



The Patrician

Joan Kayse , Lyndsey Lewellen (Illustrations)

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Jared of Alexandria shuns both his Roman and Hebrew blood, a curse that's kept him on the fringes of society, to become a powerful and successful merchant prince. When his trading empire is threatened by an unknown enemy who not only wants to see him ruined but dead as well, he uses every means to put an end to it. He turns to a beautiful barbarian seer, a slave with hair the color of firelight and eyes that shine like emeralds only to be betrayed into a fate worse than death—slavery.

Bryna of Eire lives each day burdened by the yoke of Rome and her own guilt for leading her beloved brother and clansmen into Rome's clutches. She curses the gift of sight which her master exploits, keeping her under lock and key, telling fortunes and fattening his purse. When an opportunity to be freed of her confinement comes, Bryna takes it, though her instincts warn that lying to the sensual, golden-eyed man that plagues her visions risks her very soul.

Betrayed into slavery, Jared labors under the lash envisioning revenge on the seer who sent him into this hell. But when fate throws Bryna into his arms, he finds exacting vengeance a different matter. As they escape, evade bounty hunters and face their pasts, Jared must battle not only his enemy but his heart. Can the differences that separate them draw them together to save their lives and their love?

The Patrician Details

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From Reader Review The Patrician for online ebook

Darkwinde says

This one gets an extra star just for being set in an unusual time period and for dealing with issues of slavery somewhere other than the American South. The plot is unusual and intriguing, and I liked and understood the characters. They seemed real, made mistakes, and were very good at not communicating. I liked that Jared had to learn how to treat Bryna right. A man with his upbringing and position would never have learned how to behave in regard to a true wife/love. I wish we had had an epilogue or at least a little more resolution as to how they were going to move on from where they were. The ending seemed a bit abrupt to me.

The bad guys were interesting, but I figured out the Big Bad almost immediately (because I'm a suspicious person). I don't think everyone will have that problem, just me. I was rather surprised at one of the accomplices, mostly because this character's motivation made no sense to me. And we're not given more than one sentence's explanation of it. Maybe this person has been adversely affected by the Big Bad, but I would like to know that from what is written. I don't like having to guess.

A lot is made of Bryna's "sight", but then it never does anything useful. At all. It never provides any concrete help when danger is lurking. It doesn't help her know about or escape any of the bad guys hunting her. And it doesn't give her any real help in solving the mysteries she's facing. So what was the point?

There were times I had difficulty really getting into the characters' feelings. For example, we're told, "Jared was terrified when he saw...." That's just it, we're told instead of being shown. I didn't always have that problem, but I noticed it more in the final scenes. Maybe the author was on a tight deadline and didn't put everything in to her writing? I don't know.

There were many editing errors: missing words, messed up commas, and spacing problems. It wasn't overwhelming, but it did drag me out of the story.

I realize that I tend to pick apart a book even when I have enjoyed it. I'm afraid that's in my nature or something. I did enjoy this book even if it sounds like I didn't. I am definitely interested in the rest of this series and will probably read more of Ms. Kayse in general.

Angie Ballard says

Fabulous! So well-detailed than I felt I was being pulled into Roman times every time I picked it up. Fast-paced, steamy, with characters I've become quite attached to :) I can't wait for the next book to come out!!

Lisa says

Excellent book. Finally a historical romance that acknowledges there could have been romance in setting other than England. This book makes ancient Rome feel alive with great characters and intrigue. I will be looking for more books by this author!

Nicole Laverdure says

Beautiful roman adventure!

I won this beautiful book on Goodreads! The Patrician written by Joan Kayse!

This is first book I read of hers! I was surprised to really enjoy reading it!

It's a wonderful historical romance set during the Roman era!

I loved her characters Jared and Bryna!

Bryna, was a slave, despised by the Romans, who had clairvoyant talents.

Jared was a merchant prince, who became a slave! He was also a man filled with dark emotions. Life will bring those two together! They will start to trust each others, and together they will be free from slavery. Jared will fall in love with the sensual Bryna! You need to read this book to enjoy their beautiful adventure of love, passion and intrigue.

Very well written by Ms. Kayse! If this is her first book, I can't wait to read her next one called "The Patrician's fortune" the story of Damon, a character mentionned in this marvelous roman adventure. I really had a hard time putting it down because I wanted to know what was coming next. She created some intense heroes!

I highly recommend this book!

Jasmyn says

This series does not need to be read in order to enjoy them. However, Jared and Bryna do play a fairly important role in The Patrician's Fortune and it was great to see their story.

Bryna is a slave. Her "barbarian tribe" was captured and sold in the slave markets of Rome. A beautiful woman doesn't usually last long there, but her brother had the fore sight to brag about her powerful visions - ones that would disappear if she were violated. So instead of entering a brothel as a prostitute, she enters one as an oracle with services for sale. I love how Joan Kayse set up the back story. It became a seamless part of the current story, revealed in small ways that led to a great understanding of the position Bryna found herself in.

