



Master of Desire

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A Dream of Desire Awakened . . .

Beautiful Lady Emily dreams of the rapture of love and the joys of marriage. The youngest daughter of an English lord at war, she is shaken by the arrival of a mysterious stranger to her father's castle. Could this breathtaking man be Emily's yearned-for lover? Indeed, Draven de Montague, Earl of Ravenswood, has come for Emily . . . but romance has nothing to do with it.

In the Tender Embrace of an Enemy . . .

Draven would never have entered the home of his most hated adversary had not the King himself ordered him to take in his foe's daughter for a year to forge bonds of peace between their two feuding houses. Worse still, here is a lass whose exquisite loveliness could tempt Draven to betray his sworn vow never to let another close to his heart. Emily knows the searing heat of her passion could burn down the defenses of this proud warrior. But will the surrender of the sweet nectar of his lips and his bold, sensuous caress ignite a blaze so hot it consumes them both?

Master of Desire Details

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From Reader Review Master of Desire for online ebook

Best_beloved says

First let me admit a bias: I don't like Sherrilyn Kenyon's Dark-Hunter series. I've tried it, don't like it. So, when I realized that Kinley Macgregor *was* Sherrilyn Kenyon, well, I was peeved. Now, with that in mind, I have to say I liked the book. It was good.

The basic set up is that Emily, the female protagonist, is forced to live with Draven (Yes, I know, the names scream 1990's, but go with it) to stop the fighting between their two families. It's a cliché, but Kinley Macgregor aka Sherrilyn Kenyon makes it work. For one thing, King Henry doesn't make them marry, in fact Draven has promised not touch her in anger or lust which make it a bit difficult for Emily who has decided that she wants to marry him. Emily has been overprotected all her life so when she is made a ward of King Henry and sent off with Draven, she, very practically, knows that this is her one chance to marry and leave her father's care. The situation puts Emily in the position of doing the perusing and Draven doing the maidenly fleeing. I think this makes *Emily* the Master of Desire.

One of the really clever things Kinley Macgregor/Sherrilyn Kenyon does in the book is use Emily's father to explain why a 22 year old woman in the middle ages has never been married - which is good, because, really, I don't want to read about 14 and 15 year old girls getting married. Eew. With the characters of Emily's sister and friend, the author also makes it clear that Emily's situation is unusual. For example, Emily has a young friend, Christina, who is married to a widower with children older than she. As for Emily's sister, it is very clear that her fiancé is more interested in her dower properties than herself. It's a nice way to make the point that most marriage of the time were not for love but rather for political reasons or property/wealth, adding some realism, without losing the light tone of the novel.

Good relationship building, good plotting, bad names, and believable characters - somehow I ended up liking the book despite myself.

Iliada says

There's no getting around it - simply put, I did not like this book.

It's all about the characters for me when it comes to books. It used to be about the story but after reading for years any romance book I could get my hands on like there's no tomorrow I can honestly say I've seen it all in this genre. Maybe this is an overstatement, but it's definitely hard for a book to surprise me - and that's okay. Like I said it's all about the characters now.

I'm sorry to say that there was no interesting trait about the two MCs. I finished the book 4 days ago and I can't even remember their names. They were complete caricatures IMO.

Unfortunately, the writing was not great either. I hate to criticize a writer's style as I know how much effort they put into writing a book. I'm not skilled enough to write a book myself so I really don't want to undermine any writer's work, but here are a couple of examples:

""Something came up." Aye, and it had been up since the moment he met the little minx and her teasing ways."

"Emily sighed and looked to Simon. "Your brother is a hard man."

Draven choked on his wine.

She frowned. "Milord, are you all right?" she asked, pounding her hand on his back.

"Fine," Draven said, then he shrugged off her touch. "Your choice of words just caught me offguard."

""Where are you taking me?"

"Wherever and as many times as it suits me to."

Let me remind you at this point that this is a medieval romance and the hero is talking to a maiden. I'm not too strict about historical accuracy, but I have to draw a line somewhere.

I've heard good things about the third book in the series. I'm wondering, is it really worth going on with the series?

P.S. I am sick of all these oversexualised romances out there. Lust is definitely part of love, but it's not the only thing. Lusting after somebody isn't the same as loving them.

TJ says

A fun escape, although I am getting terribly tired of the horrendously overused plot device of "he swore never to let a woman close to his heart again".

