



Knight

Julia Sykes

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Abducted. Drugged. Broken.

I am plaything, a possession. If I did ever have a name, I don't remember it now. Slaves don't have names.

But then, my new Master rescued me and took me into his care. He protects me from the sadistic madman who is determined to steal me back from him.

Master's touch keeps me sane. His control keeps me grounded in reality. I am utterly devoted to my savior, but his brand of rescue might leave me more broken than ever.

Do I have a hope of finding freedom when he refuses to release my heart? Or is this new form of captivity exactly what I need to survive?

Knight Details

Date : Published (first published November 27th 2013)

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Author : Julia Sykes

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From Reader Review Knight for online ebook

Erin says

****4.5 stars****

Not for the faint of heart but a must-read for those of us who can appreciate the beauty in a truly dark romance, Knight takes readers on a painful and twisted journey with a woman who has faced a nightmare of agony and humiliation. An unnamed heroine for most of the story, her existence has been torn down to two identities- 'slave' to the bastard that took her, and any number of endearments that her rescuer, detective Smith James, has bestowed upon her. When he found this shell of a woman- terrified, beaten, and jonesing for her next hit- dominant Smith was disgusted by the way she had been treated. But what started out as his attempt to help her through detox and get her on her feet turned into so much more. She needed a Master to bridge her way from slavery into reality, and Smith was her choice whether he wanted it or not.

I absolutely LOVED the premise of this story! Lydia, our "Jane Doe" heroine, had quite literally been through hell and back, and she was this fragile shell on the verge of cracking into a million tiny pieces. Her muddled and terrified thoughts of utter paranoia were brilliantly written, I felt as though I was reliving all of her fears and pain right along with her as she tried to get through each day. The experience was horrific, but she had made it through the hard part...or had she? She was in such a state of distress and insecurity that she was desperate for that strength and stability that a true dom, not the piece of shit that raped and beat her, would give her. And Smith...oooh, lord, Smith. I just wanted to lick him and have him bend me over to spank me for the fun of it, he was so yummy!! So strong for Lydia at every turn, but so torn over the role he was playing in this madness. He was the epitome of the dominant male a pillar of fortitude for his sub but tender with her when she needed it. And a "Holy shit sexy!!" one at that, I honestly got goosebumps when he finally 'claimed' his woman! I loved him, just loved him.

Then there were the twists, and damn they came unexpectedly and wrenched my heart! Just when you think to yourself "well this became a happy ending pretty early on...", Sykes rips apart that reality and you're left to wrap your mind around the next crossroads for Lydia. I never once got bored or irritated going through her struggled thoughts with her, you really just experience the therapeutic discussions in her mind as she does. Reality for her had been forever altered, and Sykes did an amazing job at making all of it progress in a believable way.

When all was said and done, this was a gut-wrenching, meaningful, deeply twisted love story that readers will have trouble putting down, and I highly recommend it to anyone who enjoys a great dark read!

Quotes:

It was the first time I could recall the woman I had been before I was broken. But remembering her was almost as agonizing as the memories of what had been done to her. She had been strong and brave and defiant. She would have found what I was now to be abhorrent. ~Loc 141

He had mentioned others that he had tortured before her. They had died. Once, she had tried to die. But he wouldn't let her. ~Loc 307

"Are you still prepare to go to hell with me, Lydia?" He asked roughly.

“Of course, Master,” I promised huskily. “So long as you take me to heaven and back first.” ~Loc 3618

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Hayley Faiman says

This is the story of
Slave

and FBI Agent Smith James.

It isn't hearts and flowers... It isn't about a two whole people falling in love and living happily ever after... It is about a woman who was kidnapped and kept in seclusion then she was tortured and finally broken... She doesn't even remember her own name. James and his team are taking down the BDSM Club Decadence in a Latin Kings drug raid that has been using the club for trafficking drugs. That is where he first sees Slave standing alone in a corner in the dark.

"Your name girl," I demanded, my voice sharp and authoritative. "Tell me now," fear flashed across her features.

"F-fucktoy," she whispered tremulously.

