



Black Sun, Volume 1

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Gerun Fortress, under the command of Officer Leonard de Limbourg, is attacked by the prestigious general Jemaru Jan of the Middle Eastern Empire. With no hope of winning, Leonard offers his head in exchange for the safety of any survivors left in the fortress. But Jemaru isn't into executions, and torturing prisoners of war is much more interesting. Forced to sleep with a man that is his enemy, Leonard's feelings of shame overtake his mind, but lust overtakes his body...

Black Sun, Volume 1 Details

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From Reader Review Black Sun, Volume 1 for online ebook

Tami says

Hm, not as exciting as I thought...

This started with me seeing some, well, very inspiring pictures on the interwebs - very aesthetically pleasing young men in different, ah, situations.

So I started to search for stuff like this. And because I don't know sh*t about yaoi I just ordered something.

Which was "Black Sun". First of all, it is black and white. The colorful cover is misleading.

This made it very difficult for me to follow the story. Well, this and that they all looked very much alike.

Some had dark hair, some light.

The story was not really very interesting.

KimberlyRose says

Review originally published at mangaupdates.com in February, 2010. (The second and final book was published 2012.)

Even though this story has come to a stand still, with no tankobon 2 in sight, it is still worth the incomplete, albeit ultimately frustrating read. But, boy, is every page worth reading over...and over! There are so many nuances in story, character and art.

Absolutely stunning in both plot and art. The characters' psyche are fascinating and intricately woven! The art is fine-lined, detailed and beautiful. It may have the typical beautiful bishounen, but it's not for the soft, romantic sweetness lovers. It dark and rough and humiliating and yet inspiring with its different perspectives.

Estara says

The drama is well written, the look into the culture of the destruction of the last European knights of the crusades' kingdoms by being re-conquered via the Ottoman Empire is fascinating - but your enjoyment of this will depend on whether you like the extreme personality of Jamal, the slave-turned-janissary general.

Oh, and you have to like lots of explicit rough AND loving sex, with the occasional rape thrown in. I have to admit it works for titillation and it is beautifully drawn. I wish the mangaka had taken a Kaoru Mori approach and developed a whole series in more detail than the two volumes that exist, but I guess that's not her target audience's wish.

The uke, a blonde knight templar, at least is not totally yielding and does his best to resist - on the other hand he really is nothing but a chess piece in the interior workings of the Ottoman Empire and a weakness for Jamal - we never even get much of a sense of what Jamal sees in him, beyond desiring him and being

amused by him. I mean, we see him sacrificing a whole lot, but I never understood why, really.

Laura Fox says

How on earth did I miss this one ...

Just finished the first volume, and it was like 'wow', 'oh', 'what?', 'wtf?!', 'oh' again, and then ... (contented sigh) ... plus some 'lol' when reading the extras. (ore-sama is the best character)

So Jemaru is some kind of an Arabic general and Leo is a monastic knight (in other words, the virgin-est of all possible virgins). When Jemaru takes a fortress by storm and the remaining survivors are threatened to be slaughtered, like the good guy he is, Leo offers himself - being a prince and making a good hostage - to Jemaru to do what he pleases.

Now, Leo, you didn't expect to be asked to undress and show off your ... ok, let's not spoil the fun, for those who want to read it ...

Non-con, but the good type of non-con, all around, with the uke - that's Leo - giving in slowly.

Really nice story, great side characters, besides the sexy, very, very sexy MCs, and a lot of sex on screen.

One kinky yaoi manga that I truly enjoyed.

Now heading for volume 2 ...

I'm a cat-astrophe says

The first time I read this was almost 5 years ago, I basically remembered nothing about it, except for one image of Jamal burned into my brain and that I hated it. So, I figured I'd give it another try....

