



Mastering the Ride

J.P. Barnaby

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Josh, a young gay submissive with a strong desire to serve, is searching for the Master of his dreams. After being released by yet another Dom, he takes the advice of his trainer and leaves Chicago to accept the invitation of a Montana rancher—a real, live, modern-day cowboy. With his new Master, Wade Mallory, Josh may just find what he's looking for... and more.

Mastering the Ride Details

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From Reader Review Mastering the Ride for online ebook

Merith says

Like other reviewers, I found the story too short to actually feel complete. It does end in a WTF way. Just a little more would have made this story so much better. You can see glimpse of the connection between Wade and Josh, but it's not quite there before *POOF* the end.

Sunne says

J.P. Barnaby can write, that is no quesiton and this short story is no exception.

Still it was just a 3 star for me because while we get to know Josh quite well, Wade isn't really fleshed out. Additionally I wasn't thrilled with the sex scene where Josh imagined being with his dream master and acted this scene. It just felt wrong.

The reader gets the information that Josh and Wade have mailed to each other but we don't get the feeling that they know each other. Additionally Josh has a job, he is a writer. Why did Wade think he needs to give him work? Also, it ended to abruptly.

Sarah_loves_books says

Dear Amazon, I'd like to read this, but I won't pay \$3.76 for a 42 page story.

Serena Yates says

Hot men? Check. Compelling characters that drew me in from page one? Check. Emotions and needs that match up exactly – yet the happy ending isn't certain until you get there? Double check. This is one of the hottest, most touching BDSM short stories I have ever read. It's one of the 'softer' ones in terms of BDSM action, since the heat comes from the men themselves, from what they want and need. The tension rises slowly and I totally loved that build which lasts until the final page.

Josh is pretty desperate. He wants to serve, loves being a submissive, but can't seem to find the right master for him. This, he thinks, makes him worthless, and my heart went out to him. When a new opportunity presents itself, Josh is desperate enough to uproot himself to move all the way to Montana – based on nothing but hope. It also indicates that he finally recognizes that Chicago has nothing to offer him. This sort of honesty, while scary, is exactly what he needs.

Wade has had his own problems. Hiding from his sexuality, he finally frees himself fairly late in life and is now looking for someone to share his life. In a way, he is just as disillusioned as Josh. I loved how considerate he was with Josh when he first arrived, without losing sight of what Josh wanted – a stern, loving master.

If you like stories with emotional depth, enough back story to know where the characters come from and some hot, loving BDSM action, you will probably love this story as much as I did.

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

Jason Black says

I really love JP's writing and I totally connected with the sub. I'm all about the green eyes too. :) The only thing is that it read like half a book. Just when we got to the good stuff, it ended. I WANT TO KNOW THE REST! I need to know how they get to know each other, how life settles for the sub. I need more!!!

Emma Sea says

The shortcomings in this book are linked solely to the fact that it's a short story.

The character of Josh is fantastic. He is so well-drawn, so real, so full of *yearning*...oh, I wanted him to get everything he deserves. Plus I want to infest his old Dom's house with bedbugs in petty vicious revenge.

The character of Wade is more of a cipher. We only get one short scene with him before he meets Josh, and in it he is a passive participant, therefore it's very hard to feel anything for him.

Because of the length it is precisely when these two get together that I lost faith in the story. We get *told* that the men have exchanged lots of emails and negotiated, but we don't get to see any of that. From a throw-away comment Josh made I gather that they have in fact already signed a contract, without ever meeting. Josh is a successful novelist and proud of it, but Wade has plans to have him work on the ranch so he can fit in...is that what Josh wants? We never hear one word about a space for him to write at his new home. The story finishes before we see Josh and Wade making (or starting to make) a life together. This left me unsatisfied.

I personally do not like fantasy scenes at all, so Josh having a solo scene while he fantasises about what an *imaginary* Dom would do and say leaves me cold. I would have vastly preferred that these words be spent on Josh and Wade in their new partnership.

It's a 2.5 for me, rounded up to a 3. I feel like I only read half the story. The writer has a lovely way with words; I just needed to see more words.

