



The Trainer

Laura Antoniou

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The Marketplace series' third volume brings us a new understanding of the dynamics of power exchange within the clandestine society. In the hedonistic sphere of slaves and owners, what motivates those who do neither? This is literature about domination and submission at its best.

The Trainer Details

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Amy says

I learn something new each time I read this book. It reminds me that thinking things through is so important. Sometimes we don't know our path then suddenly it is clear to us. A lot of times it is not a quick process but one that takes experiences and lots of thought to get us to where we will know for certain.

Boho Beannie says

This was good. It was the first book where I began to actually be interested in Chris Parker. While he still has his secrets, I think the character was more fully fleshed out and became more compelling. The Trainer I found a bit odd. The speech patterns were off - very formal and slang in the same sentence. It seemed to be spoken by two different characters. Michaels journey of discovery and self knowledge was well written and rewarding to the reader. The secondary slaves gave flavor to the story and were interesting without taking over the story.

Danielle Tremblay says

Ah ah! Michael made me laugh many times. Even though I don't know much about Domination-submission, I'd have done better than him.

Each book of this series is better than the previous ones.

Marilou says

The third book in the Marketplace series is about Michael LaGuardia, a trainer in training. I read the last two books a while ago and i wanted to give myself some time between each one because it was a lot to take in in book one. I have to say i enjoyed this one far more than the previous ones. I loved witnessing Michael and his slow change from being an arrogant little know it all to becoming who he truly was all along. Of course, the always present Chris Parker was awesome in this book also, but it was nice to see how this book played off the second book with the situation with Robin and when Chris went to her rescue, we got more insight on what happened and i was glad to read about it.

All in all a beautifully written book by Laura Antoniou. I love her writing style and the world she has created for us. Can't wait to read The Reunion, but The Academy comes next.

Kimberlyn says

Love this series. I appreciate how the author makes distinctions between bondage/discipline,

Dominance/submission, and Sadomasochism. While in its own way a sex-oriented urban fantasy, it creates a world of complicated, realistic characters. The myriad versions of the D/s dynamic are all given their moment, and such interactions in all of their subtle variants are convincing.

This was the book I liked the least of the series. The protagonist was so unlikable, even after his instance of self-realization, that while I enjoyed reading about the world of the Marketplace, I kept wondering what they saw in him. Still, it was a good read.

Matthias Williamson says

This woman really knows how to write this genre realistically.

Carole-Ann says

The 3rd book in the BDSM classic Marketplace series, and a very interesting story about Michael, a Trainer in Training at the Anderson House, with Chris Parker in attendance.

Lots of introspection; questions abound; and a twist in the tail....which I cottoned on to about 2/3rds the way through, and was quite pleased with the end.

Becca says

This third book in the Marketplace series answers several questions and asks several more. I did enjoy the author's world and characters. I did get frustrated with the many questions that are never answered - much like the characters in the book feel. It was well written but, as with the other two books, I had to push myself through it. I'm done with this series even though there are two more books out. It isn't so much that the subject matter is difficult to read but that the world created has a depressive feel (at least to me), and I am ready to move on.

Aryeh says

Definitely the best one of the three first books in this series. Antoniou unfortunately tries to introduce foreshadowing toward the end to link this story to the next one coming and it falls flat. However, the rest of the book is significantly better than the prior two and successfully weaves two stories together, Michael's past and Michael's present. Good story (for a fantasy) that actually has a plot. The best part is possibly that we learn of Chris' perspective on the rescuing Robin incident from The Slave. The ending is no surprise to anyone with a brain or any experience, but still worth a read if this is your thing.

Vic says

3.75 *. I thought Mr LaGuardia was a bit annoying but loved seeing more of how Trainers were trained and seeing more of CP.

Danny Tyran says

In fact, it's the third time I've read this novel and I've done it with just as much fun. It's better to read an excellent book several times than a bad one once, right? Yet, I rarely re-read a novel, even those I loved. That is to say that Laura knows how to amuse us (I smiled and laughed more than once) and communicate her vision of Domination/submission in a convincing way.

Michael really has a very limited view of slavery. From his point of view, it is only sex mixed with SM games. As long as the slave is handsome and knows how to make good blowjobs first thing in the morning and wiggles nicely when whipped, it is a good slave.

Those who read only the very first book in The Marketplace series and believe they know everything that needs to be known about it are mistakenly wrong. The first novel is far from the best. If the D/s interests you, more than the SM plays, you will love The Trainer as much as me.

Now, I'm going to reread The Slave. ;)

Séverin Grimm says

Wow! The third one is the best until now.

Michael is a guy who believes he is a Dom with a big D and that slaves are only good for sex and a little spanking once in a while just to spice his intercourses. When he is accepted by Anderson to be trained to become a trainer, he learns one thing or two, e.g. that nothing is exactly what he thought. Chris is good at opening the eyes and reddening the bottom of stupid young men. lolll

And this story is so funny! :D

I will certainly read the next books.

Tequila says

I really want to give this book more than five stars. Once again Laura Antoniou has written a fantastic novel that I was instantly sucked into and did not want to leave. I love the world and these amazing characters that she has created. This series just keeps getting better and better with each book. I can't wait to continue with this series!

Melanie says

my favorite of the marketplace series, this delves more deeply into chris, and also the hardships and deep responsibilities of being a trainer. being on the bottom is often so, so much easier.

Tiana says

FIRST OFF: Laura Antoniou...I love you! Marry me!

Secondly: Chris Parker you gorgeous man! Marry Me! Be Part of my Polycule!

The book was amazing the character development is spot on and goes at a good pace. There were moments where I want to bang my head against wall because of certain characters being completely oblivious. (DUDE!! I WOULD BE BETTER AT THIS THAN YOU! AND I HAVE NO INTEREST IN IT!) But eventually seeing that change in them was worth the frustration. My favorite part has to be the learning to serve so you can learn how to top mentality. It's an important one, because there are too many young wannabe doms who insist that they NEVER have to learn what servitude is like because they're a "top". Its kind of like how businesses work, if you take the time to have a job that involves being at some person's beck and call, you learn what its like and that can make you into a more efficient leader. And this book from the series touches on that in relation to not just the "kid" but also Chris.
