



Assimilation, Love, and Other Human Oddities

Lyn Gala

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Ondry and Liam have settled into a good life, but their trading is still tied up with humans, and humans are always messy. When political changes at the human base lead Ondry to attempt a difficult trade, the pair find themselves entangled in human affairs. Liam wants to help the people he left and the worlds being torn apart. He also wants to serve Ondry with not only the pleasures of the nest but also by bringing human profits.

Ondry has no hope of understanding human psychology in general, he only knows that he will hold onto his palteia with the last breath in his body, and he'd like to keep his status and his wealth too. Unfortunately, new humans bring new conflicts and he is not sure how to protect Liam. He does know one thing that humans seem to constantly forget—that the peaceful Rownt are predators and when their families are threatened, Rownt become deadly killers. Liam is his family, and Ondry will protect him with his last breath... assuming that he can recognize the dangers in time to do so.

Assimilation, Love, and Other Human Oddities Details


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From Reader Review Assimilation, Love, and Other Human Oddities for online ebook

♣ Irish Smurfétté ♣ says

I've said it before, will continue to do so, and say it again here: external conflict with which characters must deal is so much more interesting, real and satisfying than manufactured, unnecessary, and transparent conflict between characters in an attempt to create tension in a story.

Gala once again achieves this as she did in book one, Claimings, Tails, and Other Alien Artifacts.

My buy-in is practically immediate and much deeper when characters are permitted to share themselves in this style instead of that fake and frustrating habit so many authors have in using frankly lame internal strain twixt the mains.

Amiright? Yup, I think so, too.

Furthermore, and I feel I must, this approach is wonderfully wrapped up in an intriguing world that continues to breed curiosity and high enjoyment for me. In other words: Liam and Ondry, the wonderful humor that is both subversive in delivery - mostly by Ondry - and screams with joy in poking fun at us normal human types, the beauty and connection that are our warm, intelligent leads, and the simply fun details of Rownt and their culture.

Ok, I was already feeling fab after having just finished this book, but writing this has upped those endorphins running amok while replaying Liam and Ondry and this latest portrayal of their awesomeness.

I so appreciate and revel in Gala not taking the expected and typical routes in her storytelling. Instead, she trusts her characters who reward that trust by doing what's right for them. This, of course, means they do right by us. It also means unpredictability in where the story goes and I love that.

Do I recommend this? Hell yeah.

Do I want more of Liam and Ondry and their awesome connection? Hell yeah!! Gimme gimme.

Lyn Gala says

To anyone keeping track of this, the new cover is now out...

<http://www.loose-id.com/assimilation-...>

... and we are on track for a September 23 release date. Now what do I do with all the "short story" bits that didn't make it into the book. I've asked for my editor's opinion on that one, BTW.

Emma Sea says

I have this vision of a genre called M/M Fiction, where you could take out the romance/sex, and the book would stand alone, but which has a distinctly M/M feel in syntax, characters, structure etc and is not at all the same thing as Gay Fiction.¹ And look, here is Lyn Gala striding boldly forward in my new genre, with a first contact novel which stands alone perfectly happily if you took out the mind-melting tailsex and ilsil: **not that we want to do that!**

I super-enjoyed the hell out of this.

¹ To be clear, for M/M Fiction we don't go ahead and *take out* the romance/sex! Heck; why on earth . . . ? But the book has an actual plot, and the sex is there because it's a part of life, not because the entire book is about whether one man gets to insert an appendage into the orifice of another man. Not that I don't love books like that too! Because they rock. They all rock. Lyn Gala rocks!

Kaje Harper says

I love Ondry. Not just as the perfect mate, someone for whom care and protection of his partner is his driving force, beyond even making a profit. But also as an alien, whose thoughts and motivations are not identical to human processes. He's not just a tall man with a purple skin. He's similar enough to be wholly engaging (and lovable) and different enough to be intriguing. I really enjoyed getting both his and Liam's POVs in this installment.

You have to read the first book first. (Note that there is a real D/s component to these, but not a pain-BDSM component.) There are also a couple of short freebies out there which add a touch of understanding. (I especially enjoyed the Grandmother's POV.) This series is among my favorite SF M/M, and definitely my favorite sex-with-an-alien for the sheer plausibility of this.

