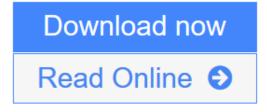


Keir

Pippa Jay



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A demon waiting to die...

An outcast reviled for his discolored skin and rumors of black magic, Keirlan de Corizi sees no hope for redemption. Imprisoned beneath the palace that was once his home, the legendary 'Blue Demon of Adalucien' waits for death to finally free him of his curse. But salvation comes in an unexpected guise.

A woman determined to save him.

Able to cross space and time with a wave of her hand, Tarquin Secker has spent eternity on a hopeless quest. Drawn by a compulsion she can't explain, she risks her apparent immortality to save Keir, and offers him sanctuary on her home-world, Lyagnius. But Quin has secrets of her own.

When Keir mistakenly unleashes the dormant alien powers within him and earns exile from Lyagnius, Quin chooses to stand by him. Can he master his newfound abilities in time to save Quin from the darkness that seeks to possess her?

Book One of the Redemption series and part of the Travellers Universe. Previously released by Lyrical Press Inc. 7th May 2012

Keir Details

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From Reader Review Keir for online ebook

Marta Cox says

This is a hard book to describe. It starts off almost fantasy like on a medieval type world without technology where the greatest fear is dark magic. Into this scenario is introduced a woman who clearly does not belong. Quin is a traveler from far away (really far away!) searching for the fabled Blue Demon but what she discovers is a broken male who is anything but demonic. Keir is waiting to die but the red haired female just won't give up. Breaking him out of a cell is just the beginning as Keir is transported from all that he knows to a life that he could never contemplate but Quin saving Keir is quite literally just the beginning of this wildly twisting story.

Explanations and world building are clearly not part of the authors plan. There is no great information drop to ease the reader in and indeed we only seem to learn exactly what Keir does. I fear that might frustrate some readers initially but implore you to keep going as the pay off is so worth it. This is a complicated story that develops and it literally zips from place to place introducing characters and alien life forms that boggle the readers mind.

I started reading unsure really of just who and what Keir and Quin are and I'm still wading through those muddy waters. Yet when it became more of a sci fi adventure it really allowed the couple to grow. Romance? It would be easy to just say yes but more of a connection that felt soul deep. Keir's journey into the light is one that had this reader cheering him on. Also his personal growth to become a man ready to fight for the woman he loves takes some beating. I won't lie it is very complicated and not a story to dip into hoping to get saucy entertainment . However if you want sci fi that engages your emotions, unusual aliens and to finish a book smiling then I'd happily recommend this book. Just a quick word of caution though as the final few pages are hard to read and you might need tissues handy!

I was gifted a copy of this in exchange for an honest review Four and a half from me

Marlene says

Originally published at Reading Reality

Keir is an absolutely stunning work of science fiction romance. when I say stunning I mean that in the best possible sense of the word. When I finished I just sat staring for several minutes, because I couldn't quite pull myself away from the story's spell.

Tarquin Secker comes to Adalucien pursuing the legend of the "Blue Demon". In the bowels of the royal prison, she finds an emaciated young man on the brink of death, with tattoos and rags covering his blue skin.

Keirlan de Corizi is not the demon she came for. But Quin wouldn't leave any sentient being in those inhumane conditions. So she blows up the prison just like she planned. Except it's not quite like she planned. The prison very nearly crushes her to death.

Instead of her rescuing Keir, he saves her life. Then she saves his. And then, of course, things get seriously messy.

Keir is not exactly the "Blue Demon" she was looking for. But he's not exactly not, either. Which isn't to say

that his entire planet doesn't firmly believe that he IS the legendary Blue Demon. Who really did exist. Who has to have existed, because she's Keir's direct ancestor.

She was also the person who destroyed Quin's homeworld and Quin has been searching for her ever since. Because in the process, she accidentally gave Quin a whole lot of interesting and dangerous powers. And sent her best friend wandering among the many worlds.

Quin is on a quest to find the original Demon, the Sentiac. At first, she saves Keir because he needs saving. Because she feels a kinship. His ancestry gives him a touch of the same power that she has.

But as he heals from all the damage that has been done to him, she discovers that Keir may be what she has been waiting for all the long centuries that she has been on her search. He may be a companion for the long years she has ahead.

