



Submitting to the Darkness

K.C. Wells

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Three weeks after being diagnosed with acute glaucoma, Adam Kent lost his vision. Two months down the line, and he's left behind his life in London as an author of political history books and retreated to the Isle of Wight, to live in the house he inherited in Steephill Cove. But that's not all Adam's left behind him: the trappings of his life as a Dom are packed away into three boxes and stored in his attic. After all, he's never going to need them again, right? Who'd want a blind Dom anyway?

Paul Vaughan is employed to be a live-in companion to Adam, but his new employer makes it very clear he wants to be left alone. Paul can see Adam is hurting and struggles to help him, even though Adam resists him at every turn. Thankfully, Paul's friends Taylor, Mark and Sam are there to lend an ear when he needs to vent – and also to try setting him up with a guy or two. It's not that Paul doesn't appreciate their efforts, but the guys they keep sending his way are way too... nice. A chance visit to a club had already shown Paul a side to him he'd never expected: maybe his tastes are a little kinkier.

Two events occur to rock Paul's life: he discovers his boss isn't as straight as Paul had thought, and he takes a peek into a box....

Submitting to the Darkness Details

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From Reader Review Submitting to the Darkness for online ebook

Becky Condit says

I love KC Wells's Island Tales. They are set on an island that she loves among people based on individuals that she either knows or imagines with her terrific creativity. Submitting to the Darkness is one of her best. Adam has been stricken blind, quite suddenly. It is a tragedy of immense proportions for a man who loved his job as a writer and reader who loved sailing and other outdoor activities. Crushingly, Adam is a Dom who takes his responsibilities to a sub very seriously. He must be able to watch his submissive closely to know how he is doing and without vision he believes he can no longer live the lifestyle he loves.

Adam's sister, who at first seems to be a bit of a cold fish, hires Paul to be a live-in companion for Adam, with the warning that Adam will try to drive Paul away, and so he does. Adam is offensive, cruel, and has already caused several hired companions to leave within days if not hours. Paul is a whole other challenge, though, and is determined to find a way to bring some meaning back to Adam's life. Adam doesn't make it easy, though. It requires the efforts of a team: Paul and his friends try to find the key to the lock on Adam's heart, and then, as the blurb says, there are the boxes in the attic.

The fact that both Adam and Paul are gay factors into the story in such a satisfying way, both sexually and as men who might understand each other given a chance. This is a romance novel with many glimpses into what kindness and love can do to change a man, sighted or not. A lovely story with just a peek into a BDSM lifestyle.

Maria says

I absolutely loved this book! It has everything that twists my trigger in a good romance. Imperfect MC's, age gap, well understood kink, sexual tension, interesting location, relationship building, and above all, great writing. Their love for each is real and wholly believable. I enjoyed this immensely, a great escape. You read a KC book and it soothes the mind, nothing that makes your brain hurt. Lovely.

multitaskingmomma says

Original Blog Post: Review Request: Submitting to the Darkness (Island Tales #3) by K.C. Wells

Review by: multitaskingmomma

My Rating: 5 of 5 Stars

Okay, I admit it. When it comes to Island Tales series by K.C. Wells, I just forget about life and drop for a good read. It's one of my favorites after all. It helps a lot the characters are so real, and their love stories are toothache worthy. It is Submitting to the Darkness which I can claim as my favorite.

Then again, so was Waiting for a Prince and September's Tide.

It's really hard to choose.

I will settle for: my new favorites. There.

We have a blind main man who lost everything, or so he thought, in just two weeks. Acute glaucoma can cause havoc to the unexpected and being a successful author of political history books, he thought his life was over. Not being able to see his sub reach the peak is a thought that drives Adam miserable. So he moves to the Isle of Wight into a big house that soon proves too much for him to handle. Add in the complication of not knowing where everything is or lies, he injures himself constantly. Getting miserable by the second, he withdraws into himself and pity.

Paul is getting frustrated. He's out of school but he is not getting any job. His father drops the ultimatum of finding one by handing him the ad for a housekeeper/companion. Paul goes in, eyes wide shut. Of course he meets the hard headed and miserable Dom. Could he handle this bearded, injured man?

