



Taken With The Enemy

Tia Fanning

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Book one in the Desert Phantoms series.

My captor tells me that I'm not a prisoner of war, but how else can I see myself? I was abducted and brought to an unknown location in the middle of the desert. I'm sequestered behind a locked door and bars cover my windows. I even have an armed guard who takes me for walks. But he, the nameless captor responsible for my care, claims otherwise. He tells me that he's not my enemy, that if he was, I'd already be dead. He promises to release me when the time is right. He says I'm safer now--with him--than I was before. Despite his reassurances, I do not feel safe. Though he has treated me kindly, given me every comfort a prisoner could ever want or need, I have to find a way to leave--and soon. I don't understand how it's possible, but my captor knows me. He knows my past, he knows my secrets, knows just what to say to move me, and what to say to break me. I have been taken by the enemy... and I must find a way to escape before I'm taken with him.

Taken With The Enemy Details

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Author : Tia Fanning

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From Reader Review Taken With The Enemy for online ebook

?? Christine ?? says

[where she escaped and knocks him out (hide spoiler)]

Kaylea Cross says

I really enjoyed this story! Of course I'm a sucker for military romances, and this was a new take on a prisoner of war story that I found very interesting. Normally I don't like first person point of view, but I enjoyed it here.

Even though the steam factor wasn't as high as I normally like, the intrigue in the story kept me up turning pages long past my bedtime.

My only frustration with this book was that we really didn't get a good physical description of the hero, and there were a lot of unanswered questions for me at the end of the book. What the heck unit was the hero with, anyway? I read the author's note at the end of the story and this appears to be the first of a series, so you can bet I'll be buying those as well.

This story had an interesting concept and there was enough detail and suspense added that I read the book in one sitting.

Jacqueline says

This is one of those books that breaks the rules. You don't really know what's going on and you never really find out the whole story but you can guess. There was some secrecy that might have been unnecessary. You don't find out the hero's name until the last page. etc. But somehow all that's okay.

I'm surprised at how much I liked the story. It's basically a story of two people falling in love. Because it is told in first person past tense, you only know the heroine's POV and have to see and accept the hero's falling in love by his actions. He was very alpha while also being quite kind and giving to her. You saw flashes of his humor and his jealousy in his words and actions. It was very well written.

There was a time or two that she bothered me in her lack of action or on the flip side being too ready to take action. These were small things and didn't mar my enjoyment overall. The characterizations of both the hero and the heroine were deft and well done. The secondary characters were drawn in swift clear strokes.

Looking forward to reading more by this author. I believe this to be the start of a series.

Thanks to melissaB for loaning me this book.

LynnMarie says

Hunter's Review

I loved this book. I've actually read it three times because I love it so much. Whenever I'm in need of a book to act as 'comfort food' for my brain, I turn to this book.

Brenna's unnamed captor is a wonderful character who charms both Brenna and the reader while Brenna's strength of character and spirit makes her completely wonderful to read in a first person book.

The love scenes are hot and the ending fulfilling in the best possible way. In fact, I have to admit to having shed a few tears the first time I read it. If you haven't read Tia Fanning I would say run, don't walk, to give her a try. You won't be disappointed and you may find yourself reading this book over and over again.

5 Tea Cups!

Laura Palmisano says

Hot! Highly recommend!

Rebecca says

Wow. This book was outstanding, from start to finish, one of the best books I have ever read. Its fast paced, interesting, compelling. The characters stay with you. I actually went back to read the last chapter again because I cried through the whole ending. Remarkable book, so hugely impressed. Bravo Ms. Fanning.

Aimee says

I won't say this is the best book I've ever read. But I was so intrigued by the premise that I couldn't stop reading. It was impossible not to keep guessing who her "Captor" was and why he took her. And I'll never be able to smell sandalwood again and not think of Brenna and her Captor. ::wink::

J says

3.5 stars rounded up to 4 stars. This is one of those books, based on the storyline, that could have been a 5+ star story. But, there were some flaws that I found difficult to get around, making me question what was happening and not just sitting back and enjoying the story.

The story started out with Brenna, an Army medic helping with wounded G.I.'s during a shootout in Iraq.

She's obviously good at her job and saves those lives that can be saved. Then, we mysteriously see her kidnapped and taken to an unknown location told that she's not a prisoner, but with locked doors and armed escorts everywhere she goes she certainly feels like one.