Slave things that Agent James is her new Master ... She is addicted to heroin and taken immediately to a detox center where he refuses to leave her side. Smith is a Dom and thinks she has been mishandled by her own Dom until he soon discovers that she has been held against her will as a Slave and so far beyond broken that she can't even recall the woman she was before her kidnapping.

Her old Master, her kidnapper, is now referred to as "that bastard" and tries to kidnap her yet again. Agent James breaks protocol and takes her home with him.

"You're mine now Little One." The ferocious edge to his voice made me quiver, delightedly. "That Bastard can't hurt you anymore." More tears welled up as joy soared through me.

"You are mine now."

His.

Through several days of being together and trying to discover her likes and dislikes she discovers she is an artist and draws herself with the word Lydia escaping her mouth. She has remembered her name but she fears it as well because she is not that same girl, can she go back to her old life when the FBI finds her

family? Does she even want to?

"You're my Master, I belong to you, Master."

Lydia seduces Smith without a whole ton of resistance on his part.

Then.... Her identity is discovered by James' coworker and her family is found which includes a husband. She must go back to Chicago .. She must leave Master and she must try and piece her life back together. But can she do all of that without Master James? Is she sick because she loves him? Is it true love or just an obsession because he saved her?

Without being able to contain my spoilers I will just say that...All is revealed in the end... I am happy to say that you'll get your HEA, but don't expect the HEA to be too sugar sweet.. There is a little bit of bitterness stuck in there as well because as in life nothing is perfection.

All in all if your looking for a darker read with BDSM ... Then you'll like it I do believe!!

I cannot wait to read the next book!!!

Shurrn says

I had the opportunity to chat with Julia Sykes at the 2014 Louisville Author Event.

She was a total sweetheart when I told her - with embarrassment - that Monster was gathering virtual dust, unread on my Kindle at the time of our meeting. She said she also suffered from an overactive "one-click-button" finger and an endless TBR... She was sweet enough to autograph a copy of he book for me.

Becky says

Confused feelings

This book pushed my comfort zone to the max. I am a bit confused by my feelings. I liked the storyline and the mystery and drama. I liked the aspect of bdsm, that didn't confuse me. What did is how dark and degraded Lydia is made to suffer and feel, and how she can be ok with similar treatments but This time by someone she trusts! I just couldn't wrap my mind around how that was ok. How a victim of kidnapping, sexual, mental, emotional and physical abuse could just be ok with it. Yes she had a few therapy sessions but her healing and acceptance was just to fast. If your going to write about the most horrific experience a women can be subjected to, then her recovery had better be as in depth.

That is what is confusing I liked the concept of the story and somewhat execution of it but the topic of the

story left me with confused emotions. This book will have your stomach in knots reading it!

Definite R rated, for both content and topic. HEA (I guess) part of a conclusion but not completely. You still have some unanswered questions, epilogue.

Unsure if I'll dive right into the next book to see if my questions get answered or read a light, sweet fluffy bunny book to get this dark book out of my mind!

Alba and Her Secrets..♥ says

4.5 'Tree of Knowledge' Stars!

Loved Smith and Lydia! They develop a beautiful relationship, especially because of what she suffered. A good BDSM story that left me curious to read other books in the series!

Lana ❄️Dirty Girl Romance❄️ says

3.5 Stars

Your name, girl.

Tell me. Now."

Fear flashed across her features.

"F-fucktoy," she whispered tremulously."

This book was very different from anything I've ever read in the past and I struggled with my rating because of it. I'm a big fan of Dark Romance and BDSM and I've read plenty of it, but this was a mix of a few things and yet...not.

Knight starts off with Smith's POV during the FBI raid of a BDSM club. Being a Dominant himself, it's not something that's out of his normal routine, but what Smith finds there manages to test even his carefully mastered control and anger. Because among the the faceless bodies in that place, he sees **her**. A woman that is clearly a sub, but even more clear a victim...but of what, he doesn't know yet.

I didn't have a name. If I did ever have a name, I didn't remember it now. I was a slave, and slaves don't have names.

The rest of the book gets told in **her** POV.

She knows herself only as slave. A woman so broken, she's shattered, all at the hands of a monster that has put her through hell. Slave has suffered atrocities that are so painful, just the mere memory has the power to bring her to her knees. She doesn't know the woman that she once was, she doesn't remember her...nor does she want to. She's no longer that woman. She's buried that in the recess of her mind never to be accessed again.

