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Masterful (A Dark Romance)



Synopsis

If I'd known I was about to be kidnapped, I would have worn nicer panties.Â Maybe even perfume. I can never catch a damn break. Since dropping out of college, Eva Bright has been keeping secrets. Like sharing her darkest thoughts with an online stranger she knows only as Hex. It's the perfect arrangement: romance at a distance, no strings attached, and all the control. At least that's what she thinks until Hex materializes, devastatingly sexy and very much the one with all the power. He knows Eva better than she knows herself, and he has plans for her. Lots of plans. The next book in the series is MASTERFUL 2 (ASIN: B011F7XGCU) The MASTERFUL series mixes elements of kidnapped romance with dark romance and captive romance. The dark romance genre is broad and means different things to different readers. The themes of stalking and kidnapping are not intended for sensitive readers.

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Customer Reviews

Eva Bright is a twenty-something gal with her share of secrets, including an on-line relationship that she thinks she has under control. Hah! Not so, as it turns out. One day, our plucky heroine comes home to discover she's not nearly alone as she thought. Thus begins the hauntingly sensual tale of

Eva and Hex -- a super-hot man of mystery with secrets of his own. Right away, I was hooked into the story and not only because of the compelling plot which unfolds at the perfect pace. Eva has just the right amount of spunk and vulnerability that had me rooting for her from the get-go. But there's the rub (literally as it turns out). Because what DOES Eva really want? To escape Hex's mysterious clutches? Or to give in to the sensations she secretly craves? This book has so many elements to love. We have a budding dark romance, lots of sensual tension, scenes that are nice and spicy, and splashes of humor and insight that really made this book shine. With such an intriguing premise and terrific characters, I couldn't put this book down. And now, I can't wait to see how the rest of the story unfolds. Loved it! This one was definitely a keeper!

I have to admit, Ms. Joren had me at the first line of the blurb. Then, when I began reading the actual story, it didn't take long to understand what a masterful (see what I did there?) grasp of brilliantly polished prose the author has. Quite aside from the intriguing plot, the beauty of the language is a real treat, whether you find the situation in the story dangerous or titillating, or even humorous. For me, there are flashes of all three, but I'm happy to suspend my practical side and mentally urge Eva to relax and enjoy her predicament. Hex is HOT, HOT, HOT, even if maddeningly mysterious and high handed. That's how we like our alphas, right? And Eva--love her spunk and sassy outbursts. Her insecurities about her body are so on point that, while I can't quite see Hex's motivations, I must applaud his campaign to save her from herself. The sensual scenes are intense enough to leave the reader breathless, completely fresh and without the trite mechanics that mar so much erotic romance. Read it for those alone if you must, but read it! I cannot wait for the next part of this serial! Please, please make it soon.

Jesse Joren brings one of my darker personal fantasies to hot, screaming life with "Masterful". What I think makes it so compelling is it's something many of us have experienced the thrill of having some faceless, nameless friend online that we open up to in ways we'd never do with someone we know in real life. Joren takes this a step further with Hex, who leaves the safety of Eva's computer screen and shows up unannounced, chloroform in hand. Suddenly Eva's incredibly intimate exchanges are taking form in the cold, practical light of real life, as is the fact that she's been rather liberal with Photoshop where her pictures are concerned. Like a lot of us, her online persona is what she imagines she would be in a perfect world. Thin, tanned, toned, perfect. Meanwhile Hex is everything he's said he was; hard, muscular, chiseled, and totally in control. He's come to release her from the prison she's built for herself, but Eva isn't sure she wants to leave. Joren has done a

crazy good job pulling Eva's emotions through as she ping pongs between burning desire, total humiliation, fear, and wonder. As for Hex, he's fantasy times ten, way more than just a shadowy man in leather gloves. It's an intensely erotic tale of power and passion with incredibly complex characters, and one you won't want to set aside for a second.

Since the books are not standalone stories I'm rating them as a single book. The first two have cliffhangers. Book 1. The novella is too short. It's a tantalizing glimpse of what's to come. The story leaves you feeling like the heroine; confused and wanting. A woman picks the wrong man to chat with online. He kidnaps her and makes her into a better version of herself. Book 2. The story continues with her much stronger but identifies herself as submissive. The second half follows the trope if you love something let it go. It's a pity he did it like a huge dick. Book 3 is heavily into BDSM and its rules. There was too much emphasis placed on what things cost. The book lost the spark that made the first book fun. Yes, I know she was kidnapped, but somehow it wasn't creepy. I felt compelled to finish the series despite my loathing of serial cliffhangers but I wish I had quit with the first book.

It's always refreshing to find an author that isn't afraid to think outside of the box, especially when it comes to the erotica genre which as of lately seems to be plagued by clichés and predictable archetypes for characters, and in that regard author Jesse Joren does an excellent job of keeping everything unique and mysterious while also blending in plenty of the essential elements that make the genre so exciting. As well as this, I'm impressed that there's an actual clearly well-thought-out story behind all of the steamy scenes, which I'd personally say is a good testament to the author's raw writing ability – as it proves she doesn't have to rely on sex scenes to make up the substance of the book. That being said, I must mention that the steamy scenes certainly do not disappoint in any way.

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