



## Alien Collective

*Gini Koch*

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Despite not having run for office, nor wanting to remain in office, Representative Jeff Martini is being wooed as the vice presidential running mate for a charismatic senator who seems likely to win the campaign. While the Diplomatic Corps has to deal with the pressures of a political campaign sure to uncover secrets they don't want shared with the world, Ambassador Kitty Katt-Martini has other worries—handling the reemergence of her most potent nemesis, thought dead and buried.

## Alien Collective Details

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Author : Gini Koch

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## **From Reader Review Alien Collective for online ebook**

### **Sandra says**

This is the 9th book, and we're back to more fun times following the harrowing events of book #8. Timeframe is a year later.

The fun and games include Jeff being nominated to be on the ticket for Vice President, Ronny's kids, traitors, ACE-like super consciousnesses, lots of explosions, poofs, dogs & peregrines, gossip columnists, assassins and the Hunt for Red Chernobog.

Whilst we had lots of fun, the real story arc is the Hunt for the Mastermind and the latest Apprentice. It feels like this is taking forever, but I for one don't want the stories to stop so I say Ms Koch, keep up the slow moving story arc, no need to find that nasty Mastermind too quickly.

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### **Dahrose says**

As always love Kitty - and kudos to the author for a complicated but well intertwined plot.

My only criticism is the author's overuse of two phrases.

The first - 'their sarcasm knob was turned/went all the way up to eleven/twenty' (or some variation of that statement). In the first half of the book it felt like this statement was made every second page. I don't need sarcasm pointed out/ nor should Kitty have to comment on it every single freaking time she comes across it. Which leads me to the next overused phrase that appeared on every alternate page in the first half of the book - 'you're my favourite' no you're my favourite'. This repetitive statement/game got old real fast and came across as childish.

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### **Dark Faerie Tales says**

Review courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales

Quick & Dirty: Explosions, bombs, more super-consciousness oh my....

Opening Sentence: There was a time, about four and half years ago, when I thought the world was basically simple.

The Review:

Kitty is back again and this time most of the girls are arrested for their own protection at a protest against an Anti-alien candidate. Some of the guys too, after they are released, Kitty receives an odd phone call in which she is warned about attending protests and how dangerous they can be for her. As always, the plot thickens when they turn on the TV and see that there has been an explosion at CIA Headquarters.

Before they can even wrap their heads around that, Kitty is informed that Jeff is being tapped to be the Vice-Presidential Candidate on Senator Armstrong's ticket. Kitty isn't really that happy about that, and worries about their secrets coming to light. To top it off she is having weird dreams that involve her former enemy Mephistopheles. He seems to be helping her figure out things, and oh yeah, she challenged another superconsciousness about ACE, because they don't have enough to worry about.

Wait there is more, they catch another of Al Dejah's terrorists, well really another one of Ronnie's kids, it seems that he has planted explosives in their embassy and several others. Except, once they interrogate him they find someone else has planted one additional bomb in each place that Silar was unaware of, and if that isn't enough they find out Stephanie is a traitor as well. Kitty begins to worry that they will have more traitors among Jeff's family, and is stunned to find out that Chuckie has already thought of that.

So they have a ton on their plates, will Kitty be able to stop all of this in time?

Too much going on is really my only ongoing complaint with this series. I always start off the book very interested and it literally brings up one thing, deals with it for a bit, then another random thing gets brought up and so on and so on. It makes it hard for me to keep interested because it jumps from one to another literally the entire book until it all starts getting wrapped up. The books are still way too long, and I truly believe if she stripped them back to the core, focused on a major incident and the deeper mystery these books for me would be fantastic. I still really like the majority of the characters, although now that there are so many and new ones are being introduced every book, I get lost in that as well. The writing is great, the wit is outstanding, and the core of it is full of great characters. I don't think I am ever going to love them, but I can totally see why so many do.

Notable Scene:

Cuddled her and took her with me while I changed out of the Armani Fatigues and into jeans, my Converse, a short sleeved Iron Maiden T-shirt, in order to look intimidating, and a light Aerosmith hoodie, because I was going into action and that required my boys to be on my person.

Made sure I had plenty of clips for my Glock in my purse, verified that anything and everything I else I could need was in there, gave my hair a fast brush and pulled it into a ponytail, and I was ready.

