



Duce

Kai Tyler

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One mafia boss.

One rival's son.

One deadly setup.

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Until he tangles with a man who plays by totally different rules.

Dante Orsino has been raised in the old ways of honor, loyalty and respect of the business. His role as mafia underboss is more than just a job. It also makes him an heir to one of the biggest families in the Southern Territories.

When Carlos meets Dante and plays a silly game, their weekend tryst sparks a deadly cartel war.

For Dante there's no other life except—the life. And he wants Carlos in his. But in the New World, a gay man is a dead man. Can he find a way to keep everything he loves and stay alive?

In a new world gone mad, even the good guys are bad. Welcome to the World's End series.

Duce Details

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Author : Kai Tyler

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From Reader Review Duce for online ebook

Ana says

This was a very nice book. I enjoyed it so much. It was so much more than I expected. It had everything I want in a book, a good plot, strong characters, crime and love. Just my type of book.

It's setup in a kind of dystopian world, where the mafia it's still the mafia. Dante it's an underboss, very committed to his job, until he meet Carlos, the son of a cartel boss. An interesting turn of events starts a fight not only for their lives, but also for love.

Even when the world created by the author it's describe as dystopian, it had mostly modern elements with some interesting changes that made more difficult the life of the main characters. The organized crime still keep its usual way of action.

Dante it's a very nice character, an underboss, very respected and fear, but since the beginning of the book, the reader can see him as someone with the ability of love, and to do anything for the ones he love.

Carlos, is a, sort of a spoiled, son of a cartel boss, but he isn't an unlikable character, he doesn't come along as a brat either. He is a very nice character and the relationship they built it's beautiful. It has ups and downs, but there is always strong emotions present between them. The moments they share are great.

The plot it's really good. It has a lot of unexpected events and it's easy to keep the attention. I would definitely recommend it to anyone. I really think it was a great book, and since it's a part of a series, I'm feeling very motivated to read the other book.

*Book provided by NetGalley.

Beebs says

This book had real potential but ultimately too many loose ends and contradictions. Sadly, not for me.

***Received from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review**

2kasmom says

Dante and Carl meet at an exclusive club. Carl knows right away he wants Dante. He sees him as the 3D's. Dark, Dangerous & Domineering. Perfect for what he has in mind.

Dante saved Carl's life, so he feels responsible for the kid. He does not think he is big enough or old enough to handle what he would give to him. Turns out that is not quite true...

When push comes to shove, all that matters is that Carl is willing to do what it takes to be where Dante is.

Can Dante make a place in his carefully ordered life for him? All Carl wants is to be his.

There is more going on here, and Dante is right to be worried. It is a case of opposites attract. This is a great book of suspense and good banter. Sexy times, and dark and dangerous times. I loved how they could not deny one another even when they want to. Great second book in the World's End series.

***This ARC copy was given in exchange for an honest review only.

Queue says

I read a lot of books but it's not very often I find something truly unique and original. However, that is exactly what happened with these two stories. The plot and world are totally special and Kai Tyler's writing voice is completely fresh and distinctive.

The world of World's End is a futuristic, dystopian one where criminal cartels have taken over and rule their lands with varying degrees of iron fists. Some bosses allow drugs and prostitution, others do not. There isn't much discussion about the past but the world building of how it currently is is magnificent.

Sicario is a short story and currently free on Amazon. It's basically an introduction of the World's End series, but just a primer. It was enough to make me request Duce so I could continue reading more about this fascinating world.

Enzo, a slave, is purchased by Lexan. He expects certain things from his new owner and is confused when Lexan is nothing like he anticipated. He expects to be raped but that isn't what Lexan is going to do.

"...I would never think about topping you. Not unless it was what you wanted."

When they do have sex it's without pressure and completely consensual. It's also extremely erotic and very hot. It's not long until both men are bonded in a way that will change them forever. Not even Lexan's career as a hitman can get in their way.

In Duce we meet mafia underboss Dante Orsini, heir to a large crime family. He's also gay, something that isn't widely known. One of the changes in The New World is that being gay is once again frowned on, in fact it can get you killed. He still manages to find lovers such as Carl, a mouthy twink he picks up at a bar.

Dante and Carl engage in some VERY hot sexin' of the BDSM-lite variety. Dante is dominant and loves giving orders, while Carl is submissive and adores following orders. They have a lot of fun without realizing who the other really is. It's not spoiling anything to reveal that Carl is really Carlos Carmichael, the playboy son of one of Dante's rivals.

Carlos is the youngest son of Juan Pablo Carmichael, aka The Baron, a brutal and harsh mob boss. He's the younger of The Baron's sons and his brother Marcos is definitely the favored son. The Baron doesn't care that Carlos is gay, he hates it in fact, and forces Carlos to choose an arranged marriage or be jailed for being homosexual.

