



The Beast

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Dimitri Sokolov is a man scarred, physically and emotionally. From the rough streets of Moscow to the highest ranks in the Solntsevskaya Bratva, he has seen it all.

An attack four years ago left him disfigured and in seclusion, hiding from reactions to his appearance and in safety from those who failed to kill him the first time.

Comfortable in his penthouse, managing his billion dollar businesses, he's resigned himself to be alone, simply called The Beast among those who've dealt with him in the past.

Columbia Grey is a pseudo-activist trying to save her neighbourhood from a developer intent on levelling it to build apartment towers. She goes along with a plan to confront the CEO of the company on his own turf, to force him to listen to her demands...all in a pathetic attempt to impress a man she barely likes.

Little does she know, she's taken herself into the mouth of the beast, a man familiar with death and destruction, sex and seduction, a man used to getting exactly what he wants and a man with nothing left to lose.

She's a beauty, but will that be enough to tame the beast and save her life?

*** This is not a fairy tale, this is what happens when the music ends and life goes on after the credits roll. This is about simply existing until you find yourself and write your own happily ever after, no matter what form it takes.

The Beast Details

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From Reader Review The Beast for online ebook

Dina says

[her step-father, whom she still called father! (hide spoiler)]

Rosebud says

Dimitri Sokolov, aka enforcer, aka Beast, had pledged his life and loyalty to a prominent Russian Bratva only to be targeted for assassination when he's accused of disloyalty to Sergei, the Bratva's leader. Barely surviving, Dimitri reemerges with a new identity and life far from Russia, plotting for the day he can repay those who tried to kill him.

Columbia Grey wants to make a difference in her community which is why she agrees to infiltrate the highly guarded secure penthouse home of a CEO who plans to replace four blocks of her neighborhood with a high rise development complex. The activist group she belongs to believes that if he's confronted and made to listen they might save the tearing down of low income homes and independent businesses. While Columbia believes in the cause, she's more interested in gaining the admiration and affection of the group's leader.

When Dimitri finds a lone assassin has infiltrated his high tech security measures to gain entry to his home he knows he needs to kill or be killed, but not before first finding out who/what/where/how. When he discovers the assassin is a female, he decides to interrogate her using every painful implement at his disposal - in his dungeon.

Things get complicated when the truth comes out and Dimitri discovers he and Columbia share more in common than she realizes. Pain, Abuse, and a craving for BDSM...

* * * *

Warning: *This is a dark themed story that includes elements of violence, dub/non con, BDSM between a sadist and pain slut, and may affect those with triggers for childhood abuse and sexual assault. Consider yourself warned.*

Wowzer. What a ride. This author didn't hold back in providing a dark edgy read that will push the comfort levels of some readers. This is definitely a book that will have a limited fan base but for what it's worth. I am so one of them. Loved loved loved it.

Dimitri, the antihero of the story, is a complex character who superficially could be hard to relate to or care about. He's a member of the Russian mob in a high level position. No love lost there for me. Yet. It's a case of nature versus nurture in that his family, the mob, was the primary influence in his developmental stages of life. It's what he knew and what he cared about. So. When they turn their back on him and put out a contract for his death... That too has to be emotional. Looking at the direction the author went with all that. Ya. Dimitri worked his way into my heart, though, like any predator not to the degree I'd want to be alone with him or anything...

Columbia. Like an onion with many layers, her character was equally complex. That is the primary reason that I wouldn't have been too upset IF Dimitri *had* offed her when they first met. Yet, as the layers were revealed, the reality that these two were meant for each other became all too apparent. Very well done Ms.

Author. Indeed.

Adult content/erotica. I am totally serious when I say that the **BDSM** scenes are intense, graphic, violent, and may push comfort levels. But. This is a series that needed those aspects as the Russian mob lifestyle isn't chocolates, roses, and fairy tale hero material. Sure, there were a few times it got to me emotionally, but life isn't always fair or righteous. Shit happens. It's what we make of it that matters. Vague additional comment: it's always darkest before the dawn.

My only constructive comment is that I felt this book was divided. In that I mean the first half was edgy and had me on the edge of my seat digesting the pages as fast as I could. I was in zen heaven as things played out fearful of what was to be but knowing as this is a trilogy it wouldn't end (in this book at least). Then, and I can't/won't be more specific. Their relationship changed and it was like an entirely different author had written that part of the story. No, no, no. I wasn't on board with how things could change so. That portion of this book included rushed scenes and convenient wrap ups that gave me the impression the author had run of time and space. That's the reason I went with a 4 star. Keep in mind this is only my opinion and I'm sure others disagree. But isn't that the beauty of reading a good book? To motivate readers to discuss/debate/rehash/validate...

