



Marked Yours

Elizabeth Noble

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Three hundred years ago, natural disaster reformed the face of North America, and the people who lived in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains would never be the same. Now, the master/slave bond in New Colorado has become a sacred rite of service, protection, and, sometimes, for the lucky, love. Nick and his intended Master, Todd Ruger, a sentry of the territories, have grown up knowing that they were pledged to this bond. They're looking forward to the ritual with both excitement and trepidation-it's something they've prepared for their entire lives. But New Colorado's institution of slavery has made dangerous enemies on a frontier fraught with trouble, and they are unprepared for the trials their new relationship will face. Their bond needs to grow very strong, very fast if it's going to survive the collision of old superstition, new beliefs, and the ever-present danger of the natural and supernatural frontier.

Marked Yours Details

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From Reader Review Marked Yours for online ebook

Nikyta *Miss Forgetful* says

Wow, this book was something else. I enjoyed it a lot.

Nick and Todd were both a surprise but Todd more so. I was expecting Todd to be a cruel master. Someone that had no qualms about beating his slave or using him but eventually would soften to his slave. I was completely wrong and if I'd have read the blurb I probably wouldn't have thought that. Todd is kind and gentle, loving and affectionate. He encourages Nick to act like a free person but beats himself up when he's in situations that forces Nick to be the slave he is. Nick is timid at first but warms up to Todd fast. He eats up the love, gestures and touches Todd gives him and in fact makes Todd his whole world. They are both madly in love with each other and will do absolutely everything possible to stay together.

I loved the post apocalyptic world this is based in. It's a bit vague on everything, especially on how it came to be, and I wished it had been more detailed about things because I still have a lot of questions but from what is given, I absolutely loved. It was fascinating with the master/slave relationships (which, thankfully, had a lot of detail), the sentries and the creatures in it.

In fact, that is one of the only downfalls I had with this book. The lack of details regarding the world, the sentries themselves and their job and what they hunt. I was hoping for more scenes with Todd and Nick doing their jobs as sentries because I found that extremely interesting and was kind of disappointed when we only got the short retelling of what happened. There was also a bit too much sex for my liking which dimmed my enjoyment a tad.

All in all, I really enjoyed the book. The world could definitely be better detailed but what there is of it was quite interesting. I'm looking forward to reading the next in the series and seeing more of these two. Recommended.

Adrian Anderson says

I think this bitch watches WAY too much Supernatural.

Merith says

[First, there was a whole hell of a lot of telling rather than showing. It's pretty bad when a writer has to tell the reader that a character feels such-and-such when a simple action word, or a subtle comment would have relayed the same intent.

Next, I didn't buy this whole post apocalyptic world setting. As the recent volcanic eruption

Jo * Smut-Dicked * says

I am really enjoying this series. It is a solid read with great characters who you come to get to know and love, a good amount of world building, and a plot that actually moves and makes sense. The reason for 4 instead of 5 is that I feel the world building could have been enhanced. In trying to picture all this I have a hard time going from wagons pulled by horses or other animals to bathroom's indoors that almost seem modern. It would have been good to add in (here and there) other elements. E.G. Towards the end one of the women (no spoilers) is referenced as having a significant other whom she met at a work function -- but that feels very modern'ish. Since there is no electricity and they travel in wagons it felt a bit off. I get it is dystopian which leaves it wide open but a little more specificity would have helped me build it even stronger in my mind. The society is described very well - no problems with that!

LOVE the characters - though hoping Nick matures in the next book. He's a little too immature for me right now. I'm giving it a break since he is sheltered and has been - but he is way too clingy for me to like (I tend to associate that with women more - and it just seems to me he wouldn't be quite so much this way).

IMHO this could be classed as BDSM not because of the slave concept (which is not related to BDSM) but because Todd is definitely very alpha and there is a lot of dominating in here. It so happens it's very lite - not hardcore - but orgasm denial and prolonging, binding, and the rougher sort of sex with the pleasure for the Master is more BDSM to me.

CAS says

I give Marked Yours 4 1/2 stars on it's own merit, BUT.....I am "bonus" rounding it up to 5 Stars because the potential is there for so much more and I REALLY want more.

And... I will admit to a bit of favoritism as Elizabeth is MY Author in the M/M group's "Hot July Days Challenge" on goodreads. She chose my picture and has written a story set in the world of Marked Yours featuring Todd and Nicky ten years later. The story is titled "Take What's Yours" and I have had the honor of a sneak peak and it is in a word PERFECT. A very special moment in time for Todd and Nicky and a chance to see how far they have come since their first meeting ten years ago in Marked Yours.

