



Stranded

Dani Pettrey

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When her friend vanishes from a cruise ship, reporter Darcy St. James isn't satisfied with their explanation that she simply left her job of her own accord. Something isn't lining up, and Darcy believes the only way to find the truth is to put herself in Abby's position. Within days, Darcy learns her friend wasn't the only person to disappear mysteriously. Last summer, a woman vanished under almost identical circumstances.

Gage McKenna has taken a summer-long stint leading adventure excursions for the passengers of various cruise lines that dock for a few days of sightseeing. He's surprised to find Darcy working aboard one of the ships, investigating a troubling report. Something sinister is going on and the deeper they dig the more Gage fears they've only discovered the tip of the iceberg.

Stranded Details

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From Reader Review Stranded for online ebook

Rissi says

In case you hadn't heard, the McKenna family is baaack! There's been no secret made how well these novels resonate with fans – its ability to make us catch our breath then turn around and coax a smile brands this series as leaders of its genre. As a reader, the excitement and danger makes for a fast, entertaining read (the kind you never wish to see conclude) and specifically speaking from a point of relation, discovering an emotionally relatable character within these pages has been a wonderful journey – it not only endears the character, but illustrates them as “real” people, which may be a needless point since really, the McKenna's have felt more like a family who were a group of best friends, rather than cookie cutter characters whom we read about for 300 hundred pages and then promptly forget. True to the prior books, none of the McKenna siblings are forgotten – save for Reef whose rebel predispositions means the dude is rarely around, if anything, visiting them again was a blast especially since they are removed from the prior locations of the books and placed on a ship. Their laid-back teasing always comes at the most opportune interval (just when readers are in need of a momentary bit of relief!) and more emotions play into the dynamics in particular considering what is revealed about Jake; visiting these characters is like reliving a favorite event or spending the day relaxing in your favorite spot. Pettrey has a brilliant knack for combining familial ties and a top-notch mystery; the former offers comfort and stability – think feelings of a warm hug or the comforts of home, and the latter earning each story the distinction of being a page turner. Given the circumstances, again, there is no shortage of adventure; the mystery runs along similar lines and is yet again impressive though I do remember questioning the possibility (through educated guesses and the clues) of what it ultimately ended up involving.

Gage is probably the most complicated of the McKenna men yet. From experience he doesn't trust easily and fights his own judgment more than once. He judges Darcy on a standard he should not, which then interferes with him trusting her based on past experiences that have nothing to do with Darcy. Getting to know Darcy again was fun and while I think Cole's story may be my favorite yet, I thoroughly enjoyed Stranded; one of Dani's best assets is the past she seamlessly forms between the romantic leads of each novel. Darcy and Gage may have found love quickly when you read this as a stand-alone novel (which I don't easily recommend) but when read as a series their love story has greater meaning and more history. If nothing else – and they are about much more than that, the McKenna's are unforgettable. The good thing about these books is that there is more than merely unforgettable characters. Dani wove strong bonds and fantastic plots – two things that any avid reader will tell you are non-negotiable musts in fiction. Fans of suspense or familial sagas will be swept away by Pettrey's masterful Alaskan Courage series. The only disadvantage is having to bid adieu to them for another year.

Find the review in full elsewhere:

[Amazon](#) :: [Blogger](#) :: [Wordpress](#)

Sincere thanks to author Dani Pettrey for providing a complimentary copy of this book.

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Sarah says

This is Stranded by Dani Pettrey,* and it is the third book in her Alaskan Courage series. If you haven't read the previous two, its ok, but I highly recommend doing so because they are so fantastic. The cover alone is breathtaking. Just look:

The back is even more beautiful, but I'm not tech savvy enough to figure out how to show it to you. :(Seriously, whoever did the cover photos and design, my hat goes off to you! It makes me want to just dive right in to that frigid water - or at least take an Alaskan cruise so I can see it in person!

