



## Innocence to the Max

*S.J.D. Peterson*

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## **Innocence to the Max** S.J.D. Peterson

On his sixteenth birthday, Francisco “Cisco” Aguilar first sets eyes on Maximilian De Ferrari, owner of Wicked Grounds, an exclusive BDSM club. Cisco has been lost, unsure of what is missing in his life. Over a century old, Max leads a vampire clan, and Cisco is drawn to him in a way he can’t explain. The moment he sees Max he knows his quest isn’t about what he’s been missing, but who.

Five years’ wait seems more than Cisco can bear, but he perseveres and on his twenty-first birthday he walks into Wicked Ground. He’s unafraid to meet the vampire he’s sure is his destiny. Max has been waiting for him, too.

What Max has known all these years, and what Cisco soon discovers, is that more than fate is drawing them together. Iuncti? C?pula is a powerful binding link capable of restoring cold, dead hearts. With Max and Cisco bound, Cisco will be Max’s greatest weakness. Unable to let Max go, Cisco is thrust into a dark world, where he’s nearly powerless, left to fight for his life and his future with Max. Worse, he’s at the mercy of those who will use him—and hurt him—just to get to the powerful vampire king.

## **Innocence to the Max Details**

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## From Reader Review Innocence to the Max for online ebook

### Avid Reader says

Innocence to the Max (Iunctio Copula #1) by SJD Peterson

4 stars

M/M Paranormal, Light BDSM, Mystery

Triggers: Rape, Kidnapping

I was given this book for an honest review by Inked Rainbow Reads.

This book started out not so good for me. While I can understand the infatuation both characters held, you are just kind of thrown in to a situation where Cisco is vying for Max's attention and Max inadvertently shows his hand far sooner than he wanted to his fellow paranormals. But, there is a giant hole in the story, because in the background, there is a plot of some sort, one of which you never really tease out, which just was confusing and slightly disappointing.

The relationship that Max and Cisco begin is a D/s one, however, I did not feel that Max was a very good Dom. Not only did he not prepare Cisco well, he was almost tyrannical in his demands of a sub who had never had any training. It just rubbed me the wrong way. And, despite the combination of yumminess that Peterson set up, I couldn't get over the fact that it just didn't really feel like a D/s relationship - more of a slave ownership.

Also, then you have Max's frantic manner during a crisis and are thrown in to yet another strange reveal, that actually doesn't reveal much - so the mystery continues. Overall, I enjoyed the story, but was left wondering about a lot of issues.

I really liked Benny's character. I do hope that we get to see more of him, as well as Angelo. Both of these secondary characters would do great in their own stories.

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### Kara says

What can I say about this book...

You get your BDSM at the same time you have a Vampire Dom. Um is there anything better than that! Poor Innocent Cisco and being thrown into this lifestyle but to over come is fear and be so strong for Max. Max a one hundred year old vampire who has finally found his soul mate. He is so strong but at the same time so protective of Max. I really liked his character.

I will be honest I was a little leery about Max at first with the way he treated Cisco but once I read further in the book it made more sense to me.

So you get your steam and your BDSM, angst plus the bad guy and wrap it all together for a 100% Awesome book! I don't want to give to much away because this is one you really need to read for yourself because it was so good!

Now this is where I say I am hoping Benny and Angelo will get a book because after reading that one part... Yea I am so excited to see were that goes lol.

So all together I 100% loved this book!

I would definitely recommend this book!

I received this book free in exchange for an honest review from Inked Rainbow Reads.

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## Lynnette Hartwig says

### 4.5 Stars

Vampire stories are not normally my kind of reading but it was SJD Peterson so I decided to give it a try. Oh my God was I surprised to find I actually really liked this book. As always SJD Peterson writing style just drew me right in from the beginning. I absolutely loved Cisco but had a very hard time warming up to Max. I get that he's a vampire and into BDSM but I felt he just needed to open up some. To me he came across as cold and unfeeling and I just didn't understand him. Cisco however was great. I loved how he met Max at the age of 16 and had to wait until he was older (21) to really be with him. It was clear that Cisco would do anything for Max. I had to knock off ½ stars because it was unclear if the book had a HEA or a HFN ending.

I was given this book by Inked Rainbow Reads in exchange for an honest review.

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## Christy says

I spent some time recently discussing this book with the author, and what she had to say only whet my appetite even more. The description alone thrilled me down to the core as 'Innocence to the Max' has every trope I adore. BDSM, vampires, power plays, ruthlessness, innocence, mythical lore, and a possibility of a forever love story. Sigh. Yes, this book was mine from the first moment I knew of it.