Annnnd, I regreted it. I really should've had more faith in my past self's opinions (tho it's hard with some of the other crap I read around that time.... >_>)

I hadn't even got 15% in and there was rape.... And it happened several times after, along with Jamal being a general gross creep. And then Leonard starts showing feelings for him... I'm just done. I'm so over this crap in yaoi where the seme gets away with this shit because the uke is all like 'there's just something about him... I can't quite hate him~' and then he falls in love with this asshole, even after all the horrible shit he's done.

But anyway, I pretty much hated everything about this, the story, the characters... honestly the only good thing was the art.

Now I must decide on whether to leave this series here or suffer through the next volume just to see if it somehow redeems itself...

Joshy Sensei says

What a mess.

L-D says

Leonard is a General tasked with defending Gerun Fortress. When the Fortress is overrun by the enemy, Leonard sacrifices himself in order to negotiate the freedom of his soldiers. General Jemaru Jan of the Middle Eastern Empire, accepts the deal and takes Leonard as a prisoner of war.

This story chronicles Leonard's capture and the Stockholm Syndrome that develops as a result of being forced to endure Jemaru's sexual needs. The story is good so far but ends abruptly with the two men separated by the Middle Eastern King.

Teetee says

Confusing plot and lots of smut but the artwork is gorgeous! Took forever for them to release the second volume but they did!

Himi says

While some details like the heres and wheres are vague, others are built up enough to impart to the reader a solid understanding of the character's histories and motives as well as the cultural protocols and the schemes under which they operate. For example, the information that is given about Leonard's youth helps us recognize the cultivated need to honor his family yet to also defy or disassociate himself with them. In turn, we understand his desire to see the world and consequently support his choice to embark upon knighthood. There's also Jamal's parade through the city, his acceptance of it and the cheers and jeers that are hurled in his direction during it. In order not to give anything away, I'll just say that along with the Emperor's detailed prescription and Nicolaides' realization/criticism, the parade exposes some principles of their culture pertaining to how they enforce accountability and manage repercussions and rewards in accordance to an individual's position and in light of their merits. Furthermore it helps frame Jamal's background and his relationship with the Emperor including where Nicolaides fits into the picture. All of the moments that feed these examples help the story develop and unfold and in a cohesive and engaging way. There are many other things, too. And with the integration of all of these bits and pieces is where I believe Ogasawara has won me over with this story and made the greatest improvement where her storytelling is concerned.

Feel free to check out my site for the full review.

Kati says

The story is a bit thin. Okay, really thin: in a semi-historical setting, an Ottoman general takes a young

crusader prisoner and makes him his bed slave only for the two of them to be separated by the plotting, jealous lover of the old sultan. At least the drawings are really beautiful. And also very, very graphic, the sex scenes, I mean.

Still, despite the paper thinness of the story and the three stars I gave it, I want to know where it's headed, how/if Jamal and Leonard will find a way to be together. So, I will continue the series, for at least a book or two more.

Derekica Snake says

The first time I read this, I think I looked at the pretty pictures and went eh. Recently I was browsing my bookshelves and pulled it out again. Why did I dismiss this? I can only assume was in a perverted frame of mind and it wasn't hentai enough.

This takes place during the crusades when Christians were invading the Holy Land. While most came for greed, there are a few who actually believe in what they were doing. Leonard happens to be one of those. Jamal is the enemy solider who takes control of the garrison. Leonard surrenders and offers himself up as the prize to keep his men from being slaughtered. Jamal takes him up on the offer by testing the blond christians's resolve through sexual intercourse on the floor in front of Jamal's officers. Jamal accepts Leonard's terms, sends the christians on their way and keeps the blond for his bed slave.

Along the way, Jamal falls in love. Leonard is confused because he's been told that his desires are wrong and that he should resist them. We find out that Jamal is a well respected general but he is a slave and he wants to retire from the army. Leonard is running around with a big bow on his neck and not really trying to get away from Jamal's advances but then the Emperor decides to separate the two lovers.

