



## A Spartan Love (Spartan Love #1)

*Kayla Jameth*

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Spartan Love: Book One

The Epics of Apollo's Men

Alone, Andreas toils on a remote farmstead for a Spartan overlord. When a kryptes enters his world, Andreas fears for his life. The dread warriors stalk and kill helots—like Andreas' father—as part of their training.

Andreas sees only one way to save himself: he must tame the fearsome warrior.

But what began as self-preservation develops into attraction. Yearning for the company of someone other than his ferret, Ictis, Andreas decides to trust the Spartan warrior and risk the fate that claimed his father.

Born to rule by the sword, Theron sees the world as his and acts accordingly, taking everything Andreas offers and reaching for more. However, love between men in Sparta is considered shameful and requires either exile or suicide to redeem Sparta's honor. Now, only the gods can save them from the terrible price Sparta extracts from men who desire other men.

## **A Spartan Love (Spartan Love #1) Details**

Date : Published December 8th 2014 by Dreamspinner Press

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Author : Kayla Jameth

Format : Kindle Edition 255 pages

Genre : Historical, Romance, M M Romance, Historical Fiction, Fantasy, Mythology, Lgbt

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## From Reader Review A Spartan Love (Spartan Love #1) for online ebook

### ConM says

Excellent read. Well described MCs, and historical setting.

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### Becca Waldrop says

How about some hot young Greeks on tap? Yum yum. I love the history of anything Greek. Especially the gods. So this was a thrill for me to read. And I'm glad the author took the time to check her history. From what I read it's pretty dead on. From the names to the stories, myths and all the gods entail. Including how they are worshipped. That made it an even better read for me.

Andreas is so lonely. He has his goats and his little ferret for company. The family on the next farm is trying to pawn their daughter off on him, but Andreas wants no part of that. He just wants some company. Not a child for a wife. One that doesn't even appeal to him. But his woolgathering has possibly cost him his life. He's being followed and he's almost positive it's a kryptes. They are taught to kill, steal, and anything to survive. He makes in his hut and under his bed but he doesn't know if it's in time. The kryptes has entered his hut and he is terrified. Having lost his father to one, he knows it's a matter of time. But the kryptes just takes his food and leaves him be. Andreas thinks if maybe he cooks for the kryptes, he will leave him be. Night after night he leaves food outside for the kryptes, and although Andreas is scared, he is also interested. He thinks he's lost his mind to be interested in a man who would kill him. But one night he invites him in and a bond is formed. Theron is just as interested in Andreas. They have to be secretive but they spend as much time as they can together. But Theron knows he needs to get moving on the road before someone suspects them, and he wants Andreas with him. They make plans to make it possible. Now hopefully the gods will hear their prayers and those in charge will let it come to pass.

Oh. Sweet, beautiful Andreas. He's never been with any one before. And the desires Theron brings forth in him are making him crazy. He can't stop thinking or dreaming of him. But would that mean Theron would look at Andreas as no more than a prostitute? Or a slave? Something not worthy? They are so different in their stations now as it is. This would make it worse. But dear gods, he wants that man. And he's so cute the way he is always blushing. Theron finds it adorable too. I hate that every culture around them is ok with two men being together, but Sparta it's a no no. And the gods, especially Apollo, are about sick of it. They have men for lovers too. So what makes Sparta think they have the right to be different? And Theron realizes he wants to do more than just protect Andreas now. He wants it all. Maybe they will have a way to work around this mess. They both hope so. But now after losing a brother in arms, Theron knows they have to be even more secretive now.

The book leaves off as Theron leaves for his journey to see if they can out their plan in place. So I'm anxious to see what happens next. Especially with that heifer next door who won't leave Andreas alone. Theron has claimed him and he wants no other. It's a good start to a good series. I'm more than intrigued. Pick it up and see what you think!

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## Jennifer Lavoie says

Reviewed for The Novel Approach Reviews.