And now there is adventure and species-interaction set up for the next installment. It can't come too soon for me. The third book will be on my TBR the moment I see it.

~☆~Dœni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

Gala's *Assimilation, Love, and Other Human Oddities* returns to the world of Ondry and his palteia Liam. It sinks us into the Rownt culture, where logic, status, and trade are valued above all else, and there's no word for war.

Gala's writing, the depth of her linguistic research, and the world she creates are magical.

The Rownt had preserved nature on most of the planet, so they found no special beauty in an unspoiled landscape the way humans did.

This book is not about kink, and there is no sex in the way we define sex. I added it to my Dom-sub shelf, because I have no label for the relationship between Ondry and Liam. Ondry's status is Liam's status. Ondry's sole purpose in life is to protect and care for Liam, and Liam's is to serve and comfort Ondry.

What Liam and Ondry have could be called love. But it wouldn't be entirely accurate. Because "love" is not a strong enough word to encompass the level of trust, understanding, patience, diligence, selflessness, gentleness, and caring in their relationship.

Couples on Earth navigate multiracial relationship, and conflicts over religion or socioeconomic status, which can make partnerships more difficult. Liam and Ondry navigate planets and solar systems, as well as grand concepts of culture, language, and psychology that can barely be defined much less explained.

"Do you need help?"

"No," Ondry said.

"Is this a Rownt thing?" Liam asked.

"Yes," Ondry said.

"Okay."

Liam and Ondry deal with tricky trades, thousand-year-old Grandmothers, young eggings, a human trader/colonel named Susan Diallo, and a multi-colored 800-pound wild "cat." But their relationship is never the source of angst. They are solid.

"As long as I have Ondry, human opinion means nothing to me," Liam said, and he spoke the truth.

Liam now identifies more with Rownt culture than human culture, and as I saw our world through Liam and Ondry's eyes, the illogical fallacies of Earth people struck me as a stark contrast to the ordered Rownt.

"Weapons are standard. They don't mean that the human intend violence."

"When I push a cart, I plan to put something in it." Ondry countered.

Liam smiled. "Human are likely to push a cart everywhere they go just in case they need to carry something later."

The Rownt don't lie but move around topics. Sex isn't about power or control; it's not even about pleasure. There's no rape. There's battle with a definite purpose, but there is no war, which by definition is pointless and without an end. Insults are used to bargain, not to put down. Someone who submits isn't weak, because how can a weak being be strong enough to hold up his chilta?

And my favorite Rownt concept:

Ondry gave a trill of amusement that also implied he was mocking humans. "No Rownt would undervalue a female because of her sex. Human logic is deeply flawed."

Indeed.

Rosa, really says

I suspect that just like Claimings, Tails, and Other Alien Artifacts, *Assimilation* will be added to the list of books I've read and reread so many times my Kindle sighs and asks me why I have nothing better to do with my life. Well, my Kindle can suck it.

Liam and Ondry have such trust in each other, value each other so highly -- how could you possibly *not* want to experience that over and over again?

Ondry:

When Ondry would lie in bed at night and Liam would stroke his neck until his skin tingled and his muscles were so loose that he doubted he could get up for a wild *Toal* attack, Ondry knew contentment enough to replace the joy of a trade. However, Ondry still preferred this utter surrender. The thrill of knowing Liam trusted him so much affected Ondry in a way he had never thought possible.

Liam:

Liam understood himself and his failings. He'd always given too much of himself, trusted too deeply, and striven too hard to make others happy. In the past, this had been his Achilles' heel, and every lover he'd had took advantage of it. Only Ondry seemed to think that Liam's gifts were valuable.

Sequels to my favorite books make me happier than being left alone with an entire pan of Nutella brownies, but they also stress me out. So often a sequel means misunderstandings and arguments between beloved characters. Even worse, break ups. It's painful and I hate it. Books are my happy place. But there's none of that relationship angst in *Assimilation*. They face major challenges, animal attacks and the "oddities" of other humans, but between this book and the last their relationship has only grown deeper. I can't imagine one being without the other. Just writing that in a review makes my heart clench with happiness.