Carlos finds himself in the middle of a mob war between his father and Dante and ends up a slave of Dante's. Dante doesn't abuse Carlos in anyway, he still cares for him, he just wants The Baron to remove the death warrant he put on Dante's head. However, Dante and Carlos' time together brings them even closer.

There are quite a few little surprises sprinkled throughout the book that made for an engaging read. I don't want to ruin any of them, but I loved each and every one of them.

I adored Dante and Carlos' relationship even if they seemed to fall in love before I really bought they were there. In lust and even like, but not love. That's just a tiny niggle though.

The author's ability to describe a scene is absolutely phenomenal. One scene that stands out is when Dante meets with a man regarding the warrant out for his life. Every last detail is mapped out and I was able to perfectly picture everything.

The world building is similarly amazing. It's all worked naturally into the story with no large info dumps or boring exposition. That sort of thing normally bores me, but that did not happen here.

I'm a big fan of first person POV and the book alternates between Dante and Carlos, just as the first book did between Lexan and Enzo. We really get deep into these guys' heads and emotions.

Toward the end of the book there's a chapter that switches to third person POV. I'd normally bitch about the switch but it worked here perfectly.

There are really no good guys here. Just anti-heroes and bad guys who aren't as evil as other criminals. It will be interesting what the author does with future stories. She set it up for many more stories down the road with lines such as....

Wait, I don't want to ruin it for you. Just go read it. You will not regret it.

Ruth Evans says

Fantastic start to a series!

This is the first book I have read from this author but it definitely won't be the last! The book is well written and the characters are captivating. The characters grip the reader and keeps them reading.

Dante has a troubled past but he's moved on, mostly but the nightmares still come to him. He decides to visit a club to take his mind off those nightmares. When he sees someone who he's attracted to needing help then he steps up. Dante hates to be crossed and so he walks away. When he leaves he can't forget the young man who came to mean so much to him.

Carlos loves a good time drinking, drugs and sex until he meets the man that pushes him away. Carlos comes up with a plan to get this guy's attention.

With families in the cartels and the fact that same sex relationships are a no no this is a bad idea. These two men keep finding their way back to each other.

This book is really a great read and will keep you reading until the end. I can't recommend this book strongly enough. I can't wait to read the next book in this series.

Jane says

DISCLAIMER: A free copy was provided by the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

The following review was originally posted on my book blog [The Book Challengers](#).

And to think this one started off quite well... A dystopian 21st century world where the gangs order things around and where slavery is back. A world that has some similarities with our current world but is actually very different from ours. And two men who find themselves falling for each other despite the fact that their families have been enemies as long as they remember. Isn't it a great idea? Well, I certainly thought so when I acquired my copy, but unfortunately it was all ruined by the writing.

I didn't actually mind the writing style itself in general as I thought that Tyler had potential, but I was actually quite put off by the typos and random jumps in time and the fact that the edition seemed like a beta edition or something rather than a real copy sold in all kinds of shops since autumn last year. The mistakes didn't seem so abundant at first, but by the time the final quarter rolled around it became rather difficult for me to understand what the hell was going on as the author didn't actually explain things the way I felt should have been necessary.

For instance, the whole business with the kids who had been experimented on and had special powers was left totally who knows where and other than the fact that we know that Dante has some exceptional hearing, we know nothing about it and Dante actually fails to use it most of the time. Since I have not read the first book in the series and have no plans on reading the next ones, I don't know whether this problem was (or will be) addressed in those books, but I would have definitely liked to find out more about this!

I was expecting to read an m/m romance but to be honest, I felt that there was actually quite little romance in it and most of the book actually focused more on eradicating the threat to Dante's life with some sexcapades thrown into the mix. And humiliating Carlos in one or other way. I'm sorry, but I'm simply not into the humiliation business.

All in all: A book with lots of promise, but with unfortunately with less than exciting execution.

Katrin says

Inhalt:

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underboss is more than just a job. It also makes him an heir to one of the biggest families in the Southern Territories.

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(Quelle Klappentext: Smashwords)

Meine Meinung:

Nach einiger Zeit habe ich mal wieder einen Titel bei Netgalley angefragt. Da er unter Read Now gelistet war, musste ich nicht einmal dafür beim Verlag anfragen, sondern konnte ihn direkt auf meinen Kindle laden. Da ich derzeit viele Fanfictions lese, und teilweise wirklich sehr gute, bin ich ziemlich wählerisch geworden und die letzten "richtigen" Bücher konnten mich nicht überzeugen. Spoiled Kid! :P

Duce allerdings hat mich von der ersten Sekunde an gefesselt. Dante, der Protagonist der Geschichte, ist ein attraktiver junger Mann um die 30 (obwohl ich ihn mir beim Lesen als 26 Jährigen vorgestellt habe), der nach dem Tod seiner Eltern über das südliche Kartell herrscht. Er wird als Mann mit viel Einfluss beschrieben und seine Doinanz konnte man wirklich aus den Zeilen rauslesen. Seine einzige Schwäche ist der süße 22-jährige Carl aka Carlos, mit dem er eine unvergessliche Nacht verbringt, die sich aber schon bald als großer Fehler herausstellt. Carl ist nämlich der Sohn eines verfeindeten Mafiabosses aus dem Norden. Ups. Natürlich ist Carls Vater überhaupt nicht glücklich, dass sein Sohn mit Dante anbandelt und so werden die beiden vor viele schwierige Entscheidungen gestellt.

