



Gabriel's Woman

Robin Schone

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In the erotic tour de force *The Lover*, readers met not only brooding, passionate Michel des Anges, but his lifelong friend?the mysterious Gabriel, a man with a past as dark as the London night. Now, renowned author Robin Schone explores one of her most talked-about characters in a novel that reveals the blackest secrets of a man's soul...and the explosive heart of a woman's desire.

Destitute and terrorized by a nameless pursuer, thirty-four-year-old Victoria Childers has only one thing of value left?her innocence. Its price will buy her safety. But Gabriel, the dangerously beautiful man who purchases her, doesn't want her virginity?he wants the man who stalks her.

Trapped together in a house where every desire can be fulfilled, Victoria and Gabriel are plunged into a deadly game of passion and pursuit, where the greatest threat is carnal hunger and the only rule is survival.

Gabriel's Woman Details

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Author : Robin Schone

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From Reader Review Gabriel's Woman for online ebook

Yolita Rb says

Me atrapó de principio a fin... aunque a veces entender al protagonista quien deseaba acabar con el. No terminaba de encajarlo... contado de manera delicada... con mucho erotismo mezclado con vivencias de una sociedad constreñida... con determinados temas... repetí su lectura con lo cual ya dice lo mucho que me gustó.

Saunders says

I don't read a historical "romances" as they are not my genre of reading material but this appealed to me and really took me by surprise.

Robin Schone has written a sensual period romance. Her writing is explicit, the sex is burning and there were no silly euphemisms for sexual words – she said it as it is. The plot was original and I thought it was written with tasteful flair.

Unfortunately I did not read the prequel and only got to understand what Gabriel and Michael had gone through in this novel.

Living a life of prostitutes (they knew no other) each one had their own flair – Gabriel was tutored to service men whilst Michael was tutored to service woman. Gabriel the untouchable Angel, Michael the scarred Angel.

Gabriel had been raped at 13 and because of this is unable to stand the touch of others until Victoria Childers arrived in Gabriel's House – a tavern where every carnal desire could be satisfied. Here Gabriel provides shelter, employment and hope. Victoria offers her virginity to the highest bidder with the starting bid being the same as the amount Gabriel was sold for years ago. He outbids everyone and takes Victoria to his private quarters. He is very suspicious of Victoria and can't make up his mind whether she is an innocent victim or a paid assassin. Gabriel realizes that Victoria is a former noblewoman who has been terrorized and turned out into the streets and is now being used as a pawn to get to him. Victoria is terrified of her own sexuality, her father raised her to believe sex is sinful and women are sinful creatures.

I loved the way Robin Schone builds the relationship between Victoria and Gabriel. The mounting sexuality between them leading to a wonderful level of trust and awakening.

So despite not choosing to read this genre I have to say that I can't help admire this author's writing style, the intensity of this story and her evaluation of male-female relationships.

For me this went much further than "historical erotica". It was a physiological thriller, an emotional and powerful story dealing with an uncomfortable and dark world.

Would I recommend it? Yes and despite knowing the outcome of this story book I am going to read The Lover and I am sure I will be looking at other novels by this talented author. (less)

Dinjolina says

I bought "Gabriel's Woman" as a 2 for 1 deal when I got "The Lover". My reading OCD did not help in this matter, so I was unable to stop myself from the mental torture of finishing this harrowing saga.

In the beginning I thought that it was funny – they way the author grabbed at straws, trying to make her book *more* ...Gothic... *more* ...pure... *more* scandalous... *more* intellectual... *more* ...poetic... *more...just more!*

But it was only *JUST pathetic.*

The word repeat count in this read is monstrous. We can lie to ourselves and say that it was there for poetic purposes...Well, maybe that was the general idea, but the execution? Not really working for me!

Angel.
Angels.
Michael.
Gabriel.
Angels.
The Angel.
The man.
Second man.
First man.
Gabriel.
Angels.
Death.
Angels.
The Man.
Die.
Cold.
Angel.
Michael.
The second man.
Destruction.
Angels.
Virginity.
The Man.
To touch.
Touch.
Silver eyes.
To touch.
Gabriel.
Angel.
The man.
The second man.
Die.
Silver eyes.

