

## MORGAN AND SHAWNA DISH: JULIE ANN WALKER'S HELL ON WHEELS

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Debut author [Julie Ann Walker](#) is revving up our motors with her hot new series, **Black Knights Inc.** She brings to light an ultra-top-secret covert organization that works undercover as a custom motorcycle shop — and the hunky agents who staff it. The first book of the series, *Hell on Wheels*, wastes no time burning rubber and garnering rave reviews. Nate tried, and failed, to save his partner Grigg while on a dangerous mission. On top of the guilt that Nate feels, he has the added responsibility of protecting Grigg's sister, Ali, from unknown enemies. Even though Ali has known Nate for years, they have never gotten along. But some forced closeness has the two reconsidering their animosity. When caring turns to lust and lust into love, will past secrets and present enemies tear this couple apart?

**Morgan:** I've heard such great things around the office about Julie Ann Walker's debut, I was beyond excited to snag a copy. And I have to say it - all that praise? Well deserved.

**Shawna:** Yup, this is a romantic suspense that delivers. Fast-paced, action packed and full of characters that I came to care about.

**Morgan:** Speaking of characters, let's start this dish by discussing ex-Marine Nate "Ghost" Wheeler. As the story opens, he has to break the news of his best friend/partner's death to his family. And they don't take it well.

**Shawna:** No, they don't. They've lost a son and a brother, and the grief over Grigg's death carries through for most of the book. The poignancy of the loss isn't swept under the rug quickly – it has repercussions for all.

**Morgan:** Especially when it comes to the guilt that Nate feels. His admittedly broad shoulders are bearing a pretty hefty weight. I'm not a licensed professional, but this sounds like survivor's guilt to me:

"He'd give anything to be the one reduced to an urn full of fine, gray ash. Between the two of them, Grigg had been the better man. But on top of being uncaring, Fate was a *stupid* bitch. That's the only explanation he could figure for why he'd made it out of that stinking, sandy hut when Grigg hadn't."

**Shawna:** That much hurt just makes you want to throw your arms around him. Poor guy. But we don't have to worry about it, because Grigg's little sister, Ali, has that covered.

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**Morgan:** Yeah, these two comfort each other in their hour of need. And that just doubles down on Nate's guilt. He'd always had a thing for Ali, but his best friend had instituted a "hands-off policy" that Nate had always respected — no matter how much he wanted her.

**Shawna:** Nate does what he can to make Ali feel better, or as much as she can feel better, I guess. But at the end of the day, he leaves. He can't start something with her when he can't even tell her the real cause of her brother's death.

**Morgan:** Which is quite an obstacle they'll need to overcome! But first there is a bit of healing time. The two part, but reunite three months later when someone begins to stalk Ali.

**Shawna:** She has a feeling that it has something to do with her brother's undercover assignments. The ones she's not really supposed to know about ...

**Morgan:** Proving that Marines aren't the only ones with great instincts.

**Shawna:** And what better place to run than to the safety of Nate's arms? As Grigg's partner, he knew what was going on, and he'd definitely be able to help. So off Ali goes to Chicago ...

**Morgan:** ...to the custom motorcycle shop that Nate and other agents are using as their cover. They're running quite the covert operation in the Windy City, and Ali knows it just by looking at their overly fortified "shop":

"She'd had a Marine for an older brother who'd taught her a thing or two about security, and Black Knights Incorporated had it out the wazoo."

**Shawna:** But if she thinks Nate would be happy to see her, she's wrong. There's nothing like crashing a guy's super-secret covert ops place. It is just not the kind of place you'd show up to without an invite.

**Morgan:** That's for sure. As fragile as Nate would like to think Ali is, she's got a streak of determination running through her. She's not your everyday, run-of-the-mill kindergarten teacher.

**Shawna:** Not with a Marine for a brother and a crush on a guy nicknamed "Ghost." But how could she not love the man? From this description alone, I think I'm in love with him:

"Now all six-plus feet of him was hard, honed muscle and deeply tanned skin. His thick black hair was a bit longer, brushing his collar and curling around his ears invitingly."

**Morgan:** Well, helllooo Nate! He hides his real feelings beneath the gorgeous package, but when he figures out that Ali really is in trouble —

**Shawna:** — one of the Knights finds tracking devices placed in ALL her pairs of underwear! —

**Morgan:** — he doesn't take that too well. All his protective instincts rise to the surface.

**Shawna:** And he can't turn her away.

**Morgan:** But he can't draw her as close as he'd like:

"He was hit by a crashing wave of guilt. Uh-huh, yeah, and that pretty much summed it up when it came to his relationship — or non-relationship — with Ali Morgan. Lust and guilt. The two were so intertwined it was a wonder he'd ever felt one without the other."

**Shawna:** He's just so tortured! Which is bad for him, but it makes for a great read for us.

**Morgan:** Luckily he still has a band of brothers, so to speak, that he can turn to for help. As this is the first book in the series, Walker gives us a bunch of compelling secondary characters. (I can't wait to read the next book about boss Frank and mechanic Becky.)

**Shawna:** And I have to mention my favorite — the team mascot, the fat cat named Peanut!

**Morgan:** Is he the mascot?

**Shawna:** I don't know, but he should be!

**Morgan:** Well, he did steal the show in a couple of scenes.

**Shawna:** And that's a hard thing to do when there's so much testosterone on hand. I mean, if he can divert my attention from *that*...

**Morgan:** Okay, okay. Enough of that. We have to get back to Nate and Ali.

**Shawna:** Because she is in danger — no question about it. And it's clear that it has something to do with a project Grigg was working on.

**Morgan:** One he even kept a secret from the rest of his Black Knight team. And it's come back to haunt Ali.

**Shawna:** Much like the memory of Grigg and his death still haunts Nate.

**Morgan:** And now they're all thrown together in this fortress-like building, with tons of sexual tension.

**Shawna:** Tons!

**Morgan:** We're talking enough chemistry and sizzle to light up the Chicago skyline for a month or two ....

**Shawna:** But there's just so much that they need to figure out. There are bad guys to be defeated, high-speed chases, sad revelations. This book has it all!

**Morgan:** Walker was able to fit so much in, but the romance is very much at the forefront. No matter what is thrown at them, you just hope that they can surmount it.

**Shawna:** It gets pretty heavy, especially for Nate. He has so much to deal with and so much on his conscience.

**Morgan:** But it all comes together so wonderfully. Based on this first effort, the Black Knight series is a definite must-read when future books hit the shelves.

**Shawna:** Agreed! I'm placing my order as we speak ...

**Don't get left behind, this is one bandwagon — or should we say bike — that you'll want to be on. Pick up a copy of the first book in Julie Walker's Black Knights Inc. series, *Hell on Wheels*, which is on sale now to find out if Nate and Ali find their hard won HEA.**

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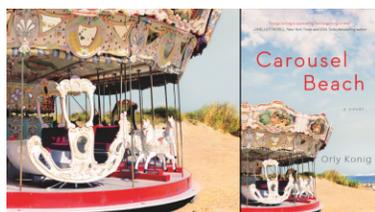
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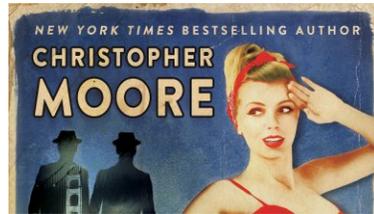
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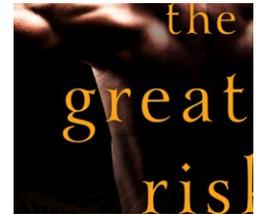
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