If you decide to read this book, I must tell you right off the bat: DON'T PANIC. I did some stalking, found the author's page, and found out this is just the first in a trilogy. So while you might reach the end, turn the page and say, "Wait, what?" like I did, never fear. The adventures of Andreas and Theron are not over.

If I love historical romances, I love ancient historical romances even more. There's something so alluring about men in love fighting to be together against all odds. What makes this book interesting is the amount of research that clearly went into this book. Kayla Jameth took great care to create a tale about two men from very different social classes who just happen to meet and, despite the odds, fall in love.

First of all, the book includes an author's note with information detailing the sources the author used to make sure the book was accurate. While it is common knowledge that pederasty was encouraged in Ancient Greece, this was not the case with Sparta. The Spartan society—according to ancient sources—shunned this practice while the rest of the city-states embraced it. The author makes this clear, which ups the stakes for the characters. Second, at the end the author has included not only a cast of characters but a glossary and mythology section. That was awesome. While some of the terms I was familiar with already, and all of the myths, it will be helpful for other readers who are not well versed.

That said, all of the characters were fun to read. I liked Andreas and Ictis, his ferret. On more than one occasion I laughed at the ferret's antics. Any pet owner will relate to Andreas because he constantly talks to him as the ferret is his only companion. Given the nature of Theron's position in society, he rarely speaks to anyone, so when he is alone there is a lot of reflection and very little dialogue.

There are moments when the pacing is off. Andreas' angsts often and his thoughts are repetitive, especially concerning Theron. While it's one thing to have circular thoughts and to fixate, he kept going back to his thoughts in the same scene and would start over again. This was only when the men were separated, though. When they were together, the pacing was perfect.

There were two different aspects of the book that I thought really added to the story. The first was the inclusion of the gods in some of the scenes and chapters. I don't mean a mere mention of them, either. Even though he's present in a few short scenes, Apollo is an important character. He hears Andreas's pleas for help and even interacts with him at one point. I wish there had been more scenes with him, such as his reaction to discovering Theron and Andreas. The other aspect was the story of Lysander and Coridan, Theron's shield-brothers. Clearly Coridan will play a larger role in the next book, but hearing of his relationship with Lysander and seeing how Theron accepted it despite the rule against lying with other men in Sparta was heartwarming.

I look forward to reading the next books in this series. I don't know when they come out, but I hope it's soon because the book ends on such a cliffhanger!

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## Crystal Marie says

Let me start off by saying that if you don't want to fall madly in love with the two MC's, then be left hanging on an evil cliffhanger – this book may not be for you. If you think you can handle the agony of not knowing what happens to Theron and Andreas for a while – then take the plunge. It is sooooo worth it.

This story is set in – you guessed it – ancient Sparta, a few decades before the events in the film 300. The author has done an obviously painstaking amount of research on the peoples and the time period, and it's presented in a way that isn't burdensome. There were only a very few minor spots where the dialogue or the narrative lapsed into a more modern nuance, but really, I'm just nitpicking. Overall, it was extremely well done. The author has also provided an introduction to the world as well as a lexicon at the end to further explain terms.

Now don't let all this high-falutin' history stuff scare you away. This is a wonderful story that you don't want to miss. I'll admit, it took me a few pages to get into the historical groove, but once I did – BAM – I was there in ancient Sparta with all the Olympian gods throwing their two cents in as well. The story follows the lowly helot (similar to an indentured servant) Andreas who lives alone with his goats and a mischievous ferret. These creatures are his only companions, and when a Spartan warrior sneaks into his hut one evening to steal food, he develops a fascination with him while hiding under the bed, hoping to evade detection. Spartan warriors in training will kill helots if they catch them out after dark merely for sport.

But poor Andreas – who also happens to be quite hunky from plowing those fields – is so starved for company, he leaves food out in a bowl the following night in case the warrior comes back. He does, and this little dance goes on for a few nights. He finally gathers all his courage to actually invite the Spartan – Theron – into his hut. At that point, I was hooked and desperately rooting for these two men who are so different and come from such opposite worlds.