If he can heal from everything that has happened to him. If he can learn to control the power that he now knows he has. If, most important of all, they can learn to trust each other with their many (and in Quin's case, many times many) secrets.

Verdict: Keir was one of the winners of the SFR Galaxy Awards for 2012. (Full disclosure, I was one of the judges) The question among the other judges wasn't whether Keir was going to get an award, the question was who would get to give it one. This was a favorite, but I hadn't read it.

Now I know why everyone loved it so much.

The opening absolutely grabs the reader by the throat. Keir is in chains and you can feel the dungeon closing in around him. Quin sudden drop into his grey world is a jolt to him and the reader. Her disappointment that he isn't who she expected and her complete unwillingness to let him die pull you into her point of view.

Their relationship builds slowly and realistically. Keir has no idea what it's like to love and be loved. He is literally his world's pariah. He can't imagine that anyone could ever love him. Quin has loved and lost profondly in ways that are beyond Keir's experience. She is three centuries old, and he is barely twenty. Not just May and December, but April and Methuselah, no matter that Quin appears to be in her late twenties.

The book has an element of two stories combined into one. The first part is Keir's rescue and training, and the first mission to find the original "Blue Demon". It's Keir's discovery of who he really is and where and what he came from. His search for identity.

The second part is Quin's mission to train Keir to use his power, because he is a danger to everyone around him. This mission takes the form of exile from Quin's homebase. While visiting one of Quin's old friends, she runs headlong into one of her old enemies. And it's there that her relationship with Keir finally flowers.

Be prepared for the ending. It will absolutely blow you away!

I give Keir by Pippa Jay 5 glorious stars!

Andra says

I've just finished reading this one. I have never read a lot of science Fiction. Honestly though I love watching Sci-Fi, I was never moved to pick up a book and read it.

This was an amazing book. Pippa has done an amazing job of developing characters and the worlds they travel to. I could see clearly the places and people she described. Rarely have I read a book that made, me laugh, cry, my heart race etc. This book was beautifully written and a wonderful story.

If this is where Pippa is starting out, clearly we can expect many more wonderful tales as she grows and develops as a writer. Personally I can't wait for the next tales of Keir and Quin. They both feel like dear friends to me now and I can't wait to experience their next adventures with them.

Well Done Pippa!

Lisa says

Absolutely lovely. Wonderful read.. Complex and rich plot. Can't wait to read the 2nd book.

Definitely a slow burn story but worth it.

Lauri J Owen says

It will leave you sighing.

I had the pleasure of reading this book before it released, and what a treat that was! It starts in the darkness, and moves from darkness to light, from air to water, from despair to hope to despair, but leaves you with a smile on your face and a light in your heart.

I love Quin, the protag. She's amazing. And Keir - well - as you can see, he is someone I wouldn't mind spending an hour or two perking up as well.

Buy it. You'll read it twice - I promise.

Catherine says

I. Loved. This. Loved it. It's some of the best science fiction I've read in a while, with two incredibly different main characters who discover that they're not so different after all.

Yes, there are alien races, yes there are other planets, but deep down, what I love most about this book is that it's a book about people.

Keir has been ostracized his entire life because of his blue skin. Otherwise seemingly normal, Keir has been forced to hide in the shadows, scavenge for food, and fend off attackers since a young age. As a result, he's incredibly distrusting. When he first meets Quin, he's being held in a storage room, a beaten and battered prisoner. The pair manages to escape, leading them down a road where Keir finds not only acceptance, but a

deep, abiding love.

Of course, that's not all, and you're gonna have to read the book to find out. The world(s) Pippa creates are wonderfully done, each having its own customs, lore, and geology. Nothing felt...contrived, or too difficult to understand, if that makes any sense. Each world the characters travel to feels like it could exist somewhere, and the different alien races are fleshed out with their own political issues, customs, etc.

At its heart, Keir is a story of love and redemption for both Keir and Quin, two incredibly broken people who find healing with one another. Though Keir has suffered the most physically and mentally, Quin has suffered emotionally. Immortal after the destruction of her world, Quin has traveled the stars searching for the being responsible for destroying everything and everyone she loved. She's loved and lost along the way, and each loss has left its scar. Once she starts falling for her Smurfin companion, she wonders if he could ever love her, but buries her feelings. The middle of the book is when their love story truly starts, and it's pretty amazing to read. I laughed and cried with both as they found their ways to each other.