This is a really light read and I just breezed through this in one afternoon. It does have the BDSM elements but contrary to other Wells books, this one is treated in a much lighter manner and is not in the face of the reader which is good for those who are not into that scene. I especially liked how Adam 'saw' Paul's reaction and loved how he handled the whole thing.

On a side note: I do so love how the other guys from the series popped in and out to add in their two cents worth of (un)solicited advices. Their contribution to the love life of Adam and Paul was especially endearing and hilarious.

Serena Yates says

From the moment I read the blurb for this novel, I was fascinated with the characters and what sounded like a long, hard road to the happy ending I always hope for. And K.C. certainly made me wait! Adam is in such a bad place after going blind (and who could blame him!), that he barely makes it out of bed each morning, and definitely is not in the mood for civil behavior. Combine this with Paul, who has a big heart, is extremely considerate, and wants nothing but to help Adam (and that is before he falls for him!) and you have a pretty heart-wrenching recipe for angst, drama, and yes, the odd tear as I was reading. Well done, K.C., for a wonderful story with amazing characters who have to deal with some very real issues. For me, this is the best book in the series so far!

Adam has gone blind and fallen into a deep depression. He thinks his life is over, and all he wants to do is hide and for people to leave him alone. Luckily he has a sister who, despite all her faults (and she has a few!) insists on hiring help for him. But Adam is determined not to become dependent on anyone. He has already lost his ability to write, and he'll never be a Dom again, but he will be damned before he lets someone else run his day-to-day life. When Paul is hired by Adam's sister, Adam is determined to chase him off just like he shocked all the previous "companions" into running for the hills. And let me warn you - he is a real bast*rd to Paul. It was hard to take seeing him be so nasty to such a nice guy, there really is no excuse. Watching Adam work through his issues was fascinating, the gradual change obvious – and the final decision point was masterfully set up and executed. I think I was holding my breath for several pages!

Paul just wants to help. He can see beyond Adam's more-than-gruff exterior to the man who is hurting underneath and does his best to help. He has a lot of good ideas and makes a real difference to Adam's life in a very short time, but when he finds out Adam is a Dom, his employer becomes irresistible to Paul. He has been fascinated with BDSM for a while, but has never had the courage to "submit to the darkness" inside him, as he calls it. Their first forays into sexual play intrigue Paul, but when Adam stipulates "no emotional attachments", Paul is in trouble. He has been emotionally attached for a while before they start getting

physical, and he would accept any condition to keep going. Can you see where the pain is coming from?
Ouch!

Like the first two books in the 'Island Tales' series, this story is set on the Isle of Wight. I was happy to see Mark and Sam, Taylor and David, and Taylor's friends from school are still around and doing well. Not just that, they are up to their usual teasing selves, but jump in to help the moment there is something wrong. Steephill Cove is fast becoming a very familiar place, and I hope that Eric's story will be next so I get to return once more!

If you like multi-layered characters struggling with significant physical and deep emotional issues, if two men who are made for each other but take their sweet time in understanding how well they fit are your thing, and if you're looking for an intense, emotional read that is as hot as it is spellbinding, then you will probably like this novel as much as I did. It touched me deeply and fascinated me to no end.

NOTE: This book was provided by the author for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

T.K. Paige says

This was my favorite in this series by far. Paul and Adam were vivid in my mind from the very first page. Somehow the author manages to have sweet, angst and kink wrapped up into a ball of fluffy goodness.

What happens when a man loses everything that has meaning in his life in a few short weeks? I would imagine that Adam's bitterness and downright cruelty is a very true reaction. He has lost his occupation, the reading for pleasure that is obviously a large part of him. He has even lost his sexual identity. How does someone pick up those pieces and move on?

Adam doesn't. He lets himself drown in depression and pushes away anyone that tries to reach out. He hides himself away, lashing at anyone who tries to help. Until one man refuses to be chased away.