FTC Advisory: DAW/Penguin provided me with a copy of Alien Collective. No goody bags, sponsorships, "material connections," or bribes were exchanged for my review.

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## **Barbara says**

Once again Kitty Katt-Martini and her assorted family, friends, and teammates are fighting evil on many fronts, including political rivals of her husband Jeff, who may become the vice presidential running mate for Senator Armstrong, the strong front runner going into the National Convention. With lots of danger, suspense and mystery, and enemies old and new, the story speeds along to come to a very satisfying conclusion, with everything working out just as it should. I love this series and always look forward to reading more adventures.

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## Shelley says

\*\*I received this book for free from Penguin/DAW in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.\*\*

\*Genre\* Science Fiction

\*Rating\* 3.5-4

\*Full Thoughts May 6, 2013 as part of my blog tour stop!

Gini Koch has created a monster with the Katherine "Kitty" Katt series and we are only on book # 9! There is literally a cast of hundreds involved in this story, with our intrepid heroine Kitty Katt leading the way for the good guys against the evil villains led by the mysterious Mastermind, his Apprentices, some horrible politicians, Death Dealers, lobbyists, Anti-Alien groups, and those who are just scared of the unknown.

Over the past 4 1/2 years, Kitty has gone from being unaware of aliens actually existing, to killing an Alien with hair spray, to becoming the Ambassador for the American Centurians who give their lives in order to protect the world from evil both on this planet, and from various alien races. Kitty's challenges apparently are just getting to the tipping point in knowing who her true enemies are.

You seriously must read this series in order in order to get Kittisms and the various snarky comments, and names she comes up for people she meets. You need a scorecard to separate the good guys from the bad guys, and then toss it up in the air because Koch is teasing us with tempting morsels that I hope will soon lead to the revelation of the person behind the Mastermind mask.

I truly wanted to send a message to Gini and ask her if one of my guesses is correct. I won't go any further, but if you have made it to this point in the series, then you have probably guessed more than a few times that it was someone within Kitty's realm of so called friends, and family.

Expected publication: May 6th 2014 by DAW

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## Claire says

To start off, let me just say that I love this series. I went in expecting to like this book and looking forward to it, so I'm sure that colored my perception.

That being said, there were some things that bothered me, and therefor this book didn't get its usual 5 stars. Mainly, the author tends to use the same phrases over and over again when Kitty is narrating. It's like she has these stock expressions that the author associates with specific situations. I think it really drags the book down because I kept waiting for new and exciting dialogue that never really came. Kitty is such a dynamic person, it seems a shame to limit her to the same old boring lines. That being said, it didn't stop me from really enjoying the book.

I still love Kitty, and I think I've figured out why. Kitty is a former sorority girl who still hangs out with her sorority sisters and has cute nicknames for them. She has an irreverent sense of humor and isn't afraid to make references to her favorite comics or movies. She carries a million different things in her purse, most of

which she never uses. She also isn't shy about expressing her feelings or crying when something terrible has happened. Basically, Kitty is the sort of woman most people scoff at. They look at the secret handshakes and silly jokes and count her out like some bimbo who couldn't possibly be useful. Kitty represents a lot of women in society who don't get the respect they deserve. And Kitty consistently proves all her detractors wrong. She shows that being a "typical" girl isn't a weakness, that her emotions don't get in the way of the job the way we're taught that they do. I love that Gini Koch didn't create some perfect warrior for her main character but instead picked a woman who fit a lot of stereotypes and then blew them all away. Don't get me wrong, I love a badass tough-as-nails heroine as much as the next girl. But not all women are like that, and it doesn't mean all those women can't kick ass.

Now, with that out of the way, I still loved the story. The mystery wasn't really up to series' usual standards, another reason why it only got 4 stars. The gang is still on the hunt for the Mastermind, and they haven't gotten that much closer. The good news is that the team does have new allies who have revealed a lot of new information about the workings of the other side. I like that one of the new characters is in a gray area. You can't really count him as totally on the side of the good guys, and I like the uncertainty it brings.

Speaking of uncertainty, Jeff had to face some ugly truths about his family and where their loyalties lie. I don't envy the road to come, because it's going to be very hard.

Chuckie, one of my favorite characters, didn't have as big a role in this one. Given that he's grieving for his wife, it makes sense that he'd have less screen time. I still missed him and hope he shows up more in the next book.

