



The Concubine

Francette Phal

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"In this pregnant silence, with nothing in the air but the echoes of our spent passion fusing with the sweet scent of summer night, I feel foolish for loving you. The absurdity of it is a blow right between to my battered heart. A concubine in love with her king."

He rescued her from a fate worse than death and claimed her as his own. In the vast Norian palace, she is made concubine, one of many and is taught how to please the mighty Norian king. She knows she must keep her heart guarded, but how can she when his very touch sustains her soul? When a simple kiss from his lips evokes a burning desire that threatens to burn her alive? He is everything to her, but in her shadowed affections, bound as she is to him, she has little choice but to share him the countless women in his life.

In her shadowed affections, bound as she is to him, her heart burns every time she must share him with the many women in his life.

The Concubine Details

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From Reader Review The Concubine for online ebook

Sara says

I was just about to delete this book from "To be Read" shelf, when I read the synopsis again and decided to give it a try. It's a short but OK.

It was written like she was writing a letter to her king. A little magic mixed in kind of surprised me. I won't be moving on to the next book in this series

Delaney Diamond says

I really enjoyed this story, surprising since it was written in *present tense*, which I would normally avoid.

The sample pulled me in and for the next couple of hours I was riveted, loathed to move as I turned the electronic pages to see what would happen next. And boy, does a lot happen in this novella! It takes place over a period of more than five years and is filled with lies, betrayal, and murder.

Although this is a romance, it's not your typical romance. The story takes place during an unknown time in history where people still use cannons, swords, and arrows to fight battles. With their formal speech and robe-wearing, it reminds me of the Middle Ages. The setting is in the fictional country of Noria. The story was told in what felt like journal entries, written by the favorite slave/concubine of the ruling king, Marik. Her name was Lealin.

Although race is not mentioned, the hero and heroine were clearly of different races. She was dark, her skin color described as earth-toned, while the hero was described as blond, with grey eyes and white skin.

I enjoyed all the characters, and even felt a bit of pity for the villain. (Yeah, I know, crazy, right?) He loved Lealin so much. I enjoyed Kivar, the king's grumpy advisor who was also good with medicinal potions. He came to the rescue at the end during a particularly heart-breaking scene. Somia, the king's second wife, who turned out to be a friend and ally to Lealin.

This was truly great storytelling, marred only by the lack of editing. Half of the sentences didn't begin with a capital letter and the author didn't properly punctuate the lines of dialogue. There were also miscellaneous typos throughout.

I hate to end on a negative note. I enjoyed the story, and in some instances, the way the author chose to put words together was almost like reading poetry. But I would have enjoyed The Concubine even more without the numerous editing issues. It was really good stuff!

Sienna Gray says

PHENOMENAL!

I must add my two cents. I know there are plenty of book snobs out there that will only read a third person narrative but this book was excellent. The story is told from Lealin's perspective, the concubine of King Marik. The writing style was different, easy to follow and the writing...oh my word I need a tissue.

Ms. Phal has a way with her words and in this piece its almost poetic.

"In this pregnant silence, with nothing in the air but the echoes of our spent passion fusing with the sweet scent of summer night, I feel foolish for loving you. The absurdity of it is a blow right between to my battered heart. A concubine in love with her king."

PJ says

3.5 to 4 Stars

I wasn't sure how I felt about this book at first. It's definitely a scorcher and has loads of potential, but it needs a thorough edit, mostly for streamlining of content. I don't read very many "historical" romances, if that's what this is. The story takes place in the fictional Norian Kingdom and is about a passionate affair between a King Marik and his beloved concubine Lealin. The book is a lyrical letter from Lealin to Marik. The title indicates letters from Lealin to Marik and I feel it would have worked better if it had followed that form in separate chapters as it wound its way from searing love scenes to cries of desperate sorrow at her predestined role in Marik's life. After I finished it I thought it was kind of "light", but it's stayed with me-- mostly because of the lovely Lealin and her long letter full of longing.

And that's just the beginning, read on to discover plots to overthrow the kingdom and plans to tear their love apart.

Candace says

This was a quick, angst-filled read. I enjoyed it, but it was in serious need of some editing. The number of grammatical errors was astounding, although my version is quite old and newer versions may have been edited more thoroughly.

My heart went out to Lea. Shunned by the King she loved, only to become the object of obsession for the cruel man that would overthrow him, she went from one sad existence to the next. In the end, she gets a HEA, but I can't help but think that it came at an unreasonable price for her.

Due to the short length of this book, I felt like the story was rushed and I wanted more character development. I feel like this story could have easily been an epic novel with more details and development. As it stands, it was okay but lacked the depth and captivating intangibles that make a story great.

Nikki ? Navareus says

*****FOUR STARS!*****

This is such a great, angsty read. I cannot imagine being so devastatingly in love with someone, and having to watch him with his other wives, as told in this story. There was so much more story packed in this little gem, as well. I cannot believe I've never heard of this one before. So happy I had this recommended to me by one of my amazing GR friends (thanks for helping to get me out of my book slump!). This story is absolutely worth the read.

