



## The Slave

*Kate Aaron*

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**The Slave** Kate Aaron

*Freedom is only an illusion.*

At twenty-seven, Tamelik has been a slave more than half his life. Submissive by nature, he can't help but fall in love with the master who treats him kindly.

When the mistress walks out, Tam dares to hope his love will be enough.

Then he's ordered to purchase another slave.

He wants to hate Kai for being unruly and ungrateful. For being of the same race as the men who murdered his family. For being his eventual replacement in their master's bed. But it's hard to hate a man who cries himself to sleep, flinches at the slightest touch, and blushes beautifully when he's kissed.

64,000 words.

## **THE FREE MEN SERIES:**

THE SLAVE

THE SOLDIER

THE MASTER

## **The Slave Details**

Date : Published October 27th 2014 by Croft House

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Author : Kate Aaron

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## From Reader Review The Slave for online ebook

### Vivian says

Nothing is inviolate in a world at war.

Tam is the beautiful, charming and obedient slave. He was given a task and he fulfilled, now he has to live with his choice. Even when strained, he never regrets his decision.

Kai is the captured warrior who's presence ignites the crowd's desire to break him by the whatever means necessary--and with great pleasure. His auction price escalates quickly. His journey is to find a place within Master's house.

Master is the philosopher king example. One that proves that the system can work, whereas in reality it is flawed with no safety measures. A leader who puts the wellbeing of those who are under his care first.

Very Romantic viewpoint espoused with the lushness and the ending that seems straight out of a Delacroix painting. And what an ending. It will certainly leave a few readers wondering and a few more disgruntled, but honestly, it fits with the situation and the theme.

A weird quirk or two regarding the time period which seemed nineteenth century, but then having references to military fatigues instead of uniforms and explosives which while developed in the mid-nineteenth century weren't used in the manner depicted until later.

### 3.5 Stars

Favorite quote:

**I smiled gently. "Yes, you. You're the only thing I ever chose for myself."**

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### Ingie says

*Written November 17, 2014*

**4 Stars - Delicate, beautiful and tender - a sweetly soft "three might make it" story.**

### Book #1

A fantasy / historical slave story!?! ~ I couldn't resist the temptation after reading a few great ARC reviews then in October. I needed to read it.

### If you like historical fairy-tale-like stories

It may not sound as me (chicken scared Ingela) but I like (love) fairy tales, and this M/M genre with historical slave fantasy romances are often also a 'kind' of an oldish, often hard and tough, fairy tale. The

kind of slave-stories as in the end also are very romantic, about Master with hearts, genuine love and of course a grand end.

...And I got exactly mostly all that here included a wonderful and lovely threesome romance. A good one!!

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**Tam 27 has been a slave more than half his life.** For six glorious months, he and his beloved **Master** get to be together. Then Tam is ordered to purchase another pleasure-slave....

Tam wants to hate **Kai** for being unruly and ungrateful. For being of the same race as the men who murdered his family. For being his eventual replacement in their master's bed. ~ But it's hard to hate a man who cries himself to sleep, flinches at the slightest touch, and blushes beautifully when he's kissed.

'His next words were for me alone, whispered directly into the shell of my ear. "You picked him, Tammy. Now make him yours."

\*\*\*\*\*

**Jeez, these three male characters are all interesting characters individually** and OMG they were just stunning beautiful together.

I must admit that I was a bit nervous in the beginning but *The Slave* is very well told and my nervousness released each after when I realized how 'pleasant' it would be. It was like traveling on fluffy, also steaming hot, but always soft and nice, pink clouds. So happens suddenly everything at once, and I got nervous again.

### **Love with two people at once, possible for you?**

*The Slave* was in all ways a delicate, beautiful and tender love story. Three men: a Master, a pleasure slave and a new slave - an enslaved warrior. Could these three very different characters be a hot threesome? Oh yes, there was caution, doubt, new strange feelings but also great patience and a grand reward of all the waiting. The steam level was high... yummy high.

"I'm thinking you how hot you two are together."

(...)

"Watching the two of you, I didn't care about the rest of it—who feels what for whom. I never wanted you to stop."

### **Tam & Kai & Master**

Also a big plus to three interesting and diverse characters that actually surprised me sometimes. - The author gave some 'let to know space' to all three. I felt that I actually understood most of their actions. I could see both good and less good qualities to them all, and that's always a good sign for a good

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Partly predictably perhaps, two plus one gets the threesome of course, but in many ways not. *The Slave* is a story to like, in many ways a 'feel good' read but also a quite surprisingly and abrupt end. (view spoiler)

**This will be a series, *Free Men*.**

I'm still a bit shaken about how this first one ended. ~ It's just to download the next part #2 - The Soldier as soon I'm back home from my lazy beach life again. (view spoiler)

Sincerely recommended for lovers of romantic "M/M fairy tales"...and you who also want to read a great new "more-than-one-book" story.