We also finally learn what is behind the loss of the imageers' powers but the solution is going to take some creative thinking. Given how the author has been granting spectacular powers left and right, I think it's important that some obstacles still remain. I'm excited to see what happens next.

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### **Brianna says**

I really liked this installment. It's been a year since I last read about Kitty and everyone else, and it was nice to be back with them all. Lots of stuff went on in here and I got a bit lost at times, but the book mainly revolved around an election campaign in which Jeff was running as Vice-President. There was also the hunt for their stolen data and the hacker who stole it, Chernobog. I loved all the animals, the time spent with Jamie, and Kitty's brand of crazy. The next book will definitely be interesting, though I'm still really sad for Chuckie.

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### **Meghan says**

Another great Kitty adventure. I had to give it a three though because I've noticed a few of the characters have stalled. For example, I've had it with Christopher's patented glares. We know everyone well, their quirks and habits that when they are mentioned and doing what they always do, it's almost trite. It was endearing in the first couple books, but now it's easy to anticipate, and a bit annoying because it doesn't really add anything- the character is just getting a nod/ shout out.

Anyway, the stories are always good..... I'm just hoping for some real tension between the lead characters we

know and love and some personal development.

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## **Kathy Davie says**

Ninth in the Katherine "Kitty" Katt romantic science fiction series revolving around a group of humans and G.O.R.G.E.O.U.S. aliens in Armani Fatigues. The action takes place mainly in Washington D.C. It's been four-and-a-half years since Kitty defended herself so well.

### **My Take**

There's enough flippin' and floppin' in *Alien Collective* to satisfy anyone, almost enough to give you whiplash. Nothing like jumping right in, lol. Koch caught my attention immediately with Kitty being "arrested" at a protest rally. Right along with all the other dazzling women she knows.

I do enjoy how Koch uses song titles to make me guess what the next action will be, but I'm getting a bit tired of Operation This, Operation That with Team Whoever. I do realize that it's part of Koch keeping things zippy, and it does add a sense of fun to the story, but it seemed overdone in *Alien Collective*. That said, I do love Kitty's forthrightness and how it makes her so formidable. That sense of humor, as well as her honor, keep me lovin' her and all the A-Cs and their allies. The series is a great combination of humor and what's right with lots of action and adventure.

"Mass murder is very bad for business."

Those entities from the Eagle Nebula have a lot of nerve; I love how Kitty backed 'em off. Way to go! Koch certainly was tricky in how she worked this...and how hard she made me think!

I am being something of a hypocrite. In going back over my notes, I realized that Koch is using a lot of *tell* and not much *show*. But she keeps the action, humor, and adventure flowing right along so that you don't miss it. Where it does become obvious is the sex scenes, and then you start thinking about how tension-less most of the story is. Yes, there is some drama — nicely done, by the way — which, yep, distracted me from that lack of *show* and tension. Bad Kathy.

"So, you're trying to tell us you were afraid of one woman?" Tim asked. 'While you happened to be in a base full of soldiers? You're not really confident in your ability to handle low-risk situations, are you?'"

Argh! All this secret leader stuff is driving me nuts. Exactly what Koch intended, I suspect. Ooh, at least we get some "insider info" when Serene confesses to Kitty. Very clever! Just goes to show...I hadn't thought through the implications either until Kitty realized the importance of this election.

Oh, LOL, celebrities and politicians might want to make note of Kitty's strategy when bombarded by paparazzi...\*more laughter\*...take pictures of the people irritating you, when they ask why, tell them "you like to remember all the rude people I've met".

"...you have to go through the proper channels and procedures. Otherwise you have a fascist dictatorship. Or anarchy.'

Refrained from making a snippy comment about the NSA. Because, you know, they might be

listening."

### **The Story**

Despite not having run for office, nor wanting to remain in office, Representative Jeff Martini is being wooed as the vice presidential running mate for a charismatic senator who seems likely to win the campaign.

While the Diplomatic Corps has to deal with the pressures of a political campaign sure to uncover secrets they don't want shared with the world, Ambassador Kitty Katt-Martini has other worries — handling the reemergence of her most potent nemesis, thought dead and buried.

