



Enslaved

Elisabeth Naughton

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GRYPHON — *Honorable, loyal, dependable...tainted. He was the ultimate warrior before imprisonment in the Underworld changed him in ways he can't ignore.*

She calls to him. *Come to me. You can't resist.* But Gryphon will not allow himself to be ruled by the insidious whispers in his head. And there's only one way to stop them: kill Atalanta, the goddess who enslaved him. But with so much darkness inside, he can't be sure what's real anymore. Even the Eternal Guardians, those who protect the human realm from threats of the Underworld, want to exile him. They're not sure he can be trusted.

Finding Malea is like a miracle. Somehow he doesn't feel the pull of the dark when she's near. And he's determined to keep her as near as possible, whether she wants him close or not. But proximity spurs temptation. A temptation that will test every last bit of control he has left. One that may ultimately have the power to send him back to the Underworld or free him from his chains for good.

Enslaved Details

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Author : Elisabeth Naughton

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From Reader Review Enslaved for online ebook

Shauni says

It's fun to see how each author writes a series. There are some who connect a series of stand alone books, with intriguing secondary characters who later have their own books. There are some who write about multiple characters their stories intertwining.. telling the same story from a different point of view. There are some who have an entire over all arc but write mini arcs inside (a series of smaller arcs with a few books that compliment the overall arc). Then there are those who write an ongoing story with the same characters. Then there are those who write one overall ARC, each book, each couple telling a part of the story, something similar to a jigsaw puzzle, slowly telling us the story of their world. In Elisabeth Naughton's Eternal Guardians, she works on the later. And does a brilliant job. The trick to writing in such a manner is for the book to be able to stand alone BUT offer enough information that will tell you the back story without driving you mad with the tedium of repetition. This can be very very difficult, a razor's edge in writing I am sure.

Enslaved is Book 5 of Ms Naughton's Eternal Guardians series and we take off running. Gryphon, having been held hostage for months forced into unspeakable acts (which are for the most part inferred we don't have to live this with him, just the assumption of horror is enough) is finally free. Sort of. He still feels the need to destroy Atalanta, to rip all hope from her and in the end finally remove her from his life. It's hard for him to do this as he is not trusted, his status as Guardian has been given, rightly so to Orpheous. But he is finally allowed out to hunt Atalanta's minions. To do more than hover around the edges.. trouble is, he can't seem to control himself.. Finally, he realizes that he needs to escape and find a way to secure his revenge on his own.

Malea, daughter of Zeus and Persephone.. poor girl, bad enough having those antecedents she also has had an entire life of suffering Hades wrath. Why? Because she exists. Hades has been forced to promise to never physically hurt her but he does make sure no one who helps her is safe. She is desperate to escape the half blood's care. They are in danger just by keeping her safe. Finally, she has discovered a way out.. she is on her way.. only to be stopped by Gryphon..

Together they focus on their joint goals, sort of. Gryphon forces her along with him and in doing so breaks so many rules that the entire Half Blood nation is after them, or so it seems. Danger lurks everywhere, Atalanta's minions are after them, Hades' Hellhounds are tracking them, The Guardians are chasing them down to help if possible and the Half Bloods are ready to make a judgement. And yet, they seem to find solace in each other. They learn to lean on the other, even to *gasp* trust. They build a relationship worth having.

I loved this book! Elisabeth started it strong and it never lost it's stride. We see in Gryphon a tortured hero and yet strong enough to fight without succumbing to evil. In Malea we see a woman who has been neglected at best, abused at worst her entire life. And yet, she chooses to live, to laugh and yes to demand her right to do so. These two did not lead picture perfect lives but they did live them as best they could. And Ms Naughton manages to share their histories with us without that need to go into graphic and in depth detail that seems to be so popular with the tortured hero set these days.

I recommend this book on so many levels. It represents, good triumphing over evil, that with perseverance anything can happen, that family love and loyalty is nothing to take for granted and finally that when you are with the right person, nothing can really destroy you.

My only suggestion to you all is READ IT!!!

Shauni

This review is based on the ARC of *Enslaved* provided by netgalley and is scheduled for release on November 1, 2012

For more reviews by Shauni check out Tea and Book and Bodice Rippers, Femme Fatales and Fantasy

Sunny says

5 enthusiastic stars

Gryphon
Maelea

Elisabeth Naughton's books have become a bit of addiction for me. I have read 9 of her books in 16 days. **Enslaved** is the fifth book in her *Eternal Guardian* series. I was first drawn to these books because of the connection to mythology. With that focus, clearly this was going to be a light, fun, romantic read, right? Yes, and more. Embedded in this fanciful mythology are serious themes - betrayal, loss, abandonment, self-esteem, and surviving trauma. The Guardian books are steeped in emotion.

