



The Night Porter

Sue Brown

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The first time Max lays eyes on Robert Armitage, he knows exactly what he wants to happen. Tall, broad, and gorgeous, Robert pushes all his buttons. When Robert asks Max to show him around town, the attraction between them only intensifies. But Max is just a night porter and Robert a guest at his hotel before his wedding, and Max knows even as they sleep together that in the morning he'll have to send the groom on his way.

The Night Porter Details

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Author : Sue Brown

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From Reader Review The Night Porter for online ebook

Meggie says

Why such sad, sad ending and with such hurt feelings and hard words. This is for crying out loud :(. So, so sad!!

Bookbee says

I started reading The Night Porter knowing full well there would be no HEA and Sue Brown did not disappoint...I was left weeping at the end.

Max I fell desperately in love with. He is who I wish I could be - someone who, even after his heart is broken time and again, remains open, caring and vulnerable. Robert...Robert was something else entirely. He led me to believe he was kind and generous, honest and loving but in the end proved himself to be none of those things. And yet he had the potential to be all of those things and I found myself mourning the man he could be.

Ms. Brown is to be commended for bringing us such a well crafted story, inhabited by 3-dimensional characters...and all this in a short story! *applause*

Jackie Mckenzie says

Man it was hard to give this 5 stars!!! I am a total GIRL when it comes to a HEA. I don't like movies without them (ie. message in a bottle), and I don't like books without them. Well, except for this one. I really do think the book Light of day helped a little, but this story was beautiful. We watched these men fall in love, as crazy as it seems, it almost seems ok in the end. I am overlooking the end and sticking with the positive, the better to have loved and lost, than to never love at all, I am just glad I was along for the ride. Thank you Ms Brown for the book and thank you even more for the sequel for soft hearted girls like me that want everyone to be happy and loved.

Vio says

I cried buckets, this was certainly bittersweet a beautifully written romantic story. It tugged at my heart and in the end I still had hope for Max and Robert they deserve to be happy. I can only hope that Sue Brown gives us another book please!

Lesley Hastings says

This is a beautiful and bittersweet tale of two men who are pushing against the boundaries of their lives, but don't quite manage to break free from them. While Max, eponymous night porter at a London hotel, is clearly quite tired of the endless cycle of one night stands with lonely guests, Robert is bound by a life of celibacy-until-heterosexual-marriage -- a life that doesn't really have room for his attraction to men. The connection between Robert and Max is palpable, and readers are constantly teased by what might be, if only they manage to break free.

The writing in this novella is excellent, drawing one in from start to finish. My only real complaint is that the sex scenes, while generally hot, do seem to ignore the issue of refractory periods sometimes. While I appreciate that these guys are horny and really into each other, it does pull me out of the narrative when they're able to get it up again within minutes of orgasm. Unless the person you're writing about is Jack Harkness, I'm not buying it. Nonetheless, this is only one small complaint, and otherwise, I only have praise for this work.

As part of Dreamspinner Press's "Bittersweet Dreams" line, it's no spoiler to say that this book doesn't have a happy ending -- but what I do love about it is that even though the ending isn't happy, it's not without hope. The narrative is left slightly open, allowing readers to hope that one day Max and Robert will break free of their constraints -- whether it is together, or with somebody else.

Bryl Tyne says

Reader warning Not a traditional Romance (visit the publishers site and take heed of their description for their "Bittersweet Dreams" line of books) but WELL worth the read for the amazing writing and perfect characterization. This story will stick with me for years to come.

Lisa Worrall says

What can I say? Considering this is not the conventional happy ever after, you might feel a little deflated at the end...but no...not in the slightest. You feel so deeply for these two characters that you can't help but love every single word.

Ms Brown is one of my favourite authors in this genre and yet again she has pulled the rabbit out of the hat and delivered a story which has left me both smiling and crying at the same time.

Amy Lane says

As others have said, this was beautifully written. The characters were perfectly drawn, and both Max and Robert were highly sympathetic. I loved them both--and, of course, wanted the HEA for them, just like everyone else. I think the artistry of the ending IS that we can dream, though. It may not be very realistic of us, we may all concede that we're only fooling ourselves, but having just the slightest bit of wiggle room to imagine that these two engaging protags can end up together is one of the things that makes this such a lovely read.

Amy Lane says

A bittersweet masterpiece, even knowing that it won't end well doesn't keep you from rooting for a happy ending.

Buda says

This is a beautifully written story, covering so much emotional territory in 84 short pages. I was excited (even if a little apprehensive) to read the first Bittersweet Dreams offering. This one delivers everything I'd hoped it would. Highly recommended.

T.A. Webb says

I bought this book tonight knowing it was part of the Bittersweet Dreams selections. Did not prepare me to care about the characters. Understand them and love/hate them both a little. I guess having both loved and had my heart broken a few times by both gay and straight men I can identify with the stark reality Ms. Brown deals us with such a deft hand. The emotional tone reminds me of Brokeback Mountain and I consider that to be high praise. Not every ending is happy and sometimes hearts need to be broken to remind us to feel everything good AND bad. Thanks Ms. Brown. I needed bittersweet chocolate tonight. Well written and well done.

Comment

Lee says

[not a happy ending (hide spoiler)]

Karen K says

I never noticed this was part of the Bittersweet Dreams collection. If I had I wouldn't have been so shocked at the end. It was well-written and totally drew me in, the characters, dialogue and situation seeming realistic and kind of raw. I admit I was sad at the end but it was still a beautiful story.

Ami says

REREAD THIS WITH THE RELEASE OF THE SEQUEL (Feb 2012) AND APPRECIATE IT MORE SECOND TIME AROUND.

Thus, I upped the rating; since the story is poignant and beautiful and I totally jumping into the sequel now.

(Original review)

Max is a twenty-eight night porter in one of the hotels in London. Robert Armitage is a twenty-three TV-actor about to get married within 3 days. They became fast friends after Robert, being jag-lagged, asks Max for a nightcap and they end up watching a recorded football -- something remind them from home. There's attraction between them and no matter how hard Max tries to stay away, Robert gets under his skin. But Robert is getting married, and Max knows, he will be just another man walking out from the door and never looking back ...

Sigh ... I see the warning, I mean this is part of DSP "*Bittersweet Dreams*", so I know that this will not end in happy ending. Still, the cover is so gorgeous, I must give myself to the *torture* *sniff*. My heart just ache for Max -- it's so sad to read him being jaded and weary and tired in such young age. Even if Max says to himself that part of it is his own fault (for choosing the wrong man). It's just that Max and Robert have that chemistry and they seem to be comfortable together; especially when they spend the day walking around London, acting like tourist.

Even with the ending, I want to be able to dream that sometime in the future Max will get his Prince ...

Nic says

Max was a character that really tugged at the heart-strings. The Night Porter at a London hotel, he seems to be looking in the wrong places for love and has had his heart broken.

He has a habit of hooking up with guests who are staying at the hotel, guests who are definitely on a path that doesn't involve Max for anymore than a night. Enter Robert, who also falls into this category, but somehow manages to capture Max's heart. A couple of days together and both know they have something special.

As the blurb says, Robert is actually at the hotel to prepare for his wedding, so this might not sit easy with some readers due to the element of infidelity but this really didn't bother me due to the specific situation with Robert and his fiance Evie.

Be prepared, there isn't a happy ending! Thank goodness a quick emergency visit to Amazon soon rectified the situation and I had immediate access to the sequel *Light of Day*

3.5 stars