilot. Right now she is the best pilot in the Fleet and proves it time after time in encounters with whatever enemy this or that faction throws at her. Some of her exceptional ability comes from the use of "Spark", an illegal nanorobotic which when injected into her system enhances her neural pathways in a way it effects no other human on or off the drug. She hasn't taken Spark for a long time, but lately, she's had to take it more often than she'd prefer, but she knows only a top notch performance will get her a dream shot at piloting the first ever FTL ship.

Oh, and one other thing, Brooke Davis, is a very angry and solitary individual carrying a lot of guilt around that makes her very antisocial. She doesn't seem to like anyone and no one in particular likes her. Even her twin sister, Marie and Brooke don't get along well and they haven't spoken to each other for six or seven years. Then Brooke's attitude gets her in very hot water. She slugs a fellow pilot just before going on a mission and disobeys standing orders which almost get her killed. She's told to stand down and take some leave or get kicked out of the service. She doesn't like the idea of doing either, but finally decides to head home to Earth to see her sister.

The book is very well written and has a lot of action. I don't see why they author chose to use a female as his main character. He could have used a male just as easily. A man can have a bad attitude about everything just as easily as a woman. Still, his character Brooke works, I guess. I, personally, would prefer to read about a male in my military science fiction books because it's harder for me to relate to a female character. I am, and will always be a male chauvinist. I also don't see where the title has much to do with the book. It could just as well been title, "Beyond Jupiter" or something similar.

I have already got the second book, courtesy of the author and will be reading it very soon. This is exciting military science fiction. I can't wait to see how he carries the story forward.