Jared, on the other hand, was not a slave. At least not at first. He was a customer - and the lies Bryna tells him lead to his capture. Through a series of events and sales, they find themselves working for the same master on a secluded estate. This is where the story hit a little hiccup for me. I know the Roman empire was vast, but I would have thought someone, somewhere in one of the markets would have recognized one of Alexandria's most prominent merchants. This thought popped up several times in their journey. But putting that aside, the way they were brought together was brilliant.

Jared and Bryna both have the same basic goal - escape. Each with their own motives. I love how their relationship grew so gradually that neither one even realized it at first. They are torn apart several times, but somehow always managed to find themselves together again. The end of the story ends with several fantastically moving scenes between them and with the "bad guys". I just wish Jared's history had been a little bit easier for me to believe.

Ashley Gutierrez says

An excellent example of how opposites attract. I'm not one for historical romances but this book had me in a choke hold. The author definitely did her research and the proof is in the story. What more can you say when you have a tale of betrayal, fighting, survival and love.

Jordan says

First of all, the book starts off with the brutal murder and rape of a Hebrew village for no apparent reason other than to give the book "an edge." 13 year old half Roman half Hebrew Jared is scarred for life and decides to be super macho and successful because of his family getting murdered and whatnot.

Meanwhile, the fiery Irish oracle with flashing green eyes, heaving bosom, and red-gold hair is kidnapped and sold into slavery. I literally cannot remember her name, and I just read this book. We'll call her Lass.

So Lass ends up tricking Jared in an effort to secure her own safety, but then of course they end up sold to a different slave owner together and shackled together so we can get the requisite "Oh, I have to sleep spooned up against you now" scenes, blah blah blah. No one trusts each other, but they are SO attracted to each other, etc.

It's incredibly cliché and uninspiring. Also, it's incredibly historically inaccurate, even going so far as to include the old myth about Romans and their "vomitorium" parties. Nothing really gets explained, and the sex scenes are unimaginative.

Helen says

This is an amazing story of love through hardships and slavery MS Kayse takes us back to the Roman era with men wearing Togas and gladiators. Bryna and Jared are thrown together because of the cruelty of family the ways of that time and their love grows through tough times, this story is so well written and pulls you in from the start the descriptions make you feel you are there this is a hard world to live in but their love shines through with determination. I loved this story it has given me hours of reading pleasure I highly recommend it.

I look forward to the next one in this series.

Jill Ray says

Was a four star book until the last few chapters. The end result (i.e. character resolution) was fine, but the escalated, hyper-dramatic, Bond-esq culmination of events was unfortunate and frustrating. For me the ending significantly soured what was, until that point, a decent historical romance (with interesting characters in a unique time period for the genre).

Michele Lacroix says

The Patrician was an excellent book of ancient Rome. I cared about the characters. I can remember if this was 99 cent book or a free book.

Lisa says

Brilliant

Tina Hayes says

Joan Kayse's "The Patrician" is a wonderful historical romance set in the Roman Empire. Bryna is an oracle, taken from her Irish homeland and forced into slavery. Circumstances give her an ally, Jared, with an initial reason to hate her.

This book is rich in romance, has such well-written characters that I'm still thinking about them two days after I finished reading the novel, and I also enjoyed the historic details the author shows to bring out the gritty realism of the era. I'm eager to read the next in this series, to see what the hero and heroine get into next!

AG Reads says

3.75 stars. It was not a bad read, and some parts were well done. Most of my problems with it stemmed from 1. Numerous odd or wrong word choices that a closer eye to editing should have caught easily; 2. The villain was clear from the first time we meet him, so there was no surprise during the length of the book as to who betrayed the H. If that first scene introducing the character had been more skillfully handled, it would have greatly contributed to my enjoyment of the book rather than getting tired of waiting until the very end for the H to see the obvious.

Still, the overall story and romance were decent, and the time period was a nice change from the saturation of Regency in historical romances.

Jeanne says

I have mixed feelings about this book. On the one hand, I found it lacked originality or any other substantial quality (despite the setting, which is the reason I bought it in the first place). It contains a lot of clichés and reads like a hundred other forgettable historical romances. But then, as a reader who enjoys historical romance, I also couldn't help enjoying the story's developments. I rolled my eyes a lot, but at least it wasn't boring, offensive or overly irritating.

What proved really irritating, though, were the many editing/copy editing problems in the text, mainly the absence of compulsory commas, which made sentences hard to read, and even sometimes to understand. (You had to read the sentence till the end before you could parse it in your head and make sense of it. Blah.)

Suzanne Ferrell says

The Patrician is a tale of intrigue and betrayal in Roman times. It's the story of two people with hearts too wounded to trust must work together to gain their freedom. It's one of those keep-you-up-late-into-the-night stories you read just to find out what happens next.

Ms. Kayse has woven a wonderful story full of all those things that make a story fascinating and compelling to a reader. Betrayal, intrigue, revenge, escape, lovers on the run. Each scene leads to more questions and twists to keep the reader turning the pages. She takes you into the ancient world ruled by an iron-fisted Roman empire and makes you feel the desperation of the slaves, the careless cruelty of the Masters and the politics of the time. All this while giving you a hero and heroine worth loving and cheering for a HEA.

Looking forward to the next book in this series!