Summary: Darcy St. James gets an urgent call from her old undercover reporting partner, Abby. Abby is on an Alaskan Cruise working undercover and something has gone terribly wrong. She needs Darcy's help, but doesn't have time to explain. Using her cover as an adventure writer, Darcy gets hired on to give good publicity to the cruise line and go on the excursions with the passengers to help boost the trips with her interviews and first person accounts. Once she arrives, Darcy discovers three things. First, Abby is missing and no one seems to care. Second, someone fell overboard the night before, but no one will talk about it, and Darcy believes it may have been Abby. Third, Gage McKenna and the rest of the family have been hired on to run the excursions on this cruise, meaning Darcy will be stuck with him the rest of her trip. As Darcy learns more about Abby's disappearance, patterns start to appear, and the mystery gets even more intense. Meanwhile, Darcy and Gage seem tossed together at every turn. As they explore the outer regions of Alaska, the two of them must fight their mutual attraction while also trying to find out what happened to Abby and solve the mystery she risked everything to uncover.

What I loved: Did I mention the cover yet? Ok moving on. I loved Darcy and Gage and their story. I also loved FINALLY getting to learn the truth about Jake, and watching Kayden have to eat her words. Sometimes, I want to smack that girl, but only sometimes - I can't wait for their story, which I hope is next. The mystery itself was fantastic! The suspense kept me hanging on late into the night! Great plot, though I did kinda figure out the what pretty quickly...but I also watch too many cop shows, so that may have just been me. :) I also loved the scenery and it makes me both excited and terrified to possibly go visit Alaska on a cruise. As long as I stay away from railings, I'll be fine...oh and no kayaking either.

What I didn't care for: I didn't like how much Darcy had to lie to keep her cover, and that she did some really stupid stuff to keep it - like leading on a fellow crew member, and going to all these secluded places with him on the chance she might get info. Come on, be smart!

Read more of my review here: <http://sarahksbookreviews.blogspot.co...>

*I received a copy from the publisher in exchange for my honest review.

Dora Hiers says

My summary~

Darcy St. James gave up investigative reporting years ago, but she still loves the thrill of tracking down leads. So when her friend, Abby, terribly frightened and distraught about her current story, contacts her, Darcy determines to help her friend uncover the truth. When Darcy arrives on the cruise ship, Abby has vanished. Restless and hoping to squash five month old memories of Darcy, Gage McKenna accepts the

excursions gig on the cruise ship. The last person he expects to run into on the cruise ship is Darcy St. James.

What I liked...

I really liked that the author had set up Gage and Darcy's story at the end of her last book, *Shattered*. Even so, while it's not necessary to read *Shattered* before *Stranded*, you probably should because once you read this one, you'll want to go back and read the first two. Trust me.

Loved the characters. I've gotten to know Gage over the last two books, and he's definitely a favorite of mine. Masculine and manly, yet wounded and vulnerable. How could Darcy not fall for him? Especially when she sees the two little feet tucked close to his heart. But then, he'd stolen her heart long before then.

Darcy's not a wimpy heroine. Sure, she's frightened once she learns what they're facing, but she's not willing to give up on finding her friend, especially since Abby doesn't know the Lord. This book made me think about my loved ones who don't know the Lord. Would I be as willing to face the same frightening situations for my loved ones? The faith element is woven into the plot, so beautifully and intrinsically, and it doesn't come off forced or trite.

and not so much...

I can't think of one element I didn't like about this book, except that it had to end.

Overall...

Stranded is worthy of highest praise. It's a book that'll make you forget about everything except flipping the page. Definitely a keeper, and Pettrey is now on my "must read" list!

Disclaimer: Sending a big thank you to NetGalley and Bethany House Publisher for providing me with an advance review copy of *Stranded*. The opinions expressed in this review are my own, and I received no monetary compensation.

Have you read *Stranded*? Do you agree with my review?

What about you? Would you face frightening situations to track down a friend in danger?

