



The Emperor's Wolf

J.C. Owens

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A soldier enslaved by the emperor who conquered him, with only one hope to save the man from madness...

Jaden, a soldier sold into slavery when his country fell, survives day to day, his only wish to find his little sister and save her from the same fate. The war might be over, but the scars of those who underwent Tranaden's conquest still linger. But when he is given as tribute to the very man who conquered his country—Dersai, known as the Wolf, an emperor feared and loathed beyond Tranaden's borders—Jaden sees his last hope fading away. It is whispered that the emperor is mad, possessed, without the faintest shred of mercy. Yet, Jaden finds that the man is someone quite different among his own people, in the safety of his own world. Old hatreds die hard, but Jaden finds himself fascinated by the complex, mysterious man beneath the warrior shell. There is a darkness in Dersai, but also a chance to set things right at last.

Dersai cannot afford the luxury of mercy in any form. His country, his people come first, and he will do anything to defend his borders and drive back those who seek to possess the lush beauty of Tranaden. His ancestor made a pact with a demon, and ever since, each emperor must endure the possession of the demon bound to protect Tranaden at any cost. As with those before him, Dersai will eventually fall into madness, his own people forced to annihilate him, and the next emperor forced to bear the burden again. He'd never held any hope...until he met Jaden and began to believe the old prophecies might finally come true. That a mate for the wolf would come and break the cycle forever...

Reader note: Expanded with new material! Contains intense emotional elements. Reader discretion advised.

The Emperor's Wolf Details

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From Reader Review The Emperor's Wolf for online ebook

Mary says

Really enjoyed this. The tension between the two characters is both heart-felt and hot and the resolution of the story is believable. The best books can sustain the characterization to the end and this one does that.

Jenre says

I've no idea why I pulled this out of the TBR pile. JC Owens writes pretty decent master/slave fantasy romances which have enough in terms of emotion but are, on the whole, quite tame in terms of the slavery aspect. In this book Jaden has been captured, separated from his young sister and forced into slavery. On a diplomatic mission, his warlord (warlady?) mistress approaches the Emperor, Dersai, and asks for access through his lands which he grants as long as Jaden will remain as his slave. As the weeks pass, Jaden discovers a very different man in Dersai to that of his reputation as a fierce and hateful man of war, and that there's a reason why he acts so violently during war time.

This turned out to be just the ticket for me this week. It contained enough in terms of emotion that I found the story engaging, quite a lot of sex which I was in the mood for, and a story which was easy to put down and pick up again during the random times I was able to read. I liked Jaden and thought the romance between him and Dersai was well written. I liked the healing that Jaden undergoes at the hands of Dersai and how he finds a purpose and use in the unconventional relationship. My only niggle was a bit of a silly ending where both characters behaved in stupid pig-headed ways for no reason, but since that part didn't last too long and then led to a satisfactory conclusion to the story, I forgave any temporary frustration it caused. If you like master/slave stories but don't want anything too heavy going, this would be a good book to pick up.

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

3.5 Stars

I want to put this succinctly. However, I can't because I felt this story had two distinct parts which was separated by the inevitable, pivotal change of feelings, and thus my reaction to each was different.

Before said feelings

First things first. The smex in this?? *Damn*.

Jaden has had it rough over the last four years - his life has been ruled by fear, pain and resignation, and it magnifies exponentially when he ~~unfortunately~~ serendipitously falls back into the clutches of the emperor. He understandably worries for his future well being - the emperor's ruthless and merciless reputation is known by all. However there's always two sides to every story, and this was no different.

What this part was so good at was depicting the inner conflict, the delicious turmoil of hating your captor but being unable to stop one's attraction. And did I mention the sex? *Unf*.

After said feelings

Kudos to the author. It takes a good amount of skill to successfully and believably change hate to love, and

she almost pulls it off. Almost. This part was more swoony, sweet with a bit of frustration at the inevitable misunderstanding. I seriously wish there was another 150 pages to dwell upon as mentioned above, because though I may protest too much, I wanted more of that angsty goodness!!

