



The Master

Kate Aaron

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Being rescued was only the start.

Otiz lies in ruins. As underlord of the region, Lysander knows where his responsibilities lie. He has an obligation to the survivors to rebuild their homes and their lives. But what about his home, his life?

Kai needs help. The damage inflicted on him goes beyond the marks left when he was tortured, but healing him might require more from Lysander than he's capable of giving. Of one thing he's certain: Tam and Kai will never be endangered again because of who he is, even if saving them means setting them free.

All Lysander wants is to be left in peace. To recover from the horrors of his experience at the hands of his enemies. But with pressure piling up from every angle, peace is the last thing he's likely to find. Suffocated by guilt, Lysander begins to spiral. How can he hold everything together, when inside he's falling apart?

60,000 words.

THE FREE MEN SERIES:

THE SLAVE

THE SOLDIER

THE MASTER

The Master Details

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Author : Kate Aaron

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From Reader Review The Master for online ebook

Gina says

OMG OMG what a series! I plowed through all of them in a couple of days. Couldn't put them down! I want more!!!

Highly recommended!

Don Bradshaw says

A perfect ending to a well written and unique trilogy.

Chelsea says

This book was a great conclusion to the series. It largely revolves around The Masters history and the history of him purchasing Tam and Kai, it was probably the most interesting back stories and I loved reading it.

However, I felt the main focus was on The Master working out what he wanted from his relationship with his boys and having the courage to take it. With that in mind this book is much more centred around the threesome than The Soldier was and it was nice to see their relationship grow.

There was less sex in this one than the first but more than the second and it was still smoking hot. especially that scene at the end ;-)

definitely recommend this series.

Sunny says

While I wanted Lysander's point of view, this story suffered from his conflicted feelings which led to too many internal monologues, reflecting his determination to do one thing even though he desperately wanted to do another. As he struggled between the two, he kept deciding on one course of action and then doing the opposite.

The constant back and forth sent mixed messages to Kai and Tam and it made me so angry; one of my MCs was breaking my number one rule, DON'T HURT MY MCs! It makes me crazy when an MC does stupid stuff for someone else's 'own good'. Also, the self-sacrifice got old fast; I had no patience for the martyrdom.

It all dragged on way too long.

Then, finally, it got better. Thanks to Kai. *nods* Kai knew what was what. And eventually the whole story

came out and even made sense, kind of. But I was still irritated we had to go through all the nonsense first, and for so long.

All that, and a few minor editing issues I didn't notice in the first two books, and this last story of the series just barely got the four hearts from me, and that mostly because I loved the other two books so much and I wanted my HEA.

As a whole, though, the series is definitely a new favorite of mine.

Review previously posted on

Shira Anthony says

Another excellent book in the Free Men series. I really enjoyed seeing yet another point of view in this MMM relationship. This book does a wonderful job of filling in the blanks the reader is still missing in the puzzle of this complicated and wonderful world. Dubcon/slave fiction is my guilty pleasure, and I enjoyed this series so much, I went through it in one weekend.

I ended up reading all 3 books back to back over a weekend. Highly recommend (and I already have, several times!).

Denise H. says

***** The wrap of in this book three is just as riveting as the first two books. A great trilogy.**
Here we are **post rescue and Kai's tortured body is healing**, but forever scarred. **Master/Lysander and Tam are recovering also**, and Master's torture was more mental than physical

from the evil Andor. On this planet with two suns, Mistress and Cas have been very helpful. Now they must travel to their ruined, ravaged home that they were stolen from. Once there everyone jumps in to assist the towns folk, and army in the clean up and rebuilding.

*** Master is laden with guilt** for all that has happened to everyone. He feels that he has been a terrible leader and deems himself unworthy of anyone's sympathy or understanding. Especially Tam and Kai's devotion. Here we get lots of introspect from Master's mind. **Kai is struggling** with his scars, where the hot oil burned his chest and genitals, and he still can't perform. But, **his lovers still lavish him with care and touches, and he and Master finally become closer.**

There are many things being tended to, like the orphans, the people, and the restorations.

*** This is beautifully written** with stunning descriptive details, that make us feel like we are watching a

movie.

The magnificent characters are flawed, doubting themselves, fearful and in need. The sex scenes are emotional and deeply intense, and later Master and Tam prove to Kai that he can function. Our guilty Master must make a choice.

