



Domina

L.S. Hilton

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In this riveting sequel to the instant *New York Times* bestseller, *Maestra*, femme fatale Judith Rashleigh once again leads readers into the mesmerizing and dangerous underworld of Europe's glamorous elite.

Since opening her own art gallery in Venice, Judith Rashleigh—now Elisabeth Teerlinc—can finally stop running. She's got the paycheck, lifestyle, and wardrobe she always dreamed of, not to mention the interest of a Russian billionaire. But when a chance encounter in Ibiza leads to a corpse that is, for once, not her own doing, she finds her life is back on the line—and she's more alone than ever. It seems Judith's become involved with more than just one stolen painting, and there is someone else willing to kill for what's theirs.

From St. Moritz to Serbia, Judith again finds herself maneuvering the strange landscapes of wealth, but this time there's far more than her reputation at stake. How far will Rage take Judith? Far enough to escape death?

The second installment in an unforgettable trilogy, *Domina* is the next sexy, ruthless, and decadent thriller from mastermind L. S. Hilton, and an adventure that will push Judith further than even she imagined she could go.

From the Hardcover edition.

Domina Details

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Author : L.S. Hilton

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From Reader Review Domina for online ebook

~IreneOust~ says

This series has become my latest obsession!! It embodies many things I enjoy: travel, art/art history, fashion, kick ass female leads and well written thrillers, just to name a few. For the last week or so, I was lost to the world because I was too busy basking in the beauty of L.S. Hilton's magnificent storytelling and am now counting days till I can get my hands on the conclusion of this amazing trilogy in April! I am also nursing one hell of a book hangover and don't even care for a cure ...

Cheers!

Marisa Fernandes says

Gostei, mas não adorei....

Para mim, "Maestra", primeiro volume desta trilogia, foi sobejamente melhor, apesar das críticas desfavoráveis à frieza da personagem principal, a meu ver sem qualquer fundamento. Não é suposto um thriller ter personagens que são dignas de exemplo a seguir. Infelizmente, há no mundo gente com condutas menos próprias ou com patologias mentais passíveis de não sentir qualquer tipo de remorso ou compaixão quando praticam o mal. E convivem conosco na Terra, sendo que não podemos agarrar nessas pessoas e enviá-las para fora do planeta. Tão pouco podemos fechar os olhos à sua existência.

Neste sentido, eu gostei de ler a história de Judith no primeiro livro. Fria, impassível, cruel. E gostei e admirei a personagem porque nada tem a ver comigo. Há certamente uma Judith (ou mais) aí perdida pelo mundo e eu gosto de ler, pensar e "estudar" a dita personagem e o seu comportamento, tal como faço com as outras, para quando me cruzar com alguém que possa ter alguma semelhança não ser surpresa. Acho fascinante conhecer personagens diferentes de mim. Aprende-se muito assim. Acreditem!

Neste livro, assistimos a uma tentativa de humanização de Judith, que surge insegura, medrosa... E da maneira que isso foi feito... Não fiquei particularmente fã. É a minha perspectiva.

Contudo, quando for publicado o terceiro volume, sou bem capaz de voltar a esta história. Gosto do argumento. E acho que merece outra oportunidade. Além do que a leitura deste segundo volume apanhou-me numa fase de cansaço em demasia, desinteresse, desmotivação, própria do trabalho que estou a desenvolver e admito que isso possa, num certo sentido, ter condicionado a minha apreciação da obra...

Aritri Chatterjee says

The second book in the trilogy, Domina sees Judith Rashleigh's character transform and go through a new journey of thrill and danger. Judith, who has had a troubled and broken childhood gets entangled into a terrible mess and has to shed her identity. She miraculously transforms into Elisabeth Teerlinc, a suave and fashionable art gallerist and leads a luxurious life that Judith would never have dreamed of before. However, all is not hunky dory in Elisabeth's newly tailored life. A sudden contact from a Russian oligarch triggers off a series of dangerous incidents that forces the hidden Judith to come to the forefront. Elisabeth's façade is about to be revealed and more than one person knows who she really is. Her latent past is blatantly threatened of exposure. Will killing everyone who knows the truth really help?

Domina has many highlights that make it a suitable summer read.

The sexy, smart and reckless Judith makes for an extremely brilliant protagonist. Even though her character is not likable initially yet her horrific past instills in us a tinge of pity for her. Hilton's writing gives you a living on the edge feeling and makes this book a fast paced thrilling read. This is one of those books you carry in your travel bag and read throughout the flight or train ride. The description of the beauty of art from the medieval period is breath-taking and makes it an ideal read for all art lovers. The vivid sex in this book is nominal when compared to the previous book Maestra. However the erotica is subtly played and the writing never loses focus from the actual story. There is hardly any description of clothes, throughout the novel, without the mention of million dollar brands, which is why a lot of fashionistas and people from glamour world connect to this book.

