



Sacred Secrets

Roxy Harte

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Celia sold herself in a bargain for rough play and a great story--not murder.

Celia Brentwood, fetish reporter for San Francisco's *Inappropriate Voices*, agrees to auction herself off as a BDSM slave for thirty days. She plans to write a first-person exposé, but after she's purchased by Garrett Lawrence, the most eligible gay bachelor in town, her story becomes an insider peek at the man once accused of killing his lover.

Garrett still mourns the loss of his beloved, but the past is hard to forget when it's stalking him. The real killer is obsessed with Garrett...until Celia's deception is discovered and the killer decides she's the perfect route to his prey.

Sacred Secrets Details

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Author : Roxy Harte

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From Reader Review Sacred Secrets for online ebook

Thea™ says

The blurb sounded really interesting, but unfortunately I definitely didn't enjoy this books as much as I anticipated. This book was not what I expected of it; for me it was just..... weird. It took me a while to get into it and the switching back and forth between POV's confused me. Often I just didn't 'understand' what I was reading? I knew what the words meant but just didn't apprehend what they were saying. Does that make any sense? lol

There probably was a good story in this book somewhere, it just didn't came out for me! I really tried but this book wasn't for me. I was glad it was over... 400-plus pages was way too long for me. I'd say... 3 tiny stars. It's unlikely I'll read the rest of the series.

Boek na 't lezen ook niet bewaard! ;-)

I ♥ Bookie Nookie (bookienookiereviews.blogspot.com) says

This was a very emotional book. It had a unique beginning and an unexpected ending. I am not a fan of 1st person point of view story telling--also not a fan of the Piccoult style narrator switching. I find it confusing as it interrupts the flow of story and found myself flipping back to see who's POV I was reading. I did like this book even considering it shortcomings. It is a story heavily laden with BDSM and a serious D/s culture. As with a lot of bondage novels I have read as of late, this one doesn't have much sex in it...the sex is mostly inferred.

Being that I have no personal knowledge or experience with BDSM or D/s culture, it is difficult for me to understand and sympathize with the players in this arena--especially when extreme pain and punishment is involved. Make no mistake about it, this book is heavy in the lifestyle-IMO. If u have any aversion to pain and humiliation or round the clock role play, then this may not be the book for you. After I finished, I found that I am really looking forward to book 2. I am hoping for more romantic emotion.

** Reviewed on I ♥ Bookie Nookie Reviews

If you like this type of book, you might enjoy one of these groups. Check us out!

Menage Readers

Erotic Enchants

Bookie Nookie's Erotic Lending Group

Michael Dunellen says

I always try not to decide on a rating as I read through the book but I don't always succeed. I was thinking this was a solid 4 when I decided to give it a 5 than I decided it didn't deserve that and it was back to 4 but

the ending moved it back to 5 and I decided just now to put it on my favorite's list as well.

So 10 years ago Garrett was a medical student, engaged and exactly where he thought he wanted to be. Then he met Tony and realized his life wasn't what he wanted it to be. Then he met Thomas who showed him that there was something inside that he never knew was there. Garrett became Lord Ice and Tony became Beast and together they started the hottest BDSM club in San Francisco. Life was good. Then Tony was horrifically tortured and murdered and Lord Ice died. On the surface, Garrett seemed to recover but it was a lie. Then at the club's annual Charity Slave Auction, he is struck by a young woman who has been entered in the auction. When he sees her abused by her owner, he knows he must claim her for his own. And when he gets her home, he finds his new slave has been so abused that she is unable to trust and that it will be his task to help her.

If this doesn't sound like the book's description, well, I guess you need to read it for yourself and decide. For a long time, I was really wishing this were the only plot, because I thought it would have been a fascinating tale.

I had some real problems with this book early on. The slave auction was just over the top - an auction is one thing, thirty days is just ridiculous. There is no way real people would do something like that. I always spent a good portion of the book afraid that Kitten was going to die from dehydration from the alcohol and the fact he kept forgetting to let her have any water. The glass bubble was just goofy.

I haven't talked about Celia much so far and that is because you don't really get to know her until the latter part of the book. She is so much more of a complex character than you realize at first.

If you feel daring, click the link found here: [\(view spoiler\)](#)

One quick confession: I made the mistake of reading the description for Book 2 and I will admit it bothered me. At the end, though, it all makes perfect sense.

Angela says

That was a little crazy and not in the good way. I really didn't like Kitten at all. Her personality was all over the place and then at the very last minute she does something completely bizarre. Garrett wasn't written well. I was so confused and couldn't get into his mind set to empathize with him. He's supposed to be the premier gay dom in the city or country or something. After 10 years of nothing but men he doesn't even hesitate before muffin munching after simply looking at her? So he's bisexual? Why not write that part a bit more and help me understand. He isn't very dom like and other Doms in his club have no issues poaching from him. This was a mess but I did kind of like Thomas. Still trying to decide if want to read the next one which should have him in it more.