This series is spectacular and heartwarming, even amidst the brutality. Our hearts are given to the trio. We want them happy and together.

The epilogue is lovely.

Highly recommended ! ENJOY !

=====
?? Michaelle ?? says

4 Stars

I liked this installment...but I think I was hoping for...more? I don't know specifically *what* I wanted out of it but most of this was just Lysander's thoughts and inner dialogue, with some input from Tam & Kai and a few of the other characters. Through their every day interactions and decisions...rebuilding, reconnecting, rebelling (a bit). On occasion, it felt like some sort of extra long epilogue instead of a its own book.

Part of what bothered me was that nothing was ever done about the bandits/bad guys in the desert lair. An off-handed mention of how Lysander wanted to slaughter them all for what was done to Kai plus using their existence to bolster the strategic position of staying in Otiz...and that's about it. No resolution or routing, no revenge. Also, I kind of wanted it to extend further into the future to see how Neemah handled (view spoiler). She was definitely steely, and seemed like she would.

What I did love was how much guilt Lysander had for his part in the decades long deception. That the deception wrought, the lie woven by those high up in the royal court was at least partially responsible for the deaths of those villagers, the destruction of the town. In a way he was just as much of a slave as Tam & Kai were, bound to his position, a prisoner of someone else's future. A gilded cage, but emotionally destructive & heart-breaking.

Also, DAMN! While I was off about the royal lineage bit, I think I might have hit on something about the nature/structure of the books in my last review. I mentioned that Tam's was all sex and that to Kai, Tam was "sex incarnate" so it makes sense his book would be a sex-fest. And Kai's book was about struggle, fighting (as a soldier is tasked to do); his struggle to accept his position, constantly rebelling against his fate as a slave but also wanting to find a place to belong...and the fight to escape the desert stronghold and mountain pass onslaught. This one was more about claiming the life they all wanted, about winding their futures together and becoming more equal (despite titles). About healing & love and standing up for what is right, for what they deserve, and finding the right balance for each of them to be truly happy. Becoming a true Master of one's fate.

In all, this was a great series...and having that first book free on Amazon (still) was a brilliant marketing plan/decision.

Joseph Tonlet says

Review is for the series as a whole rather than the individual books that comprise it.

Gah, sooo damn good! Without a doubt the sweetest 'slave story' I've ever read. *happy sigh*

Tina says

Best fantasy series ever!

Kate Aaron has done it again!

In this third part of the Free Men trilogy FINALLY Master Lysander is the narrator. Oh, how I waited for him to spill the beans! And how he did!

"I didn't think I'd ever be all right again!

.....

This was all my fault. I had known we were in danger, known it for months.

Wasn't that why I had sent Tam to find another slave in the first place?

Someone of his choosing, so when I set him free, he wouldn't be completely alone in the world?"

The fantasy world Kate has woven around our three heroes Tam, Kai and their Master Lysander blew me away, it was just breathtaking to read what they went through... OMG... I was glued to my kindle from the very first page and didn't want it to end. Ever!

An entire world against them couldn't destroy the growing affection between Tam, Kai and Lysander. Their love for each other (yeah, it takes Ly a while to confess it) was stronger than anything.

In The Slave and The Soldier we were kept in the dark about Lysander's motives and couldn't understand his behavior. But in The Master we finally have the chance to see inside his head and learn what he sacrificed, why he sent Tam away to purchase Kai, why he did to Kai what he did, why he couldn't talk about his feelings, why he remained married so long, and who Neemah is.

Oh boy, how Lysander pulled at my heartstrings! The strong master, the underlord who isn't THAT strong all the time, who has his weaknesses.

A tear leaked down my face, and I dashed it angrily away. I had no right to cry. I trembled with the effort of keeping everything inside, of keeping tears at bay. If I let them out, they'd consume me, and I needed to be strong. Needed to be the master everyone

expected me to be. My world had fallen apart, and only I could put it back together.

If you love fantasy combined with menage The Free Men series will capture you. In this last book of the trilogy one sex-scene in particular blew me away and left me breathless... reduced me to a puddle of goo. Those three are soooo hot together! Brilliant written!

Btw... I loved Cas. What a wonderful supporting character. I'm sure he could fill a fourth book easily.