**I LIKE - heartwarming sweet = a Ingela story**

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*Some other goodies to read in this "M/M slave genre": (view spoiler)*

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**Melanie A. says**

**3.5 STARS**

*"But you love him."*

*"I do."*

*"Then how could you possibly want anything from me?"*

Despite the premise, *The Slave* is not a dark read. In fact, it's quite the opposite; light, fluffy, and angst-free. If I had to categorize it, I'd say it was an m/m/m erotic fantasy built around an idealized slave/master relationship.

The story opens with Kai, a captured enemy soldier, being auctioned off as a pleasure slave. Tam, a pleasure slave himself who's been tasked with purchasing another by his benevolent master, can't bear the thought of Kai being abused, so he bids on him to ensure his safety.

Even if I was expecting something with a bit more edge, I wasn't disappointed...exactly. The writing was above average, full of emotion and heat. The sex sizzled and the tension between Kai and the Master was really well done.

Tam, on the other hand, was too soft of a character for my liking. Not quite a doormat, but... I hate to use his own words against him, but if the shoe fits:

*"I know, I know. I'm pathetic. I know you think that. A slave who likes his bonds, who loves his master - it's pitiful, isn't it?"*

To be fair, I'm sure that Tam's eventual growth and self-realization are an integral part of future installments of this series, but *this* book just focused on the bond between Tam and Kai and their Master. It all came too

easily in my opinion, and I needed more.

But if low-angst, erotic ménage between three hot guys is your thing, you should definitely read this one. I certainly don't regret it.

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### **Wynne Katherine says**

This was me before :

This is me after I found out it's menage :

**Blog : More more more of me here!**

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### **Kazza says**

***I loved this book.***

The Slave is a very well written fantasy ménage. Tam has lived with Master since his family were killed fifteen years ago. He was meant for the Mistress but it was the Master who always made him feel protected. Master is an underlord and a powerful man in Otiz. The region is unstable and war rages around the zone - the Granthians and Thirskans are tribally opposed. It is the reason Tam ended up in the Cage for auction at twelve, his family murdered before him. Since then, he has been with his master.

The book starts with Tam in charge of buying a new pleasureslave, but he is confused. Tam wants to be Master's only pleasureslave, but he won't argue with his orders, besides it is nice to be given the responsibility by Master to do the bidding. Ordinarily they would buy someone around the age he was when he was offered up for auction - the younger the slave the more malleable and easy to train. But something about the next lot to stride into the Cage, and the men talking about all the things they would like to do to break him, has Tam bidding, despite the slave appearing only five or so years younger than twenty seven year old Tam.

What I loved, loved, loved (yes, I will abuse that word in this review) - *L.O.V.E.D.*

**Great characters** - every single one of them. Nicely fleshed out, although I know more is coming, and I can't wait. Loved, loved, loved them - the sweet Tam, how I adored Tam. Caring and people-manoeuvring Master, he grows on you so much. Feisty but edgy Kai, who grows so much as the book progresses. I could not get enough of them. All of them. They compliment each other well. I am not always good with books

that aren't standalone but this trilogy is looking fantastic from where I stand after book #1. Bring on The Soldier.

**Holy freaking shizemballs! *Smokin' hot sex scenes*** that got better and better and better as the book progressed. I do love a ménage... but this wasn't stock standard. It was extra spicy and it built. There was frustration, confusion, camaraderie, some unspoken feelings and a perfectly flawed synchronicity to it all that worked superbly.

**There's a very interesting plot.** This book offers you something different. Subtle world building that I am ready to have expanded upon in the following books. As I read I felt like I was in Ortiz, in the compound outside the city on the edge of the desert, twin suns blazing down during the day, cold in the evenings. Knowing there was more outside but not needing to be a part of it - a lot like Tam. But, like Kai, I felt the itch to do more, even though I know more is not always going to be nice. Then, like Master, I like the idea of making my piece of the world a better place for those who are special to me. So I simply 'got' the three characters. I experienced this world through their eyes, although Master is a little (purposefully)enigmatic.

**This is a well paced book** which built to, dare I say it, *da, da, da...a cliff hanger*. Gah! I'll put on my big girl undies and deal - it appears Ms Aaron has the books coming out in fairly rapid succession, so that helps. Highly recommended for fantasy and ménage lovers.

**In depth NSFW 18+** review at <http://ontopdownunderbookreviews.com/...>

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## Steelwhisper says

*Note: the author is a good friend, I beta'd this and received a final copy from the author.*

This one is for me absolutely on the same level as What He Wants and Ace. Kate never ceases to astonish me with her ability to take completely different backgrounds and characters and run with them to create brilliantly original and very fresh stories. It is also a pleasure to read about real human beings instead of tired stereotypes, and as always she has created just that here.