*"Remember I asked you to throw out everything you thought you knew about BDSM?"*

*"Yes, Sir."*

*"It wasn't a flippant statement. This is not your typical club, nor am I a typical Master. Out there, in your world, you can safeword—as a submissive you have the most power. But not here, Cisco. My kind are but animals with a tentative hold on humanity. Here, you fuck up, you die. I won't let that happen."*

From the moment human Cisco and vampire Max's eyes met, they knew they'd found the one for them. It's not as simple as that, however, when you're the most powerful vampire in the area, and your mate is an innocent human. In the five years Cisco waited to be with Max, he did his research on vampires and BDSM, but nothing, and I mean nothing, prepared him for the first time he stepped into Wicked Ground. Max had planned to wait, to watch Cisco learn, and to slowly guide him, before allowing the clan to see that Cisco is his blood bond mate. Unfortunately for them both, the very first night, Zeke, a blight upon Max, causes a ruckus, and Max shows his hand too soon. Max can't be seen as weak, so he must do everything he can to keep Cisco safe. And, above all, he cannot allow anyone to know that he believes Cisco and himself are fated to be Iuncti? C?pula. A lore that most believe to be myth. A myth that would allow Max and Cisco to not only bond, but would allow Max's heart to beat again.

Now, remember what I said at the beginning regarding all of my favorite tropes? There are so many political and power machinations going on that it increased my enjoyment level by a thousand, easily. Max is, of course, right in the middle as he's spent years gathering evidence against the vampire king of California, and now it is time for Max to send his right-hand man, Angelo, to the king of the vampires with this information. For you see, in this author's vampire world, there are a lot of rules they are held to so they can live side by side with humans. But, as is often the case, there are some who believe they should rule over the humans.

And they will stop at nothing to get what they want.

Oh, Jo, my friend...you've outdone yourself here! Seriously. I loved Max. Completely loved him. I understood exactly why there were times he had to be harsh with Cisco. This vampire world isn't full of any that sparkle. Every minute that Cisco spent in their world, his life was in danger. So yes, I understood. Not so sure I appreciated my sweet Cisco having to suffer at the end, but the bloodbath fight Max partakes in was magnificent. I'm a bloodthirsty girl at heart, especially if someone wrongs me, so Max had every right and I cheered at the gore!

Loved it. Loved everything about it. I especially liked the way the author left it. There's still work to be done by both Max and Cisco in order for them to find their happiness and peace. I was thrilled the author didn't tie it up in a pretty little bow. I am so looking forward to the next book. I want to see more of Max and Cisco, and I'd love some exploration into Angelo and Benny. I'm definitely sure Jo has plans for them.

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### **Tina says**

Vampires and BDSM? Hell yeah, why not.

Innocence to the Max was a short story contributed to the 'Don't read in the Closet' event on GR. Now it's a full length novel featuring Max, an old Vampire and Dom and owner of a BDSM club, and Cisco, a 21 years innocent guy... who already fell for the powerful vampire Dom when he was just 16.

Five years later he walks into Wicked Ground, Max's BDSM club to finally meet the vampire who seems to be his destiny.

They share a mythical bond, it's called Iuncti? C?pula, a powerful binding link capable of restoring cold, dead hearts. A bond that makes Max vulnerable to Zeke and his king Liam, his worst enemies.

I liked the story but didn't love it. I just couldn't warm up to Max, the powerful vampire and Dom, who (in my opinion) fails to give Cisco what he really needs. Max is a difficult character, yes... and he is possessive... But does he love the sweet guy or is it only the mythical bond that ties him to Cisco?

All in all, the story was entertaining to read and I'm looking forward to the next installment. My dream couple for it would be Angelo and Benny. There was something going on with those two, right?

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### **Brooklyn says**

I can only give this one 3 stars because I felt it was unfinished. It was like the prequel to the real story. All the crap they had to deal with to get to the Iunctio Copula part of the story, so yeah. Unfinished. Sort of a disappointment at the end.

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### **Ameena says**

**1.5 Stars.**

I loved the short story so much and I was excited to read this but sadly I am disappointed in this and it didn't live up to the short version, I didn't like Max at all and Cisco's Character didn't have any voice in the story, also the book ended in somehow HFN but it felt like a cliffhanger and left a lot of things unresolved.

Overall I didn't enjoy reading this book at all and I don't think I will be continuing this series.

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### **Angie says**

~I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Inked Rainbow Reads Review Team~

3 stars for this M/M

I was so excited to read this book, M/M, vampires, BDSM, sounds amazing!!! Ugh, but it wasn't amazing, it was just ok. I was hoping for so much more, I have loved almost every single book written by this author but this one just fell flat for me. I didn't feel the love between the characters, you could feel there was a spark and a connection but they didn't act on it. There was one hot scene and that was it. I was waiting for more and never got it. Then that ending! Seriously?! Even if there was a follow up book I am not sure if I would read it at this point.

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### **JustJen "Miss Conduct" says**

A review by The Blogger Girls.

This is the story about a centuries old powerful vampire who believes in a legend (Iuncti? C?pula) that finding his true mate will bring him to life, so to speak; that his heart will beat again, he will feel warmth, taste, etc. He believes his mate is Cisco, but keeps his distance watching over Cisco until he is of age.

Cisco remembers seeing Max all those years ago, knows there is a powerful pull to him and waits until he is old enough before seeking him out at Max's club, Wicked Grounds. He has no clue what he is getting into, just that he knows he needs to be with Max and will do anything to make that happen.