Esra Cevahir says

Okumas? çok keyifliydi. Kahkaha att???m çok fazla yer oldu :D
Emily'nin kararı?l???, Draven'in eskiden ya?ad??? ?eylerin sonras?nda hayat?n? nas?l etkiledi?i beni de çok etkiledi. Ha bir de birbirlerine kar?? duyduklar? arzudan sebep kendime geledim bir süre gjdklhsh
Önlerinde birçok zorluk olmas?na ra?men neyse ki mutlulu?u buldular.

Preeti ♥? (Romance She Reads) says

If you wish to be indulged by a fluffy mushy romance masquerading as a medieval romance, this would be a book to go to. And let me admit it, I enjoyed it!

The H was all one would wish a H to be - tortured but tempting to anything remotely female!

The h was after my own heart - she decides she wants him for a husband and goes all out for it - plotting,

planning and seducing.
Rest of the story is just convenient plot dressing.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

I've read a TON of Sherrilyn Kenyon books (Hello! The Dark Hunter series ate up about a year of my life!), so I figured it was time to try her other series under her historical romance pen name. While this was a fun, sexy read, it also touched upon a few of my big pet peeves.

To start, this was really insta-lovey. GAH! Insta-love is the worst, am I right? I didn't get why Draven and Emily were so enamored with one another after just a short period of time. Please, more relationship buildup next time! There was also sort of a fluffy plot, and the historical details seemed sketchy at best.

However, this book also featured a weakness of mine, and a classic plot element of ALL Sherrilyn Kenyon books: the tortured hero. I've never read a book by this author where the MC isn't emotionally and/or physically scarred in some way. Here, Draven had an abusive, murderous father who killed his mother in front of him... ouch. I loved psychologically scarred Draven and thought he made a very nice match with the feisty Emily.

Overall, this book was light, fun reading but I don't think I'm going to become a devotee of this series.

?eyma says

Ne istedi?ini bilen ve aç?kça ifade eden kad?n karakter mi? Allah'?m bu bir mucize...

Sha Mslvov says

This is the first book by Kinley MacGregor I have ever read! I fall in love with the story, I loved Draven and Emily. I love the way the story flow that keeps me hooked. I loved the epilogue, it's make me sad to see this story end. I just want more and more.

It's a must read to those who loved Highlander and medieval story.

** SK, I love you but I love you more as Kinley MacGregor **

Hayal Perest says

"Baban?z sizden yeryüzündeki en narin k?z olarak bahsetti."

"Babam genellikle hassasiyetimi abart?r, lordum."

"Ama güzelli?inizi abartmam??" (Syf:60)

Çok güzel bir kitaptı.. ♥?

Emily'nin Draven'a olan a?k?na, ba?l?l?na, onu ikna etme çabalar?na, cesaretine ve sevecenli?ine hayran kaldım. Draven, geçmi?te ya?ad??? problemler yüzünden kendini sadece sava?maya programlanm?? bir övallye olarak görüyor. Onun d???nda her ?eyi bo? ve anlamsız görüyor. Mal varl??? yerinde olsa da hiç bir lüksü yok. Gülmüyor, pek uyumuyor her an tetikte.. Bunda lanet babas?n?n etkisi büyük tabi.. Draven'?n hikayesini okudu?umda üzülmemek elde de?il. Hele baz? sahnelerde gözlerim doldu.

Emily ve karde?leri ise annelerinin ölümünden sonra babalar?n?n gözetiminde büyümü?, babalar? onlar? gözünden sak?n?r bir halde büyüttü?. Haliyle s?n?rl? bir alanda ya?am sürmü?ler. Ama bir gün yollar? Lord Draven ile kesi?ince Emily bunu bir f?rsata döndürmekte oldukça kararl?.

Emily'nin tek istedi?i kendi yuvas?n? kurup, bir aile olmak. Eh, Draven'? görünce de eline bir f?rsat geçmi? oluyor. ??in asl? öyle de?il asl?nda.. ?kisi de birbirlerini ilk gördükleri anda etkileniyorlar birbirlerinden. Draven ondan uzak durmaya çal???sa da Emily'nin onu ikna etme çabalar? sonunda meyvesini veriyor.

Draven'in kahramanl???na ve cesaretine, fedakarl???na hayran kaldım. Ama Emily'nin hakk?n? yememek lazım. Hikayenin kilit noktası o. Ve Emily olmasaydı Draven geçmi?in ba?l? kal?p, kaybolup giderdi san?rım.