### **The Characters**

**Ambassador Kitty Katt**, a.k.a., "Missus Chief", a human who has picked up some **Alpha Centauri (A-C)** super powers — super healing, hyperspeed, and talking to animals — is married to **Jeff Martini** (the best A-C empath), who was appointed by the president to the congressional seat for the Representative for New Mexico's 2nd District. **Jamie** is their super-daughter, a human-alien hybrid in whom **ACE** (a collective superconsciousness) has taken up residence. **Major-General Mortimer Katt** is Kitty's uncle. **Caroline Chase** is Kitty's sorority roommate, bestie, Michael's mourning fiancée, and aide to Arizona's senior senator.

#### *Alpha Centauri is...*

...a solar system in which **Alpha Four** is located, the planet from which Jeff and his people were exiled to Earth.

#### *Jeff's family includes...*

...**Lucinda Martini** is Jeff's mom who is taking care of Jamie in this story. **Alfred** is Jeff's dad who works at NASA Base, which is located at the Kennedy Space Center. Jeff had five sisters, including **Sylvia**, the oldest, who had been married to the traitor, **Clarence Valentino**. **Stephanie** is their daughter and working for Vander as one of his assistants. **Marianne** is the youngest sister; **Kimmie** is her youngest. **Camilla** is undercover at Gaultier.

**Christopher White**, an A-C with imageering skills and Jeff's cousin. Due to past events, he has a lot more abilities including being able to go really, really, really super-fast and reading minds. **Terry** had been Christopher's mother. **Richard White**, Christopher's father, is the former Supreme Pontiff and Lucinda's older brother, making him Jeff's uncle. Richard also partners up with Kitty on dangerous missions. **Amy Gaultier-White** is a human lawyer being blocked from inheriting her evil father's empire, **Gaultier Enterprises**, one of Kitty's best friends from high school, and Christopher's wife.

**Gladys Gower**, Lucinda and Alfred's sister, had been head of security until she was captured by Al Dejahl and manipulated. All three — Richard, Alfred, and Gladys — were Ronald Yates' only legitimate children and had been born on Alpha Four. **Commander James Reader** is human and with **Paul Gower**, the **Supreme Pontifex** of all Alpha Centaurions on Earth. **Michael Gower**, Paul's brother, was murdered. **Abigail Gower** is Paul's sister.

#### *Yates' illegitimate children, a.k.a....*

...**Ronnie's Kids**, are a result of Yates impregnating as many young women in their prime childbearing years as possible to, hopefully, father many children with his abilities. **Serene** was one of them and a full-blooded sister to **Ronaldo Al Dejahl** (a troubadour who used mind manipulation and bad boy) whom Gladys managed to kill. **Mahin Sherazi**, an earthbender, switched sides about a year ago. **Benjamin Siler's** aunt was **Cybele Siler** (which makes his uncle **Antony Marling!** Through Yates, he's Richard and Alfred's



younger brother); his mother was Cybele's sister, **Madeleine Cartwright**. **Uncle Herbert Siler**, Madeleine's brother, successfully hid Benjamin from the rest of his relatives.

Kitty calls the lady A-Cs "**Dazzlers**" because they're so gorgeous and have mega skills and brilliant minds. **Commander Serene Dwyer** is the Head of Imageering and their chief explosives expert, with a young, very gifted son, **Patrick**, with her husband, astronaut **Brian**. **Doreen** is married to **Irving Weisman**.

*A-C Embassy security and staff include...*

...the incredibly and comprehensively competent **Malcolm Buchanan** who was assigned by Angela as Kitty's personal shadow. **Burton Falk** is one of Buchanan's human agents. Field teams include **Jeremy** (empath) and **Jennifer** (imageer) **Barone**, a brother-sister team (she's engaged to Ravi) and **Rahmi** and **Rhee**, shapeshifting princesses (and sisters) from the man-hating **Beta Twelve**. **Rajnish Singh** is the embassy's public relations minister with a troubadour gift. **Pierre Duchamps** is the concierge majordomo who organizes *everything*. **Francine** is Kitty's double and a troubadour. **Walter Ward** is the head of security at the embassy while his brother, **William**, is overall head of security. The human **Nurse Magdalena Carter** is dating Richard. **Dr. Tito Hernandez** is the A-C embassy doctor.