For those who are fans of contemporary antihero **BDSM** dark themed erotic romance reads, this is a book I encourage you to check out. It's not for fans of romantic **BDSM** because of it's slant toward sadomasochistic play. Neither is it light reading. But, it's not as dark as I was lead to believe either. :D

~ **Bees** ~ says

The Beast really is a modern day retelling of the classic Beauty and the Beast story but, be warned, this is no fairy-tale. In the fairy-tale Belle's goodness healed the Beast and he became a charming and handsome man. In this story, it's far more a case of our heroine discovering the darkness in her Beast and finding that she really rather likes it and deciding to stay there with him.

Dimitri is our Beast and he's a Russian criminal underlord whose mentor has turned on him and attempted to kill him and has disfigured him in the process. Now, fearing for his life and knowing his scars making him instantly recognisable, he is hiding out under a false name in a penthouse in Vancouver living an incredibly reclusive lifestyle constantly trying to stay one step ahead of his nemesis.

Dimitri really is not one of the good guys – he's a cold-blooded killer, a career criminal and likes to take his frustrations out on well-paid whores who he pushes to their limits and to within an inch of their lives. There's very few redeeming features in our beast – he's been betrayed by a man who is every inch as bad as he is and he's so incredibly wrapped up in himself, he cares for no one.

Columbia, our Beauty, is an abused young woman who is trying to protect her younger sister from her depraved father and the only outlet for all her emotional turmoil is self-harm – cutting herself. She's a damaged soul but she still finds time to be a social activist and sneaks into Dimitri's penthouse with the intention of confronting his fake persona about a building project in the city.

Talk about your case of mistaken identity!

Of course, our huge Beast of a sociopath, finds his Belle and takes her captive and tells her he will either have to kill her or keep her forever and so the story really begins and is told by both Columbia and Dimitri with alternating POV's which helps to understand what they're both thinking and understand their thought processes.

I did enjoy this and I loved to see how much they affected one another – Dimitri I think brought out the darkness in Columbia and she found the light in him and, rather than heal one another, I think they just found their perfect match. The sex is pretty hot although really rather brutal and, as I said earlier, this consent, at least at first, is rather dubious and this is a man with very dark sexual proclivities so be warned.

I'm giving this one a 3.5 although it was almost 4 stars because they went from captor and captive to desperately in love far too quickly for me and I began to lose the connection I'd originally had with the story. It just seemed to happen in one screaming orgasm with no real build up – I think I would have much preferred to see their feelings change more gradually especially given that both of them have strong and deep reasons to mistrust other people. I do, however, think fans of dark erotica will love this one.

3.5 stars

Amanda says

2 'B&B + Fifty + mafia' stars

The only thing I like about this book is the prologue and the epilogue. Everything in the middle are unbelievable.

The Beast, Dimitri was an ex-Bratva enforcer who is hiding away and biding his time to exact revenge on his ex-boss, Sergei for trying to kill him and caused him to have half a scarred face.

The Beauty, Colombia was a pseudo-activist (now I know why the blurb mentioned 'pseudo') and a victim of being sexually abused by her stepfather for years.

I'm expecting Dimitri to be plotting his revenge, I'm expecting Colombia to be a tough career woman. I want this two unlikely person to come together and fell in love against all odds. But... What I got is another captor/captive story with BDSM element. Colombia is only 20 years old and she felt like a NA heroine. Dimitri is in his 30s and after he captured her, he decided to 'train' her to be his new pet.

I decided this book is a bust when they both declared 'I can't live without you' and 'I love you' after knowing each other since YESTERDAY! Yes, I'm not even exaggerating the timeline here. I felt like they both feel in love after one freaking orgasm.

"Had it only been a day? It had been, just a day since she thought she was going to die, then found herself revived and renewed by the most unlikely of men."

Apparently, the author did know it had only been a day and she throw out all these flower and roses, and till death do us part, and expect me to accept their all consuming love for each other.

Where is the plot? The built up of Dimitri and Columbia's background are fantastic. But everything after they meet each other are done and finish in two days in the penthouse.