So, yeah, I am .5% star wise under the influence but it is .5% that has been equally well and truly earned. :)

Marked Yours was for me a captivating and smooth flowing read from start to finish, which is exactly how I read it, once I started it I didn't put it down until I finished it. It's set in a futuristic world that serves as a very intriguing backdrop to the story. Todd and "Nicky" wormed their way into my heart from the very beginning. Can't say that I favor one over the other as they are both unique and special in their own ways. Both are very strong and capable men yet somewhat vulnerable, almost innocent in many ways as they venture into what is new and uncharted territory for them both and this makes them very human and extremely likeable. Separately and together they carry the story beautifully, and ultimately it's their relationship that is the central focus of Marked Yours. I feel the author did an exceptional job of laying the groundwork for future stories in this series, establishing a very strong and loving bond between the two main characters that will carry them through what lies ahead in both their relationship and in their future together as Sentries. We are given just enough about their world to understand it and their place in it, enough to see just how rare and special their love is within that world's definition of the Master/Slave bond....yet there is still enough left open to whet our appetite for more.

I was completely caught up and taken in by both men's initial expectations, revealed through each man's thoughts as the day of their joining ritual finally arrives; their hopes, their fears...their dreams. Until that

moment they have lived only half a life, filling their days with endless preparation on both sides, working separately yet together over the years laying a solid foundation on which they will build their future. Marking time, reaching out to each other, getting to know each other through letters, gifts and notes, anticipating the moment that will change their lives forever. And so it begins in a world where the Master/Slave relationship is meant to be something entirely different, so much less, together at last they will make it so much MORE. In each other they will find that which makes them whole and gives their lives meaning and purpose. Nick's unwavering trust and loyalty given so freely to Todd from the very beginning would not have been credible or possible had it not been for the thought and effort Todd put into preparing for the day Nicky would be his. The true beauty of this relationship lies in the depth of Todd's love for Nick and how that makes him as much slave to Nicky as Nicky is to him.. It is the presence of this love that Nicky's confidence grows and he just comes to life for me and shines. EVERYTHING they are, EVERYTHING they share goes both ways. It is not who they are that defines them.. it is what they are together and to each other, what is inside them that truly Marks the two as one.....THIS is infinitely more meaningful, more enduring and binding than the more visible symbolic brands that their world dictates mark their skin.

As the story progresses they will go to hell and back TOGETHER fighting against enemies both human and supernatural and grow stronger and even more committed to protecting each other and the new life they now share as well as the lives they are responsible for as Sentries. When Todd goes looking for revenge he sets off a chain of events that will pit the two against an enemy that proves to be even more dangerous and life threatening than anything they have come up against to that point. In the face of death it is each man for himself as they fight for survival, neither knowing if the other is dead or alive. Alone they face their fiercest opponents in a part of their world that abhors Slavery and refuses to accept the possibility that not all slaves wish to be freed from their Masters, that many Slaves within the Master Slave bond have come to not only love their Masters but have found the first true taste of freedom and equality within that bond. As with so many things in their world.. all is not as it seems.

This a very touching story of enduring love that has an underlying touch of sweetness and innocence that makes it uniquely special and all the more precious because it exists and thrives in a world that is dark, dangerous and unpredictable. It shines all the brighter in the face of nearly insurmountable odds. When all is said and done these two men whose destinies are initially bound together by fate and necessity find everything they hoped for and more in each other and together they can and will face anything and anyone who stands in their way... as partners and equals and most importantly they will do this and more.....willingly and by choice.

S.J.D. Peterson says

Okay first all I wish Goodreads had a 1/2 star. This book was really not quite a 5 star for me but not quite a 4 star either. There were some issues with feeling the story was told and not shown and at times it felt a little rushed jumping from one scene to the next, but overall I really enjoyed the story line and the characters. For a debut novel Elizabeth Nobel did a great job and I can't wait to see how she develops and improves her craft in the future.

I enjoyed watching Nicky grow from from a frightened young man into if not quite confident in himself at least confident of his place at Todd's side and the love they shared. I thought Todd was an interesting character in the beginning and as the story unfolded I liked seeing him also grow and become more confident in his feelings. As the book went on I actually liked Todd the most. Todd obviously being more dominant was still a loving mate to Nick. The sex scenes were tender and loving even with the hint of dominance they were still about mutual pleasure and needs. The only one that bothered me was the one in the cave and it pulled me out of the story for a moment and had me shaking my head, but I easily could get back into the

rest of the book.

Jimmy was also an interesting character and I wanted to know more about him. Why he did what he did and what were his views on the slavery issue. Obviously not everyone was happy about it Todd included which made me like him even more. Overall I thought this was an excellent debut novel and look forward to reading more from Ms. Nobel in the future.