Silver eyes.
Hungry eyes.
Angel.
Untouchable angel.
Angels.
Micheal.
Touch.
Gabriel.
Angels.
The man.
Silver eyes.
To touch.
Gabriel.
Angel.
The man.
The second man.
Die.

....do you feel the urge to scream? I most certainly did.
Can you feel your sanity slipping away? I did. I do.

I am willing to admit - the author has ideas. But it all went sour any way.
Why?

Robin Schone did not want to be an author . She wanted to be an artist . To be memorable.
Problem? Being a virtuoso is not something you can make yourself be by sheer willpower. Let us face it – a lot of people can play the piano. But not everybody is freaking Beethoven!

This book had dialogues repeated in a constant loop...just for the sake of drama.
This book had inner and outer dialogues that made no sense as a whole.
This book had sentences that feel like they were inserted by mistake.
This book was long even thou nothing happened in it.
This book had mindless killers with no motives.
This book had the stupidest crime motivated plot EVER. And I mean EVER!
This book bored me to tears.
This book is only good for a bonfire.

And if this book was angling to be any more pretentious it would have challenged one of Tolkin's forest scenes – you know...the ones that last 50 pages with nothing happening in the end.

gives up on ranting and goes off to get drunk

Adrienne says

5 Stars +

What can I say about this except that this book deserves more than 5 stars and makes me seriously want to reconsider the way I rate books.

Gabriels Woman takes up were The Lover finished and so to apprieciate the story you should really have read Micheal and Annes story first.

Gabriel is haunted man, Victoria a desperate woman. The two become enmeshed in an elaborate contrivance which has it's foundations firmly rooted in the past. Gabriel fears for his life and that of his close friend Micheal. Victoria is an innocent party who has been unwittingly drawn into the 'game'. Whilst Gabriel searches to find the man who seeks to destroy him, he also searches for a past, a small part of him that he believes never existed but he desperately needs to find. Will Victoria who innocently enters his life whilst trying for one last time to salvage what was an emotionally desolte but secure lifestyle be the one to unlock his past and free him?

Written in an intense style this book unravels slowly, almost like watching someting in slow motion. This has the effect of drawing the reader in, pulling them in tight until you can almmost taste the fear and tension. The writing is sophisticated and erotic in the true sense of the word, no soft porn here. A riviting and emotional read for who like things dark and intense.

Penny Watson says

Gabriel's Woman by Robin Schone.

This was one of the weirdest, wackiest, most confusing, bizarre, sexual, and surprisingly compelling books I have read. I have never been so confused at the beginning of the book. Who was the first man? Who was the second man? Who the hell was Michel? Who was the other woman? The evil woman? The evil man? The angel? Gabriel? Remember that scene in Moonstruck where the grandfather says "I'm so confused!" and he has tears in his eyes? That was me reading the beginning of this book.

Then we got to the internal dialogue. Which went on and on and on and on...for the entire book. Super melodramatic. Sentence fragments. For emphasis.

Extremely raw, blatantly sexual love scenes.

A horribly tortured hero, which reminded me of Zsadist in many ways. Raped, body and soul, almost beyond redemption. But the love and understanding of a remarkable woman brought him back from the edge. Gave him hope. Gave him a future. (Notice my sentence frgments...hee hee!).

The plot line (when I finally figured it out) became very suspenseful and engaging. Although the final climatic scene was totally over the top. Nevertheless, I kept going because Gabriel and Victoria were fascinating characters and I wanted to see what was going to happen to them. By the end, I couldn't put this book down.

It was often heart-breaking, very intense, and strangely satisfying. I almost DNFed it at the beginning because I had no freakin' clue what was going on. By the final page, I was a Robin Schone fan. I'm not sure how it happened exactly, but she got me.

Grade: A

Baba says

@KatLynne

I'm sorry to disappoint you but I really tried to like *Gabriel's Woman*. Despite its failure it's not the end of the world though. Come to think of it, we have quite a few HR authors in common that we both love, i.e. Jennifer Ashley, Elizabeth Hoyt and Courtney Milan.

I was so thrilled to give Ms. Schone a try but sadly *Gabriel's Woman* couldn't live up to my high expectations. It didn't work out for me at all. DNF. I totally dislike the author's writing style. It feels choppy, stiff, stilted, and incredibly cold and clinical. I felt like I was stuck in a fridge. The story doesn't flow smoothly. Ms. Schone uses a lot of single words too. It's very distracting. An example:

With food. Shelter. A position.