The **Poofs** and **Royal Peregrines** are creatures from Alpha Four, lately. The Poofs are a soft fuzzy ball of sweetness that can grow to carnivorous monster proportions. **Harlie** is Jeff's and the head Poof. He and **Poofikins**, Kitty's Poof, are with Kitty all the time. **Tenley** was the Head Poof on Alpha Four. **Mous-Mous** is Jamie's Poof. The peregrines are magical peacocks (and peahens) who can go invisible. **Bruno** and his mate, **Lola**, are the head peregrines. **Algar** is on the run from the **Black Hole People**, and he's stopped off on Earth to have fun being the A-C elf, a.k.a., the **Operations Team**.

**Mr. Joel Oliver**, a.k.a., MJO, is their pet reporter, a journalist who has risen highly in the estimation of his fellow journalists. **Bellie** is his woman-hating parrot who adores Jeff. Who adores Bellie right back. *It's enough to make Kitty yowl.*

*Airborne Command is...*

...a squad of Navy Top Guns assigned to A-C defense. **Commander Tim Crawford** is the current head with his fellow flyboys: **Joe Billings** (the Dazzling **Lorraine**'s husband), **Randy Muir** (the Dazzling **Claudia**'s husband), **Matt Hughes**, **Chip Walker**, and **Jerry Tucker**.

"**Uncles**" **Dingo the Dog**, a.k.a., Peter Kasperoff, and his brother, **Surly Vic**, a.k.a., Victor Kasperoff, are two of the best assassins in the business, and they figure they owe Kitty.

*P.T.C.U., a.k.a.,*

...the Presidential Terrorism Control Unit is headed up by Kitty's mom, **Angela Katt**, the antiterrorism consultant and the only non-Jewish Mossad agent ever. Kitty's dad, **Professor Sol Katt**, is a history professor for Arizona State University and secretly a cryptologist for NASA. **Duke** is the Katts' Labrador. **Kevin Lewis** is Mom's right hand man and the Alpha Centaurion Defense Attaché. His wife, **Denise Lewis**, is human AND gorgeous; she runs the A-C daycare.

*The alphabet agencies include...*

...the CIA with **Charles "Chuckie" Reynolds**, the extremely brilliant Conspiracy King, who heads up their Extra-Terrestrial Division and has been Kitty's best guy friend since ninth grade. He's still mourning the "death" of his new wife, **Naomi Gower-Reynolds**. **Len** and **Kyle** are former USC football players who work for Chuck and are now Kitty's official driver and bodyguard. **Clifford Goodman** is with Homeland Security. **Evander Horn** is with the FBI. **Officer Melville** and **Prince** are part of the Washington D.C. K-9 squad

along with the officers Kitty refers to as *Larry* and *Curly* .

*Hacker International is...*

...a group of computer geniuses now working for the A-Cs through the CIA and headed up by **Stryker Dane**, a.k.a., Edward Simms, who has been a friend of Chuckie and Kitty's since high school. **Big George Lacroix** is Europe's best hacker while **Dr. Henry Wu** is China's best. **Ravi Gaekwad** and **Yuri Stanislav** may seem normal, but that's only by comparison. Ravi is India's best hacker, and he's engaged to Jennifer Barone. The blind Yuri has to yield his title of best Russian hacker and be content with second place.

*Political and foreign embassy A-C friends include...*

...**Senator Vincent Armstrong** is running for president and wants Jeff as his running mate. **Senator Don McMillan** endorsed Armstrong. **Nathalie Gagnon-Brewer**, a French ex-fashion model whose sudden widowhood pushed her into her husband Edmund's seat as Representative from California is a friend of the A-Cs. **Adriana Dalca**, Olga's granddaughter whom **Olga**, a.k.a., the Oracle, a former KGB operative and **Andrei's** wife (the Romanian ambassador), is teaching to spy using the old tried-and-true methods: intelligence. Other A-C allies include the Bahrainis and Israelis. **Mona Nejem** is the Bahraini ambassador; **Kalid** is her Royal Bahraini Army bodyguard. **Jakob, Oren**, and **Leah** are all Mossad, but technically with the Israeli Diplomatic Mission.

The French assassin, **Benjamin Siler**, a.k.a., Helpful Servant (at the Bahraini embassy), a.k.a., Nightcrawler, has the ability to blend into his surroundings. And hyperspeed.