Beck says

Childbirth is less painful than this book...

? BookAddict ✍️ La Crimson Femme says

This dystopian world is not too different than many made for TV movies on the Sci-fi channel. It kind of reminds me of Jericho except with a super volcano instead of bombs. This story was hard to get into and if I didn't have it for a book challenge, I might have given it up as DNF.

The first 2/3 of the book dragged for me. There was too much hidden about Todd's real job. I guessed it from early on, but to wait so bloody long to be validated was frustrating and unneeded. It's one thing to build up story tension. It's another thing to drag it out and creating a too slow pace for the story. From an editing perspective, I think this book could have been cut by at least 1/3. I'm guessing Ms. Noble was trying to build a world for the reader to understand. I think she beat around the bush too much. I didn't gain much out of it.

It could be this book is focused more on character than plot or world building elements. If that is the case, I guess I can see why it was so long. The characters were okay. Todd and Nicky are a cute couple together. In the last 1/4 of the book, it really became good for me and I enjoyed it. I guess what would have made it better for me was not being told anyone could see Todd and Nicky loved each other. And that they didn't know it but everyone else did. Rather than these constant musings, I would have liked to see a few more scenes where Todd and Nicky worked on assignments. Through those assignments, Ms. Noble could have demonstrated Nicky's tentative trust in Todd. At the same time, Todd could have demonstrated his anxiety and nervousness to place Nicky in danger. Show that Todd values Nicky so much he wants to place him in a cocoon. Yes, one could argue Todd did this with his foolhardy cross over the border, but it doesn't really for me. It just demonstrates the macho man mentality of - "Nobody touches my property and if they do, I KILL THEM!". *rolls eyes*

From a world building perspective, it was sketchy at times. I didn't understand how these supernatural beings came to life. Nor did I understand the reasoning behind people who have "other" powers. Why were the neighboring territories w/o any type of diplomatic relations? I found this to be very odd based on how humans work. I also didn't fully understand why women sold their children into slavery. Why weren't they born free? There were so too many questions I just didn't seem to find answers for in the book. This left me dissatisfied for the most part which is why the rating is left at a 2.5 star. (I truncate not round which is why the book is a 2 star.)

Is there really BDSM in this story? I'm not 100% sure I can say. If we go from a D/s perspective, yes. From a BDSM lifestyle, there isn't anything in it I could point to. The sex was rather bland. I confess to reading the first scene and becoming bored so I skimmed all the rest of the sex scenes. I'm sure they were sweet, they just didn't arouse me. This book is probably best for m/m readers who like dystopian speculative fiction.

Qin says

No, no and no. This book spends a few pages establishing the social rules of the universe it purports to be exploring and then all these get moot, for the protagonists do as they please without even paying lip-service to their bond of slave and master while whatever sporadic agency passes off for a plot in this sloppily narrated story magisterially disregards all such vertical and hierarchic constructs unless the author feels like it. As the writing stands on the weaker end of the literary spectrum and all the characters showcase the complexity and liveliness of rolling boulders in an Italian peplum of the 1950s, it would not be far from the truth to state that the long-in-the-tooth Marked Yours was not worth a second issue instead of being allowed to languish in the comparative obscurity of its original printing. The only good thing I was able to detect was the tasteful art on the cover - yet another textbook case of a penny dreadful cleverly marketed to attract the eye.

Jeff Erno says

The beauty of Marked Yours lies within the relationship of the Master and his slave. The author captures and perfectly depicts a dynamic which is essentially a balance of power and responsibility. Although the Master is dominant sexually, he takes seriously his role as protector, teacher, counselor, and guide to his sub. Todd Ruger is a heroic figure who personifies strength, confidence, and unflagging commitment. His sub, Nicky, is timid, vulnerable, and impressionable. Nicky also is fiercely loyal. Most importantly, though, both partners are deeply in love. They connect as a couple and fit together in a manner where each of them completes and fulfills the other. They are not only Master and slave, but also mates.

This fictional tale takes place in a futuristic, somewhat dystopian setting. The United States has been devastated by natural disasters, and society as we now know it does not exist. New colonies emerge, and some revert to the practice of slavery. Marked Yours does not advocate for the implementation or practice of forced slavery but does raise questions about unequal relationships in which the bond is consensual. The story also examines the innate qualities of Dominants and submissives, and offers a depiction of what it means to self-identify as either a Master or slave.