?Sinful says

Simply speechless.

It isn't the erotica. Not the BDSM. Not the murder mystery.

It's the emotion.

The story flips between Garret and Celia's POV. This is a character study as much as Picoult. It is about their

painful individual twisted pasts, their connection in the present and the miasma of joy/pain that engulfs them on their new awakening. It is about daring to take a step towards healing and each other.

There is no HEA for this story. Not in this book. This is the first step. The discovery that they both want to heal, and a choice to do so in order to be together. The only thing you can expect to find tied neatly up at the end of this book is the murder mystery.

I applaud Harte for taking the time to really create the characters. Most romance even eroticromance ends with the HEA in one book. I go to Black Dagger Brotherhood and think of how much more could have been done with Zhadist's book if this had been the format.

There is love. Joy. cheering. Laughing. But in the end I just wanted to kiss all of them to make it better. They all have so far to go to dealing with their pasts, and let's face it, no matter what a romance novel writes, love really doesn't heal it. You can't find that special someone and then be cured. They will help you on your journey, but you've got your own path to beat to get to your own HEA.

Dee says

took a while to get into it and the switching back and forth between POV's made me confused at first, but it got better and by the end I didn't want to put it down.

Flow says

I got to 50% through the book and couldn't continue to read. Even then, I skimmed through a lot of it.

I think it might have been not dark enough, it was too romancey for me lol.

The book did switch characters a lot, between the male and the female.

January says

Amazing

Oml this book goes over do many things I've thought and dreamt about its not funny. Maybe one day I can experience everything Kitten did, so can't wait for the next book!!! Thank you Roxy

Vivian says

Tantalizing and emotional. Harte stops at a reasonable point in the story, but there is definitely a Part Two to this tale which I plan on reading. I found the alternating first person POV distracting at times though the author makes it clear by the headings under each chapter.

The FountainPenDiva, Old school geek chick and lover of teddy bears says

What did I *think*?

That I'm glad it's over and that at 400-plus pages it went on WAY too long.

Sacred Secrets was like a bad B-movie, but not in the good way of "bad". It's everything I *hate* about BDSM novels, but on steroids:

- 1) There's a high end bondage/fetish club that caters to high end clientele - check
- 2) There's a filthy rich and mysterious owner who is impossibly handsome and mysterious - check
- 3) There's all sorts of wonderful and expensive toys - check
- 4) Everyone in said club is drop-dead gorgeous - check
- 5) Everyone in said book has issues, a past, some psychological bent trip that leads them to BDSM - double check
- 6) Said mysterious and handsome owner falls in love with the one piece of tail who doesn't know she really likes being tied up and flogged for fun - check

Did I leave anything out?

Firstly, I just couldn't get past the lame monikers for the Dom/mes--Lord Ice (aka Garrett Lawrence our erstwhile mysterious and handsome lead), Lord Fyre, Dr. Psycho (really?) and Mistress Morgana. Throw in some feline and canine play with people barking, purring and sniffing just for fun, a sad sack of a heroine who doesn't know she really needs punishment (or something like that), a psycho killer who sends messages once a year after having killed said Lord Ice's lover and the novel equivalent of the Bay Area Reporter and stir well. Oh wait, just for the shits and giggles let's have the kindly black transgender heroine who is basically Oprah in drag, and a Mexican houseboy who speaks broken english just so we can show just how lacking in some cultural sensitivity we are. Even the sex scenes weren't enough to make this book even worth a happy tingle in the happy parts, especially when the fisting scene ends up with the heroine getting a urinary tract infection though her pussy is happily throbbing...seriously, her words.

Okay, the plot as I remember it is that sad sack Celia writes for an underground BDSM paper called *Inappropriate Voices*. She's tapped to go undercover at the high-end bondage club--*Lewd Larry's* (yes, but to be fair at least it's not called something typical like Inquisition, though in this case I could make an exception) at their annual slave action for charity as guess what? A slave--how could you ever guess? And surprise, surprise, surprise, she's so compelling that the mysterious and handsome owner of the club, Garrett Lawrence (aka Lord Ice, trying to type this without snark and failing) purchases her for thirty days because in spite of supposedly being gay (or so he thought), this incredibly beautiful woman captures his fancy and all sorts of sex and bondage stuff happens in between too much pity-party thinking and a crazed killer making threats. And an all-guy slumber party.

