



A Darkside Interlude

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Commander Iskar Gar-Kurai isn't impressed by humans or their backwater planet. If he had his way, he'd be working closer to home, on a planet where it wasn't so infernally *hot*...

But orders are orders, especially when they come from the very top.

If he's going to be on Earth for the long term, Iskar needs to learn more about its strange inhabitants. That's why he's reluctantly agreed to hit the streets of Darkside. It's an *observational* visit, nothing more.

So why has this blue-haired temptress targeted *him* of all people, and what is he going to do about it?

Criminals must be punished, and Iskar has always done things by the book.

***A Darkside Interlude* is a novella set after the Dark Planet Warriors series. It can be read as a standalone, but it'll probably make more sense if you read the original series first.**

A Darkside Interlude Details

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Author : Anna Carven

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From Reader Review A Darkside Interlude for online ebook

Space Cowgirl says

Iskar of Kythia? Loves Maribel of ?Earth

Vicious, Possessive, Tender, and Beautiful!

If you love huge, relentless, silver haired and fanged Alpha Kordolians???, you will love this latest book? about the Warrior Men Who Came To ?Earth!

Even though the Kordolian??? warriors have been on ?earth, specifically, Australia, for a while, not many humans have seen them.

Iskar??? and Torin??? go into the city in disguise from the Kordolian base to see the sights. Iskar??? is the High Commander of the Kordolian??? soldiers.

While mingling with the huge crowds that go out at ?night in the desert city of Teluria, a beautiful young woman?? attempts to pick Iskar's pocket. Iskar??? stops her easily. Then, when she creates a scene by screaming, she gets the item and runs. It's a medal Iskar's father was awarded after his death, and he will get the keepsake back!

The chase is on through the city into the dusty streets of the slums. Maribel?? doesn't realize Iskar????? will find her by her scent, and he can run much faster than her! He will get what he wants?! Kordolians????? are relentless!

YEHAW! Ride em Bareback?, Cowgirl!?????

Great start to Anna's new Kordolian Mercenary series!

Edit

Delete

Sonja says

I LOVE Tarak and quite enjoyed the *Dark Warriors* series, so I was looking forward to this spin off. Even if Tarak was just a background character. Our great General is basically going to rule from the behind the scenes. This novella was a decent bridge between the two to set this series up.

Iskar isn't First Division, but he's fierce enough anyway. Tarak has appointed him in charge of the Earth base and he's going to do his job. It was interesting to learn his back story and find out how much he had changed over time. He is less than thrilled to be on Earth, but during an observational trip out to see the humans on New Year's eve, his life is about to change.

Mari has grown up on the streets of Darkside and because she isn't a citizen, she has to survive by less than legal means. But she does what she has to do in order to keep protecting her brother until she is finally able

to get him out of that place. She is a thief by trade and thinks she's a damn good one. Until she marks Iskar as her target and it's one of the biggest mistakes of her life.

When Mari steals a very important pendant from him, Iskar chases her down with all the ease and determination of any Kordolian. That night turns out to be one of the most terrifying and exciting of Mari's life. And neither expect to see the other again. But when Iskar can't stop thinking about her, he realizes that she's his mate. Unfortunately, she's been sold as a sex slave and now it's up to him to find her and take her back. It's a rescue that Mari desperately wishes for even though she knows it's silly to hope for an alien stranger to save her.

I liked how this whole story went down. The only thing that bugged me was the fact that Mari agreed to be Iskar's mate after knowing he existed for less than 24 hours. Of which they probably only interacted for a handful of them. It was just too unbelievably fast for Mari to be saying yes to. Although, who's to say what I would do.

I just love the Kordolian attitude of how beneath them humans are and how they act in whatever way they please. These males are just so friggin hot and I can't wait to get more of them.

Chelsea says

This one was interesting as a set up for a second series based on the Dark Planet Warriors books. DPW are some of my favorite sci-fi/romance books because I love the characters and the world building. This book had an interesting storyline, but felt pretty formulaic for a romance novel. I wish there had been more romantic tension and development between the characters, it was a little difficult for me to feel for these characters anything like I felt for the original Kordolians. I have to mention, the biggest eye-roll moment for me was when the H/h have sex for the first time. Both of these characters are virgins and what should have been a sweet, nervous, possibly fumbling experience just played out like pornstar shower sex. I'm hoping the next one has some more feeling and emotional growth in it.

Nike says

Darkside is the first book of the Darkstar Mercenaries from Anna Carven. This series is a spin off from our beloved DPW, yes it is a new series but some of the characters from DPW, like our great General and others will make an appearance, and even if it is brief they might spoil the enjoyment of the first couple of books if you have not read it.

Regardless it will not take anything for this series.

Darkside was first described on DPW #4.5 (Zyara and Kianan story) which gives you an idea of the syndicate and Darkside politics.

As for this book, I loved Iskar, he is everything that a Kordolian mercenary should be (without being first division), and I understand that this is more of an introduction to the new series, but I wish that Ms. Carven would have spent more time developing the love story between Iskar and Mari, it was practically non-existing, in my opinion. They barely knew each other, there was only one conversation/encounter between them before the mating. I'm all for instant love but this was ridiculous.