The ending is a cliffhanger but have no fear....BLACK SUN 2 is supposed to becoming out in 2011.

a_fret_argent says

The plot is kind of average, but the art is really nice. Has lots of explicit sex, if that's what you're looking for. Honestly, I had planned to rate this 3 stars until I got to the little bonus chapter from Cerberus' POV, which was so cute it kind of made the manga for me and earned it an extra star.

Cat says

Ogasawara-sensei has a great way of combining an interesting story with hot guys that have a steamy relationship. This title is no different but I think it's a step above Ogasawara's previous work in that the plot line is more thought out and the characters go through a decent amount of development.

Jamal takes an immediate, intense interest in Leonard after seeing how brave Leonard is to protect his remaining men after Jamal's forces overrun them. The way Leonard reacts under the embarrassment of being forced under Jamal only increases his interest so Jamal claims him as a prize of war and takes him back to his kingdom which shocks everyone and calls Jamal's choices into question.

Leonard is forced, through his interactions and growing attraction to Jamal, to question his purity as a holy knight and to realize that what he truly might want isn't something to be ashamed of but accepted instead.

There is a theme of dubious consent (dubcon) that surrounds the first interactions between Jamal and Leonard, but it takes understanding first the difference between western and eastern concepts of consent that appear in many, many manga and also the fact that Leonard needed this force in his life to realize his feelings but it still might bother anyone sensitive to such issues.

Overall, I loved it!

Emily Malden says

Hello Fellow lovers of fiction,

I recently read this naughty erotic manga book on-line at <http://manga.anime.net/black-sun-chap....> I cannot get this one of a kind story out of my head! I constantly look at the website since it so thought provoking and different. Unfortunately it is out of print, so my chances of finding it at a local library are slim. I hope someday it is re released. It truly is a provocative piece of lit. This is my first venture reading yaoi.

I'm love traditional Regency novels. So the Crusades setting is up my alley since I love historical settings. The Crusades are an interesting subject in America due to the current conflict with the Middle East today. There is still so much misunderstanding between the East and West. Now on to my synopsis on the story.

First, in regards to innocent, slightly dense Prince Limbourg losing his innocence to a violent rape at the hands of his foe, lusty General Jan. Although he did not deserve to be attacked on any level, I do think it could have been prevented if he had listened to his wise comrade Maxim who smelled a rat listening to general's perverted demands at Gerun Fortress. That was scary the way Jamal kept his sword at Leonard's throat while having his way" with him.

Let's face facts, the general was a healthy, aggressive, sexy homosexual who was attracted to the handsome knight anyway. So when Leonard exposed his 'family jewels', he only fanned the flames to being debauched in a twisted way. Not to mention, following to a tea the silly orders by Jamal to "lie down on his back, spread his legs, and state "RAPE ME"! Little did the clueless knight know there was so much temptation the general could handle, and was more than happy to accept the invitation. Hell even Stevie Wonder could have seen that coming! I can't believe Leonard was that trusting! It was only after he was "mounted and deflowered" that he realized that was not a good idea. Come on he was not lubing him up for nothing, he had planned to tap his virgin rear end. I personally think the prince's main appeal to Jamal was that he was 'forbidden fruit'. For example, noble birth, sinfully handsome, gullible, sexy physique, and European. However no matter how hot the prince was, he did not deserve to be taken in such a brutal manner in front of an audience on the ground. He was a human being that deserved respect. He was only looking out for his troops.

Now General Jan was a real piece of work. In regards to his raunchy statement to the prince while he was "humping" him, " Does it feel good" and "I will let you go to heaven first", I just rolled my eyes and said PLEASE! I wonder whatever happened to poor Maxim? I wonder how he explained to his comrades how their respected commander got screwed in the biblical sense by their Turkish foe, and whisked away as a captive to Turkey. LOL. This is the first book I have read where m/m rape is detailed in pictures and text.