Btw, Kate, one abominable creature is still alive.

Gently I prised him (Kai) off me, cupping his face and raising his head to look at him. His eyes were wet, filled with so much pain I wanted to ride into the desert, storm the stronghold, take Andor in my bare hands, and wring the life out of him inch by bloody, gasping inch.

Can't wait for that to happen! Just saying...

The Free Men trilogy is definitely one of my Top 5 reads this year. Marvelously done! Highly recommended!

JustJen "Miss Conduct" says

4.5 star review by The Blogger Girls.

What a wonderful little fantasy series this has been. This one, as the title suggests, is told in Lysander's point of view. The guys are all on the mend but still recovering at the castle.

It doesn't take long before doubts set in, mostly from Lysander, as he feels guilty for his role in the suffering of not only Tam and Kai, but of the people of Otiz and his home as well. This was the worst part for me, his constant reminding us of this fact, but the rest of the story is so wonderful that I was able to set it aside.

There are quite a few character developments that happen this time around. Kai is still trying to deal with his scars and how the guys see him, but they do a fabulous job showing him how they see beyond them, that he is not damaged goods and still a whole person. Kai makes the biggest strides here, both with himself and with his relationship with Lysander. It takes a while, but eventually that trust comes back stronger than before.

Tam is still the same sweet guy, but he comes out of his shell a bit more when he is tasked with helping heal the people of Otiz. They spend a considerable amount of time trying to help the people there and to rebuild the town. There are some powerful scenes there, especially involving Kai, where he finds a purpose and acceptance among the children and people.

The lies and secrets eventually come to a head – I was turning pages very quickly to get to these details. They are the source of many of Lysander's problems, but there is also development here that includes his wife and her lover. Everything just really came together, even though, at times, it wasn't easy for any of

them. In the end, true feelings won out as everyone realized what was important and what they cared about the most.

I'm a bit sad to see the end of this. I couldn't read it fast enough, but I didn't want to let these guys go. It was truly a fabulous read, from beginning to end. I loved getting each of the guys' perspectives and watching them grow and end up loving each other. Fantastic world building, vivid details, and even some smexy to go along with it. I highly recommend this to anyone looking for an interesting fantasy that has a little bit of everything to offer.

Diverse says

Free Men, Book 3 The Master ended this series perfectly. Kate Aaron, has yet again, mastered the written word. Her creation of a world and the characters in it is breathtaking. Book 1 (The Slave) we followed Tam's POV and Kate whisked us away into a world where boundaries were pushed, love truly is stronger than anything, and the impossible is challenged. In Book 2 (The Soldier) we were sucked into Kai's world, and the darkness that consumed him. His past, as horrible as it was, had nothing on what awaited him at the hands of his own. But, again, love was a huge healer in that book. Now, The Master, book 3 to this marvelous series brings it all full circle. Finally, we hear from Lysander. FINALLY we truly understand his feelings for Tam and Kai. The purpose of Kai's purchase, and how every sacrifice he made, and makes, is selfless.

I was blown away and left breathless by this book and this entire series will go down as an all time favorite series! I applaud Kate Aaron.

Elena says

As it is the last book of Free Men series, this review will be as much about The Master, its last part, as the whole trilogy...

So, Lysander's book now...

After all the emotional and nerve-wrecking turmoil of The Soldier, in The Master our three MCs are finally together...

They're working hard to rebuild their home and city but also to regain that loving, caring relationship they managed to establish before the attack on the compound.

Although it's Lysander's POV now, we see him struggle to regain his position in Otiz and his inner peace, coming to terms with what must be done... I think that Kai stole this book! At least for me ;)

Again, he was the strongest character of this triangle, the hero, the unwavering protector, the one who saw and understood things that Lysander fought so fiercely to hide from Tam and Kai. He saw Lysander as the troubled, strained nobleman, desperately trying to be strong and commanding, striving to do "the right thing"...

And that's all true... Lysander has his own inner battles to fight, without the hope of winning, as the fate he doesn't even want weighs him down bit by bit. He is torn, so terribly riven by his love (let's face it, he KNOWS it's LOVE, he just doesn't want to admit it) towards his slaves and closest companions and by his obligations and duties to his son, wife and, ultimately, to his country... :(He cannot crumble, although he so, so wants to...