Yaa, cidden çok güzeldi. ?kili aras?ndaki diyaloglar, didi?meleri, birbirlerine meydan okumalar?, Draven'?n inad? ve Emily'nin a?k? çok güzeldi. Yazar, duygular? çok iyi hissettirmi?. Birbirlerini ke?fetme çabalar?n? okumak hem güzel hem de keyif veren bir serüvendi. Emily'nin kararl? tavr?ndan ödün vermemesi ve kitap boyunca çizgisini a?mamas? yönüyle kalbimi çaldı. Kad?n ne istedi?ini biliyor anlatabiliyor muyum? Hedefe kilitleniyor. Çok güzel seviyor. Daha ne olsun, yahu! ♥?

Sherrilyn Kenyon daha önce hiç okumadım ama Historical Romance türünde bu kadar iyiye di?er kitaplar?n?n da öyle oldu?una eminim. Kitab?n son bölümü ise o kadar güzeldi ki.. Yüzümde aptal bir s?rt?? ile bitirdim sat?rlar?. ♥?

Son olarak Historical Romance severlerin bu yazar? ve kitab? kesinlikle kaç?rmaması gerekti?ini dü?ünüyorum. ♥?

Alp says

At first, I thought this book's blurb didn't sound like my kind of thing. To tell the truth, if I had never known that Kinley MacGregor is the pen name of Sherrilyn Kenyon, I would probably have never contemplated reading this book. As I always say, historical romance isn't one of my top genres, but Master Of Desire took me by surprise! I felt truly lucky that I chose to pick up this book. The story was very well-written and descriptive. As soon as I started reading it, I was pulled into the story immediately, which rarely happens to me with this genre.

The characters were so vivid and endearing. Despite the fact that Emily could be so pushy and bossy at times, it didn't take long for me to warm up to her. She desperately wanted to get married just to get away from her extremely protective father. When King Henry II ordered her father to hand her over to Draven for safekeeping, she saw her chance and tried every way to seduce Draven although she didn't even know how to do that.

Draven was the right hand of King Henry II. He was a lonely knight who never let himself love any lady because he believed in his family's curse. But then came this determined lady Emily who never gave up trying to show him how beautiful love was. He then realized that his loneliness was gone because of Emily, so he stopped fighting his true feelings for her. He would love her and have her, even if it cost him his life.

**Heaven help him for what he was doing. But this was all he had ever wanted in his life.
Someone who could accept him.
She was a part of him he hadn't realized was missing until she had stumbled into his life,
holding that damned red chicken in her hands.**

The story started off very interesting, I couldn't put it down, but it started to drag a bit in the middle. Fortunately, somewhere near the end of the third quarter, it picked up its pace and I found that here was where the things started to get very intense. And by the end, everything worked out far better than I had ever imagined it would be. Even though the ending was a little bit predictable, who cares?! I really enjoyed reading this book and I will definitely continue this series.

I loved this knight!

Alba M. says

Me encantó. Yo, que no soportaba las historias de épocas ni nada por el estilo y ahora estoy enganchada. Amo las historias en las que los personajes masculinos son rudos y maleducados y sobre todo se niegan a amar. Me encanta el hecho de tener que ayudarles a aprender lo que es el amor. Y Emily y Draven son un gran ejemplo. No tengo quejas de ninguno de los dos. Han sido un par de personajes increíblemente perfectos, he disfrutado de todos... aunque, soy la única que tiene desconfianza de Simon? No sé por qué, pero hay cosas de él que sucedían en el libro que me hacían pensar que esconde algo, como si estuviese a veces en contra de Draven. Bueno nada que decir excepto que ha sido una historia maravillosa <3

Dina says

This book is going straight to my keepers shelf! :)

I loved everything about it: Draven (a tortured hero I just wanted to hold and never let go), Emily (a spunky heroine determined to win the hero's heart), Simon (the most adorable second character I've met) and, last but not least, the story (it made me laugh and it made me cry, what more could I ask for?)

Katy says

Edited to add - Read for URR Halloween challenge- Romance involving murder

I really enjoyed this. It was filled to the brim with cliches but they were done well enough that it didn't really bother me. In fact, I loved it. A lot.

Lady Emily's father is in a feud with Draven, the Earl of Ravenswood and the king is sick of it. In an attempt to bring a little peace between the two of them, the king orders Lady Emily to live with Draven for a year. Draven has been warned that if he touches one hair on Emily's head, either in violence or lust, his life is forfeit. Unfortunately, no one told Emily this. To Emily, this is an adventure. A few of her sisters (and her mother I think?) died in childbirth so her father is overly protective Emily hasn't been allowed out of her home so instead of dreading being forced to live with her father's enemy, she's actually excited. Because you know, she actually gets to leave. Draven...not so much. Emily stirs something in him he'd long thought dead and he refuses to give into because 1) he'd end up very dead and 2) he's afraid of the Ravenswood temper. The last few generations of Ravenswood lords have all been cursed with violent tempers and have in one way or another (okay, directly) been responsible for the deaths of their wives. In fact, Draven's super evil father murdered his mother right in front of him, at dinner. This has understandably caused a significant amount of emotional trauma for Draven. Draven's father believed emotion was a weakness and made sure he beat it out of his son. Lady Emily, however, has complete faith in Draven and pursues him relentlessly, making it clear she wants to marry him. From there we have drama, sexytimes, and romance.