Interesting. Despite the fact he laid a virgin, the general was satisfied enough to end the siege and send everyone home. Leonard submitting to his foe's carnal desires prevented bloodshed on both sides. That's truly a war tactic for the books! What I don't understand is after the dirty deed was done, the still horny Turkish general wrapped the debauched prince in a blanket, gagged his mouth, and threw him on his horse and galloped off to Turkey with his troops after his successful conquest in more ways than one. I can understand the trauma the poor Prince felt, but couldn't he have at least punched Jamal's lights out while he wrapped him up for cruelly taking his virginity. Was he that much of a weakling to not protest?! Moreover, good grief that must have been some powerful sex Leonard delivered since it turned his attacker into a sex maniac wearing the poor prince out from demanding sex almost 24/7 later in Turkey. I surprised the knight could walk or sit half the time.

. On the outskirts of the fortress, where the Turkish troops had camped, Jamal's former lover Isaac interrupted a lovemaking session between the general and worn out prince gently reminding the lusty Jamal that Leonard would die if he did not control his passion. At least Isaac had compassion and a bit of a conscience. While in route to their camp, he gently scolded his leader about his immoral action towards poor Leonard and how the sultan would not be happy with him back in Turkey. Isaac even offered Leonard some food at the camp. Personally I think being the first person to engage Leonard in forbidden "pleasures of the flesh" really stroked the general's ego! It heated his blood! I also recall his smugness in using force in "taking" the knight as he was addressing the accusation by the sultan's aide at the palace. Jamal felt no remorse when he implied a victim "enjoys" being forced against their will. What an immoral jackass he was.

At least Jamal did not order his military cronies to ravish the 'taken' prince after he had his pleasure. For example, he's hot you can jump him too, or state to the devastated victim thank you for letting me screw you and callously leave him on the ground and ride away. I can understand the plot in Jamal taking Leonard to Turkey to be his paramour. Before Christian influence courtesy of the Crusades, homosexual activity was tolerated in Turkey. Similar to ancient Greece and Rome. If Jamal had stayed in Europe, he would have been hung for forcing a member of European nobility into engaging in sodomy. In addition, the Middle East was also more advanced in education and culture than Europe during those time.

I was also moved by Isaac's struggle to balance his residual feeling for his former lover Isaac and fidelity to his wife. Although he was a true friend to Jamal, he comforted him when he was forcibly separated from his lover by sultan's order and recovering from his lashing. I slightly respect Jamal for respecting Isaac's marriage and not flirting with him. I do think Jamal felt a tiny bit of remorse for attacking his lover at the fort, when he began to care about him as a person than sex object. You could also sense Isaac's jealousy at the lover's passion for each other. Good grief, they were having steamy romps all over the place. I can imagine Isaac thinking, "what does Leonard have I didn't have". "We never made love that much".

The story was a bit choppy at times. For example, I wondered if they cared so much about their leader after seeing him violated by the enemy, why didn't his fellow Crusader buddies search high and low for their commander and demand him back? The author should have divided the story between Europe and Turkey. Since he had a close family, I ponder how they dealt with what happened to their sheltered, sweet Leonard. I wondered if Leonard was too ashamed to write to them since he was engaging in sex with another man.

Leonard's changing feelings for his captor/rapist was difficult to understand. To fall for a man who put you through hell takes a lot of forgiveness. But this plot works for mainstream novels, so I guess it will work for alternative fiction. I think he should evaluate what he has been through as a rape /kidnap victim/ sex slave before he decides to get involved with Jamal or anyone. If he returned to Europe and married a woman, could she overlook he was involved with a man sexually? I read on other posts that the author, Ms. Ogasawara was penning the 2nd volume, but the post was old so who knows. I hate cliffhanger endings in a

way and this story is fascinating. You want to know how things will turn out for the two main characters. Considering the time period, it may be unlikely Leonard and Jamal would reunite and become a couple against the odds, but in fantasy fiction you never know.