Brittany says

Another thrilling addition to the Alaskan Courage series! Dani Pettrey has once again crafted an intense ride full of suspense, danger and sizzling attraction. If you haven't read *Submerged* and *Shattered*, stop right now and read those books! They set the stage for this exciting series. *Shattered* is a definite must read as Gage McKenna and Darcy St. James meet in that book and much about their relationship in *Stranded* is grounded by a knowledge of what they went through together in *Shattered*.

Darcy St. James is an adventure reporter who in this novel is supposed to help a friend with some undercover work aboard a cruise ship. The problem is, her friend has gone missing. Nobody seems to care, except Darcy. Enter Gage McKenna. He ends up on board the ship as the adventure activities guide. The attraction they both felt from five months prior is still alive and well for both Darcy and Gage. Will they act on that attraction or will events from both of their pasts interfere and keep the two from developing a relationship? What has become of Darcy's friend? Was there an accident? Was it foul play?

I thoroughly enjoyed this story and had a hard time setting the book down! This series is one I will read time

and again.

I received a complimentary copy of Stranded from the author and publisher in exchange for my honest opinion, which I have given.

Katie W says

This is book 3 in a series, but I found that it was fine as a stand-alone. I haven't read the others and had no problem figuring out what was going on. After reading what the other two are about, it seems that they go more in depth with certain characters, so these main characters may have been mentioned, but were not the main focus of the previous stories.

This was a really suspenseful story with the added bonus of a romance in the wings. There are also some Christian moments, but they were definitely a necessary part of the story. Darcy's long-time friend, Abby, asked for her help in solving a mystery, but then disappeared. I thought Darcy was really brave. She put herself in situations that scared her to death, but was very determined to figure out what happened to Abby. I don't know if I could put my life in jeopardy like she did.

I liked how she and Gage came to tolerate each other and then rely on one another. Gage was really protective and he knew Darcy well. He was able to make her feel like she was doing something proactive, while trying to keep her sheltered and safe. What a great guy!

I'm going to have to check out the other books in this series because I really like the way this author tells a story.

Content: I don't want to give away what the mystery is, but it isn't graphic. Clean.

Nola says

When journalist Darcy St James is asked to join her friend Abby undercover on a cruise ship in Alaska, she knows something big is afoot. However, Abby goes missing before she has a chance to tell Darcy what's happening. Why are the crew reluctant to talk about the woman who went overboard and why is it so hard to track down the rescue crew? Meanwhile, hunky Gage McKenna has joined the crew to run adventure excursions through the company he and his siblings operate out of Yancey, Alaska. Can he learn to trust Darcy and risk getting close to her? And can he save her from the bad guys when everything goes pear-shaped?

This is the third in the Alaskan Courage series featuring the McKenna siblings. It was enjoyable enough, though I didn't like it quite as much as the first two. I got a bit annoyed that Gage took so long to give Darcy the benefit of the doubt and see her for the person she was. I also felt that there were some obvious opportunities for suspense that went begging. When Darcy does get into trouble, it's resolved a bit too quickly and neatly. It does go into some more serious issues though and I liked Darcy's persistence at finding her friend regardless of the cost. I'd put the book in the 'good holiday read' category, though it might not be

the best choice for your next cruise :)

Hannah says

I love each return to Alaska and the McKenna family! This one was particularly engaging as Darcy is trying desperately to find her friend Abby, and hoping against hope that Abby isn't already murdered. I always love stories that show strong friendships, and it's great to see Darcy willing to risk her own life for her lost friend's. The mystery is good, too, with many twists that will be sure to keep anyone guessing.

It does deal with some harsh realities (international slave trade) so it may be good for younger teens to proceed with caution.

Lorraine says

SUMMARY: When Her Friend Goes Missing,
Every Minute Counts

Darcy St. James returns to Alaska to join a journalist friend undercover on the trail of a big story. But when Darcy arrives, she finds her friend has disappeared. Troubled by the cruise ship's vague explanation, Darcy uses her cover as a travel reporter to investigate further.

