



Taken

Jolynn Raymond

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Taken is a dark love story set in the 1500's of Hungary. It's one that begins with terror and cruelty. Mikhal the Merciless is pure evil, a dark anti-hero who will fill you with loathing long before he catches your heart. The road to love for Alliana and Mikhal is a rocky one; and any roses that bloom, also pierce with thorns. You may well be wishing for Mikhal's demise before you cheer them on to love, but you will cheer them on to love.

Stolen from her family and very way of life, a young Gypsy girl finds herself trapped among evil. She is to be kept and bred by the dark lord who has taken her from all she knew and thrust her into his world of terror.

Mikhal is the known and feared Mikhal the Merciless, a rich and heartless Lord, who has a taste for blood and cruelty. Many suspect his true origins. Alliana is a poor Gypsy girl, but her family has much magic. It is rumored that Alliana will bring those around her great wealth and power when she comes of age. She is their treasured golden child. When Mikhal happens upon her one night on his land, he decides he must have her for his own. With the magical help of Marishka, his sister, he plans to create a son with the wild Gypsy, one who will help him rule the earth as he lives out his life of eternity.

Will Alliana's innocence shatter the fierceness of Mikhal's heart and drive the cruelty from him, or will he cast her aside once she gives him what he seeks?

Taken Details

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From Reader Review Taken for online ebook

Ann-marie says

Taken is not your typical vampire love story; in fact, I am not quite sure I would classify it as a love story at all. At least, not in the beginning. It is set in Hungary in the 1500's, and the writing style and dialect reflect such. You are introduced to Alliana, a Gypsy girl, while she is picking apples up from the ground. Most Gypsy girls are married by the time they reach Alliana's age, however, she is a special case, and her family knows she needs to make that decision for herself; especially since they are unaware of just what powers she truly possesses. She is the treasured golden child, after all; and it is said that she will bring those around her great wealth and power.

She is soon captured by a very dark and sinister vampire, Mikhal the Meriless. Just his very name puts fear in the entire town. He thrives on the fact that every one fears him and what he is capable of, and he has no issues with that notoriety.

Mikhal brings Alliana back to his castle, choosing her to be his bride, his chosen one, the one who will bear him a son, to carry on his legacy for all of eternity. There you will learn what true evil is. You are soon introduced to Marishka, Mikhal's evil sister, among other characters within the castle walls.

The first part of the book is rather sinister and dark, but you will soon find your emotions and thoughts changing as the emotions and thoughts of the characters change. As much as I loved to hate Mikhal from the beginning, I began to wonder if there was a spark of humanity somewhere deep within him after Marishka casts a spell on him.

There are some sex scenes involved, so I do suggest that the readers be 18+. Go ahead; take the adventure with Alliana and Mikhal, if you dare.

Naksed says

Pulpy, completely over-the-top, but deeply satisfying and riveting vampire story. It is like a cross between the original Dracula legend and some of the most trashtastic bodice-rippers that were so popular a few decades ago. Sure, there were a lot of typos, the story dragged on a bit, and it ended in a bizarre, abrupt cliffhanger, but there is enough material there to keep me interested in Volume II. Onwards, I go...

Jo says

Taken is part of a trilogy, Beneath the Shadow of Evil, about an abduction of a gypsy girl by a Lord of the local vampire group. It has some violence, sex, lots of dialog and interesting characters but the best part of the book is how the author presented the characters in medieval Hungary.

Tara Humphrey says

Dark. I have to say that some of what happens in this book was hard to read. I'm so glad that even though the relationship between Marishka and Mikhal was mentioned that it wasn't acted upon in the book. I think it would have been harder to see Mikhal as the person (or vampire) he will become. I really felt sorry for Alliana.

Fre06 Begum says

This series was actually really good with a really nasty anti hero incest and a quite strong female lead. I would have given this 4stars but something about the writing was just a bit off putting but it was interesting enough that I finished the whole series and really enjoyed the obsessive love the evil male lead had for heroine.

Shari Kay says

[a HEA (hide spoiler)]

susan stacy smith says

Wow

This book truly captivated me its mind blowing edge gripping this storyline is truly beautifully written and deserves a 10 stars