Her choice.

Life.

Death (inner monologue...again and again)

After a short conversation with Gabriel, Victoria "knew" that he's afraid of being touched. I couldn't relate at all. She said it out of the blue, after all, and it felt far-fetched and didn't ring true. Maybe she's a clairvoyant? What bothered me as well was the fact that Gabriel and Victoria didn't spend a lot of time together. Their interaction was quite limited. On top of that I couldn't feel any chemistry between these two.

Further, the inner monologue is incredibly annoying—it's so overused. Other overused terms are pain/pleasure...pleasure/pain. It was unnerving. I assume it should be a dark story. That said, it has to be livelier and more dynamic. In fact, the outcome was boring and my interest just petered out. Yeah, a fair-haired angel, a dark-haired angel...the second man...pain, pleasure, death etc., etc. Everything is very, very repetitive. I'm so sorry, folks, Robin Schone is so not for me.

Catherine says

This was a very nice follow up to the first book, *The Lover*. Any time I saw Gabriel in that book he stole the scene. I was fascinated by him and wanted to know who he was, how he thought, and what led him to the point he was at today. I didn't understand how he could love Michael and seem to hate him at the same time. I just needed to know *why*.

This was very much a story about Gabriel. I know it's advertised as an Erotic Romance but just like with *The Lover*, that wasn't the appeal for me. I liked the darkness and mystery of both of the books more than the actual romance. If I had to classify it I'd probably call it a love story at the most. While they both involve two people falling in love, the way they are executed and the rules that they follow are completely different. A love story is a side concern in the overall story whereas a romance is the main focus of a story. I'd say the main focus here was Gabriel's growth and healing.

Even though the focus wasn't necessarily on Victoria, she still managed to shine. Her desperation and her

conflicted view of her sexuality really captured my attention. I found her very interesting and enjoyed watching her gain confidence in it being okay to desire someone.

Learning the truth about Gabriel didn't disappoint me. I was shocked and fascinated to learn the truth about his complex feelings for Michael. His fear of intimacy and the reason behind it was heartbreaking. I wish I could have just reached through the book to give him a hug. Although knowing him that probably wouldn't have gone over that well...

I found Gabriel's past interesting and sad. I can't tell if his feeling or lack thereof was a blessing or a curse in his line of work. How sad that he longed to feel what he could give.

The tone in this book was just as slow and repressed as in the first book. The author once again strives to write in riddles and half-speak to keep the reader confused and in the dark. It does get a little irritating after a while, but I was willing to ride it out just to see how it would all unfold.

The only major irritation I had with this story was the constant use of the term "angels." Michael and Gabriel are names of angels, yes, I get it. It was used incessantly in the first book too, but for some reason it just irritated me more in this one.

Kristen says

May 30, 2013 Review Update

I adore this book and decided yesterday to treat myself and read it again. Well, I had an embarrassing moment while reading that I shared on FB. I figured why not share it on my review, too. Maybe it will spark some interest for those who have not yet read the book. Plus, I thought you'd get a kick out of my faux pas. Let's just say I learned WHY it's important NEVER to read erotica in the family room. Boy, did I learn my lesson!

My FB comment: Holy cow!! There's NOTHING more embarrassing than being so absorbed in reading an explicitly erotic sex scene (re-reading Gabriel's Woman by Robin Schone. I love this book and author) that you're oblivious to your 14 year old son silently reading over your shoulder. You should have seen the look of horror on our faces! For different reasons, of course!

4 1/2 Enticing Stars

As much as I enjoyed the first book *The Lover*, I felt the second book, *Gabriel's Woman* was a better book. The plot, characterization, and ambiance of the story felt more fleshed out and intriguing.

Honestly, I don't think I've read a more tortured soul than Gabriel. The more I learned about his past and his trials, the more my heart ached for him. Victoria is such an endearing character. She's everything I love in a heroine. Strong and determined while remaining feminine and a little vulnerable. She was the perfect heroine for our tortured hero.

I did not see the plot twist coming or the reason for Gabriel's bitterness toward Michael. I love when a book's plot is cleverly written and, therefore, takes me by surprise.

Gabriel's Woman was emotional, dark, erotic, gritty, sensual, shocking, appalling, thrilling, and utterly captivating. I very much enjoyed this book.