This is the story of two wounded outcasts finding each other and trying to shed their demons (not to mention the demons dispatched from Hell). Their adventure solidifies their bond and the relationship is explosive.

What I love about Elisabeth Naughton is that she creates an excellent balance between action and emotion, thrill and suspense. Her characters are well-defined, each struggling with a complex emotional-issue all within the story of gods, furies, and guardians. The characters, despite the extraordinary powers, feel real.

See the complete review on my blog: <http://loveaffairwithanereader.blogspot...>

Thank you to Netgalley for the opportunity to read the ARC.

Lynsey A says

Well, this one took me a long time to finish but the ending was quite rewarding. This book was quite slow to start. It wasn't really boring, it just didn't suck me in like some of the other books in this series.

There is a scene where Gryphon shares what happened to him in the Underworld that was quite heart-breaking but Maelea's response was very sweet and loving. That was probably one of my favorite scenes in this book.

I really enjoy Naughton's writing. I'm certainly glad I fell into reading one of her stories. I'm quite eager for Titus's book which will be released soon.

Although this series isn't as good as Showalter's LOTU and Kresley Cole's IAD, it is still a great series and

for anyone who is awaiting anxiously for a new release from either of the aforementioned authors will find this a delightful fill-in. :)

Megan Fall says

I love the Argonauts! The huge, sexy, alpha males really know how to keep you entertained!

Alex is The Romance Fox says

Elisabeth Naughton's Eternal Guardians Series has it all..... heady romance, sizzling sex, hot and sexy heroes, strong and sassy heroines, and never ending action and drama. It's a total addictive mixture. I can't get enough of the unique characters and the imaginative world she has created. I just love the whole Greek mythology theme and how well it's interwoven with modern day times.

Enslaved is the 5th book in the series and so far one of my favorites.

I adored Gryphon and Maelae together.

Their journey to finding true happiness together was truly amazing.

Gryphon, had been tortured for months in the Underworld before being rescued by his brother, Orpheus, and has come back a changed man. No longer is he easy going playboy but now is quiet and a loner and seen as unstable by the other Guardian warrior. Driven to madness, hearing voices in his head, pulling him towards the darkness, he cannot see a way out of going back to the person he was before.

Maelea, daughter of Zeus and Persephone, has been alone for thousands of years, hiding from her father's wrath and hatred. She is trying to find her way back to Olympus in the belief that someone will help her from the fears and dangers she has encountered in her life.

This is really a lovely story.

Gryphon, rejected, wounded, lonely and never lost his goodness and honor. He will do everything to protect Maelea, who he knows is his true soul mate.

Maelea has always felt an outsider and never allows herself to feel anything for anyone or anything. Even though she feels a connection to Gryphon, she still is unsure about him.

But when they are both faced with forces of evil following their every step, she takes a chance on him. After all, there are a lot of similarities between them. Neither belongs anywhere.

There are some sexy and hot moments between the two but I loved the tenderness and sweetness as well, especially the time they spend together in Maelea's beach cottage in Vancouver Island. That's where they

began getting to know each other and realize the deep feelings they felt for each other. Where nothing else mattered but being together.

The endingof course they get their HEA....did we ever doubt that????.....left me wondering about the unknown sexy redhead woman...who is she? And where is she going to fit in the next book???

I can't help looking forward to more of the Argonauts and their lives.

A.R. Von says

I've always wanted to read Elisabeth Naughton's work, so glad I finally got to do so and should kick myself for waiting as long as I did. Elisabeth has created an original, imaginative and vivid world with a combination of known and unknown paranormal aspects and characters for us to truly engross ourselves in and enjoy. Even though this is book #5 of the series and the first I've read from it, I did not find myself to be lost or unable to understand any of the happenings within the story. All of the answers to questions you just might have are right there for you in such a way that'll you just may think "wow, is she psychic or something?"

There are times when people, even paranormals base their worth by what has happened to them instead of WHO they are. Gryphon is one of those individuals. He has a very haunted and traumatized past that still lingers inside his head (literally). This warrior just wants it all gone. No more voices and no more madness! He's a guardian and no guardian should be as weak and unstable as he has become and still remains. The voice just will not leave him alone. That's until he get close to a female. I'm talking even just standing close to her silences all of the madness. What is so special about Maelea that just her mere presence brings him sanity and a sense of peace?