I'll be honest, the first 30% of so was very slow. It was difficult to read, and not because it was bad. Julia Sykes' writing is captivating, and I enjoyed the way she painted a very vivid and painfully dark experience that Slave suffered. Slave is as broken as they come. Broken down to a mere shell of who she once was, she was as fragile as glass.

Smith knows that no medicine can help Slave in the state that she's in. As a Dom, he knows the control and rules that she so desperately needs and clings to in order to maintain her fragile grasp on reality. So he takes it upon himself to give her that.

Julia Sykes did a fantastic job painting a very realistic picture of a woman that is beyond damaged. I understood her almost obsession and utter devotion to Smith.

I also enjoyed the progression that she goes through from Slave to a semblance of the woman she once was.

Although I wouldn't call this a dark book, the things that Slave goes through were horrendous and not easy to digest. You have to prepare yourself since it's no light read. However, it's also not an action packed and high paced one. The progression is slow moving and slow building, which ultimately makes the story, yet also makes it difficult to get into right away.

Although slower paced than what I'd normally read, it managed to constantly keep me on my toes not knowing what would happen next. Julia manages to throw in some BAM moments that kept me guessing and on pins and needles almost afraid to see what would come next.

The overuse of endearments like "sweetheart" and "girl" did grate on me at times, but nothing that diminished my enjoyment. The love story is not an orthodox one, that's for sure. What begins as a clingy obsession turns into something much more eventually.

I really loved the way that the author built the heroine back up throughout the book. She goes from slave to her true identity in a very realistic way. This was not something that happened overnight and you feel that emotion and pain right along with her.

I can't say that this is something I ever see myself going back to, but I did enjoy it. And I will definitely be continuing with the series as I'm invested in the story and very curious to see what the next book brings. Particularly with the "Mentor" still not caught.

Mainly told in Slave's POV, the prologue and epilogue we do also get Smith.

*****ARC courtesy of author in exchange for an honest review*****

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Christine Wallflower & Dark Romance Junkie says

Okay, so I'll be honest and say that I'm not a huge fan of BDSM in the books I read. Reason being I feel it's a

game and I don't like games, but with Knight I actually enjoyed the BDSM aspect of the book. It wasn't OTT and I understood why the characters needed it in their lives.

Something that I also found refreshing was the fact that Smith wasn't a billionaire who had some deep dark secret. He was an addict and the BDSM lifestyle helped him fight his addiction.

She has no recollection of who she is or where she came from, all she knows is she is a slave. An instrument to her master, victim to the whims of a mad man who also happens to call himself her master.

When her master leaves her alone at a BDSM club, she thinks it's a test and doesn't even entertain the idea that she might at last be free of the man who has been terrorising her for months. But when FBI agent Smith calms her and convinces her that she is free, she quickly latches on to him claiming him as her Master despite his reluctance.

An intense and serious man, FBI agent Smith wants her badly but feels as if his needs as a Dom will further traumatise someone who has been abused like her. But she wears his resistance down and finally he admits and succumbs to the instincts that are pushing him to claim her as his Sub.

Here's what I liked about this book

I liked the fact that Smith was 100% alpha, he didn't try to hide it even when he was dealing with the heroine's skittishness. The book read well, I enjoyed the writing style and it moved at a gradual pace that led to a great ending.

The sex scenes were intense and very hot, I actually enjoyed all the "play" I liked the fact that the villain was always a threat to their happiness, he didn't just disappear.

Here's what I didn't like

Actually I had a few questions:

1. Why was the heroine left at the club all alone, where was her kidnapper?
2. Who is the mentor? (in this case I think I might find out in the next book)

What didn't gel quite well with me:

1. The transition from traumatised victim to survivor happened way too quickly.

Final Thoughts

I really did enjoy Knight and I will definitely read the other books in the series. It was hot with a dash of tortured heroine and dark hero.

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Siobhan says

Knight is the fourth book in the Impossible series, and I was insanely excited for this one. Our male lead in this one is a character I'd come to enjoy in the prior books, and I could not wait to see how his story played out. Add in the fact this one sounded darker than the prior books, and I was more than happy to dive in.