Mary Lee says

Short and sweet

It was short and sweet. I actually thought it was too insta-love on the females part. I get the mating heat of the Kordolian males, but for her to be ready to commit to him after a very brief meeting was just too over the top fast. I am usually ok with the instant attraction and even some feelings and I get it even better when some metaphysical hoodoo kicks in, but this was none of that. I just felt it should have been a little more developed.

🤓 Books, chocolate and wine says

Great Quick Read!!!

I absolutely love the Dark Planet series, so I was really excited to see a spinoff series. The same action, romance and sexy silver skinned Kordolians are included. But we get to see a side of Earth that was never revealed in the previous stories. Darkside is the seedy underbelly of Earth where all the criminals and those struggling to survive call home. The Heroine, Mari lives in Darkside and uses her exceptional skills as a thief to survive. Unfortunately her next easy target turns out to be Kordolian Commander Isktar.

AvidReader says

It's always a pleasure to read a good novella. Looking forward for more novellas from this series.

Sometime says

Meh. Too short to really develop the characters and their romance. I skim read quite a bit so that is why I gave it only 2 stars. If you like the series, you'll probably like this.

Ariel Marie says

Interlude

Good read. Read it straight through. Another good edition to this world. Loved how Mari was a their and is paired with the commander!

Jonella Moore says

Loved this Cinderella motif sci-fi romance!

This is the first book in a spin-off of the Kordolian stories, taking place on Earth. The Commander of Security troops on Earth goes out for New Years Eve to observe humans celebrating and a pickpocket tried to steal a valuable medal from him. He gives chase to this beautiful girl with blue hair and when he catches up to her he's kind of smitten. She lives in the poorest slum with her younger brother and stealing is how she pays her inherited debts to a monster called The Collector. Her brother escapes and goes in search of the Commander, who goes in to rescue her from a man The Collector sold her to. Lots of action and romance. I look forward to next book!

Julia says

Skimmed most of it. Thought the heroine was annoying.

Celestine says

Anna Carven's novella transition from the Dark Planet Warriors series to the Darkstar Mercenaries series is excellent. In 159 pages she introduces new main characters, a new mission / direction for the Kordolian aliens residing on Earth, some excellent fight scenes, and that now-trademark intimidation and stoicism that marks the scariest warrior predators in the galaxy. Toss in a little mating fever, and the situation is purely combustible.

This "interlude" introduces Iskar, the new director of security for Darkstar Mercenaries. He is different from the other Kordolians we have met because he is not First Division, and not invincible through the nanites that repair his cells. But he is still formidable, and Carven unleashes that attitude in all its glory.

"It was important for him to develop a good understanding of these humans and their culture. All the better to intimidate them with."

"Iskar didn't believe in granting second chances. He didn't believe in blurring the lines. He did things by the book, and sometimes, he wrote the book."

Well, Iskar breaks all of his own rules for pickpocket Mari, who is an undocumented person living in Darkside. Despite her desperate circumstances, she has her own honor code and a reason for thieving to survive. This time, she just picked the wrong - or should that be "right?" - mark. This is the story of their adventure, and it was delightfully satisfying from beginning to end.

I rarely give novellas this short such high praise, but this was such an effective transition, and so contained that I thought it hit all the right notes.

Book source: Kindle Unlimited

Kelly says

While I freely admit to being smitten with these Kordolian warriors, I'm BEYOND THRILLED to see how Tarak is using his "retirement" as he sets up the Darkstar Mercenaries and gives his men a new place to put

their soldiering ways to the test. I love seeing the after in a happily ever after and Tarak might no longer be the cruel blade of the Empire, but he's not simply closing up shop and spending his days dottering around the homestead. But then, I never really expected he'd be the type to do that, so this makes sense.

But enough about Tarak. This is Iskar and Mari's story. Their first meeting doesn't go as Mari expects and suddenly she's got the eyes of a Kordolian commander on her. For a thief who needs to fly under the radar to do her thing effectively (and by that, I mean she needs to not catch the attention of anyone in authority. Her MO itself is to draw all sorts of attention to herself when she's picking her mark and luring them in with her drop-dead beauty.) this is a little problematic.

Until it's not.

Let's face it, having a Kordolian with possessive instincts and the ability to level ones enemies on your side is excellent when things go south.

And things do go south. Not that Mari can't take care of herself, but it's nice to have backup, right?

I'm looking forward to seeing where this new direction takes our surly heroes and the ladies who fall for them. There are A LOT of unmated Kordolians out there, so there's plenty of opportunity for craziness on every level.

-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

Aerie W. says

Amazing

Anna Carven has made it to my autobuy list. Absolutely love all of her books and now the interlude shorts that she had been releasing. This interlude has a fully developed albeit short story, developed characters that I connected to, and whets my appetite for more more more on the Darkstar Mercenaries! I look forward to seeing Mari and Iskar again as the series comes out.

phoebess says

It was a nice bridge between two series, or I should rather say a teaser about the upcoming series... Although I didn't enjoy it as much as I did the previous books (the sad fact is, sometimes the story and the writing can be good but if the main characters don't suit you, nothing can be done to make you love it), I can't wait to see what the new series brings.