As they tentatively work their way toward one another, threats abound. Sparta puts men to death for lying with another man. Andreas' neighbors would kill Theron if they were to catch him there – merely for the fact that he's a Spartan warrior. They fight their own distrust of the other and the confusion of the new feelings they have that go beyond spending their lusts. Their sexual encounters were sensuous and hot. I loved it all.

My only complaints would be the aforementioned cliffhanger (Really? When is this next book coming out? It'd better be next week!) and a section in the middle that began to wear me down to the point where I skimmed. There ended up being way too much inner hand wringing going on over 'what will I do? 'what should I do?' 'what will he do?' 'what if he does that?' 'why did I do that? 'why did he do this?' 'I should leave' 'but I can't leave' 'I want to stay' 'but I can't stay'. God help me. The basic points that were made had to be there to create the tension and to establish the character's dilemma, but I think the intent of the story and the drama would have remained intact just fine if about fifty percent of that had been trimmed off.

Overall though, I really can't recommend this book enough. If you like historicals, you have to read this. If you shy away from historicals – give it a chance. A Spartan Love gets four and a half lizard claws from me.

Reviewed by Michele for Crystal's Many Reviewers

\*Copy provided for review\*

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## **Euraylie says**

### **3.75 stars**

This was wonderfully refreshing. I loved the setup, the two MCs from very different worlds and their slow-building attraction towards one another.

I was thrilled by all the historical detail and so glad that the author took the time to make this more than just your usual, cliched Spartan/Roman/ancient warrior m/m love story.

I really liked that our Spartan in this case was as arrogant and as immature as you would expect from an 18-year-old trained warrior, and didn't have any compunctions about it either. In fact, both protagonists came across as very realistic.

My only gripe is that not too much happens in this installment and that some passages dealing with the MCs' feelings get a tad bit repetitive, but nevertheless I can't wait to read more from this series and this author.

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## **Tex Reader says**

### **4.0 of 5 stars – Hot, Forbidden Gay Greek Love Across Classes.**

This was one of the better gay historical romances that I've read in a while, and I'm a fan of both historical fiction and gay romances. And while this started a continuing storyline, it did okay as a standalone with a nice ending (except I would have liked a little more closure).

As with any good historical for me, it was fun finding out more about the ancient Greek times, deities, practices and day-to-day life on the farm (vs. city life and the more well-to-do citizens that may be depicted more often). And I liked Kayla Jameth's insertion of a few interesting scenes of the god Apollo looking after the two young men who had prayed for his help (and I wasn't aware of his relationships with other men, especially with his lover Hyacinthus).

As far as the story went, this was definitely a gay romance, with all the physical and emotional desires of young adults, the urges and bliss of first love, and fears fueling misunderstandings and conflicts. I understand the idea of young guys trying to figure things out, but even given that, I thought there was a bit too much repetitive angst and doubts, drawing out the ongoing tension along just these lines. And then, unfortunately, it was not completely resolved at the end. It led nicely into book 2, but I had to speculate to get more closure in this one.

Even so, it was pretty realistic and the characters believable, as well as likable. Jameth captured well the mindsets of both the privileged young warrior and the lowly, lonely serf. She also did a good job with the sex scenes - they were pretty hot and I appreciated that it was a slow build up of sexual tension and didn't jump into the sack right away.

So all in all, I enjoyed the combo of historical and romance, making this a good, sexy gay love story.

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## **Inked Reads says**

This epic period piece captivated me and took me into Classical antiquity through the lens of two yearning

men struggling to rise above their era. I was expecting a historical setting half-assed for the sake of sexual allure, which I've experienced in the past, but this was the opposite.

Oh, the sex was hot, and plentiful, and developed with a lovely slow burn. But it's interspersed with goat herding (not a euphemism), Spartan intrigues, adorable ferret antics (not a euphemism), and the Greek Gods themselves.

This book is well-researched and yet the story is not exposition, but experiential. Okay, I feel like I'm describing what the book is not. Whatever negative connotations might come along with the somewhat shallow title (or is that just me?) they will be dispelled immediately.