I like the epilogue though, with Columbia new direction in life with Dimitri and the part with the revenge. If only the author took this epilogue and wrote the book instead.

Breezy *Lover of all things Alpha Male* says

This book is not for the faint of heart. It is dark, for two separate souls to come together after what they went through in their lives, is nothing short of miraculous!

Columbia Grey comes from a family of dysfunction. Her mother is absent and leaves her to an abusive step-father. Her step-father is a horrible drunk who does unspeakable things to Columbia. His abuse has led her to becoming a cutter just to survive the pain. It's her way of dealing, and although heartbreaking, it does bring her a little control in a life that is very much out of hers. The only shining beacon is her younger sister Eden, whom she loves and protects. Eden is innocent and funny and just generally a great girl. I kinda wished she was in the story more.

Dimitri Sokolov is a man with a tragic past as well. Growing up as a street kid, he didn't have the best childhood either. Abused by his father for no real reason, he catches the eye of Sergei, a very powerful and dangerous man who runs the Bratva. But although Dimitri doesn't actually betray Sergei, Sergei believes he does and sets out to kill him, leaving him almost dead and horribly disfigured. Now Dimitri is in hiding and biding his time until he can have his revenge.

The feelings I had when reading this novel were extreme. I was angry for both Dimitri and Columbia, given their pasts. But I was also ran the gambit of emotions just in general. I was afraid for Columbia on several occasions when she is with Dimitri, I will let you read the story to find out why. I love this story and it's dark side. I love that Dimitri thinks Columbia is perfect. I love that there is no judgement from either of them regarding the other one that isn't positive. They truly are perfect together.

The only downside I have to this book is the ending. I felt like things were a bit rushed. They went from intense about each other to split up to back together again very quickly. I also have a love/hate relationship with the epilogue. I love how it ended, but it felt anti-climatic to me.

This was a great way for me to be introduced to Jaden's work and I can't wait to read what's next!

I give this 4.75 lipsticks. It was steamy as hell and almost perfect!

~B~

Gwen ~the Book Diva says

4 "could have made it to 5" Stars!

Recommended for: fans of dark, gritty and "is it wrong that I'm smiling?" reads.

"They were twisted and dark and scarred and damaged...but they were perfectly normal and perfect for each other."

The Beast started off so well and had all the components of an ugly, dark and twisted story that could curl

my toes and corrupt my mind:

- Hot as hell badass with almost no moral conscience.
- He falls for a naive girl from an abusive home.
- The girl likes to self destruct.
- He holds the girl captive against her and is delighted to discover that she likes the circumstances she's found herself in.

Sounds great so far! I'm with it!

Dimitri is a bad guy from the Russian Mafia. I mean bad...after the things he's done a sane woman should never find herself alone in his presence much less in love with him, luckily I'm not a sane woman. His relationship within the Mafia goes bad and he is almost killed. He survives and is left with a disfigured face. Filled with hatred for the person who tried to kill him becomes a recluse biding his time to take revenge.

In stumbles clueless Columbia on a mission to convince this mysterious man to stop a real estate project he is working on. A bit corny, I thought but oh well I went with it. It's a "legitimate" business Dimitri has started over the years...

She sneaks in to his home and like a dummy gets trapped with "The Beast"! He refuses to let her leave, and later finds out she is receptive to his torture methods. Columbia eventually sees underneath the scars and distressed soul and falls in love with him. A modern day Beauty and the Beast tale was the goal I think.

All that was so good up and everything I wanted until about 50% then I felt the book rolled down hill way too fast! I wanted more time and we were expected to buy a lot in a short timeframe. I would have loved to see this as a two part series. It would have given more time for the story to build into a more believable Bonnie and Clyde bond.

I really wanted to but I just couldn't push the "I believe button"...

I hate when that happens...

Kasia says

4 Beast Stars

This book is dark, delicious and disturbing, at the same time it's brilliantly thought out and written to perfection.

Honestly this was the perfect story of two very broken, very destroyed people living a very lonely life, yet together they created something tragically beautiful.

Moxie says

[forced sexual situations, physical abuse, dark sexual acts, murder (hide spoiler)]

Tiffany says

Horrible. I actually laughed out loud at how bad this book was. The sample was decent. So, I decided to purchase the book. Thank goodness for the lawsuit settlement money from Amazon. I think I would have returned this book if I had paid anything out of pocket for it.