Diana's says

3.5 stars

Totally not what I was expecting but since it was such a different kind of read it kept me engaged.

Spoiler Whore-Momoa says

I love the way the story is told in almost journal like fashion. The Concubine, Leilan is hopelessly in love with her master/slaver/lover and King Marik. You can feel the emotions she has for him. Her words are beautiful, heart breaking and sorrowful. She knows that he has others and is married, twice later on in the story but she also knows that she is his favorite. He proudly shows her off to his court. Circumstances occur which they are separated for many years but they thought of each other and in the end, you see that their love is endless.

I would have enjoyed the story much more if it wasn't for the editing issues.

Suzane says

4.5 stars

Raquel says

~4.5~

What a pleasant surprise this was.

Despite being a short novella, it really packed on the intensity and emotions.

The book does have lots of editing errors which is a shame. But despite that I couldn't put it down, really enjoyed it and absolutely loved the story.

Thanks Ash for the rec! Mwah!

Rosalinda Herrera Erazo says

No se ustedes pero MUERTE A TODOS, menos a los niños
Ninguno de los dos me agrado y Lea Dios quise matarla siempre.
A Quien le miento... era TeamLucian,
Maldito Lucian, nooooo odio a la autora por hacerlo mal al final busco que odiamos a Lucian para poder aceptar que Malik se quedara con Lea.

Lea... Te odio te mereces que te digan mascota nunca aspiraste a más
Malik... que te jodan sos un egoista ojala te hubieras quedado solo
Lucian... No lo odio, te odio a ti Francette Phal por querer hacerme odiarlo, pero sabes que nop

Una buena historia algo dificil de leer pero al final buena, pero no de mis favoritas.
El mensaje es confuso, para mi el no aspirar a nada y conformate es muy marcada en la historia una narración de alguien que no se ama ni se valora. Como amar a alguien que no te valora, eso no lo entendí en esta historia.

La recomiendo si pero prepárense para odiar algunas partes

CasPerfitz~SLiTsReaD says

4.5 Stars!

In her shadowed affections, bound as she is to him, her heart burns every time she must share him with the many women in his life.

Oh wow! The story is told through Lealin's thoughts, she is the king's favourite concubine... written in a kinda narrative poem style... and I'm digging it! Brings out the poet in me. lol... It is a refreshing change.

I didn't expect I would easily like Lealin.... much more feeling her pain....

Will it always be this way? This unstoppable cycle of simple touches, softly whispered words, and I fall weak and wanting at your feet, never you're equal, never your partner, always the wanton, weak willed concubine, slave, whore? I wear each title so well that I sometimes

forget who I truly am.

It was just sad...

But I admired her love and devotion towards Marik.

Marik, one minute I was hating him, but then, understanding the time and age of the story, I adopt! Yet, I'd hate him again... but end up loving him in the end. I loved how the author redeemed his character.

There is so much more to the story... I never really knew where it was swaying to. I really am pleasantly surprised. And this is not a long read either but every page counts... with the perfect ending. The turning points, the highlights, they were breathtaking.

Here is one more of my favourite quote :

“You dare to address the King so informally?”

“What do you suggest I call him then when he seeks pleasure from me? It would hardly do if I were to pant and moan “Your Majesties” everywhere. Hardly romantic.”

Snap!!! Haha.

Thank you Silvana for recommending. Mwaaah! ♥?♥?♥?

Silvana says

I wasn't sure about reading this one at first, I admit the blurb scared me, but I was very curious and intrigued at the same time; I finally succumbed and WOW.

After reading it, I wondered why I waited for so long. This book is intense, full of angst and heartache, I LOVED IT. I actually read it a few months back, but it is still ingrained in my memory.

The Concubine is written in the present tense as it is in the form of personal journals. I loved this approach and felt like I was going through this timeless, emotional journey right alongside of Lealin. Lea's words managed to reach out to me as a reader, feeling her every emotion, be it pain, fear, happiness, desire or hope.

Even though we of-course are not privy to Marik's thoughts, I was able to see him and feel his passion for Lea through her eyes ; The author managed to make me fell in love with him. He pissed me off at times, broke my heart at others then made my heart whole again. A flawed man, a just king and a passionate lover.

There are a few scenes at the end that cemented his status as one of my all time favorite fictional heroes.

For such a short novella, it covers a lot of time span and the author manages to give a powerful love story without me ending up feeling shortchanged.

Do I regret reading it? Obviously not

Do I regret waiting so long to read it? YES.

Do I recommend? ABSOLUTELY.

Crazy about Bookz says

I want MORE! Book 2 or novella anything! review to follow (^o^)

Crystal Moody says

Loved this book! It was different and so good! Very creative writing.