This book lost me a little in the beginning. I'm not really a fan of romances with the heroine chasing the hero, especially historical romances because it just doesn't seem realistic. It wasn't done. Emily constantly chased Draven down and told him she was going to marry him. He told her no repeatedly but she ignored it. I have a really difficult time believing any woman, especially in a medieval romance, would act this way. Draven is the only man that Emily has ever desired and it seemed a little far-fetched that she would be so forward. It was way to instalovey on her part but then again he was gorgeous, secretly kind, super protective, and thoughtful. The complete opposite of every other non-family man she's known. I get it, girl. I'd want to marry him too.

There was one thing that really separated this book from its *leave me alone I don't need your love because I am scarred and brooding and undeserving of your love* counterparts. Draven actually kept his word until he had his *it might actually work out between us* epiphany. He might have given in and kissed her two or three times but that was it. When he told himself he would distance himself from her so that he wouldn't be tempted by her, he actually kept away for weeks at a time. She would eventually find him and kiss him herself, but then he would step back and ask her to stop and leave. It sounds weird to say this, but it was so refreshing to read about a hero actually trying to do what he told himself he would do, ignore her. He didn't give her a couple of orgasms and then push her way until the next time they were alone and then do it again. He was truly afraid of becoming his father and only when he proved to himself that he wouldn't, did he let himself feel the feels he had for her. And when he did? So damn romantic. Seriously good stuff, you guys.

I really, really liked this book. I know it'll end up on my re-read shelf. Why isn't it a five star then? Oddly enough, I rate most of my favorite HRs four stars. I think this is because they're usually completely unrealistic and I'm well aware of that. The hero is unbelievably romantic/mushy, the heroine is way too feisty and independent for her time, and the dialogue is anachronistic. There's a little of all of that in this book. Do I care? Nope.

Shawna says

5 stars – Historical/Medieval Romance

Oh how I enjoyed this one! Yes, it's got the tried and true romance cliché of a brooding, tortured hero who doesn't believe himself worthy of happiness or love fighting his intense lust for the spirited maiden who's determined to convince him otherwise. But *Master of Desire* manages to stand out splendidly with its endearing, unforgettable characters, witty dialogue, and the perfect mix of angst, humor, sweetness, and heat.

Draven is such a sigh-worthy hero. I just wanted to hug him tight and help Emily heal his self-loathing and pain. And Emily is one of the pluckiest, most tenderhearted, amiable, and lovable heroines ever. They're absolutely wonderful together...truly a romantic H/h for the keeper shelf! I just *loved* this!

Although I've enjoyed Sherrilyn Kenyon's *League* series, this is the first book I've read under her Kinley MacGregor pen name, and I feel like I've been missing out. I'll definitely read more by this author! 5 stars!

LibraryLass says

Great book! 4.5 stars for this one. Had a bit of everything I like, esp. humour. I loved Emily, the heroine, she knew what she wanted and went after him without being shrewish or manipulative. Her character remained consistent all through the story. This is not always the case. Authors change their characters to suit their purpose in their stories. But both Emily and Draven remained true.

I loved Draven! I thought he was an honourable hero who could park his shoes under my bed any time! His tortuous past was portrayed very well and the way his character was built was extremely believable and I for one was feeling for him even through his bad bits. He's an alpha male without all the usual arrogant macho b/s. He was just a hard, strong and scarred man who believed himself to be evil and tried to keep ppl away, and ends up loving Emily to distraction. Loved it!! The sexual tension between the two was great. AND it wasn't culminated in the first few chapters either. I loved the build up to their first sex scene. Build up is always better. By the time they actually made love, I wanted it for them as much as they did. This, to me, makes for a great sex scene.

There were one or two spots in which I thought the author missed the cue for more intensity in the plotline (the curse, keeping Emily as a virgin), but overall a wonderful romance. Although this is medieval it is not full of history. I am so looking forward to reading the next ones in the series and more by this author.

Highly recommended.