And just FYI, the last 20 pages or so nearly scarred me. I was almost bawling.

Pippa Jay's Keir is most definitely a fantastic science fiction read (admittedly, I read it all in one day). It's also a fantastic read that happens to be science fiction. I would recommend this heavily.

Karen Bynum says

Loved this book! Keir was a fantastic read. The hero (Keir) and the heroine (Quin) had so much rich character development. Both of them were riddled with emotional--and physical--scarring; however, it was beautifully woven into the storyline to make them stronger people. Together they were able to overcome their insecurities.

Keir is packed with action, adventure, intrigue and spicy love scenes...but one of my favorite things was the role reversal. Keir was the inexperienced one, and I loved that Quin taught him--not just how to make love, because that was hot--but how to experience life and to open himself up to forgiveness. Keir suffered a great many things, but Quin was there to support, encourage and bring him back to life.

A few of my favorite lines from the book:

"I am not friendly. I am dangerous."

He felt her presence in his mind still, like cool hands soothing his fevered thoughts. It both disturbed and comforted him. Was she an angel in human guise? Or some demon sent to torment him before delivering him to his final hell?

His words filled her with a sadness so sharp she had to fight down tears.

He screamed for help as they took him through shadowy streets to an unknown place, but no one came.

Why am I such a sucker for tortured souls?

"We weren't meant to have these powers, Keir, but it's how we use them that defines who and what we are."

"Friends may easily become enemies. Prosperity attracts envy. We must always be wary of complacency and misplaced trust."

Would learning the truth justify the risk?

For the first time in remembrance, he wanted to touch and be touched in return. To hold her and have her return his embrace freely, with more than a friend's affection. To feel her white skin under his fingertips. To brush the hair from her face as the breeze did now, and run his fingers through it.

He leaned close to her, and the darkness of his eyes seemed to swallow her soul. "Your fears will come to pass."

I have more, but pretty soon I'll be quoting the entire book! So go buy it! :) Keir is a must read!

Raul Delaplaya says

A friend made me read this. It wasn't what I'd expected. It was so much better. It reminded me of a Doctor Who adventure, only there wasn't a TARDIS and the Doctor was a girl. It really moved. I'll look for more from this author.

Shaheen says

Keir is Pippa Jay's fist published novel, and I am hoping she's got more in store for us because I really liked it! Spunky and fun, the book follows Keir and Quin on an exciting planet-hopping adventure as they hunt down Quin's ancient enemies and investigate Keir's mysterious past.

Keir begins strongly, introducing readers to the medieval-esque society of Adalucien where Keir is imprisoned. Starved, weak and depressed, he is on the brink of death when he is joined in his prison by a strange woman - who promptly escapes. One hair-brained adventure follows another, with Keir being introduced to societies where his differences aren't so important, and sometimes mark him as special. He slowly begins to accept himself, feel comfortable in his own skin, and I really liked the character development he goes through. Quin, on the other hand, is already self-assured and confident, and although she's still easy to relate to and likeable, her growth as a character isn't as marked. She's always very much in charge, and always compassionate, wilful and loyal. But she has a lot of hurt inside her and basically wants to be accepted and loved just like Keir.

The world building is really cool in this book - Earth has been destroyed, but some humans live on in a genetically enhanced form that has given them powers - telekinesis, telepathy and the like. Quin, who became immortal and gained these powers after Earth was destroyed, has spent hundreds of years searching for the alien responsible on other inhabited planets through the use of "gateways" (wormholes) that allow her to cross into any time and space she wishes. We get to see a few awesome aliens in this book, and I have to say the ones that made the biggest impression on me are Surei and the Metraxian people. I love the idea of palaces made from coral! I think the book would have benefited from more clarification on the impacts of

Quin's time travels - she never really hits any paradoxes or explains why she can't just go home and try again if something fails.