Another beautiful part of this novel is observing how Liam has adapted to (and adopted) Rownt society, Rownt way's of thinking. There are several scenes in *Assimilation* where Liam, instead of reacting like a human would to an event or conversation, reacts like a Rownt. He "huffs" several times, which is something the Rownt do to smell others' feelings or to express a wide range of emotions. Sometimes he misjudges human facial expressions because he's reading them as Rownt would. Liam is more Rownt than human.

I get the same feeling from Lyn Gala. It's like she's now spent so much time with her characters, in the world she's built, that she better understands her own creation. (I'm convinced she could even speak Rownt if you asked her to.) Her greater understanding leads to a deepening understanding in her readers, which means that it's not just Liam who's assimilated to the Rownt world, Gala's readers have as well. It makes for an even better novel than *Claimings*.

I love this book -- I love it, I love it, I want to hug it. I want to hug Liam and Ondry and thank them for being so beautiful together. Reading about their relationship, two people so devoted to each other, fills me with such peace that how could I possibly not reread it? I just want to sit near them and listen in on their private moments, until I feel calmer and better able to face a world filled with judgmental electronics. Stupid Kindle.

9/1/2014

I can't even *SAY* how happy this makes. **REALLY FUCKIN' HAPPY.**

There, I said it.

Julio Genao says

[turned out to be special forces who couldn't hit a stationary target menacing them from a few feet away, ran out of ammo, said "I'M OUT OF AMMO!!" and flung her gun at the thing, and then miraculously produced both a brand new gu

Lilia Ford says

Lovely. It's probably impossible that I could adore this as much as Claimings, Tails, and Other Alien Artifacts, which is literally one of my favorite, most reread books, but this sequel contained more of Gala's fascinating exploration of cultural difference through a focus on linguistics, and on how our words, and at times our lack of words, reflect both our priorities and our limitations. It was wonderful to have access to Ondry's perspective and get more insight into the Rownt way of looking at the world. The portrayal of Diallo could have been a caricature but it wasn't.

Bottom line: I'll definitely reread this and highly recommend this unique series to anyone who likes sci-fi, or who just wants a beautiful, unexpected love story.

Vivian says

Think I preferred this one over the first because we get a better look at Ondry and Rownt society. I really enjoy the world building even if the gerontocracy sets me on edge. Plus, Ondry's an absolute sweetheart, I'd let him tail me.

And, I still want a pillow nest.

Favorite quote:

"I like how you smell, but if you do not, I also like it when your smell is so faint that it is something for only me."

Ann says

Wow.

Just, WOW!

I don't have words that will do this one justice.

5 Freakin' Stars My Friends!

What an amazing book. I honestly could not put it down once I started. I thought I loved Liam and Ondry after reading Claimings, Tails and Other Alien Artifacts, but reading about them as an established pair in Claimings #2 was an experience that was so much more than just loving a couple of characters. Their dynamic has matured and everything I "pretty much understood" in Claimings became crystal clear in Assimilations. Their dialogs were such a pleasure to read and they have a depth now that has grown since the first book.

While the closest human definition of Liam's status would be that of a submissive, the Rownt definition of palteia just makes so much sense! I totally get it. I can intellectually understand what I'm told about a D/s relationship. But, a chilta and pelteia relationship is so logically and completely explained I couldn't help but be fascinated by it. Ondry and Liam revered one another so much in every action, I could feel that they were equals and one truly complemented the other.

The world building is some of the best I've ever read. There was so much detail, but it was never overwhelming as sci-fi and fantasy can sometimes be. I didn't need a flow chart, a dictionary and search party to follow along. The focus stayed on point making the information flow organically so that I was able to get complete caught up in the story instead of spending time figuring out who a character was or where they came from.

My favorite thing though, was the exchanges between Ondry and Liam when they were alone. They both became fully multi-dimensional characters to me. Ondry has a real sense of humor and Liam can be such a smart ass, I just fell in love with them both all over again, just harder this time.

I highlighted the bejeezus out of this book. Like, a book length of highlighting. Ondry's dry observations were usually my favorite. Simple, brilliant and above all logical, I need an Ondry in my life to keep me on track. I may have used this on conversation today and will most definitely use it again:

"That fact is so true it does not require stating."

