



Jaded

Anya Bast

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The *New York Times* bestselling author takes erotic fantasy to the next level.

Haunted by an attack, Lilya Orensdughter has become a courtesan in the Temple of Dreams, determined to never again lose control. But she'll do anything for Byron Andropov, the man who nursed her back to health-and now wants her to help his friend Alek Chaikoveii come to terms with the powerful magick he possesses. Lilya soon finds herself torn between her desire for the man who saved her, and the man whose soul resembles her own-only to discover that in the world of unrestrained passion there are no boundaries.

Jaded Details

Date : Published June 7th 2011 by Berkley (first published April 21st 2011)

ISBN : 9780425241097

Author : Anya Bast

Format : Paperback 312 pages

Genre : Romance, Fantasy, Paranormal, Adult Fiction, Erotica, Menage, Paranormal Romance

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From Reader Review Jaded for online ebook

Tina says

Lilya Orensdughter wants a family and children but knows children are never going to be a part of her future. The Jeweled, the magical beings, are now in hiding, but Lilya always wonders where they have gone because the world needs their magic back. Lilya has always kept her expectations about life low so she doesn't end up disappointed and works as a courtesan at the Temple of Dreams.

Byron Andropov, a man from another time in Lilya's life, comes to visit. He is hoping to convince Lilya to come home with him and help his friend Alek Chaikoveii. Lilya finds she is still attracted to Byron as much as she once was, and now she's also attracted to Alek, too.

Now her past is catching up with her. Will her new lovers be able to save her from a past that just won't die?

Jaded by Anya Bast is a follow up to her book Jeweled and while this is a follow up, you don't have to read Jeweled first to understand or enjoy this book. I found Lilya's character to be strong; she is a survivor and an amazing woman. She's been through so much and yet has come out a beautiful person, both on the inside and outside.

Alek is an equally tortured soul who finds a connection with Lilya he never experienced before. Byron tries to fight his love for Lilya but in the end their love can't be denied.

There are some dark parts in this book—Lilya suffers a lot and some readers might find her past a bit much. Yet, her past makes her stronger. I liked the love and connection the characters have, and the story each character brought to this book makes it that much richer to read.

Lisa says

This was great, a really good sequel to Jewelled. I loved the strength that Lilya had and how all the men in her life affed her. Very raunchy book and I had trouble putting it down. 5/5

A.Lux says

I finished it, but wasn't so big on it. Lilya is a courtesan, a picky one at that. She keeps companionship—as she likes to say—with men who are socially awkward and have a hard time finding women. We don't really see her in action b/c the story focuses on Bryon and Alek.

Lilya is completely in love with Bryon, she fell in love with him years ago after he found and helped her heal from fatal injuries and now he's back. Byron is described as almost rugged w/ harsh looks that could be called ugly—but devilish to the ladies. He seeks Lilya's help for his friend Alek, who is suppressing his magick; he's a healer with great power.

Bryon believes that with Lilya around, Alek will stop suppressing his power when he gets the chance to meet

her and gets to know her a little better—if you know what I mean. Bryon has been denying his love for Lilya as well all these years so he definitely can't resist getting her into his bed.

Lilya is a little skeptical in the beginning as well b/c she has never been shared with two men before at the same time. Bryon and Alek sure as hell don't mind, they have shared many women together before, though Bryon gets a little jealous. And it is also common where they come from for a women to have two husbands, even her best friend, Evangeline, has two men worshipping her at her feet.

Alek is the bookish type, absolutely handsome w/ a gorgeous body (so does Bryon), we get to learn about his past and why he suppressed his magick for so long. I won't give anything away, but what I will say is that he has a broken heart that needs a little mending. This is where Lilya comes in.

Ah, but there is trouble about. A possessive ex-lover of Lilya has come to claim back what is rightfully his, meaning her and he has been watching her all this time, all these years w/out Lilya's knowledge. He also was the one who supplied her injuries.

I think I've given enough. The book over all was interesting and the love making was pleasant, but this time I wasn't feeling it. Don't get me wrong Bast did a well enough job; it just wasn't my cup of tea today. Good for a raining day I would say.

Jessica ~Blahyze~ says

One of the more original books I have read in a while. Each character was well written and the emotional side of each of them was so well done. Alek was probably my favourite out of Byron and him, his past haunted him which led to him being unable to harness his full potential with the healing magick that he possesses. I wish that Alek's magick played a bigger role in the book, that perhaps he would have had a chance to use it on someone. I loved Lilya's strength and her ability to cope with what happened in her past and to face Ivan with a new-found strength that she lacked in her youth. I'm not a huge historical romance fan but I seriously loved reading this book. Purchased on a whim and I am so glad that I did.