Recommended for everyone who likes to step outside of the usual boxes.

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## Danny Tyran says

This is a nice little story about slavery (not BDSM) and threesome in an imaginary world. There is a lot of sex scenes.

So if it's what you like, you'll be very pleased.

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## **Dia says**

### **4 stars**

This was a great surprise. It's the first book in this series and it's still free on Amazon.

The writing surprised me. I really enjoyed it. This book felt light and easy to read. I'm NOT a fan of DOM and SUB couples, actually we have a Master here and two slaves. But it's fantasy and the sex slaves aren't what we usually read about. Here Tam really loves his Master and Kai falls for Tam.

How these 3 men connected, it really left me wanting for more. Well Kai and Tam connected a lot, and their Master knew which buttons to push to bring them together.

I thought I got enough of MMM, but this one was super HOT, and I can't wait to read the next books. It ends with a cliffhanger and I am dying to find out what Kai was up to. I really hope he'll not hurt Tam. What they had felt special and I'm really hoping to get a HEA here.

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## **MLE says**

I loved the complicated nature of the relationship between the three men. The author doesn't ignore the reality of the notion of consent within the reality of slavery, but the master and his respect for his slaves made this story for me. I'm looking forward to reading more about these characters.

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## **Ula'ndi Hart says**

**Overall book rating: 4.5**

**Audio Book: N/A**

**Book Cover: 3.5**

**I wanted to stay wrapped up in my own little bubble after this.**

I actually stopped reading with 16 pages left, because I didn't want to deal with what I knew was about to happen. I didn't want their little "happy" bubble to burst. But I guess I couldn't keep reality at bay much longer and so...I finished it.

I just wanted the three of them, Master and slaves, though so much more on so many levels without them even completely understanding it, to be safely locked up forever. Where no one could hurt them or get to them.

I loved this story. I dearly love Tam and I'm starting to love Kai just as much. "Master" was already high on my loveable character list the moment I got to understand how he treats his Tam, ever since he was a scared



little boy. With Kai, it just grew.

To me, this was touching. To me, there is more than meets the eye, and I loved it. I LOVE it. And I'm so sad. Brilliant.

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### **Ashley says**

I really enjoyed this a lot more than I thought I would. This is my first time reading about a menage relationship and I could really believe that Tam loved both Master and Kai. I understood why he loved each and could reconcile that in his mind. The three of them were great together. I liked the world building but it felt like they were in their own private bubble until the end of the book. I plan to finish this series at some point.

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### **Monique says**

**? 5 HUGE STARS from Me & Macky for this EXCELLENT book from Kate Aaron ?**

**BONUS SCENE ~> <http://bit.ly/1sjYrHC>**

Oh. My. God!!! Did I do it again Macky? This book was stunning and I could effuse for hours on how fabulous it is! Haha... actually I think we did!

**Macky:** Hahaha...you bloody know you did Monique! How could I resist when you wafted the premise of pleasure slaves and masters under my nose! Like candy to a baby...You know me soooo well! Looks like I'm going to be effusing with you...

**Monique:** You know it!!! The promise of the blurb was something I just couldn't resist and as soon as I started reading... well, Kate Aaron pulled me into this story effortlessly, the writing just flowed. I don't know about you, but I'm in awe of how some authors have the ability to do that, as well as create characters that truly come to life in your imagination, whether through their impassioned personalities or because of the emotional connection an author manages to evoke... How do some authors ...get that? ...do that? I find it fascinating, I mean, it's all letters on a page, a combination of words, and Kate Aaron does *just that* and manages to weave it into something magical! I was totally caught up in this world and the lives of these three men, I found it all incredibly moving.

**Macky:** I agree my friend, I was swept up by the story in exactly the same way and like you it was the style of Kate Aaron's beautiful writing that pulled me in; not just the fact that the idea of this spoke to me as soon as I read the blurb. Then to find that instant connection with the characters was just the icing on the cake. I know most people roll their eyes at Insta love but it was kind of that way for me. I feel a gush coming on! Hahaha....over to you Monique...

**Monique:** Effusing or gushing, I'm right there with you... because I loved this! It's one of those books that captivated me from the very first page, and for me that was down to the incredibly gentle and caring voice of

Tam, almost hypnotic in a sense that I was totally drawn in, not having the slightest inclination to look away. Initially for me he comes across as melancholy character, unemotional in a way that lacks passion, it's as if it's not his place to feel that particular emotion, distancing himself on the surface, but inside his heart is so full of love. And that's what I liked so much about this book Macky, because as we take this journey with Tam we are allowed to see beneath that surface, until what he feels for not only The Master but also Kai is so powerful and intense it took my breath away.