So, according to Ondry I can't really gush about how much I loved this book, see above.

Jenni Lea says

Brilliant!

You've all heard the term 'Death by Chocolate', right? Well, this was **'Death by Ondry'**.

I cannot express how much I love Ondry. He may be my #1 most loved character out of any book I have read, **ever**. He is pretty much the most perfect specimen of male and he's not even human! I'm seriously thinking of having T-shirts made that say 'I ♥ Ondry' on them. I love him that much.

Assimilation, Love, and Other Human Oddities is not your standard romance. Sure, there are romantic

elements and you get to see how much the love Liam and Ondry have for each other progresses but the story doesn't have the romance at the forefront. Don't get me wrong, this story is romantic as hell but it's done in such a subtle way as to make the reader not even notice until they are suddenly hit with a shot directly to the feels.

The characters and world building are absolutely brilliant. Brilliant! Lyn Gala knows subtlety and she wields her mighty pen well. The plot is intricate, the characters multi-dimensional. It was fascinating! Ms. Gala uses her words so well that she was able to get me to feel disdain for humans - my own species! I sympathized more with the Rownt than I did my own kind. Now that's writing!

I would love to see more from this world, even if it doesn't have Liam and my Ondry as the main characters. I am fascinated by everything about Prarownt and its people. I want more!

Oh, and because I cannot say it enough here it is one more time.

I ♥ Ondry

Post-read, pre-review:

Here are some thoughts to tide you over:

1. brilliant, *brilliant* writing
2. I ♥ Ondry
3. reminds me of Anne McCaffrey's Catteni series. <--- highest form of praise IMO
4. I no longer think very highly of the human race. We are an arrogant people. >:[
5. I ♥ Ondry
6. I want to move to Prarownt
7. I ♥ Ondry

Shin Mon Thway says

Wow, I can't even find words to sum up how I feel about this book. **This books is an art.** The intricacies, delicacy and the amount of details on linguistics of this book, it just blew me away.

So the journey of Liam and Ondry continues here as they tried to trade with a human captain who's sent to Prarownt as the first contact linguist and Ondry is struggling a bit with the other Rownts who will neither accept or deny his Ka status at a mere 200 years of age. (Which is considered still a youngling according to Rownt lifespan) We can see the intimacy, love, utter trust and absolute sacrifice between our two MCs. The scene where Ondry tried to kill a "kawt" with bare hands to protect Liam, it gave me goosebumps. I won't talk much about how the plots and storyline go on since I want **YOU**, my friend, to read this yourself and savor it, cherish it and value it.

Here are some of my favorite excerpts from this novel .. ?

"No Rownt would undervalue a female because of her sex. Human logic is deeply flawed."

"Knowing this, I am tempted to chain you to the nest and keep you there so you cannot injure yourself."

"Captain, Rownt culture is complicated. For five years, Ondry courted me and tried to teach me everything he knew about his culture. I completely missed that we were, essentially, dating."

"Humans are likely to push a cart everywhere they go just in case they need to carry something later."

"As long as I have Ondry, human opinion means nothing to me," Liam said, and he spoke the truth."

These dialogues gave me a new perspective on everything about how humans think, do and interact with each other and makes me question about the sanity of our own humankind.

Love, love, loveeeeeee Liam and Ondry to death!!! ♡?♡?♡?

Well deserved 5 stars
?????????

Optimist ?King's Wench? says

Palteia.

I've been struggling with what to say about this book for several days now. Gone through several revisions, some were downright terse. In short, I loved it. Adored it, really, but I don't think it will resonate with everyone. There are romantic moments between Liam and Ondry that are divine especially when Ondry was drawing love symbols on Liam's neck with his fingers. *sigh*

However, I wouldn't necessarily categorize it as a romance novel. It's tagged science fiction and space opera, both of which are befitting.

