



Lord of the White Hell, Book 1

Ginn Hale

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Kiram Kir-Zaki may be considered a mechanist prodigy among his own people, but when he becomes the first Haldiim ever admitted to the prestigious Sagrada Academy, he is thrown into a world where power, superstition and swordplay outweigh even the most scholarly of achievements.

But when the intimidation from his Cadeleonian classmates turns bloody, Kiram unexpectedly finds himself befriended by Javier Tornesal, the leader of a group of cardsharps, duelists and lotharios who call themselves Hellions.

However Javier is a dangerous friend to have. Wielder of the White Hell and sole heir of a dukedom, he is surrounded by rumors of forbidden seductions, murder and damnation. His enemies are many and any one of his secrets could not only end his life but Kiram's as well.

Lord of the White Hell, Book 1 Details

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Author : Ginn Hale

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From Reader Review Lord of the White Hell, Book 1 for online ebook

Sala Bim says

1.5 stars. This one started out great for me and I enjoyed it UNTIL the scene in the brothel. POSSIBLE SPOILER: I keep seeing this happening in so many gay romance stories (and I always hate it) where a character has sex with a woman just to prove something, but this one was so disgusting to me, doing it in front of your partner and then being like "What did I do wrong? Why are you mad?... You'll beg me before I come back to you". I was so turned off by all this that the enjoyment I had had thus far completely vanished. I wish I had stopped before that chapter. I KNOW that there were other ways for the author to cause a rift in the relationship or some tension other than the whorehouse. It just....ugh! I was thinking we were going to find out that Javier never had sex with the whores; that maybe he just went into another room or paid them without having sex or something. Anything for him to still remain decent or likable...or different. In what romance is this a good character trait? It was such a tired move. It's unexpected and repulsive and unimaginative. Think of something else that could at least maintain a level of sympathy for the characters. Otherwise it's not consistent with the character building. I tried to read the second book just because I hoped & prayed that maybe it was a dream or an illusion or some other explanation (I know I was pretty desperate there) but I was disappointed. It had lost its luster. Kiram started out as this amazing young dreamer, talented and strong and ambitious, then suddenly he became this weak, pathetic, horrific stereotype whose sole purpose for living was just to suck Javier off and worship him. This is romance? I had thought the author was a better writer than that. I was told this was a different type of story. I think maybe I will just take a break from reading gay literature for a while, maybe until we get a new crop of writers for this genre.

Shin Mon Thway says

Wow! Ginn Hale can surely write her fantasies. The world and the character building of this novel is quite exceptional. ? I freaking loved it. ❤? This reminds me quite a lot of C.S Pacat's Captive Prince trilogy. Don't get me wrong, they are totally different books but somehow, it gives you that feeling of mysterious, you-don't-know-what's-going-to-happen, kept-you-on-the-edge-all-the-time vibe. This is not a fluffy, cheesy read with a lot of smut. The book is fairly long for MM romance (though this is more of a fantasy genre .. ?) with 368 pages. And also, it's a 2 books series so if you can't commit to it, just skip it. However, if you love thriller MM romance laced with epic fantasy theme and a beautiful world building, you are going to love the hell out of this book. ?

Kiram is a Haldimm and a genius mechanical engineer. Haldimm is a minority group in the kingdom of Cadelon, where the majority of the people are Cadeleonian who frown upon not only the lifestyle and the ways of Haldimm but also their religion. He's the first ever Haldimm to be accepted to the prestigious Sagrada Academy and He's very looking forward to his adventures. However, on his first day, he was thrown into the same room to live with Javier who not only is the duke of Rauma but also is believed to be damned and the possessor of the white hell by Cadeleoniens. Having to share the room with Javier during his stay in Sagrada Academy is proving to be difficult not because the guy is believed to be the lord of white hell but because he is proving to be arrogant, proud and terribly sarcastic. ? At the same time, Kiram wants Javier and he wants him bad. ? But the penalty of men loving men outside of Haldimm district is death.