Domina was a highly satisfactory read for me. If you love your occasional indulgences in thriller and psychological mind games then pick the book up for a quick read this summer.

Jennifer says

★★★½

I seem to be in the minority of readers who are actually enjoying L.S. Hilton's erotic thriller trilogy titled Maestra. It is a series about a driven woman who manipulates, lies, steals, seduces, kills, and cheats to get what she wants: a rich life that she can control instead of the other way around.

"Becoming Elisabeth had taken so much more than an expensive wardrobe, in the end. Armor truly protects only if it's invisible, and that was where the real struggle had lain. Not just the studying and the exams, but maintaining the conviction that I could win. Getting out of the miserable estate where I'd grown up. Not allowing myself to be subsumed into the squalor of my mother's life. Resisting the taunts, the insidious daily whisperings of 'slag' and 'bitch' that hissed after me along the school corridors just because I'd wanted more."

She's not remorseful, she makes sure to enjoy any sex that is had, and her eyes are always on the prize. As evidenced by the poor ratings/reviews, not many readers like this type of heroine. Too bad.

Admittedly, I did like the first book better than this second one, but Domina was still good in my opinion. It's fast-paced, has one hell of an opening scene, and includes some questionable characters you really don't want to mess with. If you enjoyed Maestra, consider continuing the series with Domina. Be prepared for a cliffhanger though. Wish I had know that tidbit. Check it out!

My favorite quote:

"From what I hear of love, it's very like money. In both cases, presence and absence are the same – when it's there it may as well not be and when it isn't it never leaves you. And both come with warnings, which everyone ignores."

L.S. Hilton's Maestra trilogy includes the following installments as of July 2017:

#1-Maestra

#2-Domina

Kevin Ansbro says

Oh, the unremitting dangers of snatching an eye-catching, last-minute book at an airport!

"Rip-roaring" cheered the Daily Mail.

"Fantastic" exclaimed the Sunday Times.

"A masterpiece" proclaimed the Sunday Mirror.

"You'll love this" promised Grazia magazine (I really didn't).

Opting for this paperback, instead of a fencepost-sized Toblerone, when I already had a suitcase full of books, proved to be a regrettable mistake.

Awaiting me was a serving of gossamer thin characterisation, clichéd dialogue, a lacklustre storyline - and please don't get me started on the writing...

I gave up at page twenty-two, having read a few stilted sentences so awash with repetition that I wondered if this book had even been proof-read!

And here is the segment for your edification (repetition highlighted):

*"...for the first sum, and another slip of paper with just a **name. Pavel Yermolov.***

*For a moment, I stared dully at the **name.** Overwhelmed doesn't happen to me very often. But **Pavel Yermolov.** I could see **Pavel Yermolov's pictures.** Or rather, **Pavel Yermolov** thought I was good enough to see his **pictures.**"*

(Yes, it's utter drivel isn't it?).

But I guess it'll fly off the shelves and many people will love it!

I should've bought that Toblerone instead...

: (

Liz Barnsley says

I was one of the fans of *Maestra*, for which I gave 5* and a good review, because *Maestra*, for all its faults, was one of the most fun books I read last year and had a main protagonist who I really engaged with, the murderous, witty, sexy Judith.

Well now Judith is living under an alias and for me in *Domina* lost all her pizzazz. It was relatively dull in places and the story this time didn't, for me anyway, have that edginess and full on feeling that *Maestra* had provided. I kind of enjoyed it in a very peripheral way but by the time I was heading into the last portions I was really just reading to find out where Ms Hilton would leave things prior to the finale. TO BE CONCLUDED screams the ending, granted in a way that will indeed ensure that I read the next book, but I'm hoping the author brings back the intense sparkle of the original.

If you liked *Maestra* you may well like *Domina* - it has the name dropping, sex scene thing going on that is going to be this series trademark but again the life in that seemed dulled to me too - the character doubted herself, maybe to try and add some layers, but that didn't work terribly well in my honest opinion.

The last novel felt sprawling, jet setting, maybe not completely original but loads of fun and frolics - whereas

Domina for me had chronic second book syndrome - I didn't hate it and the writing is just as it was, its not a sudden drain of ability - but the plotting was annoyingly convoluted on occasion, Judith didn't engage me as she did before and I doubt I'll remember much about it moving forward apart from that very last moment.

I'll be very interested to see where the author takes book 3. The end here suggests that perhaps Judith will go out with a bang (yes yes had to be done) - I hope so. But sorry Domina just didn't have "it"

Tripfiction says

3.5*

Over on our blog, author L S Hilton shares her top tips for VENICE (one of several locations across Europe) <http://www.tripfiction.com/thriller-s...>

This is the second outing for the Judith Rashleigh, who first appeared in *Maestra*, which we reviewed here. There will be a third and final book in the series.