The book IS a lovely love story between two young, strapping men of great physical prowess and thoughtful introspection. Antiquity is well-represented, but I want more. I'm encouraged that this is listed as part of a series. Onward!

I was given this in return for an honest review by Inked Rainbow Reads.

C.E. Case

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### **Kazza says**

A Spartan Love is a really enjoyable and sexy read. It may be historical, and very well researched, but it is not overwhelmed by historical info dump or page upon page of intricate detail. However, you still feel like you are back living in the world of the Spartans and helots, and their very real belief in the gods and mythology, the difficulties of being same-sex attracted and the divide and tension between the classes.

Both MCs, Andreas and Theron, are very easy to like and have a chemistry that worked well - it is very sexy. I love animals and I enjoyed the discussions between an often lonely Andreas and Ictis, his ferret.

Just note that things aren't wrapped up by the book's end as this forms the first part of a series.

Full review [http://ontopdownunderbookreviews.com/...](http://ontopdownunderbookreviews.com/)

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### **A.B. Gayle says**

I have to admit that I was a beta reader for this, and it was a pleasure seeing an idea grow into such a great start to a series. It helps that I have also read the rest of the story and know (roughly) what happens next!

Historicals are a difficult genre. Most are set in early nineteenth century England and follow conventions set out in regency romances and others from or about that period.

Others are based in medieval times. Again an era often used.

Books based in ancient times that want to stay true to the period and not follow stereotypical conventions are much harder because whether we like it or not, we can't help but bring our reading experiences and modern day values to the fore.

I know the author spent a lot of time on research to make the story as real as she could because I'd challenge her by saying things like: "Does the door open inward or outward? She'd duly spend time checking it out. Not easy when dealing with peasant culture as their huts don't last centuries like other Greek buildings did.

I warned her that people would question the fact that she doesn't have Spartan men condoning homosexuality when many refer back to that era as if it was almost the norm.

It wasn't until she showed me translations of writers from that era that I accepted her premise. In fact, if you haven't caught my interview with Kayla when we discussed this and other research issues, do check it out. <http://www.abgayle.com/my-blog---revi...>

Kayla could always write hot sex scenes, but her world building and atmosphere setting just gets better and better with each story. It continues to be a pleasure to see these stories develop and grow.

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### **justanya says**

**Title:** A Spartan Love **Author:** Kayla Jameth **Publisher:** DreamspinnerPress

**Reviewer:** Anya **Release Date:** December 08, 2014

**Heat Level:** 3.5 out of 5 **Rating:** 4 stars out of 5

**\*Absolutely marvelous!\*** The first thing that stands out about this book is the outstanding world building. I love all the historical facts and how Jameth, seamlessly interweaves the Gods and the Spartan way of life into the story without it coming across as an info dump.

This story had me in its clutches from the onset. I like these characters. I like how realistic they are and I like the dynamics between them. Don't worry if you're not familiar with Spartan history, by the time you finish reading you'll practically be an expert (and enjoy learning while you read)! If you like stories that instantly transport you to another time and place I highly recommend you read this. The story is told flawlessly and the two MC's are so well developed, I couldn't help bonding with them instantly.

I don't know about you but I do like sex in my books. I consider this story a slow burn. As a matter of fact, sex doesn't come into play until about 65% into the story but It's OKAY! The sex is non gratuitous, steamy and well worth the wait. Also, the story is so vibrant and engaging that I really didn't even think about sex at all. So, if you're in the market for a well written historical, this is one I would recommend.

Enjoy!

\*ARC provided for review\*

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### **Terry says**

I have read a few historical romance stories and I have enjoyed them. I can tell you this is not your usual historical romance; it is a story of forbidden love from the ancient world. Sparta is one of the most powerful city-states and the Gods live.