As I'd hoped, Knight is the darkest of the first four Impossible books. This one deals with a really heavy topic and takes us to places the prior books did not. It is not the darkest book I have ever read – I have read more dark romances than I can recall – but this was more in line with my usual standard than the prior books have been.

Although plenty happens throughout Knight, it is a slower book than the prior Impossible books. However, it introduces a number of things that will play an important role in the rest of the series. With things building so slowly, you find yourself lost to the story and unaware of just how deep into it you have been sucked. I admit there were times when I felt like things did drag a bit, but the story made it more than worth it.

As much as I enjoyed the story, I'm going to be honest and say I did not feel the chemistry in this one. I really enjoyed watching the way things developed, but the relationship did not hit me in the same way the relationships did in the prior book. I think, with Knight, we could have done with some scenes from both points of views. Receiving only one point of view made it difficult to appreciate some aspects of the story, and I feel like I would have enjoyed the relationship between the two a lot more had I been inside both characters' heads.

Overall, though, this was another fun read. It may not have been my favourite couple, but it was certainly the darkest of the stories (a fact I really enjoyed).

CarolBee says

I was surprised by this one. I don't usually care for BDSM stories. If its there then that's fine. I mostly pay attention to the connection the characters have with each other and how believable the sexual relationship is. I really gave this five stars because the female lead Lydia was such an excellent heroine. Her behavior in the beginning was a struggle to accept, but that wasn't because of Lydia's misjudgment (which typically irks me when I see that the lead is making annoyingly unnecessary decisions). She had to succumb to the only thing she knew to recover. How Julia Sykes described Lydia's processing worked was so intricate and understandable that I couldn't fault her on leaning on another man so desperately. And Smith.. Man, he was just MEANT for her. I feel like regardless of what happened to her, they would still end up together in the relationship that they fell into. But how he helped her recover while battling his own demons. SNAPS FOR YOU, SMITH. He was so patient and kind to her, but still knew exactly what she needed.

"Are you still prepared to go to hell with me, Lydia?"

"Of course, Master.. So long as you take me to heaven and back first."

Heed to the warning though. It is pretty traumatizing. I cringed and had to assimilate myself A LOT. But Lydia's road to find herself again, and with Smith, was worth it.

XxTainaxX says

This story broke my heart. It's extremely graphic in nature. There is severe abuse, rape, and captivity. There are heavy references to the BDSM, slave/Master, sub/Dom lifestyle in both unhealthy and healthy practice. At the center of it is a woman who we start getting to know as Slave. She is fractured, fragile. I cannot warn enough about the intensity not only of her experience but the aftermath. To be in her head is to go through the atrocities she endured as well as the loss and eventual recovery of who she once was. Smith rescues her in more than a physical sense. He is who she needed to recover an aspect of her life that was tainted by something ugly. I was pleasantly surprised by the detail in the story. The suspense is built and paced very well. The characters are very distinct and complex. Their flaws are exposed. Their progression raw with vulnerability but fortified by compassion and understanding. The story elicits strong emotion. I would have liked a little more of Smith's perspective. It's hard to gauge the ending without his view for context. It's not perfect, but I can't give the efforts any less than my best. Safety: There is someone else for one of them. I don't want to spoil so I will say that I found the circumstance to be understandable. To reiterate, there is severe rape and abuse.

Lady Vigilante (Feifei) says

DNF

Unfortunately, I didn't finish this one. Not going to go into full details but some problems I had with the book that derailed me from enjoying it:

1. The overuse of endearments. The sheer number of sweethearts and girl felt excessive and Smith switched back and forth between them, and when he had a mood swing - whoosh - from sweetheart to slave to girl to slave then to sweetheart? I don't know...
2. The book felt dragged out. I'm an impatient reader. I like quick. I have no patience for slow plots and although this plot was great, I'm sorry to say, I had no patience for it.
3. The slave/Lydia. I must applaud the author here for brilliantly portraying a *truly* broken character. She is the most fragile china doll I've ever read about so I could justify her heavy reliance on her "Master." However, it got to a point where I thought 'enough is enough.' I don't want to read about how she whines and whimpers for the hundredth time.
4. Smith and Lydia's connection. I never understood it. **With the author's clarification**, you do get to know more about why Smith focused his attention on Lydia *later*, it's just I didn't read far enough to find out since I put this book down.