Judith had to abandon her art gallery – Gentileschi – in Paris in the last book for various reasons, and vanish from the art world. She has now popped up in Venice, running a gallery under the assumed persona of Elizabeth Teerlinc, but using the same name Gentilleschi for her gallery (if you are choosing to disappear, surely it isn't altogether wise to keep the same name....). She has a lovely apartment which she has furnished with ultimate taste. Life could be so good for her....

There is a Caravaggio drawing on linen which a Russian oligarch – Yermolov – wants, and who, at the same time, is determined, it seems to her, to deconstruct her “laboured carapace”, her new identity. She knows that Caravaggio was not known for doing preparatory drawings, so this is more than likely to be a fake. Why would Mr Yermolov crave ownership? Enter his wife Elena who offers a little more clarity into the situation.

Judith's quest to avoid being found out takes her from beautifully described Venice (comprising the first 1/3 or so of the book) and then on to Paris, Belgrade and St Moritz, locations where the wealthy jetset can be found. Despite her poor beginnings in life, she has insinuated herself into the glitz and glamour of the rich and famous without batting much of an eyelid.

The locations, and in particular Venice, really do come to life – musings on San Teodoro and his anatomically peculiar crocodile at Piazza San Marco (which indeed is a very odd animal) are well observed and that “in every Venetian day there is one moment when the city is made entirely of silver” which is just so true! Some real #literarywanderlust amongst the pages of *Domina*.

“The end of desire is death” is the mantra throughout and the link between desire and death is strong. Indeed, a visit to Diaghlev's tomb on the Island of San Michele in Venice leads Judith and Elena to recall the musings of Henry James that “Venice was the most beautiful sepulchre in the world“. Thus, Venice is an apt

setting for this tale of life on the edge, a precipice from which many fall.

The book opens with a murder and detailed sex scene and the story moves forward apace from this landmark start.

What are my thoughts? The first book, *Maestra*, had an ease about it with detailed sex scenes that were certainly eye-watering. In *Domina* Judith's character bolts across the pages of the book as she journeys across Europe, picking people up, dropping them, yes, even murdering them. Given that Judith is clearly one of a kind, a bright, calculating and narcissistic personality, it is much harder to connect in this book than it was in the last. It is a brave author who chooses a central character who has sociopathic tendencies.

The author does have a great writing style, the book is intelligent, natively observed, well researched and L S Hilton can certainly pull together an imaginative story. The cover of this book sums up perfectly the content, and I love the flooded use of the lapis lazuli blue – Ultramarine – the most expensive natural pigment in the art world, used exclusively at one time for colouring the robes of the Madonna in paintings. There is, however, quite some detail in the book about Naples Yellow, the oldest synthetic pigment that dates back to around the 1620s (but *clue* Caravaggio died in 1610, make of that what you will!), so I did wonder whether the cover designers missed a beat by not using what can actually be a rather beautiful yellow on the jacket. But I digress ...

Given that I am trained as a psychosexual therapist and have a degree in Art History this book should have really have been a shoo-in. But there is a propensity for page-long details of art provenance and research, and a wealth of designer labels, which could at times bog the storyline down (yes, of course some of it is really interesting, but some of it is really top heavy).

The scenes of a sexual nature are one of the drivers behind this book. As an example, you will find passages like "The tarts were directing operations with all the conviction and enthusiasm of motivational dancers at Hieronymus Bosch's Bar-Mitzvah, rearing up to shake their hands to the beat before plunging back to insert a tongue or finger into a waiting body". (The artist Bosch of course was known to be against sensuality and greed – as you can see, I am getting caught up in the artistry!). The often candid liaisons serve to emphasise that Judith is a woman who uses her wiles for her own ends – and for basic survival. Judith struggles however at times to get gratification from all this between-the-sheets activity (or, to be more precise, not so much between-the-sheets as everywhere else), so perhaps there is a sexual dysfunction developing. Now that could make an interesting storyline, but who knows where the author will go with the next instalment. We wait to find out!

This is certainly not a book for everyone. It wasn't ultimately for me. As the author acknowledges, Judith is a flawed character – empowering to some, hated by others.

Glen says

I won this book in a goodreads drawing.

A con woman type book, something of a take off of the Talented Mr. Ripley books with a female protagonist.

It was okay, but without the twists and turns of a truly great novel of this type.

Bookread2day says

I liked the mixture of the art world and thriller all mixed in together. Judith Rashleigh's boss was involved in a faking scam. As time catches up with Judith she is asked a few questions. Why did she drown Alvin Spencer? Two years ago in Rome did she kill a man named Patrick? Did she take a painting that belonged to another man by the name of Moncada? It also appears that Moncada was murdered sometime later in Paris, the question is was Judith present? After Judith Rashleigh has been questioned she is taken away in waiting car with Da Silva, he wants Judith to do something for him. Will Judith agree?

