



## The Panther and the Pearl

*Doreen Owens Malek*

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On an innocent excursion to Constantinople, Sarah Woolcott finds herself a prisoner in a handsome sheik's harem. Although she spurns his passionate overtures, Kalid Shah vows to tempt her with his masterful skills until she becomes a willing companion on their journey of exquisite ecstasy.

## **The Panther and the Pearl Details**

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Author : Doreen Owens Malek

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## From Reader Review The Panther and the Pearl for online ebook

### Ria says

When Sarah Woolcott goes from Boston to spend some time with her cousin James in Constantinople, her curiosity about the harem and palace lifestyle of the country gets the better of her.

James arranges for her to take a post at the palace of the Sultan as teacher to the princess Roxalena but things go wrong when she is seen by Kalid Shah who arranges to have her drugged and kidnapped to live in his harem until she falls in love with him.

Can his audacious plan win out?

Will she overcome her aversion to his high handed and demanding antics and fall in love with someone the total opposite of her and her beliefs?

Exciting, dramatic and set in exotic places this is a romance that will appeal to anyone who loves a good yarn and historical settings.

A wonderful story that I could not put down.

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### Lover of Romance says

When Sarah visits her cousin and his wife in Persia, she is intrigued by the culture, and volunteers to teach at the Sultan's Harem. But then she catches the eye of Kalid, a Prince. So Kalid buys her from the Sultan, because she intrigues him in a way that no woman has. Sarah is shocked to discover she belongs to Kalid, and even though he is gorgeous and mesmerizing, but she refuses to give in to his seduction, because she is a person not a possession...but when he kisses her all her common sense and revolve goes out the window, and she feels herself opening up to him despite her inner protests and knows that she is falling in love with him...This was the first novel that I have read from this author, and I just fell in love with this story. It starts out a little slow but eventually the story really kicks into gear, and I found myself not able to put it down. I have always had a weakness for Sheikh's love stories, and this is probably at the top of my favorites now....Kalid is very arrogant and holds power in his hands....but as the story progressed you start to just fall in love with him as the hero. Sarah is very strong willed and determined and I just loved how she stands up to Kalid with no fear....and I just enjoyed seeing these two fall for each other....it was a heartwarming romance, that will tickle your toes as you read...and warm your heart!!! A beautiful story set in a exotic place!!! Definitely looking forward to reading more from this breathtaking author who creates wonderful stories to capture the heart!!

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### Tiblu says

#### Boring and tedious....

I'm so very, very glad wasn't just some to stupid to live doormat type of h, that she basically told him that no matter how much she loved him she refused to just bow to his will and allow him to treat her like a piece of property just because of said love and how beautiful she thought he was... But there was no chemistry here and the near constant conflicts because ants to treated like a person w/dignity and respect and like a piece of property were quite honestly boring and tedious ( for me at least) I loved how Sarah saw his manipulations

for what they were and wasn't afraid to stand up to the arrogant prick, but they were just arguments plain and simple not the kind that actually feel like foreplay and help build tension and intrigue and hopefully excitement though most the book everyone acted ( especially Khalid) like she was crazy to not just fall at him feet and just into his bed, because he's soo powerful and wealthy and handsome again especially Khalid... Even though supposedly he hadn't wanted any of the other women because they did do just that ( fell at his feet and into his bed) .. Honestly at times it was hard to know wha Khald really wanted ( other his cake and to eat it too) Western Mother and schooling or he ( was confusing) wanted to be able to buy this Western woman he fell in lust w/have her be some sorta challenge and ye be ok w/being bought and drugged and kidnapped and ordered around like a pet animal or child and yet not be easy peasy lemon squeezy like all the other women already on offer to him.. WTH ?!?!? Right ?!?! On one hand I was all for Sarah coz for me it's a HUGE ,HELL NO!!! On being treated like a piece of property ( parents can be like that) but honestly after a while it just felt like stubbornness on both their parts, I mean if Khalid truly came running love her m he should gotten to know her and knew all these stupid games he was playing were just gonna bite him in the end and just be honest w/her, No by the time he was proposing to her he should loved her enough to grow up some and tried to give the woman he supposedly loves what she needs and not just want he wants... Ending was drug out w a y too l o n g it felt just to lengthen the story... And honestly between Khalid's prickish/dickish Ways I stopped being truly interested or caring long before things got sexual between them ,I finished out pure curiosity and nothing more...

To me Khalid was an arrogant jerk blind to his actions and consequences to almost the very end, all he had to ever do was apologize and beg forgiveness for being the arrogant fool that he was but he never said he was sorry for anything especially not buying her... I guess courting her and trying to get to know would be too easy and not in his control... Sadly he wasn't as bad as 1/2 the jerks in today's contemporary romances, who seconds after meeting h are thinking about how to "train" them to service THEIR needs but still not an H for me.. No thanks, why talk when you can order.. Glad this was KU .. Soo only time was lost not money ;(

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### **Tutti Dolci says**

Similar to Johanna Lindsey's Silver Angel, but I enjoyed Ms. Owens Malek's heroine far more.

