



Sovereign's Gladiator

Jez Morrow

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Devon rules a rich province of the mighty Raenthe Empire, but in his dreams the young Sovereign does not play the master in bed. Lord of everything, in the depths of the night, Devon just wants to surrender to a stronger power, a dominating man.

The star of all Devon's wet dreams is the magnificent desert man, Xan, the champion gladiator. Devon was the one who sentenced Xan to die in the arena as an example to all his rebellious desert kind. Devon was also the one who pardoned Xan and gave him his freedom.

When Xan accompanies Devon as the Sovereign's guardsman on a dangerous journey into the wild lands, it is raw passion, betrayal and impossible desire that reign over both men.

Sovereign's Gladiator Details

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From Reader Review Sovereign's Gladiator for online ebook

Don Bradshaw says

This was a great story of lust, pride, vengeance, treachery and honesty. It could have been easily set in the days of the Roman Empire. Devon is one of the Sovereigns of the Raenthe Empire. He is a striking man or honor and power. Xan is a gladiator that came from the far wild parts of Devon's realm. Ms Morrow has put together a story of hatred and distrust of Devon by Xan and the hatred is not unfounded. Unknown to Devon, his governor of the wild lands has been murdering and stealing from the locals. The story read perfectly and the two men were very likable and easy to identify with. The Raenthe people and the people of the wild lands are both just and honorable but caught up in the governor's own quest for power and wealth. Good plot twists keep the reader caught up in the story and wanting more.

Shin Mon Thway says

First of all, I'm really sorry if my review made you really wanna read this book because sadly, this isn't available on Amazon anymore, at least in Kindle form. ? I snatched this book long ago and didn't really find time to sneak this into my reading queue. And I really regret that I didn't read this one sooner because I really REALLY loved it. ♥? I'm a great fan of gladiators and slave-fic romances. So this really is my wet dream come true. ?

Devon is the sovereign of a rich province. Being a good general and a great leader, people have certain expectations for Devon. And one of them is for him to be always in authority and in control. But Devon longs to submit, at least in the silky sheets of his bed chamber and that is one wish that won't be fulfilled as a sovereign. And to make the matters worse, the subject of his fantasy, the man he wanna submit to is Xan, the champion gladiator and a desert rebel whose life he pardoned a few years ago. It's the battle between heart and head. And Devon needs to be in control and let go of it at the same time to get his ultimate happiness. ?

It was a really well-written enemies to lovers trope romance with a healthy dose of beautiful submission. ? And don't forget, our sovereign is a virgin! ?? And I loved the mystery/suspense aspect of the storyline. It was jus very well-paced and sexy. And damn, the smut was smoking hot!!! ? I loved every single second of those two in sheets. ? Loved it! I hope it will be available again on Amazon soon because more people need to know about this little tasty gem. ?

5 live for me and love me stars

?????????

Laura Kaye says

I loved this book on a lot of levels. The two main characters were molten hot, the illicit sexual tension between them was crazy delicious, and the unexpected idea of having the sovereign as the submissive was tantalizing. But as much as I, ahem, enjoyed the sex scenes, I also thought the world building was hugely effective. The descriptions were vivid and evocative. In 120 pages, the author puts you in a detailed world that her words make you see, hear, and smell. Sovereign's Gladiator had suspense and intrigue, double crossing and intense fight scenes. Devon was strong and commanding when it made sense for him to be, and submissive when he needed to be. I really enjoyed and would definitely read more from this author. Recommend!

Ana_P says

woot woot

My first gladiator M/M book!!!

Ooooh!!! Xan (the gladiator in story) actually looks like this guy!!! ^^ Yummy, right??? ;)

I could say that I wanted to read this book because of the historical aspect since I love historical fiction, and I wanted to learn about long-dead societies. This is usually true, but it would be a blatant lie in this case. I just knew that if I read this book, I would get a strong, ox-like, uber sexy alpha of a man.