Note: It's very important to read the first book in the series *The Lover* before starting this one. You will be very confused if you don't.

Zeek says

There's nothing I hate more than shelling out good money for a book that bores me... Robin's work, NEVER does that! Her work is frank, sensual, and true artistry. *Gabriel's Woman* delivers that which I think every woman secretly desires. To reach in, touch, and heal the man she loves. Many times "mainstream" romance novels will not deal honestly with circumstances that happen in character's past for the sake of escapism. I like that *Gabriel's Woman* not only deals with things truthfully, so as not to insult our intelligence, but it also leaves us with the hope that we can overcome our circumstances, to find love. This book is not for the faint of heart but it is well worth every penny and hour spent in enjoying it.

KatLynne says

I adore Robin's unique talent that blends emotionally intense love stories with graphic erotic scenes. I've been anxious for this book since *Gabriel's* introduction in the prequel, *The Lover*.

Gabriel is one of the most tortured heroes I've read. He and Victoria both have been damaged by the actions of others. Here, we journey with them through heartache and pain as they each learn to trust again. It's a poignant, sensual, erotic read and one that I loved!

Wendy says

Gabriel's Woman is an amazing, gripping page turner. It follows on from *The Lover*, the stories are about two male whores, both beautiful, one dark, one fair....fallen angels. I think I enjoyed *Gabriel's* story more but it would be impossible to read and understand without having first read Michael's/Michel's tale.

The background to this fascinating read is dark, dangerous, sinister and poignant. Gabriel was a street urchin in the gutters of Paris, at the age of 13 he meets Michel/Michael stealing a loaf of bread to survive and the two lost boys forge a bond that will never be broken. They are rescued from the streets and trained to whore by a madam, Michel dark and beautiful for the ladies, Gabriel, fair and angelic for the men. Gabriel suffers a terrible physical abuse in his twenties from which he never recovers, he becomes the angel who will not touch or be touched, his whole life becomes centred on finding the 'first man' and 'the second man' the perpetrators of the unspeakable acts against him.

Gabriel has opened a high class house for prostitution, the day Victoria Childers inveigles her way into his house to sell her virginity sets off a chain of events that are horrifying and unstoppable. For the first time in many years Gabriel is tempted into physical contact, the consequences of which spiral their lives out of control.

This is the story of a lovely, loyal woman who herself has been unloved and uncared for, looking to ease the frustration she feels but always wanting someone of her own to love and a tortured, beautiful man who believes himself incapable of any kind of love, especially physical. Victoria begins to teach Gabriel to hope again but 'the second man' has an evil agenda, as well as being determined to destroy the slowly emerging affection between these two lonely souls.

Robin Schone has a quite remarkable descriptive talent, I've said it before but her ability to capture the dark, sinister atmosphere of the Victorian underworld is quite remarkable, even her description of murky foggy London, transports the reader to smell, taste and feel, "The London Air was damp and chill. Yellow fog embraced the city". "Childish voices permeated the yellow gloom that blanketed London".

I love the writing style of this author, against my own better judgement I have come to look forward to her books although erotic Historical is not my choice of genre, the fact that I want to read all Ms. Schone has written is a good indicator of the power of her writing, the originality of the story of these two fallen angels and the women who save them is wonderful story telling. Her protagonists are never perfect, there are nearly always both physical and mental flaws but we end up loving them anyway and can empathise with them. Despite the Americanism's which normally spoil a story for me when written specifically about England, I can award no less than 5 stars as this was such a gripping, original plot and love story.

Anna (Bobs Her Hair) says

"Fumier means a piece of shit. Gutters are filled with sewage; I was born in a gutter. I lived in a gutter. A nameless bastard. It wasn't whoring that made me what I am, it was living."
- Gabriel

"We do what we must in order to survive." – Victoria Childers

I loved this book! It packs an emotional punch and the plot is so much better than *The Lover*. There's suspense, romance, toe-curling love scenes, and a hauntingly beautiful hero that breaks your heart.

The Story

Hunger and desperate circumstances leave Victoria Childers with one precious item to sell: her virginity. She will sell it to the highest bidder at the House of Gabriel, a pleasure house well-known to cater to the upper crust. Her goal is survival.