The real shocker was the climax when his mentor Sir Francis insulted Leonard for trashing his good name by "laying" with his own gender, especially a "dirty" Turk". Afterwards Leonard was sexually assaulted again by his former friend. Sir Francis even hinted the prince was gay all along while sodomizing him, even before the rape. This act really broke the prince's spirit. I think Sir Francis was a closet case himself. Leonard needs to learn some self defense to ward off lusty men! Like other readers have posted, this book is for adults only. I would give it rated X for graphic depictions of m/m sex including rape. I wonder as a young slave if Jamal was raped, which would account for his callous attitude. In addition, what the hell was Jamal doing with lubricant during the war. Since he was gay, was he fooling around with his soldiers? There were a few goofy aspects to the story, one chapter is narrated by the sultan's pet cougar, and there is one episode where Jamal walks the street in the buff and mockingly asks Leonard to rape him for revenge. Crazy! In some ways, I think Jamal's sexual relationship with the knight was his way of sticking to European society due to their negative attitudes regarding Turkish culture, but I could be wrong. I disliked the cliffhanger ending. I hope a second book is written. Does anyone know the author's website address or e-mail address. I enjoyed the main themes of sexual violence, forbidden desire, religion, class structure, war, politics, and cultural difference. I would encourage others to read it also for a change of pace. If you wish to share comments, write me at emilyb09@hotmail.com. I would love to hear your opinion on the story.

Happy Reading,
Emily Malden

Blak Rayne says

(This review is from my TOP TEN YAOI PICKS)

My choice for the number eight slot is Black Sun, an unusual pick, but I'll explain why shortly. Written by Uki Ogasawara, Black Sun is the story of General Jamal Jan, the leader of a Middle Eastern army that meets with two-hundred Monastic Knights in a final battle for the Gerum Fortress, a Mediterranean stronghold. After a brief skirmish, Jamal seizes control of the castle and the commander in charge, Prince Leonard de Limbourg. Jamal seems to have certain ideas when it comes to subjugating his enemy, which I would call 'submission through humiliation', but also 'lust at first sight'. He forces Prince Leonard to strip naked and perform in front of his knights. Leonard partly gives in to Jamal in order to save the lives of his remaining men. Then Jamal takes Leonard captive as his personal slave (sex slave to be more accurate), returning to his homeland where he's employed by the Sultan.

The problem is Jamal didn't have permission to take a personal slave, and since he's more or less one himself, his actions lead to punishment, for both himself and Prince Leonard. While this is going on, Prince Leonard is fighting demons of his own; though he verbally denies it, secretly he enjoys the interaction and being Jamal's private sex toy. It's hard to ignore the sinful feelings of pleasure, especially when your captor

doesn't actually hurt you, but instead shows moderate affection. In the end Prince Leonard finds himself wanting to stay with Jamal, and Jamal finds himself defending Leonard against the Sultan.

The reason I chose Black Sun is because it's different; the central characters, Jamal and Leonard, are of differing racial heritage, which is unique and a rare find in yaoi. Okay, I admit the story is predictable and lacks depth. But you've got a pair of men, who do grow emotionally (though it may feel superficial), and who are very beautiful. If anything, for whatever the story doesn't have, Uki Ogasawara is an amazing artist, and the sex is 'ouch that's hot' good. And, there is lots of it. I'm talking pages of in-your-face man on man sex. Jamal is blatantly horny, intelligent, witty, and takes whatever he desires whenever the mood stirs him. Leonard has that introverted sexy happening; he wants it, but won't admit it.

Basically, both characters are attractive, anatomically proportioned, and easy to like. And, as I mentioned, the sex is perversely awesome! LOL The story is predictable, but decent enough to keep your attention until the last page. I've ordered the second manga, Black Sun Volume 2, because the first manga leaves the story in limbo. I'm interested to see how their relationship will pan out. In conclusion, I'm giving Black Sun 3.9 flames, it's almost there!