Not so much a bodice ripper as much as it is a story of people of different backgrounds and cultures. But the romance, sensuality, and excitement is all there in a very worthwhile read. A must-read for lovers of Harem romances, for sure.

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### **sanner faye crook says**

#### **Effort**

3 stars for effort not as good as I thought it would be just ok different from any book that I have read but just fair

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### **Katie(babs) says**

The overall plot of this story is a man who won't take no for an answer and the so called strong willed woman who falls in love with him anyway. Kalid Shah, a ruler in some mideastern country sees American

Sarah and decides he wants her for himself. He kidnaps hers, threatens to beat his servants if she doesn't do what he says and constantly tries to seduce her. This fluffy story is not even a good fantasy. The reader will not understand even after Sarah escapes, why she would have any feelings for the hero. Even up to the last page he is obsessed to the point of madness.

The love scenes are so-so and not even the secondary romance had enough power to make this book interesting. Skip this one.

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### **Natalija says**

Let me start by saying that I try to avoid books set in exotic locations mainly due to the amount of foreign words and strange names they include. *The Panther and the Pearl* is no exception and it took me nearly 3 days to finish it, but I'm glad that I read it because this book is definitely worth picking up.

While the Ottoman Empire setting and the cultural details play an important role throughout the course of the book, author does a great job of giving just the right amount of information and description that it does not distract from the main plot line.

As far as characters go, I liked them, but I didn't love them enough to re-read this book in the future. Both of them were likeable and made a great couple, but they also were a little too bland for the harem setting.

To summarize, *The Panther and the Pearl* is a beautiful love story that I would recommend to anyone looking for something different than a traditional Regency romance.

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### **Nikki Wilde says**

Ok, so it's 1885 and Sarah is visiting her cousin in Turkey on a holiday. She is curious about harem life and he offers her a visit to the princess to teach her some American ways. While there the Pasha of Bursa happens to get a glance of her and must have her for himself. Since he's the Pasha and used to getting everything he wants she's drugged and taken to his harem to live.

Apparently, this is lust at first sight on both counts. As mad as Sarah is for the way she was purchased by the Pasha, Kalid, she still can't get over her attraction for him. I found it difficult keeping everyone straight. The Kosem, Kalid, khislar, so many K's I had a difficult time remembering who's who and what's what.

I did enjoy that I learned a bit about Constantinople and what harem life was like. I wish we learned more about Roxalena and lover. I was nervous for them. It sort of skimmed around what might be in store for them but we never really learn for sure.

I found Sarah and Kalid to both be very stubborn. I don't want to give anything away but I thought more would have happened with the Bedouins.

I'm not disappointed I read this one. I did receive a complimentary copy of this book for my honest review.

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### **Nessa says**

CUTE, BUT I COULDN'T REALLY STAND THE THEATRICS OF THE HEROINE. I WANTED TO LIKE HER BUT SOMETIMES THEY BOTH TRY MY PATIENCE. LACKING SENSIBILITY HERE....

OUR HERO is a Pasha, a tyrant ruler who holds quite an amount of power besides the Sultan. He's British educated, and slightly out of place being Turkish but not exactly English as well. When he encounters the foreign beauty in the Sultan's home, he wagers for her with the King and bought her like chattel. Sarah was not the least bit pleased and fights him all the way until FINALLY she succumbs. Kalid reminded me of a child who wants something desperately but doesn't know how to go about it. So I don't blame him for the blunders, since no one is around to advise him how to treat an American Woman properly and respecting her as an adult. Boy did he have his work cut out for him to win her affections, and a man like him has little patience, not when he can have anything he wants with a snap of his fingers or with money.

OUR HEROINE is an educated American woman who followed her cousin to the exotic country of Turkey and wants to experience their enriching and different culture, so with some help she becomes a teacher to the Sultan's eldest Princess and to her dismay, caught the eye of the handsome Pasha and became his reluctant addition to the harem. She fights the attraction between them, although she doesn't really want to but she wants him to love her first before all else.

OVERALL it was rather enjoyable except those moments where they fight. They make up for it in the sheets but I do wish they could have talked more adequately instead of throwing fits about everything.

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### **Kristen says**

This book is what I'd call a HOT MESS! The writing borders on complete disarray but there's still that undeniable element that makes the story very appealing.

Over all, I enjoyed this book. And one thing for sure, I really love Sheikh type romance books! Very fun escape.

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### **L. (Vacation All I Ever Wanted) says**

American teacher Sarah Woolcott is visiting family in Constantinople where she catches the eye of Kalid Shah. He whiskers her away to his palace (without Sarah's permission) and holds her in his harem. Eventually Kalid learns that drugging, kidnapping and holding a woman prisoner is not a successful equation for love and lets Sarah go.

**CON:** The story was set in the 19th century but Sarah sometimes came off as a more modern character. She just didn't really fit. The end felt too long as Kalid was trying to catch up with Sarah before she left for America. There was a secondary love story that was simply dropped. You never learn what happens to the

other couple and as far as I know they don't get their own book. The love scenes were of the Fade To Black variety.