**Macky:** Aww...I loved Tam, Monique, practically from the second he started to tell us his story I knew I was going to fall in love with this tale. You just know don't you when there's an instant connection to a character and I felt it immediately with Tam, then that connection followed through to Kai, the captured soldier, sold into slavery and finally: Master, the man who links all of them together. I think Kate gave them incredible presence; which was why I became totally invested in their journey together. Tam being the pivotal character in this book as we see it through his eyes but that didn't lessen the feelings I had for each of them as we got to know them better over the course of the book.

You can check out the rest of our review over on the blog...<http://bit.ly/1sjYrHC>

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## Tanu Gill says

### **Edited after taking a breather and making sure I wasn't actually dead:**

I have decided to review it first before I go on to read the next part, so that I don't forget the events or my feelings for them at the end.

This book was EPIC, really, tremendously epic. After reading the first paragraph, I knew I was hooked and will not rest until I finish it. And that's what happened actually, too. I was deeply engrossed in the completely different characters and dynamics of this triad: Master, Tam and Kai. They were super strong individuals yet vulnerable when it came to their feelings for each other. The way the author took the time to build the world around them in our minds, almost making me feel as if this was happening right alongside my reading somewhere in an alternate universe, was a major tenterhook for my interest (insanity, rather).

It was such a detailed, step-by-step process of the three of them coming together with Kai being the stimuli, and I was enamored to see Tam getting his wishes fulfilled at long last. Their Master needed happiness and lightness in his life, and somehow, Kai's appearance triggered that instinct in their Master to want something for himself. Kai was drifting along, mindlessly doing the tasks assigned to him by his army while struggling under the baseless nature of the war itself, and it warmed my heart to see him enjoy the freedom he actually got after being bought as a slave, even though he probably still doesn't realise it.

In a world being destroyed by war, it was truly wonderful seeing desperate souls find comfort and love with each other. I was crying, cheering, worrying, scolding and laughing, doing something or the other all through the book, not having a moment's rest. But as the cliffhanger was one that totally took away my breath and sleep and now won't let me rest until I start the second book, I would like to finish my review here, before I let my fear for knowing the aftermath overwhelm me and prohibit me from getting sucked into the tornado that just struck their happy bubble and sleep and get charged to tackle the storm that has risen.

**Review right after finishing:**

Oh my goodness! I need to finish the trilogy before I can come to write a review. The only thing I can say is that it has me on edge, wanting to go read what happens next.

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**Tina says**

I'm drained.... and speechless. Need the 2nd book right the fuck now!

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OMG... I loved this book, it just blew my mind and had my heart pounding. After finishing I felt kind of lost, luckily Kate's 2nd book of the series came out on the same day.

Tam is a lovely character. He's so pure and innocent, just beautiful inside and out. He lives with his master, an underlord in a fantasy world that orbits two suns.

Master isn't cruel or brutal, he doesn't abuse or humiliate Tam, his pleasure-slave. Master cares for him, protects him against a world of war outside of his sheltered compound. He never verbally expresses his feelings but I'm certain he loves Tam.

When Master sends Tam to the slave market to buy another pleasure-slave, Tam chooses Kai, a former Granthian soldier. He immediately knows that the man who belongs to the same race as the men who murdered his family would be lost without him and condemned to death. So Tam purchases Kai and brings him home to his master.

What follows is a lovely tale of mistrust growing to friendship, and friendship growing to love. Kai and Tam are so cute together, it is just wonderful to watch them getting closer and their feelings getting stronger.

Beyond a doubt master is the most intriguing character of the story. On the one hand he remains mysterious - I would have given anything to find out why he is so determined to keep Kai in Tam's life - on the other hand he is so tender and affectionate, I just fell for him head over heels.

When the three of them are together it's both heartbreakingly tender and damn hot! Those guys just left me breathless... I never knew that brushing hair could be so erotic. \*sigh\*

The Slave is woven into a pattern that is complete fantasy yet somehow utterly believable. The creation of a fantasy world is exquisite and the development of the characters is brilliantly done. It's captivating, stunning, and devastatingly beautiful, a heartwarming yet gut-wrenching read that brought tears to my eyes, along with some big smiles. I really have no words to describe how much I enjoyed this book, I loved everything about it. Now on to the second book, can't wait to get inside of Kai's head!

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## **Jenn says**

dnf at 65% .

I'm not going to rate this one because it's me, not the book. A couple of years ago I'd probably read this with few problems, despite the fact there is sex sex sex sex sex sex sex sex.

But the real issue is I just don't want to read slave fic anymore where there isn't a turnaround realizing that "owning" someone is wrong. Books like The Flesh Cartel etc. just do nothing for me & in this there were all kinds of things that fired off warning bells. There's just no way I can rate & review this fairly, so I'll drop it.

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