Beck says

Second reading after 18 months of reading a lot more BDSM, I'd have to say that this didn't impress me as much this time around ... the lack of character development and background was too frustrating to allow me to relax into the story ... I still like the characters and the set up, it just needed a lot more development to make it a worthwhile read ... have taken my rating down to 2 stars.

Original review...

This was a pleasant little short story but I was left wanting more. It was a little bit too perfect & twee for a higher rating but if you have a spare 10 minutes then this short is worth reading. No wow factor unfortunately. I'd pay to read a full-length version of this story tho.

Boycop says

Boring sex, story too thin and too short.

Just a plain disappointment. Not even the beginning, that some reviewers praise, was any good. Most boring sex scene I've read in a very long time - and not really BDSM.

Christy says

Ahhhhhh, J.P., you merged cowboys, Montana and BDSM into a fabulous short story that will definitely be a re-read for me. It was absolutely impossible to not love Josh from the get-go. He just needed to be loved and cherished and all would be right in his world. And, Wade, was Hunka-Hunka yummy cowboy Dom. What more could a girl ask for?

I loved how Josh and Wade found each other and my only complaint? I could've used a lot more pages to this story!

Bree Cheese says

3.5 stars. I surprisingly enjoyed this short story, but it ended just as things were heating up! Definitely way too short. Wouldn't mind a sequel.

Jo * Smut-Dicked * says

I had to post a quick note: In my opinion the best authors allow you to understand the characters by having them do or say things for which you can get a crystal clear mental picture established. J.P. Barnaby has done this for me so far in this book. Here is an example: Josh (the sub) is an author. Instead of overly describing this Barnaby has the character take his laptop and go sit on his couch - the leather couch he purchased with the royalties of his first novel - a symbol of his success as an author. That tells me **much** more than just a

line saying "he was a successful author". So far a very good book!

Update: I finished and really enjoyed this little book. There is the usual rush rush and a bit of insta love - but it made me smile and the communication was great. I'd love it if there was a sequel!

Kira says

Very well written (not a surprise) but suffers terribly from the short length.

The premise was very interesting, and I think that if it was a novel length story, it would easily be 5 stars. Sadly too many things were not addressed, and even though I know the way short stories are constructed and the limitations of the word count, it bothered me too much.

Good story, sadly too short.

Kassa says

Mastering the Ride is a short erotic story with very little plot or character development. It's basically just an excuse for some hot BDSM based erotica, so if you're looking for something that fits that description this could really satisfy. This isn't a fully fleshed out story by any means and the characters and plot are superficial at best. However the author knows how to write steamy erotica and puts that on display here.

The story is nominally about a submissive Josh who has trouble finding the right Master. He's eager to serve but keeps hooking up with inappropriate Doms. When the latest in a long line dumps Josh, he masterbates to his ultimate fantasy before getting set up on a pseudo blind date with what will be the Master of his dreams.

The plot is pretty weak and underdeveloped. Supposedly it's about a sub finding a lasting relationship with the perfect Dom. Unfortunately the plot is swallowed by numerous sex scenes and the characters never emerge with any significance or importance. It's mostly several unrelated sex scenes put together to highlight and show some hot BDSM erotica. This will likely disappoint some readers who want a fully fleshed out story even within the short pages.

At the core this is well written erotica and that's how you should approach this story. It's meant to titillate, nothing more. The thin plot is just a vehicle for the multiple sex scenes so if you can overlook or ignore the obvious setup for sex, then the story isn't so bad. The author knows how to write pretty hot erotica and this is no exception. It's steamy, entertaining, and fun to read. Just don't expect it to be anything more and you won't be disappointed.

Simsala says

Felt like an unfinished novel. The story was too short, to fully develop complex characters like Josh and Wade and the dynamics of a 24/7 D/s relationship.

All in all it was a nice read and a somehow odd mix of being slightly uncomfortable and very sweet.

Kristie says

2.75 Stars...

Sweet short story. I really liked Josh, but mostly felt sorry for him. Well, until the end when he got what he dreamed of. This was too short though. I would have liked to see more between a Josh and Wade, watched their relationship develop and see where it went.