Kayla Jameth mixes history and myth to bring us an exciting and fun romance. I will let you know some of the words used are from the ancient language so you may want to give the Lexicon a quick glance before you start if you're a little rusty on your Greek history/mythology. If you choose not to it won't be hard to understand the story, Kayla has done a good job explaining as the story grows. She has also done her homework and tells a story that will keep you turning the pages.

I fell for our main characters Andreas who knows and accepts his place as a slave in this society and Theron who accepts and revels in his knowledge that the world is his to conquer and control. We also have some wonderful secondary characters which include some powerful gods, brothers in arms, nosy neighbors and a fury friend.

Andreas, a helot, has been alone for four years. His father was killed by the kryptes when he was a child and his mother past 4 years ago. Because of Andreas' size he keeps to himself so he doesn't attract the attention of the kryptes or the Spartan Overlord. He doesn't want to be considered a threat and killed like his father. He just wants to be left to live and take care of his land and livestock, maybe have a family or at least a friend to keep company with. But the chance of this happening isn't very likely. Unless he takes a chance that will either kill him or give him what he dreams of and longs for.

Theron is a kryptes, a Spartan Warrior in training. The kryptes are not yet warriors, they are still young men left on their own to hone the skills needed to be worthy of the title Warrior. These young men also hone their killing skills by stalking and hunting helots who are unfortunately out after dark. Theron has found one such helot, Andreas. Theron decides to play with his prey and what he learns and discovers may be the death of not only his prey, Andreas, but of himself as well.

Grab your glass of wine and enjoy a taste of Spartan Love.

Books-n-Cozy Spots received a copy in exchange for an honest review

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### **A.B. Gayle says**

I really enjoyed beta reading this book for Kayla. She introduced me to a world I knew little about. Or more realistically, I needed to be re-educated about. I often queried her on a fact that seemed strange to me, and discovered she had researched that aspect, so in the end I just trusted her. You can read more about the historical background in my interview here: <http://www.abgayle.com/my-blog---revi...>

It helps if you can really get yourself into the mindset of people who believed that their gods sometimes deigned to live amongst them. Not as beings with lights flashing and magic oozing out of their pores, but in disguise. They could be the stranger seeking shelter. The beggar you pass on the street. Instead of living life fearing what happens after, you have to be careful not to offend the gods (and hence be kind to strangers) in the here and now.

So it works that the Gods (or particularly Apollo) play a large part in this book. They are watching (when they can be bothered), intrigued, amused and sometimes willing to use.

Does this make "A Spartan Love" a fantasy? Not in my mind. This is written from the perspective of someone who lives in the era. And that makes it an interesting book.

On top of that, you have the start of an epic journey about two different characters. Andreas, who leads a

very restricted life, confined to his land and then only in the daylight, but who longs for company and takes delight in hearing stories of the world outside. And Theron who can roam the land at will, night and day, yet he yearns for the basic comfort and shelter of a home and, in his own way, the companionship of another man.

I look forward to reading the rest of the series.

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### **Lena Grey says**

Andreas lives a lonely life with only his ferret, Ictis, for a companion. As entertaining as Ictis can be, he's not much of a conversationalist. It's been four years since Andreas's mother died and he longs for companionship. When a man begins sneaking around his cottage, Andreas should be frightened. It's most likely a Spartan, a sworn enemy of Andreas's and part of a group who killed his father; but Andreas needs company so badly that he takes a chance and starts leaving food out for him. Within a few days, they meet face-to-face and that begins a complicated relationship which defies all logic because of their backgrounds, but with love, everything is possible.

Andreas is an uncomplicated man. He lives simply and has all he needs to survive—his goat herd and his friendly ferret Ictis to keep him company. He is of marrying age, but has no interest in women. He can't see how a wife could be helpful and refuses to be tricked into marriage just for the sake of yielding to tradition. It's becoming harder and harder to avoid though, with his nearest neighbor's daughter having her sights set on him. When a stranger appears, he's frightened at first; but he and his nightly visitor, who he soon finds out is a Spartan named Theron, get to know each other, he begins to wonder if this could be an answer to his prayers for companionship. Even though they are supposed to be enemies, Andreas has incredibly strong physical and emotional feelings for Theron and his feelings are returned.