Javier Tornesal has been alone for a very long time. Parents passed away by the damned cursed that's haunting upon all of Tornesal bloodline. Everyone is afraid of him and loathed him and regarded him as a damnation. At the same time, they can't touch him since he's the duke of Rauma and the cousin of the crown prince. And that Haldimm who happens to be his underclassman and the roommate intrigued him. That brat Kiram not only isn't afraid of him, he downright ignored him and refused to talk with him for weeks. However, Javier isn't without charms himself. ? He can be pretty persuasive and seductive when he truly wants something or someone.

As the relationship between Kiram and Javier blossomed from friendship into something more, they will have to face the ultimate issue of so many differences between them. Can Javier give up his dukedom and everything for being together with Kiram? Kiram surely can't be and won't be the secret lover of the duke of Rauma. ? That's not the way of Haldimm. He can be himself at home, courting other young guys or be courted by other eligible bachelors and have a very merry life with a man who'd devote everything to him. He does love Javier but he won't be satisfied with trysts here and there being in the dark forever. Not only that, they learned that the curse that's haunting Javier's family is not really a curse. It is actually done by someone very vindictive and greedy who lusts after the dukedom of Rauma. So many issues, so many differences and so many bridges to overcome. ? Will these two star-crossed lovers be able to overcome everything and prove "love conquers everything in the end"? ?

The relationship between Javier and Kiram is really delicate and tenuous. ? Both of them admitted that they were instantly attracted to each other but UST between them was really high. There was no actual physical relationship between them until two third of the book. However when it comes to that, it was glorious! ?? It was not like those titillating, obscene kind of smut. It was a gentle, seductive and beautifully-written love making. ?? There were a lot of relationships dynamics in the novel. Many side characters, the students of Agrada Academy, Kiram's best friend and his relationship, Javier and his Hellion friends, even the relationship between riders and horses. ? The whole novel was masterfully written and the storyline and the plot were very well-constructed. ? And talk about a damn cliffhanger! ? The ending of this book was the mother of cliffhangers! ? I think I'm going to die with frustration if the second book of the series isn't already out and I have to wait like one year for it. Thank God that I already have second book ready and waiting on my kindle. ? This was a phenomenal book and worth every second reading and reveling it. ?

Favorite excerpts from the novel: ?♥??

"A soul could not be given up any more than joy or kindness could be bottled and sold at market. Only in death could the soul leave the flesh."

"To fear what you do not understand is to mistake ignorance for safety."

"I want to be with you. But then you know that. Does it please you to know how much I want you?"
Blatant hunger edged Javier's voice. "That I lie awake, staring at your sleeping body, thinking of how close you are and how easily I could reach you? How easily I could tear off those flimsy white clothes you wear and have you? Some nights I hardly sleep at all."

“It’s the way things will always be, because you’re a Cadeleonian and a nobleman. You’ll never be able to dance with me or share a house with me or call me your lover.”

5 it was onehelluva magical, epic, finger-licking delicious and glorious stars

???????????

Katie(babs) says

There aren't many books I consider to be epic masterpieces. When an author writes a book that will be labeled as such, and knowing that have achieved a deep emotional response from a reader, that is where they deserve a major pat on the back. This is where a reader will finish reading the last page and finally release a deep breath they have been holding inside because they have been on the edge of their seat the entire time. And, they will most likely go back and re-read it all over again.

An author who has written such a book has truly accomplished something incredible.

That book is Lord of the White Hell: Book One by Ginn Hale.

Ginn has written a story of wonderment that has amazing world building and not to be forgotten characters. Lord of the White Hell will astound you. This is an adult read with a gay romance, but also has a feel of a fantasy young adult book. The main protagonist is seventeen-year-old Kiram, who is given the chance of a lifetime in attending the very affluent Cadeleonian Academy. Kiram is not a Cadeleonian, but is Haldim. Because Kiram is from a different race, he's looked down upon and is a victim of bigotry. Kiram is a very skilled as a machinist and his father is a well known candy maker. Kiram knows he won't fit in, but will try his best to excel, seeing as no full-blooded Haldim has ever been accepted into the school.

Kiram ends up being roommates with Javier Tornesal, duke of Rauma, who will be his mentor of sorts. Javier is well respected, admired and equally feared not only because of his station in life but because he has a deadly curse living inside of him. This curse is known as the white hell and through punishment by the hands of the school priest and deep physical and mental spiritual mediation, Javier can keep it under control.