Maelea has lived for thousands of years. Always remaining hidden. She has learned throughout her years to remain alone and not allow love to enter her heart. Too much loss and too much sorrow for a person in one lifetime, even though it's an ageless life and one would think to be content with that fact; she's not gotten to know complete contentment and real love. She hides from an evil that only desires her death and is tired of it! Running once more to save some others she has grown to care for from the evil that hunts her. She happens to run straight into none other than Gryphon. The one male she's decided without introduction to steer clear away from. What's a woman to do when she experiences things with him completely opposite of what's rumored of to be?

Together these two souls can conquer any obstacles that stand in their way. Actually there is just no stopping them! Just being beside one another brings them what nothing else ever could. An emotional roller coaster of a ride with some very unexpected turns that keep you turning the pages. Absolutely any paranormal lover

will enjoy reading Enslaved :)

FV Angela says

*ARC provided by Netgalley

Review originally posted at <http://www.fictionvixen.com/review-en...>

Since paranormal became the “in” thing in romance I seem to run into the same problem over and over..... if the world building and characters aren’t very unique in some way they seem to either bore me to tears or blur into each other to the point where I can’t remember the whos, whats and wheres when I go to pick up the second book in a series. Elisabeth Naughton’s Eternal Guardians series is very different from other series in this genre. These stories revolve around a group of men called the Argonauts whose ancestors are all the original heroes we remember from history: Perseus, Heracles, Achilles. Each of these men have traits that they have inherited from their ancestors and they use them to protect mankind and their own society called Argolea. This is the fifth book in the series and I am just as engrossed in this world of greek mythology as I was four books ago.

Gryphon has been rescued from the Underworld by his brother, and fellow Argonaut, Orpheus. He is trying to heal from the brutal torture and rape he experienced at the hands of Kronos and Atalanta. He just can’t keep the darkness he feels at bay or stop the voices in his head. There is nowhere he belongs anymore, no one really feels safe with him around and he ultimately decides that the only way to free himself is to kill Atlanta. After attacking a fellow Argonaut while battling daemons the only choice left to him, before he is cast out and given no choice in his future, is to escape.

Maelea is the daughter of Zeus and Persephone. All of her life she has hidden out from Hades, because she knows if he finds her she will not only be dead, but she won’t have an afterlife either. In all of the 3,000 years of her life the only person she has had to rely on is herself. The only chance she has is to make a grand gesture to Zeus in the hopes that he will grant her entrance to Olympus. After helping Orpheus rescue Gryphon from the Underworld and steal the Orb of Kronos she is stranded out in a half-breed colony where she knows her presence will endanger all who reside within. What she didn’t figure into her escape attempt is being taken hostage by the very same half crazed Argonaut who she helped rescue.

I have to say that the story arc started in the first book has gotten more intense, once the action starts in the first chapter it just doesn’t stop. Gryphon and Maelea meet up when they are both trying to escape a half-breed Miso encampment. They don’t like each other and they don’t trust each other at all. Gryphon needs Maelea because she seems to keep the darkness at bay and the voices in his head to a minimum. Maelea wants nothing more than to get free from Gryphon and find a way to earn herself a place in Olympus. Their journey with each other doesn’t start off well, but they eventually team up in order to fight off daemons, hellhounds and everything else that is chasing them. They soon realize that they aren’t very different from each other. Neither one really belongs anywhere, and during one particularly trying moment Maelea realizes that she feels a sort of kinship with Gryphon. Their journey to love and recognizing that they are each other’s soul mates is rough, there are lots of misunderstandings, but the sexy times are numerous and pretty darn hot. Since I like numerous sexy times that are pretty darn hot, this worked for me. There were also some very tender, sweet moments while they are getting to know each other and sharing their deepest fears and regrets.

“Sotiria,” he whispered, framing her face with his hands, brushing his thumb over her own tear to wipe it away. “I used to dream of you. Of the one person who would touch my heart and make it whole. I just didn’t expect her to show up when I was half the man I used to be. Orpheus may have saved my soul from the Underworld, but you... you saved me from myself. I will always, always just want you.”

The ending left me looking forward to the next book, which I am betting will be about Titus and a certain redhead introduced in the latter part of *Enslaved*. I would say that this is a book that needs to be read as part of the series, not as a stand alone. There is an ongoing story arc and background information that a reader may not understand if they haven’t read the previous four books. This is a series I think fans of paranormal romance will love, if they haven’t already discovered it for themselves. There are no vampires or werewolves, fairies or ghosts, but the world of the Argonauts and the Greek Gods will entertain you and keep you coming back for more.

