



The Darkness of Perfection

Michael Schneider

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He desired perfection. She already was perfect. Can two people build a love forged in the fires of hell? Nicholas comes from a world of darkness where women are no better than slaves. He believes the secret to true happiness is for his wife to be molded to perfection. He had the promise of perfection in the bright eyes and innocent smile of a childhood friend long since lost to his world. He never gave up his dreams of their perfect life together. An accidental meeting brings him face to face with his dream. Will he realize that true happiness can only be found in the beauty of imperfection before it's too late?

The Darkness of Perfection Details

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From Reader Review The Darkness of Perfection for online ebook

Katie(babs) says

Published as a Twilight fan fiction The Perfect Wife. P2P fan fiction is a no-no.

Maimu says

Stepford wives on bad crack.

Tevya says

I was intrigued by the blurb for The Darnkess of Perfection. It is the story of a young girl, Jayden, who was born into a life of slavery only to be kidnapped away by her mother when she was a child. She has blocked the memories of her childhood, and grown up in a loving, supportive family with her mom, step-dad, and step-brother. Unbeknownst to Jayden, Nicky, the boy whom she was given to as a child, has never stopped looking for her. When the grown-up Nicholas finally finds and reclaims his possession, Jayden is thrust back into the world of white female slavery where Nicholas is prepared to pick up her training as his wife where he was forced to leave off twelve long years ago. Jayden must either accept her fate, and training, and settle into the world she was born in, or fight for her freedom. Only fighting for her freedom will only make her situation even worse. The feelings she had for Nicky as a child, when he was her protector and savior, only complicate the matters worse.

I have always been curious about the darker sides of life, the sides that we don't want to believe can exist in modern days. The fact that this story deals with human trafficking sparked my interest, and I knew it would be disturbing just from the nature of the topic. What I was not prepared for was how real my reactions would be. I read the first chapter one night before bed and was so disturbed by what I was reading that I had to put it down. I stepped away for a day and came back to it the next evening. As I continued reading, I discovered that the author handles the topic very well. She is able to weave a believable (or unbelievable?) tale in such a way that you can't turn from it. The story is gripping and the characters are consuming. I was able to become Jayden and feel everything she felt, right down to the confusion over her emotions and feelings for Nicholas. In one blurb I read, it said "the enemy has never been so easy to love". I kept looking for that small break that would reveal the loving, nurturing child Nicky was in the cold, demanding man that was Nicholas.

The author switches back and forth between Jayden's point of view and Nicholas', also alternating between past and present. While this may be confusing to some readers, I found it to be highly enriching to the story. Hearing Nicholas' side straight from his own mind allows us an inside view of the world he grew up in and how being raised in the world of human trafficking effects his dealings with Jayden even as he struggles to deal with his growing feelings for her. Jayden's point of view and flashbacks are vital to the story, they add depth and emotion to a world where the main focus is that on breaking the human spirit.

This wasn't a hot and steamy romance, but it was a highly emotional read. When I picked it back up after that first chapter, I immediately got drawn in and could not put it down. I was in turns horrified and sad, confused and hopeful. My only complaint is that the ending left me reeling. Surely Ms. Schneider does not plan to

leave things there?! We need a more detailed epilogue - a sequel - a slice of life set 5 years in the future - anything! Please don't leave us there!

Mell says

The "hero" of this novel is truly awful and unforgivable. Rating: 0.

Monique says

I'm yet another reader who expected a completely different genre. Nothing in the blurb for this book led me to expect a contemporary story of slave trafficking. Once I got past my shock at the genre, I found the book to be an excellent, though brief, study of how this system is perpetuated by the people trapped in it. My biggest complaint was the handling of the romance portion of the story. We're told, more than shown, of the "hero's" change of heart. The ending also felt a bit dropped, as if the author had no idea how to deal with the change in situation for any of the characters, much less the supposedly "new and improved" version of the hero.

Jeanne says

IMPORTANT: If you identify with Jayden and in a relationship like the one depicted in this book, please know that there is a way out. I urge you to reach out for help and call or email the Abuse Help resources below.

In the US call:

National Domestic Abuse Hotline

1-800-799-SAFE(7233) or TTY 1-800-787-3224, (PST) by videophone (855-812-1001), instant messenger (DeafHotline) or email (deafhelp@thehotline.org).