Paul was wonderful. He researched to find out how to help. His goal from the beginning was to help Adam learn how to live independently and take back what had been lost. He tried to see things from Adam's point of view, never once treating him as an invalid, okay there was one time, but it was more accidental as Paul's need to take of Adam went slightly too far. That was what I liked about him. He wasn't perfect just determined.

The BDSM elements were handled perfectly, never overwhelming the characters. That is what this author shines at. She shows over and over that no matter what a couple's kink is, it is the emotions and ways they try to give what the other needs that make for a stable, loving relationship.

And in this book she illustrates, in one of most intense, and well-written BDSM scenes I've ever read, the dangers of giving too much and not letting your partner know your true feelings.

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

~4.5~

This book is so my cuppa: hurt/comfort, age gap, light kink with D/s overtones, friendship, steam in spades, and the sweetest HEA.

I love books with imperfect MCs, and Adam Kent is definitely one. At 40, Adam, a best-selling author of political books and a Dom, has to readjust to living without his sight.

Once vibrant and independent, Adam has become a near recluse, angry at the world, hiding behind dark glasses.

Adam does not want a caretaker. He resents the implication that he can't take care of himself. But Paul, who's 23 and a physiotherapist, won't be deterred.

Paul is lighthearted, kind, and steady; he's determined to help Adam, and he doesn't put up with Adam's bullshit.

Adam and Paul dance around each other. Adam lashes out, and Paul fights back, gentle but firm.

The passion simmers beneath the surface ... until it combusts.

Damn but K.C. knows how to write a sex scene. The kink in this one is just right. **Adam and Paul are insanely hot together, at once dirty and tender, rough and sweet.**

I loved that Paul took care of Adam while giving Adam tools to manage on his own. **It was beautiful to watch Adam start living again. Adam just blossoms with Paul around.**

There is minor drama with Adam's sister and horrid nephew. When Paul stands up for Adam and gets all fierce, I just melted.

I liked seeing the MCs from the first two books again. We revisit with Mark and Sam, as well as Taylor and David, but this book CAN be read as a standalone.

I love this series. Every time I read one of the *Island Tales* books, I want to move to the Isle of Wight.

This is such an enjoyable, romantic story. I was so happy that it was a full-length novel and not a novella. I could not get enough of these men!

Sandra says

forse non è perfetto ma poco ci manca,ha tutto:trama buona,personaggi interessanti e molto hot
la parte sensuale non prevarica la storia,la parte romantica ha la sua importanza in una giusta amalgama

Ele says

Woo-hoo!

This was my favorite K.C.Wells book to date! It really ticked all my boxes.

- **An imperfect hero with disability, living like a recluse and acting like an asshole. Check.** Adam lost his vision and is having a hard time adapting to his current situation. Very well sketched character and the stages he went through were very realistically portrayed. I really felt for him every time he had a break down.

-**The caretaker theme. Check** I like this trope a lot. And although Adam kept denying he needed any help, it was obvious he wouldn't have made it without Paul.

-**The kink is just right.** Pretty light, more like Adam helping Paul explore his dark side.

- **Plenty of steam.** Adam and Paul are so hot together. **I want to be a fly on that library's wall!**

-**Perfect setting.** The Isle of White is apparently a great place for romance and it reminds me of Greece so much!

And if you want declarations of love on page in your books, you 're gonna love this.

“Say the words, babe.” The hitch in Paul’s breathing made his heart beat faster. “Adam?” Adam kissed him. “Say the words I’ve never heard from another man’s lips, not for me.” He laid his soul bare with that whispered truth. “Oh, God.” Paul leaned into him, his body pressed up against Adam, so warm and vital. Paul brought his lips to Adam’s ear. “I love you, Adam Kent.”

Ele is happy.

**Review cross-posted on Reviews by Jesse Wave. **

MostlyDelores says

DNF for casting adult men as ingenues, being weird about virginity, and committing crimes against italics.

Debra says

I had the pleasure of beta reading this story and I say pleasure because it didn't take long before I realized Paul and Adam were going to be one of my favorite K.C. Wells couples.