Favorite Quote:

“Gryphon, maybe we should rethink this.”

“Rethink what? This tunnel leads out into the mountains.”

She turned to face him. “Rethink leaving. I don’t want you to get in trouble.”

“I’m not. ”

“You are. You’re walking away from your kin, from your order. From your life. I don’t want to be responsible for that. I-”

“ Sotiria.” His hands framed her face, forced her to look up. Heat rushed over her spine when she saw the soft, needy look in his eyes. “Don’t you know that I would give up anything for you.”

Leslie says

Rating: A-

If you like tortured heroes, Gryphon is the hero for you! In Elisabeth Naughton's fifth book in her highly addictive *Eternal Guardians* series readers find out what has happened to Gryphon, the guardian who became a slave to Atalanta. Gryphon was rescued but he's still suffering the effects of his enslavement and no one, least of all Gryphon, is sure if he will ever recover.

He escaped the hell he was living in but the torture continues, if only in his head. It's the voice of Atalanta Gryphon can't get away from that may just drive him insane. Gryphon is determined to kill Atalanta without putting the other Guardians at risk. So he's going it alone or so he thought until Malea tags along. I liked how dark Gryphon was. He didn't just miraculously turn away from the darkside but kept some of that with him. Malea brings light into Gryphon's life but he still must fight his way back from the hell that was Atalanta.

Malea is use to being alone and with Hades hunting her down, it's better for everyone if she doesn't get close to anyone. Malea strikes out on her own but runs into Gryphon and they reluctantly team up together. There is a definitely pull between them but Malea is afraid of what might happen if Hades' Hellhounds catch up to them. Malea isn't a kickass heroine but she does try and I have to give her credit for effort. I also respected her for trying to protect others while so desperately wanting to be part of the group instead of always alone. She was a good match for Gryphon because she could understand his need to protect those he cared about by trying to keep his distance from them.

The romance begins on the run with little in the way of actual romance. Gryphon and Malea are not exactly enemies but they are far from friends. That develops over their mad dash to freedom. Even with the attraction they have for each other, it didn't always feel genuine but having more to do with Malea's affect on Gryphon's darkness. Which made me wonder if there wasn't that connection of light/dark, would anything developed between them? The romance does take off but from the physical attraction with the respect and friendship coming later. I much prefer it the other way but this worked out okay in the end.

The Guardians and their mates are involved in trying to help Gryphon but they also have their concerns as to his ties with Atalanta and how much control she may still have over him. I really enjoy seeing this group of males and watching them interact. They're not all close, best friends but they do respect each other and will fight for each other. The women are not wallflowers who fade off into nothing but continue to make contributions to the fight against Atalanta and her evil horde of daemons.

This is a strong series that continues to deliver action, adventure, romance with kickass heroes and smart heroines. Definitely worth the read!

Julie (Jewls Book Blog) says

This had a slow start, but once it picked up speed I really enjoyed all the happenings! Gryphon and Maelea's odd beginnings morphed into a unexpectedly sweet, yet sexy romance. Then there's Hades and his power plays...Persephone wasn't much better...Zeus is still an arrogant jerk, and the Argonauts are just pretty cool dudes:)

And that final showdown..Yep..I love those types of endings! Justice served.

Scooper Speaks says

Favorite Lines: "All her life she'd been alone. Even the few times she'd been in love, she'd still been alone, because she'd never opened herself all the way. She'd never admitted who she really was, never confessed her hopes and dreams, never shared her soul. This time, she would. This time, everything was different." (p. 296, e-galley)

It's hard to believe that *Enslaved* is book five in Elisabeth Naughton's Eternal Guardians series. I'm not a fan of Greek mythology, but I've really become addicted to this series which incorporates bits and pieces of the past with its modern world. I highly recommend starting this series with book one instead of jumping in with *Enslaved*. Every book is about a different couple, but we're given information and introduced to a variety of characters prior to starting their story. For example, we read about Gryphon's experience in Hades and learn all about Maelea's existence in book four, *Enraptured*.

After reading all the damage done to Gryphon in *Enraptured* and learning of Maelea's predicament I couldn't wait to get my hands on *Enslaved*. I knew a story about two horrendously damaged people would be good reading and I was right. The emotional trauma paired with the feelings of loneliness made them a perfect match once they realized the attraction between them. Maelea has always been alone not out of a desire but because she was cursed by the gods. Her father, Zeus, didn't acknowledge her and her mother, Persephone, didn't have much to do with her either.