Outside the US call:

Stopfamilyviolence.org

1- 866-USWOMEN **email:** crisis@866uswomen.org

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I have had the great misfortune of reading this "book" in it's original (fan fiction) version. I'm horrified that anyone would even contemplate, much less actually write and sell a book that romanticizes the relationship between a victim of domestic abuse and her abuser.

It's irresponsible and it also makes for some extremely unrealistic characterizations. Which, is one of my biggest technical criticism of this book. The distinct difference in Bella err... Jayden's internal monologue and her outward actions pulled me out of the story constantly. It didn't read right, and made the whole story feel kind of forced. Like I wasn't reading a story as much as being told horrific second hand gossip.

I also felt it was a very manipulative choice to give the reader a safe distance from the horror of what

happens to the heroine. Giving this sense that while the heroine is being brutalized in graphic detail, she is also very aware of how fucked up the situation is and that makes the reader feel more secure in their voyeurism. Which is kind of disgusting and fucked up when you really think about it. It's like the author shows you a graphic slide show of domestic abuse, holds your hand the whole time and reassures you that it's all going to be okay in the end, because deep down they really do love each other.

I swear to god, I wish I was making this up, but I am not.

By all means, if you find non-consenting victimization of women, domestic abuse and reenforcement of the destructive belief that abusers are the true victims of their own evil that deserve forgiveness and LOVE from their victims, this is totally the book for you. Enjoy.

\*dry heaves as she walks away\*

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### **Blueluna5 says**

I read all the time but rarely write reviews. I absolutely LOVE this book! I've read dark erotica books before, some good, some bad. These were the best book characters for dark erotica that I've read. Everything was so realistic including the characters (flaws included). Nicholas grew up in a family where they sold women as sex slaves. Because of this his thought process went back and forth between his own upbringing and his conscience. He was not a character that changed over night. You could see his growth throughout the book. He did not change over night! I'm tired of seeing that in books about sex slavery. It was a gradual change brought about because of his love for Jayden. Also because of his remorse for what he did to her. I could see how Jayden loved and hated him at the same time. Also I might add that Nicholas's actions at the end of the book was the greatest love that I've seen. He knew he was wrong and he was punished because of it. He did everything he could to fix it including punishing himself. Such an amazing story!

I sooooo want a sequel! I can't believe I'm saying that because I typically hate them. I thought the ending was to abrupt in the darkness...maybe I just didn't want it to end. lol However I want to read about these characters more. I would like to see more of Jayden's character when she is not afraid to get more of her personality as well.

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### **Sandra says**

It is appalling to think that the horrific fanfiction called The Perfect Wife was made into a published novel. The notion that a young woman could possibly fall in love with the man that abused her, beat her and basically bought her to train her into his version of a perfect wife is ludicrous.

No, I didn't read this book. I don't need to nor do I want to. Save yourself the comments on this review that point this out.

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### **Chandra says**

Author Michael Schneider deserves a 100% STANDING OVATION. I would beg "her" to write a sequel.

SEQUEL SEQUEL SEQUEL !!!!

This story had me on the edge the entire read.

He was a teen when the six (6) year old girl was brought to his home to live. Nicholas secretly protected Jayden when his father cruelly punished her. She had been sold to his father, a powerful and influential man who earned most of his riches from white slavery. He had promised Jayden to his son Nicholas when she grew up.

Knowing Jayden's future, her mother took her young child and escaped. She refused to see Jayden in the hands of a man that would train her to do as she was told; to become a woman without freedom or independence and to do the total bidding of her husband. Nicholas never gave up on finding Jayden after all, she was promised to him.

Now at the age of 18 and in college, Jayden is kidnapped and forced into a world that will take away all of her freedom by the protector that had loved her since she was a little girl.

\*\*\*THIS BOOK HAS BEEN DIVIDED into chapters that go from Nicholas thoughts to Jayden's thought with various situations i.e., chapter 5 might be Nicholas thoughts on how to handle Jayden in a particular way and chapter 6 might be Jayden's thoughts on being handled. This writing style continues throughout the book\*\*\*\*\*

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### **Andrea (mrsaubergine) says**

Loving the enemy has never felt as right as it does in Michael Schneider's sophomore novel, *The Darkness of Perfection*, a gripping tale of one young woman's struggle against a powerful criminal family who see her as nothing more than one of their chattels.