We meet her main captor who will not give her his name but cooks for her and tries to make her comfortable in her surroundings. It takes awhile, but she comes around to care for this captor and learn to trust him. He also surprises her by knowing a lot about her past, which she has kept secret from everyone she knows. She begins confiding in him secrets that she never, ever discussed before. She starts to need him and even love him. He obviously cares for her, but is it love or Stockholm Syndrome?

Sounds like a wonderful story if there weren't so many blank spaces and even a little bit of insta-love thrown in. Why was she taken to this place? Who were these people she was with (I think we did get the answer to that during one of her "thinking" sessions, a reasonable scenario that I think was true)? Why didn't they just ask her to come there, instead of kidnapping her? Why couldn't the captor even give her a fake name? Why couldn't she know she was being whisked away as a fight for the compound began? Why, why, why?

I hope somewhere, sometime this author or someone else will develop a story similar to this but fill in the blanks and make it a little more believable.

SamJ ★Needs a HEA★ says

I was quite looking forward to this, but was left rather disappointed.

The heroine who is a medic in the army and really, if you are being shot at keeping yourself out in the open as nice easy target while you wonder "but what about the wounded" and you ignore orders is not going to make me think you are oh so caring that you risk your own life, it is going to make me think you are daft and a fat lot of good to those wounded you will be with a bullet to the head, but anyway

She is for some reason that is never really explained, kidnapped by our "hero".

Her captor, cooks for her, appears to get all hurt and upset when she does not want to eat, then disappears for 5 days, our heroine goes on a passive protest of a hunger strike, he comes back forces her to eat some soup, and on the basis of this she tries to escape. He captures her, which she knew he would, he says he has to go away again, but is glad she is beginning to care for him. She tells him her caring is a symptom of Stockholm syndrome. For which I am sure she would have had to actually be in the company of her captor to even begin feeling but ok, we will go with it.

So he goes away for 4 days again, comes back, she is steaming drunk, and wondering how to protect her heart from the guy she has spent hardly any time with.

A couple of days later, she has decided she has fallen in love with him. At this point I just thinking "How?" How has she fallen in love with him, he has barely been around.

So she decides to escape again, into the desert where apparently the nearest town is 100 miles away. But it is "better to die alone in the desert than compromise myself with the enemy" as he is "dangerous to her heart". I can assume this woman is meant to be reasonably intelligent and trained, she is a doctor and in the army, but she reacts like a teenager with no sense!

Ofc she fails, then clearly decided dying alone in the desert is not a good idea so next time he comes to the door she greets him naked and tells him she has just been masturbating!

At this point I just started skipping to the end.

I have never ever finished a book just thinking "but how? why?".

Tia Fanning says

I wrote this book, and truthfully, it's the book of my heart. You might be wondering what that means? The book of my heart?

For me, it's the book an author has to write even if no one wants to publish it. It's the book that an author drops everything for, including their current projects, to complete because they are feeling the story that strongly. It's the story with characters and a plot that are so much a part of the author that if they didn't put it on paper, the story would haunt them and they would never be able to move on to write something else.

In the end, it's the book that an author loves best of all their work.

Taken With the Enemy is the book of my heart.

Inspired by a dream I had, Taken With the Enemy is a contemporary spin of those old historical novels where the heroine ends up falling in love with her captor. I had locked myself in my basement to write this book, completing it in about one month—during the holidays, knowing full well that the story might never see a printing press due to its "politically incorrect" nature.

I mean, this is the 21st century; you do not fall for your kidnapper.

But is it possible that true love can form under such circumstances? Could a solid, secure, healthy relationship develop around abduction? Especially in a modern world where psychological conditions like Stockholm syndrome exist—a term often used to describe any attachment a person might feel for their abductor?

I like to believe it's possible, at least for the characters in my story. (LOL!)

I'm a romance author. I'm an avid believer in the concepts of love at first sight, of love conquering all, and that if two people are meant to be together, true love will bloom regardless of the circumstances.

I guess I'm a hopeless romantic.

I hope you will give Taken With the Enemy a try...

Cheers!

~Tia

Mahalia Levey says

I loved this book. The characters fastinated me. God I felt for Bee and her Captor. The story evolved into a great love story and touched on internal flaws that affect us beautifully as well as the secrets kept by those who protect and serve us on a much larger scale. Captivating, I can't wait to read more novels by Tia Fanning.

Tia Fanning says

I wrote this book, and truthfully, it's the book of my heart. You might be wondering what that means? The book of my heart?

For me, it's the book an author has to write even if no one wants to publish it. It's the book that an author drops everything for, including their current projects, to complete because they are feeling the story that strongly. It's the story with characters and a plot that are so much a part of the author that if they didn't put it on paper, the story would haunt them and they would never be able to move on to write something else.

