



The Black Dragon

Allyson James

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Love Slave

Saba Watanabe's enslavement to the black dragon, Malcolm, left the powerful witch shaken and vulnerable. But when she's assaulted by a white dragon in human form, the only one who can help her is the dangerously seductive Malcolm. With his attraction for Saba still at a feverish high, Malcolm agrees to help her track down the white dragon terrorizing the San Francisco streets.

Dragon Warrior

But Malcolm, too, has become vulnerable—victim of a spell cast to drain him of his strength—and Saba may be the only one who can rescue him. The key to their survival is in a mysterious book hidden in the world of Dragonspace. When its profound secrets fall into the hands of the enemy, the life of every dragon in existence is threatened, and Saba must not only battle her desire for Malcolm but learn to use her rising powers to save his kind.

The Black Dragon Details

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From Reader Review The Black Dragon for online ebook

? ?randi says

♥♥ 3/4

This book begins 8 months after the first ends. Solitude loving, black dragon Malcolm is back in Dragonspace and is the guardian of the Dragon archive. He hasn't come back to San Francisco or been in contact with anyone. Saba lives in his old apartment and works at the job he got her. She still thinks of him often. When she's attacked by a Frost dragon she summons Malcolm for help. He sticks around to assist in locating and neutralizing the evil white dragon. He apparently decides immediately that he wants to stay forever, and with Saba so he enlists Ming Ue's help in winning her over. He doesn't bother to tell Saba anything, ever though. Caleb, Axel, Lisa, the twins, and Lumi all make an appearance as well as a new minor character Metz.

I found Malcolm's character to be confusing sometimes. He gets enraged when Saba learns his 'true name' and binds him to her. He very much likes to be in control, and alone from all we keep being told. But the scenes that follow turn Malcolm into a bi-polar dragon because he's enraged and excited in the same moment. Just when I think I've figured him out he has an out of character reaction. I understood what James was trying to portray with his reactions, I just don't think most of it worked.

Also, I think James might have a foot fetish. I've read hundreds of romance/erotic books and very infrequently does anyone do anything with ones feet, beyond removing a shoe, a quick kiss or lick, etc. But in both book #1 and #2 there are scenes devoted to feet. I don't particularly like feet but I'm not a hater. It's just something that I remembered since it's echoed in both books. You'll find several things echoed in these books though.

Again, what's with the cover? So cheesy and I have to say, nothing like Malcolm.

I know the whole book is far-fetched but there were moments in this one when I thought, "Really?" and a lot of that had to do with dialogue but there were also some scenes I just didn't understand (like the power transfer scene in Dragonspace). I briefly mentioned the dialogue in my review for book #1. Some reactions just didn't make sense to me and it stopped me from feeling apart of the action. So I guess all I can offer is that if you liked book #1 I'm sure you'll enjoy book #2. If you were on the fence, hated it or thought #1 was meh, you'll likely feel the same for this one. Book #2 is better than the first but fairly similar with a good bit of repetition. I happen to like Malcolm as the hero only slightly more than Caleb (though there was nothing wrong with Caleb) so I enjoyed this book more.

I don't have strong feelings either way which translates into an average at best read/rating. Allyson James' books (as Jennifer Ashley) have been exciting and effective but I'm just not moved by these dragon stories even though the world is imaginative and fascinating and the heroes are great. I build this camaraderie with characters I read unless the book is less than good. I feel that in this book but only to the point of us being acquaintances where as normally they'd feel like family or like I'm the one actually in the book. So something isn't connecting with me. But on to the 3rd book and fingers crossed for some more sparks.

Amanda Mc says

Saba Watanabe & Malcolm the Black Dragon. She is a witch who can help M find out what's wrong with him. Seemed kind of contrived (more than genre usual) and corny. As I recall, there is quite a bit of talk about tea ceremonies. Not the worst I've read. C

Margaret says

Scorching new romance from the author of Dragon Heat.

When Saba Watanabe is attacked by white dragons in human form on the streets of San Francisco, the only man she can turn to for help is the dangerously seductive Malcolm, a black dragon who once made Saba his love slave. But it's Saba who must use her rising powers to save Malcolm-and all of his kind.

About the Author

Award-winning author Allyson James writes romances as both Allyson James and Jennifer Ashley. She has lived in the Southwest for twenty years and enjoys exploring its mountains, deserts, and ancient ruins. More information on this series and Allyson's other books can be found on her website.