Joanne Robertson says

I'm so disappointed!! I was really excited about this sequel to Maestra which I really enjoyed last year but having now read Domina I wish that L.S.Hilton had just left Judith back there, saving me from having to admit that I didn't like it!

There's nothing wrong with the writing, her style is still crisp, engaging and intelligent. But it was like watching an slightly off centre version of Maestra. The sex scenes seemed forced, the plot complex but lacking the bite of her previous misadventures and the art world that I found so utterly engrossing last time just seemed to not quite hit the mark for me.

Thankfully, the designer brands were back in force for those who aspire to owning the products of the socially acceptable incrowd but everything just felt empty and devoid of emotion, rather like Judith herself.

The only saving grace for me were the flashbacks to the young Judith and her life with her mother. Those sections left me with goosebumps as they were written so tenderly and were full of such quietly understated emotions that I felt were missing in the rest of the narrative.

Be warned there is an cliffhanger ending here leading up to book 3 but I will take a lot of persuading to go there and I HATE not knowing how events pan out! I will just stick with my fond memories of Maestra and pretend that Domina was just a very bad dream.

Amanda says

'Domina' is the second installment of the 'Maestra' series. I thoroughly enjoyed both books, but possibly the first book, 'Maestra', slightly more than this one. The main character Judith is a woman with some major pent-up rage (putting it mildly). She seems to have a lot more control over her rage in this book than she did in the first. She has a great deal of... hmmm... how to put it.... sexual urges (again, putting it very mildly - these books are quite explicit in their detail), and the first book was filled with her prowess, power, dominance, oh and add in her art expertise and you have one intriguing, powerful woman.... The second novel is a great deal more about the art than her rage and sexual cravings, which made it quite interesting in a different way. I look forward to reading the next one!

Maria Espadinha says

Por Trás do Belo Está o Feio

A vida é uma dança intemporal de contrastes -- claro e escuro, mau e bom, belo e feio...bailam e rodopiam, sucedendo-se e alternando-se num equilíbrio dinâmico.

E por onde anda o belo, o feio paira perto. Mesmo invisível, está lá, latente e pronto a emergir em qualquer instante.

É pois no Mundo do Belo que esta história acontece -- no Mundo da Arte e dos seus acólitos, dos apreciadores da Beleza, dos cobiçosos que a sobrevalorizam e que dela carecem!...

A Arte é um mundo de beleza por onde os feios rodopiam -- são as traças encandeadas pela luz -- sustentam-na e alimentam-se dela, dir-se-ia que numa tentativa desesperada de também eles se tornarem belos!

É então pelos bastidores da Arte que iremos irromper, num mundo debochado e pervertido, onde o único valor é o Dinheiro -- é o Feio para lá do Belo, que o sustenta e lhe traz sentido!...

Porque a vida é mesmo assim -- uma Bonita-feia paradoxalmente rica (aparentemente;)

LaBibliodeCaro says

First, I'd like to thank Zaffre for granting my wish to read the book via NetGalley. I appreciate it. As always, my review will be honest, but this time it won't be quite a positive one. The novel did not turn out to be what I had expected. I was quite disappointed. I never managed to delve into the story. I was expecting a thriller, a storyline focused on an investigation. But I felt as though I was reading an avatar of 50 shades of grey with a Russian mafia-like background story. I had the impression the different scenes and events unfolded one after the other but there was too feeble a linkage between each event — a compilation of moments with protagonists that failed to catch my interest.

In all fairness, the narrative style is complex, interesting and challenging, which is a good point. Sometimes, you want to be challenged when reading a book. However, the wording and extremely elaborate descriptions are sometimes a hindrance to the subject matter. You end up feeling like the intricate descriptions about art and whatnot become the main focus of interest at the expense of the core plot. Also, I felt like some sex scenes were saucy to the point that it was frivolously provocative and it didn't help advance the intrigue. Maybe I need to read the first book *Maestra* to have a better sense of the main character's psychology where there might lie some explanation in this regard. Anyhow, I felt it was unnecessarily raunchy.

I was hoping for a more regular thriller/investigation. But I felt like I ended up with an experimental novel about the racy life of the wealthy and rare fact, I couldn't finish it because, maybe, it was too unconventional a thriller for my liking. I wasn't convinced but I hope the book will find its public.

All the best of luck to the author!

Phils Osophie says

Jawohl... Aus irgendwelchen unlogischen Gründen hätte ich total bock, den zweiten Teil zu lesen.

Steelwhisper says

Ghastly.