*The Dealers of Death are...*

...the primary and most powerful lobbyists for weapons making, alcohol, tobacco, fast food, hazardous waste, oil drilling, firearms, and big pharma. **Lillian Culver**, a sort-of A-C ally, is a top lobbyist, for most of the big defense contractors; **Abner Schnekedey** is her husband. **Vance Beaumont** is married to **Guy Gadoire**, a tobacco lobbyist; both are hoping for a three-way with an A-C. **Simon Hopkins** is head of the alcohol lobby; he preferred the previous A-C diplomatic corps. **Niles Berkowitz** is the heady lobbyist for oil and is friends with **Ansom Somerall**. **Talia Lee** is firearms, and she's friends with **Janelle Gardiner** from Gaultier Enterprises. **Myron Van Dyke** is big pharma and tight with **Quinton Cross**, also from Gaultier. **Lux Carr** is hazardous waste while **Kingsley Teague** is fast food. Both Lux and Teague are tight with **Amos Tobin**, the current head of YatesCorp.

*The First Mastermind was...*

...**Ronald Yates**, codenamed Mephistopheles, a joining of alien parasite and A-C to become an in-control superbeing. A really, really bad guy, the Bad Guy of Bad Guys. As Yates, he built **YatesCorp**, a media empire with its tentacles everywhere including Gaultier Enterprises and **Titan Security**. He'd also created the **Al Dejahl terrorist organization**. The next Mastermind was **Leventhal Reid**, a psychopath whom we thought had died. Wrong. The current Mastermind has figured out how to clone people — and **LaRue Demorte Gaultier** is one of them, a clone of Amy's wicked stepmother who was the brain behind many of the evil plots. **Annette Dier** is a top assassin (in her own estimate) who hates Kitty.

The presidential candidate for the other side is **Gideon Cleary** with **Cameron Maurer** as his running mate on an anti-everything platform. **Crystal** is Cameron's wife. **Nancy "Squeaky" Maurer** is Cameron's terrified mother. **Senator Zachary Kramer** is one of their cronies. Secretary of Transportation **Langston Whitmore** hates the A-Cs.

**Chernobog the Ultimate** is the best hacker in existence; her real name is **Bogdana**. Her son, **Russell Koslow**, has no talent. **Bruce Jenkins**, a.k.a., the Tastemaker, is a tenacious, deep-digging, widely believed

investigative reporter who spreads the gossip via a column in the *Washington Post*. **Thomas Kendrick** is with Titan.

Hate groups who have been targeting the A-Cs include two of the most prominent ones: **Club Fifty-One** and its head, **Harvey Gutermuth**, and the **Church of [Hate and] Intolerance**. **Farley Pecker's** group provided the distractions. The **Z'Porrah** are an alien race who hate the Poofs and other extraterrestrials and tried to invade Earth once already!

*A collective superconsciousness is...*

...a watchdog sent from another planetary system to keep an eye on us crazy earthlings. ACE was one and had been set up by Alpha Four to keep an eye on the earthbound A-Cs. He's only back with us now because Naomi sacrificed herself to spring ACE from the superconsciousness version of a Supreme Court.

Sloshy, a.k.a., **Sandy**, was the first from the **Eagle Nebula** to arrive on Earth in *Alien Collective*, and he challenges Kitty, who, naturally, finds his Achilles' heel. The others who show up, the **Superconsciousness Seven**, are **Doc, Sleepy, Grumpy, Sneezzy, Bashful, Dopey, and Happy**.

Standard Issue Clothing, a.k.a., **Armani Fatigues**, are white Armani oxford shirts, a black Armani slim skirt or trousers with black Armani jackets, and black Aerosole pumps. A-Cs have two hearts; most hybrids are human on the outside and A-C on the inside. **Gates** allow one to travel from one place to another in a matter of seconds. **Imageering** allows one to know everything there is to know about a person simply by touching their image. **Empaths** read people's emotions; a **blocker** can prevent that. **Troubadours** influence the mind through emotions. The **Supreme Pontifex** is the religious leader of the A-Cs.

**Dulce Science Center** is the main base for all of Centaurion Division worldwide. **Home Base** is in Area Fifty One at Nellis Air Force Base by Groom Lake. **Colonel Arthur Franklin** was formerly in charge. **Captain Gil Morgan** is Franklin's adjunct. **Colonel John Butler** is in charge now. **Zoya Darnell** is Butler's personal secretary. **Colonel "Hammie" Hamlin** is an ally in hiding. **Lieutenant Colonel Sergio Gonzalez** is second-in-command at Home Base if Butler is indisposed. The **Dome** is the A-Cs' most strategic and vulnerable location.