I had a difficult time with this story. I think the hardest for me was believing such an old and experienced vampire would have anything in common with a naïve teenager. This was apparent to me throughout the story and made Cisco appear as nothing more than Max's pet. Cisco tries so hard to be the perfect sub, but he has little to no guidance and is thrown into things very quickly. I loved poor Cisco, but wish he had some stronger more positive adult influence in his life.

Max, on the other hand, drove me nuts. He was so concerned with the legend and his need to find out more before taking action in case he did something wrong or out of order that he refused to even so much as feed from Cisco, thus leaving him basically unclaimed and more open to attack.

There are some really great side characters here, and I'd love to see more of them in the future. Angelo was very intriguing, and I think a story with him and possibly Cisco's bestie, Benny could be quite interesting. This is definitely an interesting world that Ms. Peterson has created with many possibilities. While this one didn't wow me, I am still looking forward to the next one to see where things go from here.

## Cookie Moretti says

"Innocent To The Max" by SJD Peterson (MM/Vampire/BDSM)

A copy of this book was provided to me by Inked Rainbow Reads in exchange for an honest review.

\*\*\*3 1/2 STARS\*\*\*

Though I've read many SJD Peterson novels, I don't think I've read a vampire one by this author. This story is about Francisco, "Cisco", who was only 16 when he realized that he belonged to Max, a 100 year old vampire who owns a BDSM club. When he turned 21, he went to the club to meet his fate.

The story started off interesting. It captured my attention, the way Cisco first made eye contact with Max. I thought it was pretty brave of him to enter a BDSM club and face the unknown just to find his soulmate aka "Master". The second time they met, their meeting was tense because of a certain situation but it was sweet how Max reacted. He was protective and sweet, and I just sighed. Then things turned dark pretty quickly.

I've read many BDSM books, mostly by this author, but it's not my favorite theme. I can read about them, but it has to have romance to balance me off. Well, this started with sparks of romance, then suddenly Cisco was in danger so Max thought he had to be stern and show no love to Cisco in front of others, or else be viewed as weak. That's what brought it to 3 1/2 stars for me. I didn't get enough romance. There was glimpses here and there, but not enough. This wasn't very heavy on the BDSM, but it was there.

I felt really bad for Cisco, a little for Max. I wish I could read them falling in love, but things happened too quickly. I was actually more curious about his friend Benny, and Max's Second, Angelo. There's something there and I wanna read about it. Honestly, I liked Benny's upfront, in your face attitude better than Cisco's timid one.

Would I recommend this book? Sure, I think many would enjoy it. I'd read part 2 if it was about Benny and Angelo. :)

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## ★MC's Corner★ says

*\*MC's Corner\**

**I think it started really great.**

**It was very captivating... the waiting years before he really can have his soulmate is kinda sexy and really hot.**

**Then came the second half... Well lets just say that most of the time I was reading that, I was frowning.**

**WHO IN THE EFFING SHIT ARE THOSE EFFING CHARACTERS?! SERIOUSLY?**

@gleekidMC

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## Rachel Emily says

I don't know about this one...and I've loved everything I've read from this author. When the book ended I was just sad and kinda let down, to be honest.

Max and Cisco started off great, but I feel like Max expected too much from Cisco right off the bat, and it seemed more like slave owner than sub/Dom relationship. No safe word, what? I get what the importance was of Max needing Cisco to look the part, but...y'know, just don't go to the club!

I wanted to know more about the "ilunctio copula" thing but we go through the whole book solving nothing about that. So I do hope that'll be explored in the next book, but I almost want Benny to have his own, much happier story. Because reading and knowing what happened to Cisco kinda makes me sad. (view spoiler)

I look forward to book 2, whether it's about Benny or Angelo, or more with these two.

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## Amy says

This would have gotten 4 stars if it weren't for the way this ended. I wouldn't call the ending a HEA or HFN because there were a lot of things left to resolve, not to mention the relationship between Max and Cisco seemed broken to me. I want to see them both happy with everything resolved. You can't have all that crap happen to them and not get a HEA.

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## Rachael Orman says

FourStars

There were parts of this book that I really liked and then there were parts that I didn't care so much for.

The fact that there was an instant connection, actually worked for me even though I don't normally care for insta love because it was paranormal perhaps, or because of the situations they found themselves in so quickly that made them staying close a necessity.

I felt like the love/long lasting relationship didn't play out the way I thought it would. There was so much promise there but with everything else going on, it was pushed to the side and I felt like it was just a side note, when it was supposed to be such a big thing to them both.

All in all, I liked the book, but wished it had played out a bit differently or focused on different aspects perhaps, which is a personal things, not necessarily the authors fault.

I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Inked Rainbow Reads.

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## Makhda says

2.5 Stars

I was so excited at the beginning. And then.. The BDSM scene bored me out. I had a hard time liking Max. I know he got a reputation to uphold. But sometimes it feels like he's pressuring Cisco too much. It's not sweet. :(

This book ended in ~~HEN~~. Wait, it feels like cliffhanger to me.

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