Most significantly, Marked Yours presents an alternative relationship in which both partners deeply love each other and face the challenge of confronting a world which just doesn't understand. Proponents of slavery do not accept the loving nature of the relationship, and slavery opponents reject the relationship simply because it is unequal. The couple must find internal strength to challenge the judgments of others who simply do not understand their hearts. They ultimately must live by their own rules and ethical code.

Marked Yours is a beautiful love story which is written with intensity and deep emotion. I highly recommend it.

Lamar54 says

DNF. Boring & repetative.

Todd's sickly sweetness made me ill. At 50% of the book, I still did not know what he and his father hunted...Demons? Lost souls? 150 Proof rum? ...to be honest, I do not care.

This story has been done better before. Both Ann Somerville's Kei's Gift & the first book of Gloria H Giroux's Chay Trilogy come to mind.

Christy says

The first thing that gripped me in this story was the quality of the writing. Having never read anything by this author I was excited to see that good writing makes a story so much more for me. The second thing I noticed was the author gave a concise explanation about how our world as we knew it was changed dramatically by a volcano erupting. As a reader I really appreciate these types of details to get my mind frame where it's needed in order to enjoy the story. The third thing I noticed was what an incredibly creative and fantastical world the author wove. She took a scenario which could actually occur, built upon it, and made a world that is fascinatingly true to life.

Nick is a slave having been raised in one of the southern protectorates (serfdoms) and he's been bound to his future master, Todd, since Nick was a small child. Because he is a slave and viewed as nothing more than livestock, Nick is raised with absolutely no love or compassion, only trained to be what his future master will require of him. But Todd has been writing to him and sending gifts since Nick was a child and Nick has hope that perhaps Todd will see him as a person. Nick is special - he can see the evil that resides in people and thus he was bonded so early to a master worthy of him.

Todd Ruger is unique for his time. He's a Sentry and he's been watching Nick from afar ever since they were bonded when Todd was twelve. Sentries, or hunters, guard the protectorate's borders from outside harm which usually comes in the form of the supernatural. Todd doesn't want a slave, he wants a partner to share his life with, although their society views the master/slave relationship more harshly and regulates it with strict rules. Todd isn't a brute as so many are who beat and abuse their slaves simply because they can. Todd is honorable and decent which is amazing considering his own father is a beast. Todd knows that Nick's ability is going to put them into the line of fire with both the evil Nick can see and the other Sentries.

What follows is an exciting story about supernatural creatures, hunting, masters and slaves, learning to trust, to love, and to become a family. When Todd takes off to West Caldera, where being a slave owner is grounds for immediate execution, leaving Nick behind in order for Todd to get revenge on the men who so cruelly branded Nick, Nick isn't having that and goes chasing after his man. Watching these two men fight so hard to be together and to protect the love they have is truly an inspiration.

I enjoyed this first book in the series very much. I'm looking forward to reading the others and following Todd and Nick on their journey.

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

T.J. says

4.5 stars

I enjoyed the hell out of this story. The master/slave relationship was well done and I liked the post-apocalyptic setting. My only real complaint is that I felt the world building was a little thin (and that may be because I have sooooo many questions), and I did question the validity of how the world became a wasteland to begin with (something about a super volcano? it was mentioned in a page or two then never really discussed again, aside from showing the caldera). I know the sequel is already out and Ms. Noble is working on a third. Nick and Todd are great characters and I will definitely want to read more about them in the future.

Recommended!

TJ

Serena Yates says

I liked this variation on a master/slave relationship because it looks at a situation where the structure of slave versus master is dictated by society, rather than what the participants want. Seeing two men come together who have no choice about the 'official' way of how they interact was fascinating, because the difference to the actual interaction provided some real tension. Todd's fear of being caught for treating Nick as an equal (as much as possible) was just as real as Nick's fear of having his life in the hands of another man; one he doesn't even know all that well.

All of that being said, Nick and Todd still end up in sexually dominant/submissive roles. While the sex was hot, I was a little disappointed that Elizabeth Noble didn't take the concept of 'unwanted slavery' further. But then, maybe that was too much to ask in the first book? Maybe it was a step too far for them to take that quickly? Or maybe the message is that their sexual behavior depends entirely on societal expectations? That, I must admit, would really annoy me as a conclusion. However, we are not there yet. This is the first book in a series, and one that promises to be interesting for many reasons. So I will keep reading to see where this ends up.

If you like to read about potential future societies, and are interested in the effects of slavery condoned by society on humans on both sides of the master/slave equation, you may like this book.

Trix says

[Nick is supposedly trained (beaten even) to be this submissive slave to the family that bought him. And yet, throughout the book, other than dropping his eyes (which show shyness and awkwardness in dealing with people) Nick shows no other quality of a slave. He is rude to strangers, has no problems speaking fre