Raped fourteen years earlier, the untouchable Gabriel, proprietor of the House of Gabriel, is participating in a deadly play of vengeance. Victoria is a pawn in this game. He will protect her to the best of his ability while searching for the nameless rapist. As Gabriel digs for clues through Victoria's past Victoria will seduce his mind and sense to find a way to his closely guarded heart.

Thoughts and Opinions

I almost cringed at the idea of a female character selling her virginity. It seemed like an old school book device, but usually it's the heroine is kidnapped then her virginity is auctioned. Anyway, it worked in this story. Robin Schone made Victoria's desperation real. We see Victoria having searched all other avenues of survival with greasy hair, bones protruding, destitute, and desperate. It was nice that the heroine wasn't a naïve young miss. Victoria had a plan. She marketed herself for maximum financial gain. She wanted to eat,

survive, and find a little bit of safety. I really liked that.

Gabriel is the Dark Tortured Hero. At times, he seems morally ambiguous. He's ruthlessly efficient and will exploit matters to his advantage. Gabriel's character doesn't deviate. He doesn't crack goofy grins, spout sappy dialogue, adopt adorable little pets, nor carry out any out-of-character benevolent actions. Ironically, when Victoria cracks through his hard shield I wanted something more dramatic. It was a quiet, simple, and poignant event.

Victoria's goal to seduce Gabriel didn't initially make sense to me but their budding attraction felt honest as the book progressed. Another thing I liked about the book is that the author wasn't afraid to write characters of an older age; Gabriel is forty. There was a minor bit of psychobabble though not off-putting.

Closing Comments

Overall, I loved Gabriel's Woman and am glad I read *The Lover*, even though it's nowhere near as good as this second book. If you like Dark Tortured Heroes then this book is for you. If you want a historical romance without the erotic love scenes then try Lisa Kleypas' *Dreaming of You*. There is also Ellen O'Connor's western historical

My Rating: 4.5 Stars rounded up to 5 because Gabriel's intense character

Favorite Moment

"And who am I, Victoria? The boy who died or the angel who's carrying him?"

Victoria fought for control, won. "The angel, Gabriel."

Gabriel's face spasmed, marble splintering into flesh. "Why?"

"Your house is your garden, Gabriel. You take broken people and give them new lives."
Victoria remembered the older woman and the younger man, sharing their passion; she remembered Julien, defending the house of Gabriel. "Take joy in your garden."

A harsh, strangled sound escaped Gabriel's throat--he threw his head back, eyes closed, dark lashes spiked. Victoria did not mistake the clear liquid crawling down his cheeks for sweat--they were the tears of an angel.

Juliana Philippa says

I read *The Lover* yesterday and *Gabriel's Woman* today, and I agree with those who say that they're best read in order. I enjoyed - though was a little conflicted about - *The Lover*, but I really loved *Gabriel's Woman*. They are both very emotional and somewhat difficult reads, because there is such horror that is faced. Both Gabriel and Michael are tortured souls, haunted by the unbelievable things they have survived.

The ages of the main characters were very unusual for romance and something that I appreciated: Gabriel is

40 and Victoria is 34. Victoria was a wonderful heroine; strong, yet vulnerable. I thought that the portrayal of Anne and her inner conflicts was better done than Victoria, however her transformation is very fluid, and subtle in a way that makes it seem all the more real. I did not get the same sense of heartbreakingly lonely as I did with Anne, and in this I was a little disappointed. Victoria had a compelling history and background, the perfect makings to starkly show how constrained and repressed and alone she has always felt, but it didn't come across as strongly as it could have.

Gabriel was an absolutely wonderful hero and *his* tragic and heartbreakingly story were most definitely felt. I liked Michael a lot in his book, but I think Schone did an even better job here in her creation and writing of the hero. Gabriel is complex and has a very disturbing history, but throughout the story he remains accessible and understandable. The fact that he cannot bear to be touched and hasn't been in 15 years made it so that his relationship with Victoria had to progress a lot more than the Michael-Anne one before they slept together. This made it seem more authentic and as his walls begin to break down and he starts to let her in, you really get wrapped up in their romance and want so badly for these two broken people to together finally find happiness.