The last person Gage McKenna expects to see during his summer aboard a cruise ship leading adventure excursions is Darcy. And in typical Darcy fashion, she's digging up more trouble.

He'd love to just forget her--but something won't let him. And he can't help but worry about her as they are heading into more remote regions of Alaska and eventually into foreign waters. Something sinister is going on, and the deeper they push, the more Gage fears they've only discovered the tip of the iceberg.

REVIEW: Book 3 in Pettrey's Alaskan Courage series continues the story of the McKenna siblings this time focusing on Gage McKenna and investigative journalist Darcy St. James. Having set up Darcy and Gage's relationship at the end of Book 2, it was nice to see it continued in Book 3. Once again the book was page-turning suspense at its best. The cruise ship setting was great since I have cruised the Alaskan coast. The focus for the problem that was facing Gage and Darcy was also believable.

Gage and Darcy with both believable characters: strong, independent, and determined; yet they both had their flaws and new the needed to depend on God as well.

This was definitely a great romantic suspense and I'm looking forward to Book 4 which focuses on Kayden McKenna.

FAVORITE QUOTES: "It's your job to tell others about Jesus, about what He's done in your life and what He can do in theirs, but you can never make someone believe, no matter how strong or pure your intentions. Salvation is between that person and God."

"...I can't take any credit. I may have offered the prayers, but it was God who answered them."

Jordyn Redwood says

*** A strong 3.5 stars ***

This is my first read by Dani Pettrey and the third book in the series. It's clear why Dani is making a name for herself in the romantic suspense genre-- the romance angle is definitely her strength. I also really enjoyed the setting in Alaska.

A woman has disappeared off a cruise ship. Is she dead? Just missing? And could this be tied to other missing women?

I tend to gravitate to more thriller novels so when I do read romantic suspense I do like more of a 50/50 split between the romance and the danger. I would say this novel is more 80% romance and 20% suspense.

This is a stand alone novel regarding the plot but I do feel like I would have had a richer reading experience as far as the family details if I would have started with the first book.

Recommended to those who enjoy inspirational romantic suspense that leans more to the romance angle. If you are a more character driven reader then definitely start with the first book in the series-- Submerged.

Hannah Lane says

For about ten years, I've been looking for a Christian author to come around to compare to Dee Henderson, my favorite. I had high hopes for Dani Pettrey, but unfortunately I always find one "off" aspect of her books. This book revisits Gage and Darcy, who were featured in the previous book, Shattered. Darcy is investigating the disappearance of her friend and Gage and his family end up being around to help.

Without giving too much away, I agree that the romance aspect seemed to fluctuate from tension, to a chemistry-filled almost moment, to the notorious misunderstanding, to the "I'm madly in love with you" as the book starts to wrap up. This isn't a shocker in Christian fiction, the only relief is that (view spoiler). That being said, the mystery was pretty solid.

The best part about this book, in my opinion, was the set-up for Kayden and Jake's sure-to-follow story, which seems the most interesting. Kayden's never trusted him, sometimes it's too exaggerated that it's irritating, (view spoiler). My only hope is that Jake gets more of a personality. I feel like the past three guys have only served two primary purposes—to fall in love with the girl and protect her/be her partner-in-solving-crime. Fingers crossed!

I was provided this ARC by Bethany House via netgalley for my honest review. The opinions in this review are mine alone.

Shash says

I love the McKenna family! They are such a close family, and are so welcoming to others. It was great to be

with them again!

This series just continues to deliver! I've loved each book, and this was no exception. I'm excited to read the next one!

Sarah says

Age Appropriate For: 16 and up violence, romance, and references to the modern slave trade
Best for Ages: 16 and up

Yes, I went right from the second to the third book. I was so eager to find out what happens to the McKennas and Darcy. I also have to confess that I have a strange enjoyment for mysteries that take place aboard boats, so this one was right up my alley.