So overall, this accomplished a lot in a scant 149 pages and I'm impressed. The romantic in me appreciated the HEA but something was missing. What exactly, I just can't quite put my finger on.

4 for the 1st half + 3 for the 2nd half = 3.5 Stars

Chelsea says

Well wasn't that delightful!

What the people say is true, this was exceptionally hot! I can't quite figure out why?!? I mean there's nothing particularly special or different about the sex, it's? just.... Super *super* hot! That must just be great writing.

I found this to be one of those 'sweet' slave novels. Not much angst or hatred... Ok wait, so Jaden did hate the emperor *alot* to begin with, but the emperor was just so sweet and loving it didn't take him long to move on.

There's a bit of a supernatural subplot which I didn't see coming but actually enjoyed quite a lot and the HEA was beautiful!

I think the last 40% lost a bit of the relationship focus and that's why this was 4 not 5 stars, also other than the sex there wasn't a 'wow' factor for me.

Vio says

Enthralling is one of the many words to describe this intense slave fic and hey I am not a fan but dammit I have to admit this was amazing and the fantasy is smoothly written, easy to follow and lures you in. Standout MC's, a beautiful blend of fierceness and tenderness which made the story so much more believable for me, a good thing too as I was expecting the worst. Jaden and Dersai sexy to the extreme their relationship builds slowly and what develops is a loving and lasting partnership. Angst, tears and joy but they finally got there I loved it a lot.

Catherine says

I can't give this one anything less than 5 stars - I was totally engrossed in it from the first page to the last.

Natasha says

WOWWWwwwweeee! This is a sexy book!

I loved this book and devoured it in little to no time. It has an incredible main character who's tortured past places a huge part in his future.

It's amazing and sexy and well written and never boring and exciting and fun and definitely 18+ and has just enough of a paranormal element and dramatic and heartbreaking and just GREAT!

SheReadsALot says

I don't think I could fully describe why this story is so great. The characters and the world that the author built makes me want to re-delve again. I read this story in HOURS, eating the words like fine cuisine.

There's slavery, domination, hot m/m pairing, excellent scenes to be had. I totally recommend this story. I loved it. This is how I like my m/m stories written.

Nile Princess says

Over the last couple days, I have been on a J.C. Owens kick. I have read and LOVED Gaven, The Bonding and Wings and really liked Taken. This book though, I just couldn't get into. It's typical JC fare. Captured slave turn trusted lover..but it didn't work here.

Jaden, the slave, is presented as a strong, no nonsense character in the first few pages. He is muscular and brave and all the other sex slaves in the harem are afraid of him. Then he is captured by the Emperor (Dersai) and he turns into a meek caricature of himself. I had a hard time reconciling the two in my head. Dersai would also do things like pull Jaden into his lap...I thought Jaden was a big guy! The gratuitous sex throws things off from the start. In the other books, the sex is woven into the advancement of the slave's status so it works. Not so here. I found myself skimming early on, something that would never have happened with the first four stories.

The world building needed work. I was halfway through the book before the reasoning behind Dersai calling Jaden his wolf was made clear. Up until then you're just confused. We're constantly told that Dersai is feared and Jaden makes certain references that lead you to believe that Dersai is a shapeshifter, not to mention the fact that Dersai has wolf motifs incorporated into his decor, but because DERSAI is the one calling JADEN his wolf, I kept thinking, 'Is Dersai the wolf? Is Jaden a wolf with latent powers? What the heck is going on??'

Believability was another issue. Jaden is brought in as a slave but in no time flat he's sleeping in Dersai's bed, being taught to read, given free reign of the training room, eating at the table and discussing politics. Really??

Issue 1. Though we later find out that Dersai saw Jaden in a dream and knows that Jaden is the one to help him control his beast, at the time, you're just thinking the pacing doesn't work because Jaden is given privileges way too quickly. Also, Jaden's internal monologue doesn't work as well as previous characters.