One of my complaints with *The Lover* was that while it's supposedly an erotica, I really did not feel very strong or sizzling chemistry. It was almost too dry and detailed. It wasn't horrible and the fact that Michael and Anne's relationship is so well-written makes it so that you still feel the passion between them, but it hadn't been what I was expecting. Here, I didn't have as much of an issue on that subject and thought that the chemistry was better. However, it still didn't give me any "Where's a fan when you need one" moments that one sometimes get with regular and more "mainstream" HRs, which again surprised me.

There were twists and turns, but not as many as with *The Lover*. We're given more obvious breadcrumbs as we go and having already learned things from the first book, it's easier to piece things together. There are *still* some great surprises though, and I thought they were supremely well-done and definitely caught me off guard. While the bad guys in both books are absolutely psycho and sick, this one and the things that are done made a little more sense. Don't get me wrong: it's still crazy and far-fetched, but I found it easier to accept.

The relationship between Michael and Gabriel is shown a little in the first book, and from that we already know the unbelievably strong bond that these two men have with one another. We're given even more insight into their relationship here and I just plainly loved it. I thought their (brotherly) love for one another was beautifully portrayed and didn't feel any confusion regarding the depth or nature of their relationship. Schone touches on some very sensitive issues and I thought it only showed them both to advantage and made them seem that much stronger and more amazing for what they had survived, and been able to maintain despite it all. I think I read in another review that this is almost as much a Gabriel-Victoria story as a Gabriel-Michael story and I have to agree. Not in the romantic sense - their love is purely fraternal and friendly in nature - but it's an integral part of the story and of Gabriel's ability to finally be at peace and let himself be happy.

Random Notes:

- * I liked the little snippets we got of the staff who worked in the House of Gabriel and seeing their fondness and love for him. It was sweet and cute how they reacted to his developing relationship to Victoria.
- * Ending was better (more complete, not abrupt) than the other book's, though again I wanted an epilogue - with one or two kids would have been great. I would love to see Gabriel and Victoria as parents.
- * Some dangling threads in the subplot or character histories. Not essential, but would have liked those to be tied off (ex: Victoria's family).

(Written July 12, 2011)

Roviem says

4,5 el libro me súper atrapó, una narrativa distinta, oscura, seductora que te deja con ganas de saber más. Las escenas eroticas muy bien narradas, de una forma delicada.

Eastofoz says

What an excruciating read –and not in a good emotional roller coaster way either. The vast majority of this book is a 2 star read for me. It's exceptionally confusing and repetitive. I'm all for some suspense, not putting all your cards on the table at the start, leaving the reader guessing and all but this book needed a rewrite because it felt like a first draft that was printed. The French is in desperate need of editing seeing as most of it is either misspelled, wrong or just doesn't make sense which takes away from what the author was trying to say.

The story is supposed to continue off **The Lover** but it's really hard to understand anything from the convoluted writing. The first 100 pages are very hard to follow and up to about page 250 it reads like weird avant-garde historical fiction instead of a historical romance. It's such a dark and dreary story too. Schone's books are not your usual romantic fare which is what makes them a treat but this one is just too depressing. There's an excessive amount of violence, talk of death and dying and abject misery throughout the novel that isn't balanced with love that you hardly feel between the couple. The h/h aren't even together until you're a good half way through the book and some of the sex scenes are just plain yuck. Gabriel is not nice at all to Victoria until the end of the book and you have to wonder what she sees in him. The first time they have sex is just horrible –he's a coward and an idiot, two traits you don't want to see in a hero. He's too damaged and her incessant need to save him is annoying. All the talk about angels got on my nerves and was just plain dumb at one point –there must've been some hidden meaning there but I didn't get it. Throughout the book I kept saying to myself “when are they going to fall in love? Where is the ‘love’ already!” I absolutely adored her previous book **The Lady's Tutor** and **The Lover** was pretty good too. She really brought out the love story but not here. This is Gabriel's story who's lived a life of hell and only knows how to prey on other people until Victoria comes into the picture. You'd think that's where the love story would start and I guess in some way it does but it's just not a “nice” story.

The only thing that saves this messy read is the last 20 or so pages with a big turnaround in the writing that warrants a 3 star rating. A lot of things were still unresolved but Schone gives a very satisfying ending –too bad she couldn't do that for the rest of this frustrating book :-/

***If you liked Judith James **Broken Wing** then you'll probably like this story –the hero and how the story “progresses” are very similar.*