My complaints about the book are few and for the most part didn't worry me much. I feel the characters use too much slang native to our society - phrases common to our world but unlikely to develop naturally on another world. "Speak now, or forever hold your peace" is used in the context of a judicial proceeding, as is "The burden of proof lies with the prosecution", and Keir describes a large knife as "machette-like" despite the author having repeatedly given us evidence that Keir is unfamiliar with things from our world. While I think the plot is tight and well paced, it feels like there are three separate stories told in this book, haphazardly thrown together: Keir's rescue, the island interlude, and Quin's misadventure with the mysterious Emissary. Connections between them seem contrived, almost forced, and I felt that Quin jumps too easily from one adventure to the next.

Pippa Jay's debut is not one to miss - full of action and humour and two kick-butt protagonists, it's sure to entertain. I really enjoyed it, and will look forward to reading more.

A copy of this book was provided by the author for review. You can read more of my reviews at **Speculating on SpecFic**.

Chantal Halpin says

I'm not usually a sci-fi fan, but Keir may have changed all that. Thankfully it's not too heavy on the techie side and there was chemistry from the off from the 'Blue Demon' and the 'Red Witch' lol! I loved Quinn - she was absolutely brilliant and is now one of my fave kick-a\$\$ heroines.

This is an epic adventure story with space travel and magic, heart break and pain. There is real character growth too. The writing is just beautiful and made everything very visual. It was a thoroughly entertaining read and I can't wait for the sequel!

Sophia says

I read the original version of this story three years ago and loved it. Then I had the chance to read the sequel which captivated me as much as the first book. I had no idea there had been a revision, but was graciously offered an opportunity to read the newer version. Of course I snatched that up.

The story opens on a world where there is a human society that is still medieval in technology and in thinking. A world where a man who is different is thought to be demon spawn and treated as such. Keir has been abused his whole life simply for existing and he is tired and ready to die when a feisty and fiery woman accused of being a witch for the red color of her hair is dumped into his cell under the castle.

After Keir saves Quin's life and then their escape, Quin won't leave him to die and performs her own lifesaving rescue. She is disappointed that the trail that led her to Keir's world and Keir might be wrong. Keir isn't the monster of legend that she was seeking. Or is he?

Quin's psy ability can open gateways to other places and times and she lives on a world where different is

okay. Slowly Keir heals after Quin used her ability to bring him back from near death and created a permanent bond between them. The much abused Keir and the fragile, but tough galaxy drifter, Quin, slowly trust and open up to each other. Keir agrees to help Quin on her quest to find a long-lost friend. Quin's quest becomes personal when it involves Keir's past. And while the new pair are learning to work together and survive, a shadow from Quin's past is making plans of his own.

I thought it would be fun and interesting to see how things were changed while enjoying a re-read of a story I already loved. But, alas...my memory couldn't latch onto any certain differences. I only have the overall impression of tighter and smoother writing and maybe that things are described differently? Yeah, I'm no help for those who would be interested in a comparison.

But what I do know is that it was as engaging, original, complex, and emotional as the first time through. Keir is a hero that is worth rooting for. He grows and comes into his own while adventuring and finding the love of his life. And Quin discovers she has room left in her bruised and lonely heart for one more shot at love and a man who helps her put the past guilt and mistakes in perspective while standing by her and letting her be her.

I like that this involves several alien races and worlds that are truly alien and see things differently. Quin is a form of drifter. She is human, but because of what has happened to her she is far from her human roots as the blue-skinned Keir who is also human. As they work to stay alive and fulfill Quin's need to find her lost friend, they encounter different worlds and beings. It was fun for Keir to finally start to realize that he may be unique, but he isn't the only unique being and acceptance is finally available.

The plot had exciting moments as Keir and Quin are in deadly danger quite often. There is also mystery and intrigue going on. Keir's past is a mystery, but there is also brief glimpses of a shadowy figure from Quin's past working against her.

I might have noticed it the first time, but I definitely did this go around that there are a few minor details that don't quite get explained or are left open-ended. A couple of those can definitely figure into future segments of the story. Or, to be honest, they can be left dangling as they are more curiosity points than stuff that affects the main plot.