Missyb says

plenty of action and humor. This one is about Malcolm (black dragon) & Saba (witch). It's about 8 months or so after the first book. Lisa & Caleb are in this one. Saba is attacked by a white dragon and calls Malcolm to help her. He returns and saves her. They are still attracted to each other but still fighting it. He has two issues to deal with, the white dragon and his power drain. Alex (Imp) joins the cast in this book. He's a pretty good character. Malcolm's assistant is a sprite and he's kind of cranky & funny. Also contains the Chinese customs/legends, but also touches on Japanese customs since Saba is of Japanese decent. Lumi is in a lot of this book. They team up to stop the white dragon, who has learned Malcolm's true name, and who is a threat to most dragons. Really sweet ending.

Paranormal Romance says

She knew the dangers of loving a man such as he. The heroine's relationship with the hero started out rocky as he actually enslaved her with his marking and very nearly killed her when he demanded she use her magic

to open a portal. But despite their beginnings, the heroine still fell in love with the arrogant dragon and it pained her greatly when he released her from his bond and returned to dragonspace 8 months ago. Now, she's suddenly attacked by a vicious white dragon and in desperation for her life, she calls to the hero for help. He immerses through the portal, as dangerously beautiful as ever and fights her enemy. The white dragon manages to escape but returning causes the hero to once again take human form and enter the human realm. He is a black dragon and his kind are known for being immensely intelligent but emotionally distant. He's always thought in math and calculated his life and time without true feeling behind it. But all that changed when he met the heroine. She sparked something inside him, something that changed his way of thinking and morphed his priorities. When he returned to dragonspace, it was a test to himself. That he didn't need her as much as he thought her did. Turns out, she is in his blood. She is in his thoughts and his longing for her disturbed his secluded life among his books. So, he returns. This time, it's with the knowledge that he needs for as his mate. The problem is, she is vastly grown into her powers and resists his marking. But he knows she desires him so he must charm her. Black dragons and the hero in particular are not very talented at sharing their feelings or explaining their actions. He walks back into her life to demand she mate with him but what's to stop him from walking away from her again? The sex is fantastic but is it enough? The hunt for the white dragon is long and dangers abound when the hero is kidnapped and the heroine is forced to save his life using a similar bonding spell he once used on her. The hero must come to terms with the fact that this little witch has stolen his peace and his heart and without her, he is nothing.

There were things I liked about this book but unfortunately, there were also many things I didn't like as well. The main positive with this book was my love with the hero and heroine. He was a dark, quiet and arrogant Black dragon with the vast knowledge of his archives and the intelligence to solve almost every problem put before him. He always had a plan- not that he was particularly good at sharing that plan. He was a beginner when it comes to the human heart and it was enjoyable to read about him wading through the processes of how to be less all knowing-powerful and more open-vulnerable. The heroine was a lovely character with the mock anger at the way the hero walks into her life and turns it upside down while at the same time loving him and fearing he doesn't love her in return. She was growing into her powers but the hero pushed her to believe and have confidence in the strength of those powers. Together they had a relationship packed with sexual connection and tenderness but strained because of the hero's habit of keeping quiet and the impeding return to dragonspace. Now, the things I didn't like. Mainly, it was the plot that I had issues with. I found it jump far too often and it became so disjointed and muddled. The white dragon who was apparently a very basic creature but managed to outsmart a Black dragon. He popped in and out of the story like a bad Batman villain. Before and after- as well as some parts in the middle, was this threat of an evil black mass that threatened the heroine and nearly destroyed the hero guarded. I get that it was the white dragon responsible but still I couldn't connect the dots fully. As such, while I liked the characters, the overall story was a fail for me. I just couldn't seem to get on board the train and as such, I was always playing catch up. 2 stars and I hope the others in the series are better.

Adriane Alexander says

good book.

Timmysparks says

I loved this book very much. It was even better than the first. I loved how the characters from Dragon Heat and this book meshed together to broaden the story. Malcolm was a truly interesting character. I loved how

his relationship with Saba grew and how he was able to understand that not everything has to be logical. I loved seeing how great the silver dragons power was and I loved how she helped Saba and Malcolm in their relationship. Saba was so strong and powerful and I loved how she can into her powers and learned to stand up for herself. Caleb never failed to crack me up as usual. Caleb and Lisa's children were the cutest little people ever! I wonder who the main characters are going to be in the third book. I really love this series.

Marta Cox says

I bought this book a couple of years ago and for some reason never read it, now I have rectified that mistake. I had forgotten just how much I love this authors world of dragon shifters and their struggles with love. This is the follow up to Dragon Heat where we first encountered the black dragon Malcolm and to be truthful he wasn't very nice. This time round we get to see a whole different side of him and whilst he's not the most romantic or even sympathetic character it's nice to see a kinder more human side to him. His relationship with human witch Saba is tested in this tale and they face danger together as they fight to save all Dragonkind from enslavement.

I love this author and recently have been reading her Shifters Unbound series written under the name Jennifer Ashley so it was fun to revisit her sexy dragons. If you enjoy really hot reads then try her Tales of the Shareen novels and she even does historical fiction so something for everyone.