Knowing they are in an impossible situation, not only because they are so different, but that, unlike the rest of Greece, in Sparta two men having a physical relationship is forbidden, they realize they have to exert the utmost caution. Not only do they need to hide from Andreas's people, since Spartans are their enemies, but from the Spartans as well. The consequences will be dire if they are discovered. It's a push-me-pull-me relationship. Theron and Andreas fight their feelings knowing how dangerous their relationship is, but it seems to be impossible to stay away from each other. Theron leaves Andreas to keep him safe and Andreas feels hurt and used because Theron keeps leaving. When Theron is injured when trying to put a wounded deer out of its misery, unfortunately, Andreas's efforts aren't enough to keep the wound from becoming infected. Andreas prays to the god Apollo, who is in charge of healing among other things, asking for healing for his lover. Apollo hears his pleas and takes away Theron's infection. It's still a while until he's ready to travel again. Andreas is torn between wanting him to feel better, yet not wanting him to leave. They both know eventually that day will come.

This book is an artful combination of Ancient Greek history and mythology and an enemies to lovers love story. Kayla has created a near impossible situation for her two lovers, giving the story lots of angst, but there is also hope as they look for a solution to their seemingly unsolvable situation. Kayla has seamlessly blended mythology into the story, with the gods, particularly Apollo, able to roam the earth along with the humans, unrecognized, but able to assist them when they need help. I feel I should warn you that it's a cliff-hanger, but it's also the first book in what appears to be an exciting series. I look forward to having many adventures with Theron and Andreas, and hanging out with the gods as well. If you enjoy Greek history, mythology, hot men having even hotter sex, and characters who are complex, damaged, but strong and very

much in love, then you may like this book. Thanks, Kayla, for the history lesson and intriguing love story.

NOTE: This book was provided by Dreamsspinner Press for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

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## **Qin says**

It proved to be a most difficult book to review fairly. Since this is a work in which the good by far overwhelms the bad and the indifferent, I shall not linger on the elements that prevented it from being a five-star read. If I found Mrs Jameth's writing top notch, with an impressive command of English and a superb mastery of picturesque details and scenographic action, I was a bit miffed to discover that she pushes this talent straight into purple prose whenever bedroom scenes are concerned. Did half the mentions of seed or semen need to come equipped with an epithet, and a tasteless one at that, such as 'milky' or 'creamy' or 'thick'? Was it wise to overelaborate the description of Andreas' self pleasuring during his first attempt at anal breaching, inspired by his lust for Theron? Here is the passage: *"moaning softly, Andreas spread his legs and reached lower with his other hand. He cupped his balls in his hand and with some trepidation, stroked the skin behind them. Blessed Eros! With a gasp, he feathered his fingertips over the area again and again, edging ever closer to his furred hole. Breath stuttering in his chest, Andreas touched wrinkled skin. He swirled his fingers around the edge. Groaning, he pressed lightly. Unexpected hunger tore through him. Lost in the sensations, Andreas couldn't prevent his other hand from faltering on his cock. Andreas pushed and felt his body start to give. His cock thrummed and grew harder as his testicles drew up. He stroked frantically. Grunting, he pumped his hips, forcing his questing finger deeper inside"*. The best epithet for this kind of writing is 'corny', and it pains me to apply it such a strong pen wielder as Mrs Jameth. When the two leads eventually couple for the first time(s), were so many anatomic precisions useful in order to share with the reader the creation of a bond? It may seem churlish to state it so plainly, but all those displays of verbal virtuosity fall flat. It is par for the course, unfortunately, for Mrs Jameth chose an extremely lavish style of narrative in which the reader is made privy to almost everything that is happening: we get a minute, descriptive retelling of the entire gamut of the unfolding actions, along with a precise recounting of nearly every relevant thought that occurs to the character whose POV a chapter is written according to. Small wonder, then, that Andreas and Theron take almost 900 closely printed pages bridging three books to get their happy ending. The positive side of this authorial decision - and what a tremendous, seldom-seen one it is! - lies in its capacity of immersion into the historical period: Mrs Jameth did her homework very well, to the point of having read most of the ancient sources dealing with Sparta in translation, so much so that not only does the universe building in *A Spartan Love* leave precious little to the imagination, from the details of Andreas' meals to his everyday routine as a goat keeper, it is unusually hard to fault it from an archaeological point of view, and the Greek History buff in me was pleased to no end to only reap a modest residue of technical blemishes (on only two counts was I unhappy: Mount Taygetos is never mentioned as snowy-capped despite it being the case for nearly the entire year, which brings a fake element to Andreas' small world since his plot of land covers part of the valley and some slopes of the impressive mountain; nor could I be convinced by Andreas' self sufficiency as an helot working his rather impressive domain - a few goats and chickens with vegetables and barley on a side, without even an ox or a donkey, seemed somewhat too low a land use, whereas, since the helot is not said to grow, or tend to, olive trees, his provision of oil can only come from small-scale trading, to mention only one case-in-point of basic food). I was also impressed by Mrs Jameth's refusal to bow down to the cherished conventions of MM writing according to which, while one of the leads must be light and the other dark (both Theron and Andreas are brunette, as most ancient