And again, when the moment finally comes, when Lysander finally breaks down, who is right there for him? Who pushes right through his defences, making him face his fears and needs and acknowledge that he's only a human being with cravings and rights to be happy as anyone else??? You guessed it! It was KAI!

So, as far as I loved more and more the whole trilogy... As it grew stronger and stronger on me... Beginning from a little dragged and uneven The Slave (which had to give us the background of the 3 MCs and the plot-building to keep us hooked and maybe that's why not as good as I wanted it to be), through this impossibly difficult (both physically and emotionally) Kai's journey in The Soldier and up to this almost totally internally monologued by Lysander The Master... I must say that the best POV was, for me, Kai's and his part of the series impressed me the most.

And now, some spoilers!!!

I lacked a few bits and pieces in this final part, for example: (view spoiler)

I also wanted to see a bit more of... (view spoiler)

And some wrap-up for (view spoiler)

All in all? I loved that series! After a little rough beginning, I must rate it with 5 stars as a whole! Lysander, Kai and Tam are just beautiful together... *sigh*

Katerina says

Too bad that it's over.

An entertaining trilogy, which spreads a wonderful **1001 Arabian nights** mood.
One must have experienced this. You can feel it, smell it, experience it for yourself.

That's Lysander's book.

It is the story of a deep friendship that ends in an ill-fated marriage of convenience. Both partners are unhappy. A solution is not in sight.

And it is the story of two slaves who love their master to self-abandonment.
One is a blond youth.

The other is a fierce soldier.

And the big question is: Who is the Prince in this spectacle?

The prince, who not wants to be one ...

It was like a fairy tale.
And fairy tales always end well!
Something for the heart.
I loved it. Very loved it.

And so farewell

Bev says

What an amazing journey for these three men: Lysander, Tamelik and Kai. What a fabulous fantasy series Free Men has been for this reader. Captivating, atmospheric, wonderful world building and superb characterisations. Magnificent.

5 brilliantly shiny stars from me, and many congrats Kate!!

Tamelik (The Slave, book 1 of Free Men), captured as a boy, his family slain, the fates were smiling on him the day he was sent to Lysander's house, where he was treated gently and sympathetically and eventually became Lysander's pleasure-slave and lover.

Kai (The Soldier, book 2 of Free Men), a soldier who was captured and sold into slavery, was bought by Tamelik at the slave market. Tam had not even considered anyone else once he caught sight of Kai, and Kai was furious with himself and everyone else, anger spilling over like a spoilt child but he soon grew to understand that no-one would deliberately hurt him at the Master's house, until that fateful day when the compound where they lived was overrun by a small army of mercenaries and killers, greedy for the ransom they would get for capturing....

Lysander (The Master, book 3 of Free Men), who they believed to be the missing prince of Thirsk. Kai was badly tortured by one particularly brutal sadist called Andor (don't think I've forgotten who YOU are, you bastard!!) in the hope that he would reveal Lysander's true identity...he hadn't a clue, Tam and Lysander were imprisoned, many of the compound's other inhabitants were slaughtered. Some disgruntled members of the mercenaries were afraid that they would never see any share of whatever ransom they could get, and Kai therefore played upon their greed, suggesting that he go to Lysander's wife Neemah and obtain money for their release. My brave Kai!! Of course, nothing is as it seems, and this last book in the series puts us all through the wringer until the end...and no, I'm not going into any more detail.

Quotes... ‘*We were more than a master and his slaves, more than pawns being manoeuvred in someone else's game. We were free men, who had chosen each other for love, and love alone.*’

‘*We might never be seen as equals in the eyes of outsiders, but in these moments, THEY were the masters and I, their slave.*’

Tanu Gill says

I was sorely disappointed with the ending of this. Where the first two books had a taxing physical battle and soul-drenching emotional battle, the battle in this one was solely emotional, as they all were dealing with the consequences of the attack on the compound.

And I was quite fine with it, too. Except for when I felt too many sexy scenes in place of some progression, and when Lysander attempted penetration with Kai and double penetration with Tam without their all ever having discussed this topic. That totally made me hate him. I wanted their to be some conversation before the ventured into this deeper intimacy, and it was such a hurried and non-thought-out decision and act that I almost abhorred Lysander.