In a few short months 40 year old Adam, has gone from a vibrant, active, man in control, to a blind, depressed recluse. He is convinced that along with his eyesight, everything he had a passion for is lost to him now, from sailing, to his career as an author, not to mention his ability to be a Dom. He has cut himself off from everyone and holed up in the library of his home. He doesn't need the caretaker his sister insists on hiring and just wants to be left alone, but this new companion is different from the others he has scared off and Adam doesn't know what to do about that. When Adam decides to scare Paul away by hitting on him and threatening to bend him over his knee, Adam is in for a big, unexpected surprise.

Paul is 23 and recently out of school, having trained in physiotherapy. He is practical and aware of what Adam is going through. He needs this job and is not going to throw Adam a pity party. No matter how mercurial and often downright rude Adam is, Paul is determined to help him get some control back. It doesn't hurt that Adam sexy as hell, especially when that cold mask cracks just a bit. Paul's got a great support system of friends, including Sam and Mark and Taylor and David who were the focus of the prior books, if only they didn't insist on trying to set him up. They mean well, but he can't tell them that what he wants is to experience something a little less vanilla.

Just as Adam has good and bad days, so does their road to romance. When it finally seems they are forging a good working relationship, things move two steps back, but Paul is not deterred and is willing to give back as good as he gets. As they go from grudging employer/employee to working as a team, their interest in each other simmers and their first unexpected encounter left my jaw hanging open.

The beauty of the story is watching Paul help Adam realize that there is very little he has to give up once he accepts his condition and learns to adapt. Paul is so tenacious and invested in helping Adam, I couldn't resist loving his character and in the end, neither could Adam. When Adam begins to step back out into the world, finding the things he always loved aren't completely lost to him, he is revealed to be a passionate and sexy man who may actually have a sense of humor.

I know I've said it before, but seriously, K.C. Wells knows how to write sex scenes and Adam and Paul are no exception! Whether it's dirty and quick or tender and slow, vanilla or with a hint of kink, the men have sizzling chemistry that only intensifies once their feelings get involved.

If BDSM is not your thing, don't let that put you off of this story. The BDSM element is there and adds a little kink, but it is not hardcore. It is focused on Paul wanting to experience some kinks he has only fantasized about and while Adam is more than willing to help Paul he fears that his disability will hinder him from really satisfying Paul's needs if he wants to explore some heavier kinks.

There is a bit of outside drama and conflict stemming from Adam's sister's interference in his life as she tries to "help" him. It is also the catalyst for some great moments when Paul shows just how far he is willing to go to help and protect Adam.

The setting of the Isle of Wight is again brought to life by the descriptive writing. If you've read the prior stories you'll be glad to see all those familiar faces back, but the story is a standalone so you can jump right in and I definitely recommend that you do it.

Aerin says

4.5 stars

I forgot about this series to be honest, and I certainly wasn't expecting a new book. But guess what, this surprise was a good one, because this book is the best in this series and it hit all my buttons. There's love and friendship, trust and intimacy, vulnerability and strength and the cherry on my cake kinky sex. Really, this book was amazing!

Adam's blindness is like a stick up his butt; really, he's such an asshole! He tends to lash out at anyone who tries to help him, but Paul fights right back, and that made me giddy with anticipation. These two couldn't have been more perfect for each other, because Paul finds ways to help Adam while giving him back his freedom. I loved seeing Adam stop existing and start living again, become more confident and take control of his life.

The relationship between them is a very nice bonus, because the sex is a perfect mixture of tenderness and intensity, dirty and sweet with a touch of kink. Perfect, right?

I enjoyed catching up with the couples from the previous books, although it's been such a long time since I read book #1, I had to go back and briefly refresh my memory about the guys. Excellent addition to this series and looking forward to more!

Tina says

Paul applies to work as a live-in companion to Adam, an author of political books who has recently gone blind. When he arrives at the mansion that is Adam's home he learns that none of his predecessors has managed to keep the job for longer than a few weeks and that Adam is far from accepting that he is blind – instead shutting himself away from the world, rarely venturing out of the library and fighting against everything, Adam is far from ready to move on. Paul is determined to keep his job and to help a man he feels needs him despite Adam's cold and mean behavior to anyone who tries to get close to him. But Paul is not prepared for his feelings when he sorts through Adam's moving boxes and finds a large array BDSM gear.