Betty says

Lilya spent a good portion of her childhood on the streets. She learned how to be a survivor there. At the age of eighteen she met a man who would change her life. Unfortunately after a fairly short period of love and comfort her lover thought that she was cheating on him and did something unforgivable to her that totally altered her life and ability to trust and to love. Byron Andropov found her near death in an alley and rescued her. He took care of her until she was able to once again take care of herself. Byron had fallen in love with her, but knew that at the point she was unable to trust and love him. He left her the house that they had been living in and abruptly left her. Years later he approached her again in the Temple of Dreams where she worked as a courtesan and asked for her help with his friend. She agrees to a three week stay at his house to try to help his friend, Alek Chaikoveii.

I found the characters well written and very likable. The plot was good and held my interest. The sexual tension and sex scenes were very erotic and fun to read. I will be reading another of Anya Bast's books next!

Toeni says

I picked this up as a whim. I was in the mood for something steamy and I was not disappointed in the least bit. Not only did I get foggy glasses, but I was also rewarded with a great story.

It takes place in a post-Revolutionary fantasy country that has a combination of magic and the new discoveries of science. Lilya is courtesan with a dark painful past. After struggling on the streets as a child, she falls in love with an abusive crime boss, Ivan. In a fit of jealous rage, he beats her and then hands her over to his underlings do with as they will. Beaten, raped, and discarded in an alley, she is rescued by Byron.

Years later, despite being a successful courtesan, she has no hope of ever truly finding love. Byron steps back into her life, but this time he needs her help with his best friend, Aleck. What starts out as mission to encourage Aleck to use his magick, soon becomes a whirlwind of both passion and compassion for the three. Sometimes, the past has a way of coming back to haunt.

I enjoyed the interaction between the three main characters. The way they supported each other through their healing was heartwarming. The setting was both creative and fun. I did find the characters annoyingly naïve in some aspects, especially in regards to Ivan. Someone breaks into the house and Lilya smells his cologne in the night. That doesn't set off alarms? They know that he is still around. Why would they leave her alone after they parted ways? At least have someone keeping an eye on her.

Still, now that I know how delightful this book was to read, I plan to read the book that came out in this series before it (having accidentally skipped over it). Even so, there was enough backstory to understand what was going on.

Darcy says

IN the last book I really liked Lilya, she was a courtesan and the voice of reason for Evangeline, so I was excited to see she was the heroine in this book.

We learned a little in the last book about Lilya's past, with this book we find out just what made her become a courtesan. I am surprised that she managed to live through it and come out as sane and normal as she did. It was through this trauma that she met Bryon. She fell in love with him, but then he disappeared one day, never to be seen again, although he did leave her money.

Six years later Bryon, her ghost from the past, shows up at The Temple of the Dreams. He has an interesting proposition for Lilya...come to his house for 3 weeks to help his friend embrace his magick. He is willing to pay her, but he doesn't expect her to have sex with either one of them, but should it happen and the parties involved are ok with it then all the better.

Lilya, against her better thoughts, agrees. During the "time out" of her life she ends up doing the one thing that she didn't think she was able to do...fall in love. She doesn't think there is any way that either man would want her for longer than the agreed upon time period, so she doesn't confess her feelings and goes back home at the end.

It is at this time that the old danger comes back into her life and she vows that she won't be destroyed again and fights back, getting help from places she never expected.

I loved how the 3 of these people related to each other. It was dicey at first, but slowly everyone's emotions are involved yet they don't talk about it. I wished they would have but understood why they didn't, each one had good reasons why.

I am hoping that we get more in this series!

Carole-Ann says

Continuing the stories of the J'Edaeii begun in *Jeweled* (Court of Edaeii. #1), Bast now tells the story of Lilya and her relationship with Byron and Alek.

Although the publisher calls it an "Erotic Romance", apart from the menage, it isn't really erotic - just romance with a twist. All three MCs are well depicted, but an 'about-face' in their characterisations threw me a little.

Lilya is a courtesan who won't ever fall in love (primarily because of what happened once before), but she has *always* loved Byron. Byron is a strong, alpha-type man but his weakness in *admitting* his love for Lilya seems uncharacteristic. Alek, solitary and quiet (again because of something happening in his past) is *quite able to immediately* fall in love with Lilya.

Apart from this, it is a reasonably enjoyable read.

Tarran says

The cover of this book is beautiful. I love Anya Bast's novels and this one didn't dissappoint. It is a lighter read than some of her others, but the story structure flows really well. The sex scenes were good and the whole tone of the book screamed colours in my head. Lilya is a good character and Byron and Alek are an interesting match. All in all, I enjoyed it.

Desiree says

favorite book.