And that is exactly what I got. *woop woop*
The shallowness is strong in me, I know.

But, *that* cover, who could resist? Not *moi*, that's for sure!

Now, I should probably move on to the story, and stop treating these men like pieces of meat, yes...???
Yes, yes, I should. *hangs head in shame*

Xan, the gladiator, and Devon, the Sovereign, meet under unfortunate circumstances. Xan, after leading an uprising against the Raenthe Empire, is sent to the gladiator arena by Devon as judgment, where he is forced to fight to the death with this executioner, since, you know, dying in an arena is the honorable way to go. However, Xan keeps winning and is eventually freed for his superior gladiator killing-machine skills and is asked to accompany Devon to the barbarian lands where there has been a lot of trouble.

Devon is immediately attracted to Xan from the moment he sees him because he dreams of being dominated by a strong man in bed. Xan, on the other hand, is captivated by Devon's masculine beauty and get him in a bed where he can "fuck him blind." <-- Xan's quote, not mine

These two had a lot of obstacles to overcome to be together. Devon knows that a Sovereign shouldn't submit to anyone, *ever*, and therefore has a hard time doing submitted to Xan, when he wants nothing more. Xan wants the Sovereign and actually likes him as a person because Devon is a fair ruler, but Xan also needs to keep his loyalty to his people. Therefore, he feels torn between Devon and his own people. However, when

these two do get together, it is nothing short of explosive.

This was a fast-paced, fun, hot little read that I enjoyed tremendously. :D

Heather C says

I've said it before and I will say it again...Enemies-to-Lovers is my favorite theme. Here we have Devon, the great Sovereign, and all he dreams of is being dominated by a powerful man. More specifically, he wants Xan, the all-mighty Gladiator, to be that man. The problem: *Sovereigns don't submit!* Ok...there are more problems other than just *that* between the two men, but I'm not going to tell you what they are!!

Honestly, this isn't something that I would usually read but I've been on a Jez kick lately and I have yet to be disappointed. There was plenty of suspense with twists and even a slow build to some romance. Great story.

Few of my favorite lines:

Xan spoke low. "I would die for you."
"Don't do that," said Devon. "Live for me."

"From the first moment I saw you in your gilded box, the young tyrant who sent me to die, you have ruled all my thoughts. I hated that you were so beautiful. I had no idea you were the incredible being you are. Give me all the beats of your heart and I will spend all my days trying to make up for what I've done to you and all my nights worshipping you." ~ Xan

"Devon, everyone is in love when he's coming. Say it now to my eyes." ~ Xan

V says

I didn't enjoy this book as much, not because the story wasn't great, it was more that I didn't understand some parts of it and I was constantly translating or checking the meanings. Maybe if one day this story is in Spanish, I will enjoy as it deserved.

Smith Barney says

Really short but f'ing sexy historical-homoerotic barbarian tale.. but..I can't help being a gladiator junkie too.

And this descriptively-prolific writer always manages to condense and contain a pretty entertaining story into one short-ass package.

P says

Actual rating : 3.5 stars

Sovereign's Gladiator is well-written, fast-paced, and the sexual tension between the protagonists is amazingly sizzling. Devon and Xan compliment each other very well, and I really enjoy the relationship between them as much as I like the overall story.

Devon was a sovereign and Xan was a guardsman protecting Devon to the desert land. They had had a feeling for each other since they first met, it's a kinda slow burn, Devon desired his gladiator deeply. However, Devon also proved himself that he's not some cubs in the field of this barbaric land. I loved to see Xan, and how cute he was when he had been melted for his sovereign gradually.

“From the first moment I saw you in your gilded box the young tyrant who sent me to die you have ruled all my thoughts. I hated that you were so beautiful. I had no idea you were the incredible being you are. Give me all the beats of your heart and I will spend all my days trying to make up for what I've done to you and all my nights worshipping you. Xan”

I liked this book unconditionally. Jez Morrow brought me joy when she described how gorgeous a gladiator was in his arena, especially Xan, the first love scene was full of fire because of the fact that Morrow slowly released the tension between them and showed me how amazing they're together. Although, I was skeptical why all of love scenes didn't have any conversations to express how the MCs felt toward each other. Xan's kinda laconic, but I really loved to read his POV.