Issue 2. We're told that this is not Dersai and Jaden's first encounter. They met briefly during a prior battle between their homelands. Jaden was captured by Dersai but things got confused and Jaden was sold to another slave owner. Ok, so we already know that upon seeing Jaden even that first time, Dersai knew this was the man from this dreams - the one to tame his curse. So, knowing this, KNOWING that Jaden is somehow pre-destined to be his mate or salve to his curse or whatever, and knowing that Jaden was originally a soldier, not a harem slave, it doesn't make sense that Dersai treats Jaden like a slave in the first

place! Dersai later has the gall, when Jaden helps him snap out of his demonic phase faster than anyone else ever managed before, to boohoo that he had seen it in a dream and searched all over for Jaden once he realized he had lost him after the previous battle....to make him kneel at Dersai's table?? Argh.

At 60% I couldn't take anymore. I was bored to tears and just annoyed that this book didn't live up to the caliber of the others.

Off now to read Dominion Of The Eth. I was warned that it will be an emotional read but I'm praying it'll be worth it in the end.

Beck says

Oh I liked this one ... the world-building was top-notch, allowing me to submerge myself in the sights, smells and intrigues of the society depicted ... I loved the twist with the demon too ... all together is was a nice, evocative tale that I enjoyed reading ... I did find the easy loss of trust a bit WTF-ery but it was minor enough to not detract from the book as a whole ... recommended to lovers of kinky, smexy sci-fi.

Elizabetta says

I liked the rough edge this had at the beginning when Jaden is harem-bound surrounded by bickering all-male harem-mates.

And then a bossypants harem bully gets in his face all tough and stuff. This could be fun.

Then Jaden's forced to mate publicly with a woman slave. Hmmm... missed opportunity there, shoulda been a guy.

A further damper is that Jaden is owned by a woman, no fun in that. And what's a female mercenary is doing with a harem is anybody's guess...

But things get righted when Jaden is reclaimed by his rightful owner-- a mysterious emperor who throws fear around-- who pretty quickly shows Jaden just how fun being a slave can be. Finally! Lots of rough, hot mansex.

I gotta say this is an odd kind of piece... is it historical fantasy? Seems like it, but then there are these futuristic Star Wars-type 'Walkers'-- those man-operated heavy machinery, sorta like tanks on stilt legs-- that are used by the emperor in battle. Yet, everything else seems to be a throw-back. No phones, no walkie-talkies, no SUVs...

I digress.

I dunno. The hot bondage sex turned into a sweet, love-will-conquer all thing. Which is nice enough, but I was hoping for something a little darker. I think if I'd read this a couple years ago, I would have loved it more. Which is, come to think of it, when I read a lot of this author's other stuff and liked it much better.

This was just alright.

Julio Genao says

this is what the sex in this book does to my balls.

i've fapped to this thing so many times since it never occurred to me to rate or review it before right now.

srrsly.

that's my explanation.

too busy fapping, n'stuff.

and then when i'm done with whatever scene i've just re-read for the 30th time i be like:

like, it's been *years* with this book.

Nikyta *Miss Forgetful* says

One of the reasons I love J.C. Owen's books so much is because she writes about all the stuff I love to read about: Master/slave relationships that turn into more, forced slavery, fantasy stories, mates and royalty with just a dash of cruelty/abuse and a happy ending.

The Emperor's Wolf has all of those and coupled with the way J.C. can drag you into the story made this an instant must read to me. Add into it a possessive, cruel alpha that has a soft side and I just fell in love with this book.

FYI, there's a prologue offered on J.C.'s site for free. It was cut from the book but if you're thinking about reading The Emperor's Wolf, I suggest you read the prologue first. It'll give you a better understanding of what happened before Jaden was forced into slavery.

For spoilers go here.

Elise ✕ a.k.a Ryder's Pet ✕ says

[becomes the Emperor's Wolf, His Consort (hide spoiler)]

Emma Sea says

JC Owens has really got the whole slave trope nailed. This one was slightly suprising: I didn't anticipate where the story went, and it made this one of my favourites of zirs.

No abuse or rape, instead a sweet, gentle slave hurt/comfort story. Tiny bit of m/F in the first chapter.