I do applaud Jaden Wilkes for being able to stretch this book into a full length novel. Basically every chapter was written in one character's pov or the other. Only they were repeats of the same events. It was very unnecessary. I could see picking up certain pivotal moments in an alternating pov, but not every single chapter. Also, the course of the book is told over a period of about four days. Yup, in four days "The Beast" was tamed. Well actually that happened in two days. Then, there was a breakup that lasted almost 24 hours.

I think this book is suppose to be considered dark erotica. However, it was neither dark nor erotic. Seriously lacking on plot development.

Jaden Wilkes says

Once again, I am about to hit publish on a book that I wrote. Although in this case, I feel like I just transcribed events for you, Dimitri was the one in charge here.

Dimitri, Dimitri, Dimitri...oh how I love you, you complicated, brooding man. Columbia...wow, I certainly didn't know you had it in you. I just adore you both.

I suppose this isn't rapey/murderly enough for some connoisseurs of "dark erotica", but too much for others. I like to think of it as an in between, existing in some unclassifiable space where it is simply a story. Their story...imperfect as they are, but normal nonetheless.

I do hope you enjoy it, and I do hope you leave with some small piece of it sticking to your ribs, like a good home cooked meal. If you do take something away, let it be that "normal" is subjective and it's up to you to find your own definition. Remember, it's not always about the journey, sometimes the destination is just who you are, no matter how you got there.

Stalker links:

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Teasers...

Jamie says

Uh..... this book was really REALLY bizarre... I will just sum my thoughts up with.....

And then....

and then...

and finally.....

Shanyn says

A lot of books are slow burns. They spend a lot of page time working up to the main conflict or event that happens in the story, allowing the reader to get to know the characters, see them respond in a number of different circumstances and build the suspense. It's a good formula. But occasionally, I'll find an author who takes all semblance of a working formula and not only throws it out the window, but lights that sucker up like a Molotov cocktail and pitches it at the nearest cop car.

The Beast is exactly that kind of explosive glory. It moves so fast and so hard from the very beginning that you spend the entire book speed reading, just trying to catch up. Trying to wrap your head around these gorgeous and broken characters and how they come together in such an inexplicably perfect way.

Dimitri is The Beast. We learn that almost immediately. A former enforcer for the Russian mob (the Bratva) he is a larger than life character. The kind of man that both beguiles and terrifies simultaneously. The kind of man who grins wickedly at the thought of how much blood he has spilled and then delicately spoons caviar onto a water cracker. He is a walking, talking nightmare of a man to all but the darkest corners of society. And even those have rejected him.

Columbia is a broken girl. She's sacrificed her life and happiness for her younger sister, to keep her safe

from the monster that haunts both of their lives. She has taken the brunt of his abuse and anger for the majority of her life and done so willingly to keep Eden safe. But the cost has been substantial; wrung her dry of confidence, motivation and her core center of emotion. To cope she has started evicting the pain from her system in an incredibly destructive, and lasting, way.

There were so many directions this book could have gone once Dimitri and Columbia join each other on the same page. It could have been a more typical story of abduction laced through with a generous helping of Stockholm Syndrome, spoon-fed to the reader in just the perfect way to make us accept it. Or it could have been a straight tale of two broken people finishing each other off. What happens, however, is nothing I could have ever seen coming.

What happens is a lightning storm. One of those once in a lifetime things that epic tales are written about. Despite all of the gore and the pain and the violence, this book is a fairy tale in the truest sense of the word. It's a story so huge, so grand, that it could probably never really happen. But, fuck, we all want it to. It's the kind of story that if it could actually happen, would infuse so much hope back into the human condition. And not only that, but would shift perspectives on what love could look like, how it could feed us, nurture us, truly light us up the way it's supposed to.

Jaden Wilkes has crafted an incredible book. There is very little arc to this story, it is pedal all the way down, from the very beginning to the very last page. You don't open this book and merely begin to read. You strap yourself in, put on a helmet, say your last goodbyes, do a couple shots of vodka and hope you survive. This book is exquisitely written – beautifully composed as well as told. The very words that Wilkes chooses serve to bring the reader that much farther into this world; serve to infatuate us with both Dimitri and Columbia to the point where I was gasping my way through their story.

I could probably wax poetic about this book for pages. I was so immediately in its thrall, and happily so, that I made myself slow down reading so it would last longer. It didn't help. I still devoured it.