Sassy says

~~~ NOTE: 18+ READERS ~~~

As warned by other reviews, this trilogy is a dark romance and the warning is given by the author in a blurb as well. So, those reviewers that are complaining and giving the book low ratings are not being fair. Yes, it's dark .... this is not your typical vampire story, it's a story about a very dark demon/vampire, so of course it is dark. I would probably even say it is a story more of a demon than a vampire.

The story takes place in Hungary in the 1500's about a young Gypsy girl (Alliana). She is a carefree, free-spirited girl and loves to be out on her own enjoying her surroundings and life in general.

As this story starts she is out picking apples that have fallen from the trees to the frozen ground. While doing so she is captured by the dark, menacing vampire/demon, "Mikhal the Merciless". Mikhal is feared by all for his sinister ways. He knows that Alliana is 'gifted' and is known as the "Golden Child. It is said that she will bring those around her great wealth & power and Mikhal wants her for his wife to bear his son to give him

even more power and ensure that his sinister ways continue through his son.

There are other characters with-in Mikhal's castle that you will meet that are even more evil and sinister than Mikhal.

Yes, the first part of the book is very dark and sinister and you will wonder if there is a spark of humanity in Mikhal or the other evil people that live within the castle. I hated Mikhal from the beginning, but began to wonder if there might be some bit of humanity within him as the story progresses.

There are some sex scenes involved that may be disturbing in the beginning, so I do suggest that the readers be 18+.

Go ahead; take the adventure with Alliana and Mikhal, if you dare. I will definitely be reading the next two books in this Trilogy and recommend them to my friends that enjoy their romance on the darker side.

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### **Jane says**

*Beneath the Shadows of Evil ~ Taken* is a multi-layer story for the young Gypsy girl; Alliana finds herself in Mikhal the Evil's castle very obviously under his evil but also under the evil of his sister, Marishka and several other characters that live in the castle. Jolynn Raymond's descriptive ability as a writer is excellent as she shows Alliana's emotional ups and downs and in the sizzling hot sexy love scenes between Mikhal and Alliana. She also does an excellent description of the change in Mikhal's emotions as the story changes especially after his evil sister casts a feeling spell on him. The stories sex scenes are hot enough to make you fingers burn as you read your Kindle; the emotions of the characters make you feel a full range of emotions from hate to love and back again. The use and spelling of terms true to the time period also added to the enjoyment of this great story. As I read this book, I couldn't wait to find out what happened next but I did not want it to end so I highly recommend it to other readers. The first book of this trilogy has a plot that is excellent, the characters have great depth and I can't wait to read book two in this trilogy.

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### **Eliza says**

I gave this book a 2 star rating because it was unbelievably cheesy and I couldn't get past it! I had really high hopes as it did seem like a great story-line, one that I could enjoy, but I lost it with all the corny writing. The heroine was a blabbering idiot and the "hero" was a douche vampire that needed his ass kicked. Total cheese dick. Anyway, I don't know why I'm being so mean about this book? I guess I had high hopes and they fell flat with a BIG SPLAT.

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### **T.J. Shaw says**

This was a very hard review for me. I only review books I like and I initially stopped reading TAKEN. Why? Was it because the book was too dark? No, as an ex-cop, I've seen what real demons look like in our world. I stopped reading because Ms. Raymond is a very unconventional writer and her technique threw me completely out of sorts.

Every type of writing has a style and within those styles there are certain “rules” the writer is supposed to live by. Well, Ms Raymond has a writing style all her own and doesn’t care about the rules! She loves to change point of views, not just once or twice, but several times. You’ll be reading from one person’s POV at the beginning of a paragraph only to end the paragraph from a different POV. If I remember right, we even had an omniscient POV a few times. And she’s an equal POV opportunist—it doesn’t matter if we only see the character once in the book because chances are, for a few short lines, we get to read from that incidental character’s POV. Now, I’ve said this before, I don’t mind head-hopping (and truth be told, I tend to enjoy it) if it’s done well. Because Ms. Raymond jumps from one person to the next so regularly, I sometimes had a hard time knowing whose head I was in until the end of the paragraph and that was frustrating.

This book also had format errors, misspellings, and typos to add into the mix of why I initially put it down. So, what made me pick it up again? Because Ms. Raymond did something writers dream of doing and what good writers accomplish—she made me care. After I shelved the book, I spent the entire day wondering about Alliana, the poor gypsy girl married to the soulless demon, Mikhal. I wondered what new torture he’d inflict on her as she stood proud before him, refusing to back down. I longed to see a little bit of compassion in his eyes as his journey to redemption begins. Ms. Raymond made me care about these characters and that is great storytelling.

If you decide to read this book, you must understand a few things first: you will be jumping from not one or two, but several POVs. This book also is not for the faint of heart because as a demon, Mikhal truly is a heartless, cruel bastard. There is a lot of introspection at times which slows down the action. And finally, the ending just stops practically in mid sentence, there is no conclusion. You will be left hanging! If these attributes are going to bother you, then you might not enjoy the book. But if you remain vigilant, you might just surprise yourself and discover that you too care about the sweet, smart, and strong Alliana and the demon whose soul she’ll save, whether he wants her to or not.

Now excuse me while I go read TORN, the second in the series.

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### **Daneesha says**

Hmm. I'm not quite sure how I feel about this book.

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