The only saving grace of this book is that it took place in my old hometown of San Francisco. It was great to see the Steinhardt Aquarium mentioned. Other than that, I'm so moving on. There are more books in the series because having played with Lord Ice, it only makes sense that Celia (aka Kitten) now has to play with Lord Fyre. Sorry, but there's only so much torture I can take.

Poison says

This book was weird. The BDSM aspects didn't mesh with anything I've been a part of, the conventions were

weird, and the auction was pretty unbelievable.

The romance was alright, but I dunno, it seemed pretty unrealistic and stilted. There was a good story in here somewhere, crying to come out.

Salena says

This book had me rivited throuout it's entirety and I did not put it down (except to taxi my daughter around). I fell in love with all of the characters and felt really in tune with Kitten. She and I have a lot in common, although, I would have never slaved for a stranger...especially not a month. Yea, yea...I know....this I fiction, but damn I felt like I was living in the story at times. The tension and excitement had my heart racing and at times I felt anxiety perched inside my throat.

Now damnit I can't find the second installment in ebook format anywhere!

Lani says

I would really rate this 3.5 stars.

The first 3/4 of the book was pretty good. The only thing that was constantly nagging me is that Kitten cries in every chapter no matter if she is happy,angry,sad or coming. I guess it's to show how weak she is. Also the "love scenes" aren't complete (no money shot). Basically, she gets hers and then the next chapter they are waking up in the afternoon. But because he was formerly with a man it leaves this reader wondering how was it for him to be with a woman again?

The characters were painted very well and I loved Jackie.

Then the downfall.....

After he finds out she is a reporter the book disappoints me so greatly that I had to just vent to a friend about it! Master/Garrett/Lewd/Lord Ice becomes the weakest excuse for a person. For the person that was portraid as the "Dominant" he runs away, goes to Mexico, sleeps with several men and comes back just as weak. What happened to claiming her as his? He is a completly different person than he's been so far in the story. And his supposed archenemy is Lion, but when he has his first and only interaction with him, you only get the aftermath of Garrett telling his secretary that he broke the evangelists nose.

Kitten/Jane/Celia/Kat disturbes me greatly in the last quarter of the book. The whole drama of writing desperate letters to the newspaper begging for her "Master" back gets old after the second one. And the "Kitten sightings" are ridiculous. I thought she was going to commit suicide when she gave her pregnant cat to Garrett. Why would she do that to the cat she loved and the man that didn't want anything to do with her? It is only after her life is threatened that Garrett sees he wants to be with her and then after all this drama and whining from both sides.....she doesn't even choose to be with him yet. She chooses to be with Thomas/Lord Fyre so he could teach her things that her "Master" couldn't. Really?

315 says

First I'd like to say that I agree this is an emotional book as stated by other posters. I also enjoyed the

changing of the POV at each chapter. Although I liked the chars at the start, in the end I just hated them – and found it hard to believe.

This book just really rubbed me the wrong way for a few reasons, but the big one was the Master/Slave relationship. Not that I really think this a Master/Slave books as it more fetish, which I personally don't think of as BDSM.

Master/Slave:

Celia is repeatedly punished... it's a daily thing. I get the necessity of it in this type of dynamic, but to be punished due to the complete and utter FAILER of the Master is just hard for me to swallow. Garrett is supposed to be this well known and greatest Master/Dom but he came off as the worse to me. Constantly forgetting his slave/sub for hours at a time – that is just a HARD sell to me for someone that is supposed to be so well known for his role in the “BDSM” community. Not seeing to her needs at all... I just want to scream!

Celia

I have a total love/hate for this person. She could be so strong in one PoV and totally wimp or complete freak in the next. Towards the end, “Kat” comes off as a stalker and I get she's a slave, but come on... the phone calls and the billboards and the rest – I just find hard to believe. She went without food for hours, but that was never addressed in the book. Also, for someone who drank as much coffee as stated a couple of times, and then to go cold turkey – I'm sorry, but there would be withdrawals and again, never addressed.

Garrett:

This was the worse sell for me. I'm sorry... but my next door neighbor's dog has more of a commanding presence than Garrett had in this book, and it's a freaking Chihuahua!

Sex:

This book was littered with vanilla sex between the main chars, and it didn't come off as steamy and I've read more 'details' in my straight romance books.

I really wanted to love this book... guess that's why I found it so frustrating. I want to buy the next book in the series because it left off at what seems to be a very interesting area, but at the same time, I'm worried it might cause me to want to toss my ipad across the room.

Laura (Kyahgirl) says

1/5; 1 star; DNF

I might try to pick up this book again later when I'm in a different reading mood. The 1st person POV came across as really jarring. The deception of the main female character bugged me too as I don't care for lies like this in a story. The meowing and barking thing kind of took me by surprise and thought it might add a different flavor to the story but still, I couldn't be bothered to continue. Maybe later.