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Cheers!

~Tia

Mspink says

Ok. I'm writing about this while it's fresh in my mind. I don't understand. What did I miss? The reviews on this book were so good. I don't want to disrespect the author. She clearly has great writing talent. It's obvious this book meant a lot to her. But I just don't understand the story. I'm really disturbed by this.

Brenna has her own issues that she clearly needs to face throughout the story. That's all fine and good, I guess. But we have this 'stranger' that seemingly kidnaps her and holds her prisoner for a while. Granted he treats her well and she's taken well care of. Obviously there is a military need for her. I won't go into too much detail. But basically the entire book is spent emotionally dissecting her and her vulnerabilities. She's figuratively stripped naked with no defenses during this mysterious experience. In the midst of all this confusion she falls for her 'captor' whose name she doesn't even learn until the last few paragraphs of the book. We learn everything there is to know about her and absolutely nothing about him. Just because he treated her kindly and was sexy and sweet to her does not help us really know him as a character. I couldn't get invested in him at all. Yes, it seemed he was honorable but that's about it. He mostly frustrated me by how he constantly put her on the spot and embarrassed her. I felt like my mind was being messed with.

I kept waiting for some "usual suspects/keyser soze" moment to happen. Like it was all a nightmare or some flashback or medical experiment or someone helping her to regain lost memories or something. Some moment of clarity for everything to snap into place to make the entire journey understandable. If it was a military 'assignment' then why let her think she had been taken against her will? Yes, they fell in love and it was sweet but there was such a huge distraction right in the middle of things the entire time for me as she was expected to constantly open herself up and he didn't at all. The entire thing felt like a deception. How could I legitimately open my heart and soul up to someone and gift them with my trust when they gave me absolutely nothing in return?

Please help me out here, readers. Help me understand what ingredient I missed that made me miss out on the pleasure so many others received from this story. It had an abrupt ending that truly gave me no answers to questions and barely any closure whatsoever. It wasn't so overwhelmingly romantic that it drowned out all the rest of the confusing aspects of it. To me, the romance played a small part in comparison to how confusing the situation was. I needed more... this is going to perplex me for days now!!

new_user says

What a pleasant surprise. I ate this right up. I wasn't sure what to expect from this novella after trying Tia Fanning's *Rules of Darkness* and failing to enjoy that, and the premise is one of the more difficult to execute, but I mean it when I say Fanning's writing has grown by leaps and bounds. Color me impressed. The narrative flows much more smoothly, as well as her dialogue.

In fact, the exchanges between the hero and heroine were awesome! After kidnapping the heroine, the hero has to go to great lengths to convince the reader that he is a hero and not a zero, to use the expression. He does. He was so attentive and intuitive he could have been made to order, LOL. Every encounter between him and Brenna was more interesting than the last as he wooed the audience along with her.

I also really liked the setting of Fanning's story, surprisingly. I didn't expect the backdrop to provide anything more than an excuse for Brenna and her hero to meet, but Fanning really took pains to develop Brenna's character, her motivations, and the circumstances that place her in the hero's way. With the army lingo, dynamics, and even bits of Arabic, it's clear the author has done her research. Set in Iraq, it's easy for a story like this to be offensive, but *Taken with the Enemy* wasn't. There were no insults and the Iraqis weren't synonymous with terrorists. I found that I liked that the secondary characters spoke Arabic, instead of treating even the language as an enemy tongue. It made the story a little bit more authentic and comfortable.

Speaking of, I really liked the secondary characters. They're charming and when they speak with the hero, they even remind me of the BDB, surprisingly. Like the Brothers, the hero and his cohorts are solicitous of the heroine's wellbeing, but none of it comes off as very saccharine, especially as the hero firmly maintains the upper hand throughout the novel. There is a continuous tension between the hero and heroine about the question of his identity that also keeps this edgy.

I highly recommend this to romance suspense fans, especially those who enjoy the setting and premise. ;) There are some slight elements of BDSM involving brief restraint, spanking and brief denial, but it's less than that present in Lover Unbound and many others, so it's pretty safe for newbs (LOL), and there's a complete story aside from that, with important emotional developments. So give *Taken with the Enemy* a try!

Christine Wallflower & Dark Romance Junkie says

2.5 Stars

Not bad, could have been better...

New rule, I'm not reviewing books that I didn't really enjoy, unless I feel very passionately about the books. I just don't have the time and I'd rather be reading.