Kiram doesn't believe all this hell nonsense because his religious beliefs are very different from the Caledonians. His is intrigued by Javier, more than he would like to admit. Javier is very handsome and gives off this vibe of entitlement and power. When the two men are first introduced, Javier does his best to seduce Kiram. Even though some of the students do have affairs at the school, it isn't acknowledged, but kept as a dirty secret. Kiram comes from a culture where men can be together out in the open, so this is a culture shock. He refuses to be one of Javier's playthings and used in such a demoralizing way.

Javier keeps his distance, but is always watching Kiram as they both maneuver around the school. Kiram is the subject of some scorn from his students and a few teachers, but he finds acceptance with Javier's simple cousin Fedele and Nestor, who is very friendly and looks up to him. Kiram and Javier eventually become close, where Javier takes on the role as Kiram's protector and guide. And because Kiram's feelings for Javier have grown, he welcomes any interaction and attention Javier throws his way.

Soon Kiram joins Javier's cliché, known as the Hellions, who pal around together and end up at the local brothels. Kiram doesn't like this side of the Hellions and of Javier, who always goes along with them. He is very confused because Javier looks upon him with great desire and seems to be very jealous, especially when Kiram mentions an old lover back at home. No one else seems to be aware of the attraction these two have for each other and they can barely keep it in check.

Then Kiram's uncle comes for a visit during an annual tournament and brings warnings. He wants Kiram to leave the school and come back home for his protection. Kiram refuses because he wants to remain with Javier. After some investigation, they figure out that Javier's curse is not what it seems and perhaps someone wants to kill Javier and gain a great reward.

It's so hard to explain why Lord of the White Hell is a remarkable book. Compelling, well written, romantic and thrilling are just a few words to describe this latest by Ginn Hale. There is great balance in regards to the world Ginn has created, mainly with the relationship between Kiram and Javier. Their romance is written in such a way that those who may not be comfortable with a male/male attraction will not mind in the least. Ginn has a wonderful way of building up a connection between these two and you can't help but want them to be together.

The magical side of things is a downplayed and I really was expecting Javier's release of the white hell everyone keeps mentioning. I assume this will come more into play in the sequel. The ending will have you anxious for the next book, which is played very well on Ginn's part.

There is so much more to recommend about Lord of the White Hell. Magical and remarkable is what Ginn Hale has accomplished here.

Em says

From the first page I was totally absorbed with this book and couldn't put it down. I really could have done with another few hundred pages or so as I didn't want it to end and had to slow down to delay the inevitable.

I loved the developing, intense relationship between Kiram and Javier and also thought there was a good balance between the characters and the world building, which was new and exciting.

Well done Ginn Hale and thanks for such a great read !!!

Kassa says

Book one of Ginn Hale's new fantasy novel is a classic epic fantasy story. Here the thick, intricate world building is infused in every page, every detail of the story so that the writing and pace can sometimes be dense, but fantasy fans will be thrilled with the total immersion in a fabulous, exciting, and innovative new world. The characters and story come to life with an interesting and pretty complicated plot filled with

intrigue, drama, mystery, and a touch of hopeful romance. This is the type of story that fans will appreciate and dive into while reveling in the constant world building. The hanging ending especially will keep readers on edge wanting to continue the series. This is easily one of the best books you'll read this year.

The fantasy story follows the third person perspective of Kiram, a 17 y/o Haldiim mechanist going to a Cadeleonian Academy. Although he's an outsider, he makes a few friends and is accepted into a popular group due to his upperclassman roommate, Javier. Javier's family is under a curse that drives those afflicted mad. Kiram's natural curiosity and sympathy have him wanting to help find a cure but the complicated political and cultural boundaries between his own Haldiim culture and the Cadeleonians may make his quest impossible. Not to mention the growing friendship and romance between Kiram and Javier may be acceptable among the Haldiim but Cadeleonians will not accept any such relationship. Kiram is caught between impossible forces on both sides, not quite sure who to trust.