The romance is a friends to lovers and goes slow by necessity. Keir was so abused that he struggles with basic kindness, touch, and motives including his own. He doesn't realize he is attracted to Quin and mistakes it for gratitude for the longest time. When he does figure it out, he is ashamed because he believes that while Quin is his friend, she would never welcome anything more and would be disgusted by even his touch in that way. And Quin, she knows what it is to love and be loved, but she has lost her first and betrayed by her second so she shies away from trying again especially with one who is unstable in power and shaky in recovering from abuse as Keir. I liked that though Keir is in the process of coming into his own, Quin isn't perfect and made her own mistakes to balance them as a team and pair of lovers. It was a sweet romance that timed it well down to the intense, heartbreaking events of the end.

So, it happened to me again- fell deeply in love with Keir the Blue Demon and his Quin and wanted to keep adventuring with them indefinitely. Lovers of sweet and exciting sci-fi romance need to give this one a go.

I was gifted a copy of the book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Corinne says

I began reading Keir with no expectations, despite having read and loved a novella from the same author. I knew that Keir was Pippa's debut work, so I went into it with an less critical approach for that reason. What I got was a manuscript that read like it was written by a seasoned author. Pippa has a knack for painting scenes with descriptions that provide good details without floundering in it. Her characters, even the supportive cast, are strong, can stand on their own and are presented within a three-dimensional context. I think flat-characters would be eaten alive in the world that Pippa has created with Keir, which I have discovered while reading is part of the same universe for her upcoming YA sci-fi adventure release of Gethyon.

One further comment about the world building - Pippa uses a backwards or persistent world-building technique that may throw some readers off. This means that her characters think, react and converse in full knowledge of their own histories even if the reader has not yet been introduced or is aware of these histories. These histories are explained as the story develops that shed light on a conversation that you may have read a few chapters before. This is different from the progressive world-building technique that most authors use. There is nothing at all wrong with this approach, and it can add some nice plot-twist elements, you just need to trust that even if you don't fully understand the conversation two characters are having in one scene that it will be relevant and explained later on. Pippa does make all those scenes relevant and I didn't find any loose strings by the end of the story.

I will say that the beginning of this book had me scratching my head a little bit. The first couple of chapters read like a fantasy story more than a sci-fi book, but as the story develops you learn why. Pippa has created a book that mixes elements from fanatasy, science fiction and science fantasy. The fantasy elements come in to play because one of the planets in the book hasn't developed science yet, and so they treat science as witch-craft and even name the heroine, Quin, as the Red Witch, and Keir as The Blue Demon. The planet reminded me of earth during the Spanish Inquisition. Once I figured this out, the story came to life. I would almost recommend a prologue or a first chapter to set this up to avoid confusion or losing readers in the first couple chapters who are wondering if they did buy a Science Fiction book.

There are sci-fi fantasy elements with Time-Travel, Psi-powers, gateways and telepathy. Though this may turn off hard-core science fiction readers, I thought it was done very well and explained within a believable context.

Now, about the romance - It is a sweet, but tormented, romance. Both of the leads have some heavy baggage, each with a richly developed history that is explained throughout the book. Their is a strong connection between them to start, but neither of them throws themselves at the other (which is refreshing). Both have real reasons for proceeding cautiously or misinterpreting the actions or intentions of the other. The intimacy scenes, though not quite as hot as I like, were extremely well written and beautiful. I think it suited both characters.

And the ending. Oh the ending. OH THE ENDING... not going to say anything else except to encourage you to see this book to the very end. You will be glad you did.

J.C. Cassels says

From the first scene I was hooked. I found myself rooting for Keir before I knew his story. The author

weaves a sympathetic tale following tortured souls through a life-changing adventure. Her light touch keeps the characters easily relatable without ever dissolving into schmaltz.

Quin is an engaging heroine whose self-assurance, ingenuity and desire to help others immediately establishes her as a heroine of epic proportions. Keir is almost an anti-hero whose journey of self-discovery takes him to the darkest reaches of his own nature and eventually leads him to the hero within himself.

Together, they travel through time and space and save each other. This is a sweet love story woven through an epic adventure.

With shades of Doctor Who, Time Bandits, and LadyHawke, Keir is a different kind of SF romance that will leave you sighing long after you've closed the book.

Natalie Wright says

If you like sci fi, read this. If you like romance, read this. If you like to read well-written books, read this.

Full review coming soon.

Kerrianne Coombes says

Totally loved this book. So wonderfully written I just love the pull of a tortured hero. BRAVO! Cant wait for another Pippa Jay book!