Die Geschichte an sich war zwar sehr voraussehbar, aber trotzdem fand ich sie von Anfang bis Ende unterhaltsam und ich hätte am liebsten in jeder Szene zwischen Dante und Carl einen Seufzer ausgestoßen. Carl mit seinem süßen Lächeln und Dante, der diesem einfach nicht widerstehen kann. Die beiden haben einfach eine so tolle Chemie und wie der Autor die Entwicklung der Beziehung beschrieben hat, war vollkommen authentisch. Durch die Hürden, die den beiden in den Weg gelegt werden, kommen sie sich immer näher und so wird auch das Vertrauen zwischen ihnen weiter aufgebaut. Kai Tyler hat dies wirklich gut rübergebracht mit seinen Worten.

Zudem hatte die Story einen guten Mix an lustigen, ernsten, süßen und auch heißen Szenen zu bieten. Ein rundum gelungenes Buch wie ich finde :)

Fazit:

Duce von Kai Tyler ist ein durchweg gelungenes Buch. Die Charaktere sind vielschichtig und jeder spielt eine besondere Rolle - keiner wird vergessen. Es sind sogar Folgebände geplant, die die Geschichten von einigen Nebencharakteren näher beleuchten! Der Schreibstil ist angenehm zu lesen und der Mix aus ernsten und aufgelockerten Szenen sehr gut gewählt. Ein Wohlfühlbuch, das mich sehr oft hat Grinsen lassen. Dante & Carl = I SHIP IT! ♥

Doris O'Connor says

Such a riveting read. I was hooked on this story from the teasers Kai had posted on her blog, and I finally had some time to read this story. I could not put it down, and I'm looking forward to the rest in this series.

Suspenseful and emotional with well fleshed out characters.

Lisa says

I was given a copy of this book free by the author in return for an unbiased review.

Set in a time when homosexuality is illegal and people are either sent to prison or committed into asylums, Dante, head of a crime organization meets Carl, in a gay club. Neither knows who the other is but Carl is the second son of a rival gang.

There are brutal parts of this story but I think of it more as a love story between the 2 MCs with the workings of the organizations being the back drop.

An interesting book but although I liked it I am not sure if I will continue with the series.

Elsbeth says

FREE on Amazon!!

link

Skirmish says

Book Reaction: <http://neverhollowed.tumblr.com/tagged...>

Soundtrack: <http://neverhollowed.tumblr.com/tagged...>

Rating: 2 Stars - it's a struggle to finish the damn book

Julie Gustafson-Monk says

Reviewed on behalf of 2 Girls Who Love Books

I really enjoyed this book. Duce has a scenario that I have never read before. Mafia meet gay romance and BDSM scenario. It was very well written and characters written perfectly. The writing just clicked for me.

This book is based on a futuristic life. Let me explain. Each Territory has rules and regulations, so to speak, to live by. One will accept the gay way of living. The other accepts drugs and prostitution.. So forth and so on.

Dante is a mob underboss. Dante is gay and a very dominant man. He feels he has to control everything, even in sex life. He finds himself in a tricky situation when he has a fling with a man from another mob. Carl aka Carlos Carmichael is the son of a very dangerous mob boss. He is the submissive type which fits well with Dante. He ends up being a slave to Dante due to issues between the two mobs. Carl doesn't mind in any way.

This book had a few twists and turns you don't see coming. This makes Duce even better.

I really enjoyed this book. The characters faced real issues with them both being gay.

4 stars for a well written book.

LBAS Book Blogs says

I've been reading books about gangsters and mafia men for a while. I read Mario Puzo's *The Godfather* as a teenager and fell in love with the characters. I've gone on to watch several movies of the same genre. So when in the past few years mafia romance/erotica suddenly became all the rage, I knew it was going to be win-win for me as a reader, combining my favourite genres into hot reads.

A few months ago I read *Sicario* which is a prequel to this series and I was intrigued, not just by the characters but by the physical world the author was creating. It was like nothing I'd read about before.

So when *Duce* came out, I was glad for the privilege to read it. In this story, Dante is a mob boss on a personal mission to find out what happened to his parents when he was a boy. He's away from his turf on vacation where he meets Carl (Carlos) at a nightclub. It's the only place in the territory where being gay won't get you into trouble.