I'm not sure what the time lapse is between the two *Claimings* novels, but during that time Liam and Ondry have surpassed established; they're a unit. They act in one another's best interests, beyond altruism. Liam has incorporated the ethos of the Rownt, carries Ondry's status and safeguards it as steadfastly as Ondry. I was delighted by the progression of their relationship as well as the elevated status of the palteia. It's thought to be a great honor to have a palteia, Ondry has no qualms with PDAs and relishes showing Liam off. Actually, they've achieved a bit of a celebrity status. Just how close they've become is palpable. They tease each other, the tail sex is still amazing as is the pillow nest and the ilsil. I loved them. I really did. Then again I loved them in the first book, so this is not news.

As much as I loved Liam and Ondry's relationship, it took a backseat to the world building. This is the most intricately detailed world building of Ms. Gala's I've read and *Turbulence* was no slouch. Ms. Gala made Prarownt a living breathing canvas upon which everything else plays out. It's almost a character in and of itself. Prarownt is a utopian society wherein females rule. There is no prejudice, no crime, there is an inherent trust within the Rownt, emphasis is placed on status and earning that status through intelligent and cunning trades rather than it being commercialized. The needs of the community supersede the needs of the individual, and children are precious and valuable. Basically, I'd like to apply for citizenship. Where can I do this? Is there some sort of Prarownt embassy? And I'm not even mentioning the features, personalities, and abilities of the Rownt!

Everything was exceptional. Everything.

The storyline unfolds gradually and with deliberation. I enjoyed it because we got to experience more of Prarownt, but the humans... not so much. Humans are full of suck. **Major suckage.**

This book "happened" for me in a completely different way than the first. And to think all this time I've been deluding myself into believing that I didn't like sci-fi! **HA!** Joke's on me. Touché, Lyn Gala.

I would recommend it to people who love Lyn Gala, sci-fi, exemplary world building and tails.

I've got my fingers crossed that this isn't the end for Liam and Ondry, but if it is I'm happy I got to tag along in their journey for as long as it lasted.

SheReadsALot says

Before Reading:

Tears of joy because this solidified my enjoyment of this author's words.

After Reading: The world building...the connection...Liam and Ondry. Yes. *happy sigh*

Check out our unicorn group review on BMBR of *Assimilation, Love, and Other Human Oddities* - dudes it was 5 hearts unanimously across the board!!!!

5 Hearts - I had to really think about my feelings on this one.

This story will not work for everyone. **Warning, this story is not for everyone!** You want gushy, mushy love scenes and copious amounts of tail sex? You need heart pacing action and high suspense? You want Ondry to magically grow a human penis to finally give Liam the business?

This is **not** that story. This novel would work best for fans of Ondry and Liam.

Going back to the preface of book #1, the author created this idea based on a perfect Dom. This came into the form of Rownt alien, Ondry, a perfect specimen of a caretaker Dom. Thank fuck for him because I love caretaker Doms. In a market that can be overloaded with Dom alpha-holes, I enjoy this author's Dominants. They think before they act, they think of their partners needs and consider the scene in its entirety. But Ondry is not just any Dom, he is chilta. Liam his partner, is his palteia. What is a palteia? What is a chilta? "*Assimilation, Love, and Other Human Oddities*" is a novel that explains to the reader what exactly they are.

I am not going to fangirl on you. I will however try to get across my joy that the sequel is a fitting continuation of the novella, "*Claimings, Tails, and Other Alien Artifacts*". Instead of being jammed packed full of unnecessary crazy plot twists or action sequences, this is filled with tighter world building, wars fought with intelligence and words instead of weapons (okay there was one scene but it was needed. Trust me) and a love of science fiction. Liam and Ondry are tested but prove how strong the bonds between a palteia and chilta truly are. Instead of overt machinations, subtle, smart and cool tactics are used.

For the smut lovers, there is more tail sex. Don't worry. You should read "*Claimings, Tails, and Other Alien Artifacts*" before this book. The world building in book #1 are seedlings and book #2 is the sapling that shot out of there. There is some political/societal arguments in between the Rownt/human struggle. They are sound arguments. Is this a romance novel? I wouldn't call it a traditional one. Then again, a human and Rownt alien interspecies couple that can't have penetrative sex isn't your average storybook pairing, now are they?

To sum up this book in a word, beautiful.

Sheziss says

I can barely stand this awesomeness!

Now I'll seek my own Ondry everywhere!

Don't want to come back to RL!