### **The Cover and Title**

The cover is in Kitty's signature ice blue with Kitty on the run in her formfitting blouse and tight, black Armani skirt hitting mid-thigh, her blonde hair flying back, holster empty as Kitty fires her Glock, Prince snarling beside her. The background is a torrent of election signs, water drops, and fleeing and firing people against that, yep, range of icy blues.

The title could be taken as a summary of two alien groups: the Superconsciousness and/or the Alpha Centaurions and their allies, for either one can be considered an *Alien Collective*...although I suspect Koch leans to the new "bad guy" in town.

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### **Sarah says**

It's no secret that I'm a HUGE fan of **Gini Koch's** alien series, I love how fast paced these stories are and the fact that they are so full of humour and crazy antics! **Alien Collective** is once again a fabulous instalment to the series and I loved every minute of it. It always amazes me that **Gini Koch** continues to come up with so many hilarious ways to challenge (or should that be torture?) her characters, we've seen the superbeings,

alligators, poofs and peregrines to name a few but I'm just going to leave it for you to discover what she throws at them in this book.

Even though **Alien Collective** sees Jeff running for vice president the focus is still very much on the action and Kitty is given plenty of chances to kick ass and take names. The story is set about a year on from **Alien Research** but the A-Cs are still struggling to recover the data that was stolen by the hacker Chernobog. With years worth of research completely lost they are scrambling to catch up and their enemies are at a distinct advantage. Kitty knows it is vital to track down the remaining Yates offspring before their enemies do, the hybrids all seem to have unusual and very strong abilities and the last thing Kitty needs is them allying with the mastermind, but finding them is easier said than done.

The blows just never stop coming at them in this book, what with attacks on their embassy as well as those of their allies and multiple bombing attempts in strategic locations worldwide Kitty and the team have a lot on their hands. Add in an alien visitor who has come to put ACE on trial along with some very unusual attacks on Kitty herself and things are about to get even more complicated. Luckily Kitty has some powerful friends and her "uncles" are a great source of useful information for her. She is getting closer to discovering who the real mastermind is and it's looking more and more like it is someone in her close circle, someone she considers not just a friend but part of her family. I'm actually kind of terrified to discover who the mastermind is, I have a feeling it's going to shock us all and I'm nervous that it's going to end up being a character that I love. I would hate to even make a guess at who it is though, the court is just wide open at this point and it really could turn out to be anyone.

I can't get enough of this series and I'm sure fans are going to love this latest instalment, it has everything you'd expect from **Gini Koch** and is just as addictive as the other books. It's unusual for a series to still be going strong after 9 books but I can't see myself ever getting bored of Kitty and crew so I can't tell you how excited I am to know there will be at least 4 more books. Each new release just can't come fast enough!

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## **Blodeuedd Finland says**

Lots of thinking going on in this one, slowly trying to figure it all out. Who are all the enemies? Who is the mastermind? Oh the riddles.

Right, Martini is running for VP. Kitty is trying to hold it all together, figure out who is attacking them and save the day (and the world).

The baddies are still bad, and they keep crawling forward from under rocks. But maybe this is all now, the master plan is in motion and perhaps we will get a conclusion soon...or not as more books are coming (goes to check the blurb for book 10, omg it sounds awesome!). But that is the next book, which I totally want at once now.

Anyway, action! Poofs! Dogs! Those damn Ronnie's kids! Smooching with her honey, figuring stuff out.

There have been 9 books, I have pretty much said it all by now.

Fun series, with the coolest heroine around.

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## **Joy Smith says**

Alien Collective is #9, and Gini Koch is still keeping up the headlong pace with new characters and threats; I'm impressed at how Koch helps us keep track of all the characters who've accumulated, including new enemies, aliens, and androids.

It's fortunate that Kitty has family, friends, colleagues, and the critters to help her--I especially love the Poofs and Prince. It was even fun having Bellie, the parrot, stop in. The danger is practically non-stop and includes aliens with their own agenda, javelinas, toxic gas, quicksand, water, and bombs.