Loved catching up with the dragons

5 star from me

MaggieReadsRom says

4.5 stars

The story of Malcolm and Saba started in Dragon Heat as a subplot but one with a real potential and this potential was certainly met beyond expectation in their own book.

I just love it when expectations created in a first book of a series are adequately met in the following installment and Allyson James did just that with this book.

In book 1 of the series we meet both Malcolm and Saba and you just feel the have a story between them that, if well-written, will have a great impact on you.

Despite the fact that there is a lot going on in the book like the introduction of a new "type" of dragon (the white dragon), murders, magic and a lot more it was never chaotic or hard to follow.

It was action-packed, magical, sensual with humans, witches, dragons, both good and evil. And next to a wonderful love story full of sensuality that survives time, space and species, you also receive a vast amount of knowledge on Japanese and Chinese traditions and culture, computer programming and database knowledge.

This combination of both mystical and mundane things at the same time was perfectly balanced which made it a pleasure to read and a real keeper for me.

Both Saba and Malcolm are complex and layered characters. The connection between them is very intense and strong and one they both can't escape as much as they try to.

Especially Malcolm who is an extremely powerful and intelligent dragon. So mathematical and dispassionate to the point he analyzes and calculates everything including his love for Saba, which is something that can't be analyzed. He is used to everyone obeying him without difficulty or questions and he is fascinated by Saba

who resists his mark and control.

Saba is a witch more powers than she would imagine and she is much stronger than she thinks. Her insecurity leads her to doubt herself and her love for Malcolm shows her that she is powerful in her own ways.

The secondary characters are a special and nice addition to Saba and Malcolm. There is a distinction between more and less important secondary characters. This distinction leads my speculations to new heights wondering which characters will have their own book in future installments of this series. I'm really hoping for a book for Axel, the intriguing, witty demon-god with a great sense of humor.

Of course Lisa and Caleb make an appearance and have an important role in the unraveling of some subplots. It was lovely to see how they were doing after their own book. The interactions between Malcolm and Caleb were as witty as in book 1. They are both territorial dragons and their bantering shows this in a real funny way. But still when necessary they will work together to save their loved ones.

Allyson James has a way with plots that are able to draw you into a world so life-like and realistic despite the magic and fantasy. Almost making me believe these worlds she creates are really out there somewhere.

The plot kept me glued to the pages. Fast-paced, fascinating and well written. Every turn in the plot stirring up more angles and questions leading up to a climax in which every piece of the puzzle falls into the right place. Entwining several subplots into one major plot with ease and simplicity.

Her writing style is a delight to read, making complicated and unfamiliar concepts clear and easy to take in. Her skills in world building are amazing were dragons and witches are concerned. With The Black Dragon she has layered and deepened the series and I'm eagerly anticipating the next installment in this enchanting dragon-series.

Allyson James is masterfully skilled in creating this world that takes you away for many enjoyable hours, regretting it when the book comes to an end because you want to stay in this magical and mystical world of witches, dragons, humans, gods, evil, sacrifice and love. All I can say is: sit back, relax and enjoy this magical ride to the fullest!

Amy Keeley says

The Black Dragon is the second in a series of books, and focuses on a black dragon named Malcom and a human witch named Saba. Malcolm's power has been fading and he thinks it might be tied to an attack by a white dragon on his former minion and sex partner, Saba.

I have to admit, I liked this story. There's a number of good things in this novel. The world-building is interesting. The setting is clear, both when the characters are in San Francisco and in Dragonwhatever (couldn't remember the name because I kept seeing "Dragonland" in my head...my own quirk from watching PBS one too many times with the kids when they were younger). The dragons are interesting, even though it feels influenced just a little by D&D when it comes to the gold, silver, and, especially, white dragons. Black dragons are the exception and I thought it was clever of Ms. James to make them the archivists. The fight scenes are well done. I didn't think there was anything egregiously silly in the plot itself (though the dragon's database came close) and all the events connect well with each other. There's even a couple of nice plot twists.

Malcolm works best when I stop picturing him as a human. His physical appearance (think extra-tall quarterback) and choice of clothes kept clashing with the dialogue. I couldn't put the dragon speaking with his human form. Once I started picturing an actual dragon talking the scenes worked much better. Except for

a few cases of pseudo-science (mostly involving probability), and some times when it wasn't clear if she wanted him to talk "normal" or like a more highly-evolved being, he was a pretty consistent and very interesting character. I especially loved it when he gave a detailed list of Saba's schedule based on things he found around her apartment. I thought it was a fantastic way of illustrating his intelligence and loved him for it, in spite of the stalkerish overtones at first.