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**Just cruising along this normal Thursday afternoon here in the States....and BAM I see this baby! My**

**dark and twisted self says YES!**

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**NMmomof4 says**

**3.5 Stars**

**Overall Opinion:** I was in the mood for something different, and this was definitely that! I enjoyed that the story touched the dangerous aspects and assumptions people make about BDSM, but it also addressed the importance of BDSM to some individuals as well. It was like exposing the two sides of the coin in the BDSM argument. I liked the mc's connection, and I liked their progression into something more. I did feel a little conflicted at times about the appropriateness of the H crossing that line, but I also felt like the author worked that out for me closer to the end. It was enjoyable, but I'm not sure it'll be all that memorable in the long run and it won't be going on my favorites shelf either.

**Brief Summary of the Storyline:** This is Slave and Smith's story. They meet when Smith finds Slave when he raids a BDSM club with his fellow FBI agents. They are instantly drawn to each other, and he feels a strong need to protect her. Slave is severely damaged from her past master, and she doesn't know her own identity. When it becomes obvious that Slave's previous master is still after her, Smith takes it upon himself to ensure her safety. There is a lot of baggage to work through, some sexy times, and some sweet moments...and they get a HFN ending.

**POV:** This was told mainly in Slave's POV, but there were a few sections told in Smith's.

**Overall Pace of Story:** Good. I never skimmed and I thought it flowed well.

**Instalove:** No, but feelings do develop quickly because of the nature of their relationship.

**H rating:** 3.5 stars. Smith. I liked him, but I do think he crossed the line at times with appropriateness.

**h rating:** 4 stars. Slave. I liked her. I felt bad for all of the trauma she had endured, but I appreciated her strength as well.

**Sadness level:** Low, no tissues needed

**Push/Pull:** Yes (view spoiler)

**Heat level:** Hot. They have some hot tension, chemistry, and scenes -- but not so much it takes away from the story. BDSM dynamics (view spoiler)

**Descriptive sex:** Yes

**OW/OM drama:** Yes (view spoiler)

**Sex scene with OW or OM:** Not technically (view spoiler)

**Cheating:** Yes (view spoiler)

**Separation:** Yes (view spoiler)

**Possible Triggers:** Yes (view spoiler)

**Closure:** This had alright closure, but I wanted a farther glimpse into their future. I would call this a HFN ending (view spoiler)

**Safety:** This one is probably Not Safe for most safety gang readers (view spoiler)

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## Amber Rose says

I was unable to connect to this book and the characters. I only made it to 30% and gave up. I wanted to love this book and have some sort of connection but was unable to do so. Sucks when that happens.

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## J says

This is what good erotica is (in my opinion). Great story (including a little suspense), great writing and strong main characters. This is about BDSM and is explicit and I couldn't put it down.

It is about a young married woman, missing something in her marriage, so she has begun exploring a BDSM club. A psycho who had observed her at the club abducts her in the parking lot on her way home and brutally imprisons and uses her as his sex slave. Some time later the BDSM club is raided by the FBI for drugs, and the woman is observed there by one of the FBI agents. She is a total shell of a woman who doesn't even know her name, obviously strung out on drugs. The FBI agent suspects there is more to her story than just drugs and makes it his mission to at least get her into drug rehabilitation.

It turns out that FBI agent is a Dom, who turned to BDSM to help him fight his own drug addiction and other personal demons. He helps the woman through withdrawals and then takes it upon himself to also try and

overcome the psychosis and nightmares that are haunting her because of whatever happened. He puts his job at risk by trying to help her. He is a devoted alpha male DOM and she, over time, becomes a strong willed, caring sub.

This story explores BDSM with no judgments made (except one brief moment with one of her girlfriends). It also has a strong theme of accepting yourself for who you are and what you want, and not living your life to please someone else.

A wonderful read.

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### **Sarah says**

Recommended by Sherri Hayes as similar to her Finding Anna series

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