Kitty's uncles are back, among others, and the action is all over the map so that no place is safe, and they can never relax. And now there's a blender thrown into the mix... The gang's all here--except for those no longer with us...; the dialogue often makes me smile, and I love the characters--except for the nasties--and sometimes it's hard to identify them.

As always, Kitty and Jeff do make time for themselves, though that's not easy. Geez, how does that work at hyperspeed? So, remember, adult content too.

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## **Bunzluna says**

Another adventure for Kitty and her entourage. As usual, lost of snark, action and convoluted thinking to a great soundtrack. This is not a stand-alone book. I think it's best to read the series in order.

There is a (too) large cast of characters traipsing through the story, which is difficult, at least for me, to keep straight. That said, it's a joy to watch Kitty confounding all the bad guys, as usual.

I felt like Kitty has become harder as a result of her previous adventures. She seems more willing to do whatever is necessary to get things accomplished, which in her world is all to the good.

I can't wait for the next book. I just hope we get some answers soon; the suspense is killing me!

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## **E. says**

4 3/4 stars

“Alien Collective” by Gini Koch is an exciting addition to the wonderfully quirky ‘Alien’ series and continues describing the adventures of Kitty Katt-Martini, whose life is evidently not quite busy enough as Ambassador for the American Centurion and wife of the Congressional Representative of New Mexico, the delicious alien, Jeff Martini. The ongoing attempt to recover from the theft of their research data, the deaths of those near and dear to them and the search for more of the inimical Yates Offspring is complicated by the hostilities which are escalated when Jeff is chosen as the vice-presidential running mate to support Senator Armstrong’s bid for the presidency. The world will undoubtedly never be the same, no matter who wins the election.

It’s always fun to read about the fast and furious events in Kitty’s life, accompanied by the eclectic

soundtrack that vacillates from being hints from the mysterious Algar to background music for the intense action taking place, the interactions with those whose sarcasm buttons are permanently set on 11 (or 20, if you're Kitty's mom) on a scale of 1 to 10, plus the glimpses of all of the beings who have various goals which are not necessarily in sync with the best interests of the Katt-Martini clan. I was very entertained by this glimpse of the political process through the lens of propaganda and machinations designed to prevent one side from having ultimate power, in other words...a realistic rendition.

Kitty's penchant for giving frequently sarcastic monikers to those around her is an unexpected weapon in her bid to protect those she cares about, as "Sloshy/Sandy" has to find a defense against her determined wit and it is wonderful to watch the evolution of their interactions. I always have a soft spot for the animal contingent and it was heartwarming to see the Poofs and Peregrines and canines play a significant role and I admire the way this author is able to integrate them seamlessly into the madcap whirlwind that characterizes this series. My biggest challenge is keeping track of the exponentially expanding cast of characters and I offer the warning that, although this story can ostensibly be read as a stand-alone, it is addictively enthralling and those new to the series who have a sense of humor and an appreciation for quirky and zany stories will undoubtedly have trouble focusing on anything else once they get caught in the spell of this delightfully entertaining author.

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I received a copy of this title in return for an honest review.

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## **Eva says**

This book cannot be read as a standalone. There are literally dozens of important characters. The author does a great job of reintroducing them at the beginning of the book, but someone who isn't familiar with the previous books will still be completely lost.

### What I liked:

Everything you've come to expect from one of Gini Koch's Alien books: Lots of humor, snark and action, a convoluted plot, evil masterminds, strong women, handsome men, and lots of poofs. If you've read the previous books in the series, you'll enjoy this book, too.

### What I didn't like:

1) My first instinct was to write 'too many characters', but then I remembered that I felt that way about all the Alien books, and I still keep buying them. So, I guess I shouldn't complain, but I do wish there was a list of characters somewhere in the book. It would simplify matters immensely, especially for those of us who have trouble recalling names under the best of circumstances.

2) There's definitely some progress in the overall story arc of the series, but I wish there was a little more innovation. In previous installments, we were introduced to monsters, aliens, god-like entities, clones, androids, and a slew of other things. There was nothing fundamentally new in this book. In a few places, I got the feeling that this is sort of a transitional book, moving us from one story arc to the next. That's not in itself a bad thing, but I missed the crazy plot twists of the earlier books.

### Conclusion:

A great book for fans of the series. I'm very much looking forward to the next book, 'Universal Alien', due out in December 2014.

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