Saba was all right. I liked seeing her grow in her powers, and I thought making her a database-chick worked well for the compatibility issues between her and Malcolm, but it was really hard to shake the feeling that she wasn't any different from all the other annoying heroines who would rather argue than use common sense. I think having them argue just because she didn't like him "taking over" (even though that kind of protection was exactly what she needed right then) felt too much like an attempt to make the heroine look "strong". It backfired and made it difficult for me to like her.

However, overall, the couple work well together and the ending was good. A little deus ex machina, but not too bad, especially given that I was aware of the rules and the pieces of the ending long before they came together.

As for steam, this book has plenty and the bedroom door is wide open, though the descriptions lean more toward old-school romance than erotica. This is not a "clean read".

Felicia (Ferishia) says

This is the second book in the Dragon series and it's about Malcolm, the Black Dragon. We met Malcolm in Dragon Heat. From the start, he seemed like an evil dragon, since he and Caleb were always fighting when they confronted each other. But then there was a event that changed both Caleb and Malcolm and they ended up fighting on the same side. Through out this, Saba, a powerful witch who Malcolm gave his dragonmark to, was compelled to help Malcolm.

In this story, Saba once again finds her self at the mercy of Malcolm. But this time it is different. She does not bear his dragonmark so he cannot compel her to do anything. This doesn't matter anyway, because she realized she fell in love with him despite his mark. Malcolm is still drawn to Saba and doesn't know or understand yet why. He knows he must protect her from the threat of the white dragon, who has arrived to wreck havoc and to gain control of Saba and Malcolm.

Malcolm is one of those characters that are stoic and calculating and doesn't have a clue to any emotional feelings until he meets Saba and finally understands what he's feeling. Poor Saba, who half the time wants and loves Malcolm so much, and the other half wants to strangle him. I've always liked Malcolm, even when he seemed like he was evil in Dragon Heat. I was really excited to learn that this was his story. It's also great that Caleb and Lisa appear as well as a couple of new characters. I thought it was great story with lots of action, a little humor and hot smexytimes. I was not disappointed.

Elizabeth says

Book 2 helps us to find closure to a "side" love story between Malcolm, a healing and bookish Black Dragon and Saba, a half Japanese witch who is just coming into her powers. We also see the continuing love of

Caleb and Lisa come to fruition and we meet some really great supes, who help Saba and Caleb protect the book of names from the dragon archives (if you know a Dragon's name you can control it).

Kathy Martin says

This urban fantasy set in San Francisco is populated with dragons, witches, imps and other magical creatures. This is the second book for the two main characters. Saba is a human witch and Malcolm is a black dragon. They had a relationship that began when he enslaved her to his will but she was never a very good slave. He returned to dragonspace and left her heartbroken but determined to become a stronger witch.

Luckily, she is stronger than when Malcolm first met her because she is attacked on the subway by a white dragon who is determined to enslave her. She could fight off the magical bonds but needed to use the dragon crystals Malcolm left with her to ward off the physical attack. The crystals summoned Malcolm from dragonspace.

Together the two need to find and defeat the white dragon before he manages to gain control over all the dragons. The book includes a magical archive, guarded by Malcolm, that holds over six trillion books. The white dragon has stolen one of the books which includes the true names of all the dragons. The one with the true name is able to control the dragon. The archive is also organized with a sort of magical database which was compromised when the book was stolen. Luckily, Saba's day job is as a programmer.

This book was fun. I liked the romance which was hampered by the fact that the principals were from very different cultures. I am also a big fan of dragons and think Malcolm was an excellent example of the type.

I recommend this book for urban fantasy fans.

Cindyg says

Just as I expected...this book was even better than the first. Malcolm is a hottie and I got to really like him as the story evolved. Wow who would have thought dragons could be so hot, fierce yes, but hunk o lious not. But our Malcolm is definitely an awesome character. Saba was incredible as well. Loads of action and hot hot passion. I also love it when the characters carry over from the previous stories and they do just that here. And babies are the icing on the cake. Good job Allyson. Recommend this read.

Minna says

Meeeeeeeeeeeh. it was OK, I GUESS. Nothing to write home about. I don't think I'll bother to track down #3, since this one (#2) was very repetitively modeled on #1. Each person/dragon/etc is more attractive and impressively be-powered than the next. The only character I liked was the one that was neither human nor dragon, and I liked him enough that this book, possibly undeservedly, is getting two stars instead of one. Also, if I read "[fill in the blank], my witch," one more time I swear I'll barf.

Note: this is one of the WORST covers I have ever seen. I kept putting my fingers over the "hero's" hair, trying to envision if he might possibly be attractive with a haircut, but I don't even know. [[This is possibly JUST ME here, but the only long haired guy I can get behind (or in front of, or {you pick the preposition}) is

Thor. MMMMMMM Thor.]]]