One thing leads to another and these two get together for a one-night stand. But things get complicated when Dante finds out that Carlos is the son of a rival cartel boss. Neither of them are safe as trouble comes looking for them full throttle in the form of assassins and vendettas.

And with all that going on, the two of them discover they are falling in love with each other. But in a world where any show of affection between them can lead to death, how are they going to stay alive?

I love what the author did here with the world building. Usually with other books, you get a whole heap of information dumped on you upfront as the authors try to give you a sense of settings. In this book, the information you need about the world is woven into the narrative and the dialogue in a seamless, just-in-time basis, so that you have enough to picture the scene without being overloaded with unnecessary words.

But the best thing about this book for me was the characters. I loved them all, even the secondary ones. Don't get me wrong, these are bad guys, antiheroes to be exact. They do bad things, illegal things and have no qualms about killing or maiming others. And if you're expecting that at the end of the story they go from being bad to being reformed, then you need to adjust your expectations. You won't find any 'road to Damascus' style transformations here as you find in many other romance novels.

This is a well-written book. I got hooked from the opening sentence and didn't put it down until the last. In fact, I've read it twice since the first time. The characters are engaging and you can't help rooting for them. I loved Dante especially and would love to see more of him in future books. #TeamDante.

The action is heart-thumping and well-paced, the smexy scenes are hot. Watching Dante and Carl together left me feeling warm and fuzzy as well as hot and bothered. LOL. The perfect high-stakes blend of power, violence and sex in one book is intoxicating and I can't wait for the next book in the series. If you want books about dark and dangerous men, then you've got to grab this. You won't be disappointed. While you're

at it, pick up a copy of Sicario too. It's free to download.

Nerdy Dirty & Flirty says

Duce is a mafia M/M romance set in a futuristic, dystopian type setting. The main characters Dante and Carlos meet in a night club when they are both out for a night of relaxation and interested in finding someone to have good time with. While they are both attracted to each other, Dante doesn't originally think its such a good idea to take Carlos home. A dangerous situation and a rescue lead to the two of them leaving the club together after all. That decision though sets off a chain of events that neither of them see coming. Dante soon discovers that the man he now can't stop thinking about is the son of a rival cartel boss. Carlos discovers that man he wanted from first sight is just like the men he has grown up around and despised. And in a new world that is against the two of them being together at all, it seems like their love is doomed before even really having a chance to begin.

Starting off, I'll mention the things that I liked about this book. Dante would be the main thing. Despite being this badass cartel guy, he was still honorable. If he made a promise, he kept it. If he saw someone in trouble, he helped. Of course he wasn't perfect, but that's what makes him even better. He has issues with things from his past. He also had moments where he did what he felt he had to do, even if it wasn't what he wanted to do, and even though it hurt Carlos. He still ended up being a great character for me and my favorite of the story. I liked the depth of the story-line. There were a lot of different things at play here but it was laid out in such a way that it flowed very well. There was no confusion as to what was going on in the moment, and there were no slow, boring moments for me. There were some supporting characters that I loved, and then there were some that I hated. But the ones that I hated were the bad guys that I was supposed to hate anyway so it was OK. And even Carlos, while I did not like him as much as his other half Dante, because he sometimes had some juvenile moments that weren't so endearing, I still liked him overall.

The only dislikes for me about this story were first, I felt like the two were "in love" without a whole lot there to base that love on at the time that they were throwing the word out there. Toward the end, I totally got it and felt that after everything that they had been through it absolutely made sense that they had fallen in love, but when they first mentioned it I kind of felt like they barely knew each other and I didn't get what the basis of their love was built on. And then second, there was the rushed ending. I felt like everything was flowing so steady and smooth and then bam, everything is getting wrapped up and finished out of no where. I felt like some of the things that happened could have been extended either into making the book longer, or could have been put into another book about these two characters and I would have happily read it.

Overall this was a very enjoyable story that I would definitely recommend and I look forward to the upcoming books about some of the secondary characters that I liked in this one.

Tonileg says

Dystopian sci-fi M/M story set in South America after the northern world is destroyed and leaves the world fun by mafia groups.

Dante Orsino started life loved and rich but that is all taken away when his parents are murdered and then he finds a new life in the mafia in his hometown where he quickly earns his way up the power structure to be rich and powerful. Dante meets Carlos Carmichael while in vacation and hiding his gayness, but reality hits him at home when there is an assassination attempt and he takes Carlos as his new slave. Carlos is born into a mafia family but is trying to escape it as much as he can, until he falls in love with Dante.

Lots of mafia politics (kind of boring) but some fun world building.

Quick read with no cliff hangers. Clearly part of a series with other M/M pairings.

235 pages and kindle freebie

2 and half stars