I always enjoy KC Wells' books but this was the first Island Tales book I've read. I loved it. I liked Paul and Adam, so well written and such different and interesting characters. I liked Adam's slow change when he realized his life wasn't over. Paul is a lovely character who sincerely wants Adam to get better but at the same time struggles with his own 'dark side', an attraction to BDSM he hasn't accepted yet. I understand some of Paul's friends are characters from the first books (which I one-clicked immediately) but this book can be read as a standalone.

Totally recommend this book.

Steelwhisper says

What the fucking fuck? WHAT THE FUCK?!

So now going blind is an opportune plot device for crappy romance books? How fucking ableist and appropriating!

How fucking inconsiderate to stack everything in favour of the wooby domly Dom, who is capable of changing where he lives, from one lap of luxury to the next. Who also is able to adapt his profession and income at the drop of a hat. As if.

How fucking convenient to have him have a sexy personal 24/7 helper just when he becomes helpless. How bloody idiotic to have the man rant about getting help, **when the vast majority of disabled people DREAM of a fucking bloody hour or two of help PER FUCKING WEEK and DO NOT GET IT!** How fucking practical for the story that this wondrous helpmeet is also into BDSM. As fucking if that was fucking likely, dammit!

I can't eat enough for how much I want to puke over this fucking ableist ditty of absolute and inconsiderate SHICE! This is certainly one of the worst books and solecisms I came across since "The Garconniere". How an author can be that tactless and present such an asinine Disney version of disability and blindness is beyond me.

Bev says

I love this series, and this time I had the pleasure to beta read this particular story too. 4.5 stars from me.

For fans of this series, do not fear...Mark and Sam from book 1 Waiting for a Prince make several appearances as do Taylor and David from book 2 September's Tide, and most if not all of the action takes place in/around Steephill Cove.

This time we meet Paul Vaughan, a Caulkhead (born on the island) and who's a friend of Mark, Sam and Taylor... and Adam Kent, a relative newcomer to Steephill but who knows the place well as he spent many happy days there as a child. Adam has suddenly gone blind and bitterness and grief for the life he enjoyed but has lost (or so he believes) swamp him. Petulance and a desire to take his black mood out on anyone he can is pretty much the norm, and any helper that his sister Caroline hires meets a whirlwind of obstinate rage, and they usually don't last the day. But Paul is made of much sterner stuff, and has a secret which Adam can definitely help him with.

Of course, we discover that Caroline and her son Dean are not the really helpful relatives that Adam needs, and have their own hidden agenda regarding the house that Adam has inherited from his grandparents, but...well, read the story and find out what happens.

*****There is a little BDSM in this story, so if that is a trigger point for you, I'd suggest you ignore it cos**

the story really is good.***

Tj says

This book is the reason I like KC Wells. Her work not only includes passion but all the feelings one associates with a good romance novel.

Imagine being at the stage in your life when you have found critical and financial success, you have served your country in the military, and had adventures sailing from the US to the UK. OH and you are a Dom. Suddenly life changes. You find yourself blind, lost and frightened at the age of 40. You are wallowing in self pity and ready to give up. Wells does a great job capturing all those feelings but, she doesn't leave Adam to flounder long on his own.

Paul is hired to be his companion. Paul is 23 and has a warm loving heart. He also has a backbone of steel and isn't afraid to push back. He won't allow Adam to push him into quitting. Paul is also different in that he encourages Adam to adapt but to continue living. With the right software and aides for the vision impaired, Adam starts gaining his independence.

Ahhh.. but the passion part. Paul is curious about BDSM. He and Adam start exploring and find out some surprising things - they both only want to indulge in BDSM lite and they have fallen in love. Ah... the warm mushy feelings when they finally TALK to each other and share their feelings.

Great job Ms. Wells!!