Greeks tended to be, which explains why blondness was considered as supremely attractive), there should be an obvious top and a slightly less conspicuous bottom discriminated according to their build (here Andreas is the taller and much the bigger man, yet he graciously, even hungrily, gives himself to Theron as the lower partner, status-wise). One may strongly object, on purely sociological grounds, to a same-sex pairing set in the early Hellenistic age in which the dominant partner, *?ραστ?ς / erastēs*, is not only visibly younger by a few years but shorter in stature and rather less buff than his 'boy', *?ρ?μενος / erômenos*, since the latter then suffers a status loss by functioning as a *παιδικ? / paidika*, but even this can be debated in light of Andreas' lowly capacity as a helot, unlike the free man and Athenian citizen Timarchus in Aeschines' famous oration. At any rate, pedantic precision has barely any place in the realm of fiction. Finally, the clever exploitation of the gods was a very nice touch - since the ancient Greeks firmly believed in their deities, and not only in the case of the greatest, city-related ones, to have Apollo, for instance, interact with the fates of the helot and his kryptes in suitably subtle fashion added a welcome agency to the story. Well done, Mrs Jameth! I shall return for the two other books in the very way one laps at a great wine to cleanse one's palate in between lesser drinks.

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### **Beck says**

I was given this book in exchange for an honest review ...

For the last few years I have been devouring fluff at the rate of 400+ books a year ... I read while cooking; I read while drinking coffee; I read instead of watching T.V.; I read while waiting at the school gates ... I haven't always been into fluff but, the more children I had, the fluffier the books became so that I could be interrupted without loosing my place in the story ... if one is reading something more cerebral, one is likely to miss the import of a child saying "Mum. Is it still considered a fire if there is only smoke?" ... and yes, this has been said by one of my five womb fruit ... anyhoo, I digress, back to *A Spartan Love* ... this one is waaaaayyyyy outside my usual reading matter ... I started reading this one when I couldn't fall asleep and four hours later, I had to force myself to put it down ... I was enthralled, enchanted and thoroughly hooked ... the next day, I found a reason to call some office, and continued to devour the book guilt-free, nary disturbed by the "Thank you for holding. We value all our customers. You are now 1,600,549 in the queue."; as when Himself came home and said "Holy fuck! What happened to the house?!", I could mournfully say "I had to call XYZ and was on hold for *forever!*"

This is a vibrantly portrayed world which sucks you in and easily distracts you from life ... although vastly different from my normal reading matter, I'd gladly recommend it ... vivid characters, meticulous world building and a meaty plot to tie it all together ... this is more than a romance and more than a historical novel ... it adds a dash of fantasy, a sprinkle of smex and altogether, it is a recipe for a satisfying read.

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