This one did deal with some harder subject matter of the modern slave trade. However, I felt that it was handled in such a way that never made me feel too uncomfortable, yet didn't whitewash the topic either. Sadly, it is a reality for many women around the world.

I liked Darcy from the moment she stepped into the last book. She reminded me so much of a character from my favorite TV show – Sue Thomas FBEye – with whom she shares both a name and profession. Although Gage isn't my favorite McKenna, he was a compelling character, especially when he talked of his son.

I am so sad that I only have one more book in this series. I wish it could go on for many more books. I could read about the McKennas a lot. If this were a TV show, I would watch it over and over again.

I highly recommend this book to those who love adventure, mystery, and a nice dose of romance.

Julie Graves says

Darcy has left undercover investigative journalism. But when her friend Abby calls her to come help her in her investigation of a cruise line Darcy cannot turn her down. Before Darcy gets a chance to meet up with Abby she disappears. Darcy is now determined to find what has happened to her friend.

Gage and his family have been hired to lead adventure tours for the same cruise line that Darcy is now investigating. Gage and Darcy have not seen each other in several months. Gage is determined to not lose his heart to Darcy. Still bitter about his former wife and the loss of his son, Gage wants nothing to do with God or a woman who has no problem lying and deceiving others to gain the information she needs.

Reluctantly pulled into Darcy's investigation in order to protect her, Gage finds his heart softening both towards Darcy and the God whom she serves. Darcy knows her heart has chosen Gage, but she has doubts that Gage will ever turn to God and she fears that she has fallen in love with a man that will never share her faith.

The closer that Darcy and Gage get to what has happened to Abby the more they learn the evils that some

people will succumb to for money.

My Thoughts:

Once again Dani Pettrey has written an excellent novel filled with suspense and romance. I loved Gage and Darcy's story! Even when Gage is determined not to care for Darcy he still can't help but protect her. Darcy manages to get herself into some scary situations in order to find Abby and each step of the way Gage is there to help her through. I'm now looking forward to the next book in the series which I hope will feature Kayden and Jake. We learned a bit about Jake in STRANDED and now it is time for these two to have their story.

Rachel says

This was a well written and entertaining Christian suspense novel with a romantic subplot. I really liked the characters and the interesting plot twists along the way. I truly enjoyed it, and I look forward to reading more of the series. It has earned its place on my favorites' list.

Naomi Rawlings says

Past heartbreak, a budding love, an elite Alaskan cruise ship, disappearing women, and a dangerous ring of criminals. . .

Stranded by Dani Pettrey offers readers a perfect blend of suspense and romance, with characters that seem so real they could jump off the page and become your best friends.

Darcy and Gage set the pages of Stranded practically on fire. Having already known each other for several months, these characters start the story with a lot of feelings and opinions about each other. Those feelings add an extra dimension to some of the terse actions, emotions and arguments between them. (And wow, are there a lot of arguments at the beginning!) But at the same time, both Darcy and Gage know they're falling in love. Even if it's a stupid thing for them to do. Even if they've both got a bucket full of reasons why they shouldn't. Even if they try fighting their growing love for a good chunk of the novel.

Oftentimes Romantic Suspense books sacrifice either romance for the suspense elements or suspense for the romance elements. Not so of Stranded. It's a fast-paced story that perfectly blends the best parts of both the romance and suspense genres. However, do note that Darcy and Gage first meet in the previous book, Shattered, which has the beginning of their love story in it. Stranded dumps you into a relationship where the two main characters already have feelings for each other. If you want to read Darcy and Gage's relationship from start to finish, then you'll need to read both books in the correct order, Shattered, then Stranded. Also, note that Stranded doesn't leave a pretty little bow around Darcy and Gage's relationship. There's a handful of questions left at the end. Still, I felt the romance fulfilling and the book well worth the time of reading.