**PRO:** If reading descriptive details of what someone is wearing makes you horny, baby, then you'll like this book. It was an easy read if you're looking for something to kill the weekend with.

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### **MelissaB says**

The Panther and the Pearl was a fun book to read, I loved the exotic setting of 1800's Persia. The book starts with the hero, Kalid, buying Sarah, an American woman from the Sultan after he sees her just once in her role as a teacher to the Sultan's daughter. Sarah is of course not happy to have been sold to someone she doesn't know even if he is handsome and rich. Kalid knew that Sarah was the woman for him at first sight, so he did what he needed to do to have her as his own. After she is brought to his palace, she is placed in his harem as the new favorite. Kalid wants Sarah to come to him willingly, so he sets out to seduce her. But alas Kalid underestimates just how stubborn Sarah will be because although she is very attracted to him, she cannot get over his buying her and placing her as a prisoner in the harem.

The book goes through the very tempestuous courtship of Kalid and Sarah after their unusual start of him buying her. I really enjoyed this story, the setting was very interesting and I felt Kalid acted as a man in his position would have but he never abuses her in any way or forces her - he wants her to fall in love with him and stay with him of her own accord. Sarah manages to stand up for herself and show Kalid what she needs from him if they are going to make a relationship work, which is great to see because Kalid has such a strong will that he would have run over someone who wasn't as strong as Sarah. If you like exotic settings or sheikh books, I highly recommend this book!

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### **Cathy says**

I received a free eBook in exchange for an honest review.

I'm pretty sure that by naming this "The Panther and the Pearl" the author was going retro-style, because in a lot of ways this is an old-fashioned novel. While a lot of the plot is unrealistic - sorry, but even with the Western education I'm pretty sure the pasha wouldn't have been as tolerant with Sarah as he was in this story - it's a refreshing departure from the trend of girl-falls-for-rapist stories that prevail in the romance genre, a trend I find disturbing on so many levels, quite frankly. Beyond that, it suffers from the standard plot devices of the genre: female must nurse her captor, showing deeper feeling than she knew she had; snubbed ex attempts revenge; big blowup happens when man withholds info from female and she finds out; etc....

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### **Jan says**

Creative twist for title and plot, doesn't quite make a gem of a read.

The Panther and The Pearl, by Doreen Owens Malek

Historical romances are a fav of mine, so when I had the chance to review this book I jumped at it. And

while there is no mention of any specific historical events within the timespan of this story, it does take place in Persia's 1800's when harems were in and women had absolutely no choice ...in anything. I feel this book was overzealous in its attempt to include an impressionable young American woman from Boston, with a newly Oxford-educated young Persian man who had become a prince ruler after the death of his father, who also married an American woman.

Yes, the story was well told, the characters were convincing, and the individual elements of the storyline were mostly believable; girl visits cousin in far-off lands, girl curious and pays for it by being bought by boy for his harem, girl becomes reluctant and rebellious to thwart boy and causes some very exasperating and emotional complexity, girl and boy grow up after she finds herself pregnant, they and make up and...THE END.

However, the writer had pluck and was determined to see the story have a happy ending. For all the trials and tribulations the couple went through the story had an abrupt but inevitably happy ending, yet nothing was promised for a second book. With such a dramatic beginning, which cultivated a very complex main story, I expected a grander closing and was seriously left wanting. My own historical research of this book is that it's a re-print, which makes me wonder if the years which span between had anything to do with the influx of more modern thinking of the girl than the 1800s would have afforded her. Don't read it for its history, but enjoy it for the simple story it is.

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### **Elle says**

The theory of the story is as follows. Sarah Woolcott is visiting her cousin James and his wife. James is a businessman trading in Constantinople, 1885. Sarah is curious about the culture and James, seeing an opportunity to ingratiate himself with the Sultan, offers her as a tutor to the Sultan's daughter.

A visiting pasha, Kalid Shah of Bursa, sees Sarah and offers things of value to the sultan for her and the sultan accepts the deal. Sarah is drugged and finds herself ensconced in Kalid's harem, where she is now the ikbal.

Kalid's mother was an Englishwoman and he attended school in England, so he has some grasp of Western sensibilities. He wants Sarah to come to him willingly, but his first encounter with her runs totally counterintuitive to this wish. He basically has her dragged to his presence as a slave, naked, and humiliates her. Way to go, Kalid. He does eventually grasp her need to be free, but not before, IMO, he does pretty much every possible thing to assure that any sensible woman would want nothing more than to put distance between them.

Sarah, for her part, resists admirably, though her "willful body" sometimes has a mind of its own. Maybe I'm missing something but I always want to gag when I read stuff like this. In my experience, a normal woman's passions are not going to be engaged if she is frightened or furious, and Sarah is both.

I'm giving nothing away by saying that eventually the attraction wins the day. In this case the events of the story justify it, though I still think the hero should be whacked upside the head a few times just for his dumbassed behavior to that point. Anyway, decent story, though I did wonder occasionally how well researched the story was in terms of period and culture.

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