The writing is incredibly good, as to be expected of Hale. Those familiar with other works by the author will recognize her style of lyrical writing and flair for prose. The world building is incredibly complex and almost overwhelms the story. On the one hand, this is clearly the point. The story and level of detail are meant to immerse the reader totally into the fantasy world. Every action, thought, dialogue is steeped in the new and interesting realm created. This gives a very traditional fantasy setting that fans of the genre will adore. This also tends to keep the pace slower with a somewhat dense amount of information constantly unveiled. I didn't mind the slower pace, often re-reading passages and going back to confirm details. I didn't find the writing or story hard to read at all, just very involved and complex. There is a small appendix with names and definitions but most of these can be easily gleaned within the context of the story itself.

While the world building and its creation may be the real star, the plot stands well with a lot of great drama and intrigue. Kiram is the fulcrum of all the various subplots as they all relate in some way to him and his journey. His friendship with schoolmates Nestor and Javier's cousin Fedele are wonderful insights into the growing camaraderie between boys away at school, while his budding romance with Javier shows the complexity of young love. The mystery portion relies on Kiram's search for a cure to the curse affecting Javier's family and especially Fedele while Kiram navigates the social, political, and cultural differences between the Haldiims and Cadeleonians. His search feels authentic, honest, and steeped in the new reality. There are no surprise revelations, no sudden clues, but a methodical, almost tediously slow foundation built step by step. This keeps the mystery interesting while still always keeping the reader aware that Kiram is a stranger and outsider with unpopular customs and beliefs.

The characters are fully developed and each offers something to the story. Javier and Kiram are the main characters obviously but their understated romance is very secondary to the action and mystery. The story is careful to follow Kiram's journey through school with all the unpopular subjects such as sword play, while pitting him against Javier's subtle seduction. Kiram really shines as a young man mature beyond his years, eloquent, intelligent, and very knowledgeable about his cultural past and responsibilities. He feels a lot of self applied pressure to represent his people well in a climate he perceives as hostile and rigid. The comparison of his beliefs to the Cadeleonians is not always positive and there is definitely some narrator influence as Kiram obviously prefers and believes in his versions of truth and the past, but his ability to be open minded creates a wonderfully rich and interesting young man. Just as the complexity afforded Javier shows a complicated personality beyond the easy appearance and one that fascinates in every scene.

From the very beginning, you're thrown into the fantasy world and this never lets up. Immediately immersed into a complicated story and world so there is little to do but enjoy the ride. There is a large hanging ending, which I usually hate, but done so well here that it works. Readers will want to get book two, but there is a nice pause between the two books with a well chosen break point. I personally can't wait for book two and

the complete story is likely one to be unique, memorable, and compelling for fantasy fans. Those readers unfamiliar with such dense world building may be lost initially but the threads start to come together pretty quickly so stay with it, the story is absolutely worth the effort. This is a story you'll want to read again and again.

Sheziss says

Thank you, Secret Santa!!! *happy dance*

Optimist ?King's Wench? & MANTIES Champion says

4.5 Hearts

Mesmerizing

This was my first Ginn Hale and what a way to get introduced to an author!

If you're a fan of high fantasy and haven't yet got around to reading this, it is a must read. *Lord of the White Hell* has sensational world building that's an enticing blend of uniquely modern and historical, layered characters, a beguiling central relationship with a multidimensional plot too!

Typically YA is hit or miss for me due to unnecessary dramatics and teen angst, but there was none of that here. The growing pains herein struck a chord. Broader in scope than your average teen romance with a Harry Potter vibe and a timeless romance *Lord of the White Hell* tackles some divisive issues with aplomb and yet remains entertaining rather than preachy. The hurdles Javier and Kiram face are challenging regardless of age but become even moreso when compounded with struggling to find one's identity.

Javier is that strange brew of revered and feared as the keeper of the white hell. He's sort of the defacto leader of the Hellions, the cool kids club at Sagrada, mostly owing to his being a duke but also due to his prowess in the war arts which are of preeminent importance to Cadeleonians. Being the only remaining Tornesal imbues him with a presence and wisdom that belie his age, but it is a heavy cross for one so young to bear and those brief cracks in his facade broke my heart.