What a pity ! I wish this book is made into a series or a full-length novel, but surely it's not. Maybe I should find another book that is similar to this one for thirst-quenching.

Xan spoke low. "I would die for you."

"Don't do that," said Devon. "Live for me."

Anna K?avi?a says

Unbelievably bad. I've read a lot crappy books and this one is definitely one of them. At first I was amused how bad it is but soon it was just annoying. My bad, I only later noticed that this is the same author who wrote Force of Law.

Nikyta *Miss Forgetful* says

Okay, I'm feeling really lazy today so I'm just going to say how much I loved this book and then point you to two reviews that I think explain what I want to explain fairly well. I loved both Devon and Xan. It was a quick, little story that had the perfect amount of sex in it.

Now, go to HC's review and Lacey's review. :D Lol

DayDreamer says

2.5 Nice.

Not perfect, not unforgettable, not something I'd choose to reread, but not that bad either. I guess that, albeit not very flattering, is the best I can say about it.

For a while now I've been catching myself finding most stories lacking of something. I'm getting rather spoiled where m/m is concerned and need stories with more bite to them. Not sure if it's a good thing or not. :X

May 4 2014 I'd like to revise the "not unfrogettable" part since I don't remember reading this. :D Although two stars in 2012, when I was very much in love with m/m and my ratings reflect that, means it was lacking A LOT. I have the same problem these days, too, with stories lacking bite.

Julio Genao says

so close.

nice elements, some tasty tropes—but crippled by three things:

1. clumsiness. the buildup to the big reversal and the preliminary feints were about as cunning as a cat hiding behind a sneaker.
2. exposition. this novel is extremely insubstantial, and that's largely because morrow couldn't be troubled to

show what she much preferred to *tell*.

3. words like this:

“Devon inhaled the scent of olives. Xan was crushing them in his hands.

Xan made himself slick and entered Devon, facing him. Devon had a strong urge to cry. That urge burned away in a sexual blaze. His hips rocked up to meet the thrusts of Xan’s cock.

Devon kept his voice out of his labored breaths when he really wanted to bleat and moan out loud.”

now, if that doesn't make you want to bleat like a disemboweled sheep, i dunno what to tell you.

Bubbles Hunty Honest & Direct Opinions says

Loved this book.

Lacey says

4.5 stars

LOVED this story!! My only complaint is that it left me with questions at the end. The fact that Devon is a sovereign with a male lover is a concern, and we never see how it's handled with the rest of his people.

ElaineY says

SG is one of those books, when I've come to the end, don't know what to read next. I don't want to mar the satisfied feeling I have and fear that anything I read will fall short. So I wait awhile and just enjoy the aftermath. Then I pick something I know I won't be mad about if it turns out disappointing simply because I'm not expecting much. This way, I figure I won't be unfair to that author.

And this is how I felt and did after I read Sovereign's Gladiator. I don't read much fantasy so am not very familiar with the genre. My perception of it is that it contains magic and mythical beings and I don't enjoy these. But I've discovered there's another type of 'fantasy' that could have been set in another galaxy for all I know and I could easily have shelved it under my 'Futuristic Sci-Fi' shelf. SG turned out to be one of these. I love these and though SG could have been longer so that I could have more of Devon's and Xan's relationship, Ms Morrow did a good enough job within this 'Short-Novel' size book. The world-building was richly-textured despite the lack of book-length and I got a good sense of the world the characters inhabited. The story was brimming with romance which, while dominant, didn't overwhelm the other aspects - betrayal, love, loyalty, the who gamut of senses and expectations one has when engrossed in a book like this.