Jayden White has lived her life in fear – of the man who “bought” her from her father and of the possibility that one day he will find her again – but just when she thinks her future looks bright, she is violently drawn back into that world by the one person she thought was her friend.

Schneider writes from both Jayden and Nick's points of view, giving the reader a greater insight into the true motivations of her characters. We see Nick as a boy, caring so tenderly for his five-year-old wife-to-be and feeling those same feelings as an adult, although his warped upbringing makes him conflicted about admitting them to her out loud.

It feels so wrong to be rooting for a bad guy who condones kidnapping and sexual enslavement, but by the end of this book you will undoubtedly be a little bit in love with Nicholas Harrison. I certainly was!

The last few chapters carry you along on an emotional rollercoaster to a truly surprising conclusion. Schneider has produced a complex, fast-paced, sexy thriller which will leave you begging for more. Definitely a five-star read.

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### **Ava says**

Quite...complicated.

What happened was confusing, I tried to get my mind around it.

2 stars. Literally, it quite sucked.

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### **Sylvia Ryan says**

I'm torn on the star rating for this one. 3.5 stars would have been my choice if I could do it, and I would have chosen 4 stars if the ending was different. I honestly thought that my e-book didn't download the whole file, and I was missing the ending. When I realized THAT was the ending, it was a big let down. I'm not a big fan of having to wait for another book to find out the rest of the story about a romance I just spent hours reading about. I think concluding the story about this relationship and writing about a new couple with the same 'world' for the next book would have gotten a five star rating and a great review from me.

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### **DiAnn says**

I loved this story - it was intense and the character development was excellent. My heart went out to Jayden, but at the same time was sad about the family life that Nicholas experienced. Had no idea how this story would end, but author Michael Schneider wrote such an emotional ending that I was in tears at her apt conclusion. So happy to hear that Michael will be writing a sequel because this story needs to continue. Definitely recommend!

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### **MaryReadsRomance says**

This is different and very dark "romance" book with some horrific scenes , an anti "hero" and "heroine", and an unsatisfying ending. Thus I have categorized it as horror. Be forewarned not for the faint of heart.

The main theme and intention of the author is anti-sexual slavery / human trafficking as well as anti general suppression and molding of women for their use in a society of men.

Another Twilight Fan Fiction that I read and was frankly shocked by - and not 50 Shades shocked! As with 50 Shades, I would recommend it for adults only and am glad to see the author recognized for their original work.

Love it or hate it, you will never forget it

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## Alexia561 says

This story was oddly compelling, in that it was all too easy to believe that Nicholas could view his life as normal and see nothing wrong with kidnapping Jayden and forcing her to marry him. After all, his family are human traffickers! Given to him as a child, he firmly believes that Jayden belongs to him and has no choice in the matter. He has built her up in his mind as the perfect mate, and is determined that they will have the perfect life together.

Rescued from a horrible future by her mother, they find sanctuary in a small town and build a new life. I found it a little difficult to believe that once they found safety, Jayden's mother didn't raise her to be able to protect herself. It's understandable that they would want a normal life, but shouldn't you provide the tools to protect your child just in case she was ever found? Have her learn self-defense, take karate classes, or something! At least have a talk with her before she leaves for college, don't just send her off on her own! Seemed irresponsible and unrealistic. If Jayden's mother was so fiercely protective and risked so much to rescue Jayden from a life of slavery, then she should have done a better job of preparing her for going off to college on her own.

It also bothered me how Nicholas found Jayden after all these years. Didn't ring true, as I couldn't see him taking the same sort of cruise that Jayden's parent would be able to afford. If his family was so rich and powerful, he would probably have chartered a private yacht if he wanted to go cruising. Seemed forced.

Don't mean to suggest that I didn't enjoy the story, as I really did! The narration switched back and forth between Jayden and Nicholas, so we could see things from both of their perspectives. I think that Nicholas really loved her (or at least the idea of her) and honestly didn't understand that what he was doing was wrong in any way. Jayden cried way too much in my opinion, but she was only 18 and had led a sheltered life.

Was torn between giving this book a 3/5 or 4/5, as some of the inconsistencies bothered me. Ultimately decided it was worth a 4/5 as I really enjoyed the story while reading and it was only afterwards that some of the plot points started to bother me. The author does a fantastic job of giving us a glimpse into the life of a human trafficker, as well as the confusion Jayden experienced while coming to grips with her situation. Will be looking for more from Michael the future, as he's very talented!

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