Her constant migration and inability to let others get close to her made me want more for her. Just imagine how she felt living forever with no family and no constant partner or friends. Then BAM! there's Gryphon who was tortured and is now infected with the voice of a villainess. He is purposely separating himself from his friends and family. Sure it's out of a need to protect them from him, but he feels dirty and dangerous. He used to be completely different. His transformation from light to dark is affecting everyone—but Maelea.

As the two find peace in the world and within themselves there are so many other things taking place. The villainess from book one is still around. Atalanta still wants the Orb of Kronos and is using Gryphon to get it. The gods are making a play for the Orb, as well. They are trying to get it through Maelea. One of the story lines that began in book one will finally be concluded in this book.

Enslaved is equal parts romance/relationship and action moving the book/series forward. It's also a nice change from the average vampire or shifter paranormal romance. It's a decent addition to a comfortable series that is on my auto buy list.

Stacie says

4 1/2 "Light and Love" Stars!

Lauren says

Enslaved

4 Stars

Struggling in the aftermath of his torturous ordeal in the Underworld, Gryphon is determined to get away from the pity and fear he sees in the eyes of those around him. Likewise, Maelea, the unwanted daughter of Persephone and Zeus, seeks only to escape the confines of the sanctuary concealing her from the vengeful wrath of her mother's husband, Hades. Encountering each other on their way out, this unlikely pair find themselves on the run from all factions: Argonauts, Misos, hellhounds and daemons. Their only chance of

survival - each other.

Series note: This is book #5 in the series and as there is an ongoing story arc, it is recommended that the books be read in order.

Naughton's makes excellent use of elements from Greek Mythology in her world building by putting her own unique twists on the traditional themes and tropes. The rivalry between Atalanta and the Argonauts and the conflicts between the various gods are incorporated effectively into the storyline and add an extra layer of tension.

Gryphon and Maelea's romance is very entertaining. They have great chemistry to begin with, and this is only enhanced by the "on the run" trope as it highlights the development of their relationship from fear and mistrust to grudging respect and affection to love. This gradual progression makes their romance all the more believable.

Gryphon and Maelea are also dealing with deeper emotional scars arising from their individual traumas whether it is Gryphon's guilt at becoming Atalanta's pawn or Malea's brittle confidence stemming from the betrayals of her parents. These two lonely outcast are searching to belong and finally find love and acceptance with each other.

All in all, one of the sweeter romances in an enjoyable series. Looking forward to Titus's book next.

JoLee (Wickedly Delicious Book Blog) says

Enslaved was 3 stars, likable book for me. I really wanted to love it with a tortured, wounded hero and an outcast heroine but was not feeling a connection with them all the time. For me Enslaved started out good with Gryphon and Malea escaping, but while trying to escape, out of the blues her attitude changed and bang all of a sudden she is scared and has to escape from Gryphon. After that, the rest of the book was choppy and just did not flow right. I think they were perfect for each other but I felt more connected with them as an individual than a couple. I adored Gryphon's protective, alpha male side and felt bad as Malea thought she was invisible to everyone. Love the action with lots of twist that I did not see coming but for me it was lacking in the romance department. The sexual tension just was not there, more of inner thoughts from Gryphon on what he would like to do sexually to Malea.

ARC provided by NetGalley for an honest review.

Originally posted at Wickedly Delicious Book Blog

lyhmer says

4 stars

Loved the plot.

Loved that she-devil finally dead.

Loved Gryphon.

Disliked the romance.

Disliked Maelea.

Disliked Max.

Anyway, Eternal Guardians' still an amazing series.

.....

Off me to next book: Titus and Natasa's.

Tracey says

This book was get another great installment of the argonauts.

Gryphon - who's soul was saved from hell, darkness still haunts him, meets maela half breed daughter of good and evil and the adventure begins. Some real touching scenes in this book that actually made me cry, the words were just so emotional it couldn't help touch me.

In this book we have all the other characters making appearances which really enhances the story, also a new female makes an appearance, which I assume will appear in new book!

You have Hades king of the underworld and his wife and even though they are evil they are just so funny an old married couple fighting.

So in this book you get hot sexy gods, some smoking sex scenes, emotion, adventure, monster slaying and even some light comedy from Hades and wife and lots of twists and turns along the way and most importantly a hero.