I've spent a lot of time applauding authors who are willing to push the envelope, dissect human nature on a level most would otherwise shy away from. If I could, I would arrange a standing ovation for Wilkes every time she left her house. She so thoroughly took the idea of a love story, infused it with archetypical elements of a perfect fairytale and then loaded the whole thing into a bazooka and shot it at the moon, I find myself wanting to follow her anywhere.

MsRomanticReads says

Rating: 4.5

Note: HEED the warning in the book blurb! This story contained elements of choking, violence and mentions of rape.

The author stated that this story wasn't a fairy tale, however I found aspects of it to be just that. A dark, twisted, fairy tale that only made sense to the protagonists. Dimitri was barely twelve years old when he killed his father for passing him off to friends to be sexually abused. Living on the streets in Russia had been a test in survival. Then he was caught pickpocketing by the man who would eventually become his father figure, mentor and employer. At fourteen, aid man had brought him a whore to make a man out of him. Dimitri climbed his way up in the feared crime organization earning him the name The Enforcer. He was deadly and ruthless. Then one day it all changed. Every couple of years he was on the move, secluding

himself in a penthouse as secure as Fort Knox. None of his staff were allowed to see him, but a few caught glimpses here and there and soon the rumors began. The Enforcer had become The Beast. He dedicated every day to staying ahead of the man who had tried to kill him. Thoughts of revenge and violence filled his every thought. When he caught Columbia Grey trying to sneak into his apartment, he came to one conclusion for her presence – his past had finally caught up with him and she was there to kill him. But not if he killed her first.

This story gripped me from the first page. Getting the run down of Dimitri's past gave me a very clear picture of the man he had become – hurt, betrayed, angry, violent. I shouldn't have felt sympathy for him, but I did. For all the outward ugliness, and buried beneath the lethal anger was still something to humanize him. When Columbia showed up, there were some scenes that weren't comfortable to read. He was violent with her until he could convince himself of her innocence. I didn't get the feeling that the author was just trying to make his acts heinous for shock value.(view spoiler) He was true to character, falling back on his time in the Bratva.

For an eighteen year old, Columbia was a strong female character. That is something I wasn't expecting, but I was pleasantly surprised at the show of backbone. She wasn't a stranger to pain, self-loathing or even scars.

She would not let him find out she was a nothing, easy to kill and dispose of. She would not let him know how unimportant she was.

She had her own demons, and somewhere along the way, she and Dimitri found a common ground. I loved the change from one end of the spectrum to the other, even if it moved very quickly. Their brand of love-making wasn't gentle. Each encounter was intense, a blend of pleasure and pain. While he was used to it, it was cathartic for Columbia. She found strength to stand up for herself, and he found his heart.

Of course there came the time when she had to be set free to face her demons, and while it was predictable, I really liked that Dimitri gave her the truth and not some bullsh*t to drive her away. He was very protective of her, and she of him which I found endearing. The ending was a little surprising, unconventional even, but it was perfect for them.

The Bottom Line

This story is not for the faint of heart. It's gritty, it's raw, and it's uncomfortable. The story was fast paced, but I really enjoyed their journey on the dark side. I'll be keeping an eye on this author because something about the way she tells a dark story just keeps me riveted.

Disclaimer: Complimentary copy provided by author/publisher for an honest review. The views and opinions expressed in this review are my own, and in no way represent the views or opinions of the publisher/distributor.

Baba says

I'VE GOT A SERIOUS CASE OF COVER LUST.

ZARIA (Sheldon Cooper lover) says

Oh, well, this turns out to be a very average dark erotica with tons of cliché moments.

Columbia is a cutter, one who cuts to relieve herself from an emotional pain.

“You will no longer cut yourself. I will not let you damage my property,” he said. “Do you understand?”

she replied, “Yes,” and let him continue.

Columbia was in one word weak.

“Are you ready to ask me for my cock?”

“I want to go home, let me go,” she whispered.

“Do you want me to stop?”

“Ye-,” she started to say but stopped when he slid the knob backwards and found her tight hole.

“Do you want me to stop,”

“No,”

All these muscular alpha males somehow turn out to be totally boring when you encounter them again and again and again. Some variety wouldn't go amiss, you know?

Maybe this is a brilliant dark and twisted erotica, that i just didn't get it.....suit yourself.