Kiram is Haldiim, the first Haldiim ever admitted to the prestigious Sagrada Academy. He's also a bit of child prodigy mechanist and an intellectual. Determined to prove himself to the Cadeleonians as capable while making the most of his time away from home, he is shrewd, resilient and an egalitarian. He's incredibly close to his family, whom he keeps in regular contact with via letters, and that endeared him to me. Assigned as Javier's Underclassman and roommate the attraction between them is instantaneous but in Cadeleonian society homosexuality is verboten. Thus begins the building of tension and the longing. I ❤?

the longing books soooo much!

Kiram is the sole narrator and I always find myself impressed when I feel like I know all the characters without the benefit of being inside their heads. Not only do I feel like that about Javier but Fedeles, Nestor and Elezar. So many of the secondary characters are fleshed out and add to the allure of this narrative.

Their lively banter and sharp wits kept me engaged and wanting more. Javier's arrogant and puckish nature pits well against Kiram's more reserved and contemplative one. They are both kind and generous of spirit, possesses a startling amount of self-assurance for teens and are stubborn, so they are well matched in temperament.

His body ached just thinking of the mistakes that he longed to make.

Their desire for each other becomes increasingly ardent as they grow closer, spending more time together training Kiram for the autumn tournament, horseback riding and learning the war arts, something that isn't part of Haldiim curriculum or culture for that matter. So prepare yourself for a slow burn with furtive moments touching, epic tension, desperate kisses and few sexy times.

Lord of the White Hell is splendidly crafted and perfectly balanced between character/relationship development and plot; numerous threads are interwoven to keep the pace steady. A myriad of details bring this world to life from their daily routines to customs and traditions, especially the glorious bells. I loved the bells.

Part 1 ends on a funky and conflictual note, though, so having the second book on hand would be advisable. I've already begun the second because I had to know all the things and I sort of wish I could reserve rating this one until I've finished that one but *shrugs*

Highly recommend to high fantasy and YA/NA fans.

A review copy was provided.

Al *the semi serial series skipper* says

Few pages into this book and I knew it was going to be good. The writing/story just flows so well, I couldn't stop reading. I had never even heard of this author , she writes so beautifully. I can't wait to start the second book especially after that ending.

Josh says

I particularly like the blend of mystery, romance, and fantasy here. I think Hale does some of the best world building I've come across -- in this case a combination of Middle Eastern and Castilian -- and so much of it lies in the small details. And yet for all the complex world-building, the focus of the story remains intimate and vividly personal (which is sometimes a complaint of mine in fantasy -- too often the story goes so big scale it's off the page). Really well done. I finished it and was instantly ready to dive into Book 2.

Sabrina The Trash Queen says

“Kiram couldn’t help but think that the older man had taken a quick dislike to him. Probably because he was supposed to be a gifted thinker and he’d just fallen out of a carriage onto his face.”

Why haven't I read or heard about this book before???? IS SO GOOD.

The story is very different and somewhat unique.

The writing is so good and funny, the description is amazing.

The friendships are so CUTE!!!! ?

The romance reminds me a bit of Baz and Simon from Carry On, because they are roommates and there's one character that everyone thinks is bad and the other doesn't think that but at the same time very different AND I LOVE IT.

The characters are so badass and strong but at the same time so fragile, funny and interesting.

Which characters are amazing in their own way. ABSOLUTELY LOVE IT.

The book itself is FANTASTIC!

??

AND WHAT THAT HELL WAS THAT ENDING?????? LIKE WHAT? That's not how you end a book!!!!!! ??

SueM says

Perhaps a little slow to start but a very good to excellent fantasy-M/M romance novel. The plot and characters are slowly uncovered piece by piece, keeping the reader enthralled while simultaneously creating a story thick with tension. So many bits of knowledge discovered ended up being something entirely different from what one first thought, creating conspiracy on conspiracies. A truly intriguing story - but with

one problem I really should mention - it ends almost in a cliffhanger, as the reader is totally aware that the story is nowhere near finished. Normally I would detract from the rating for such an ending, but as I know the sequel is readily available, I'll let it slide just this once!

Kaje Harper says

This is a beautifully crafted fantasy. Books 1 and 2 are really the two halves of one story - you can't read just one. The world-building is seamless, the action is riveting and unpredictable, and the romance develops slowly with appropriate ups and downs that fit the young characters and the forces arrayed against them. This is appropriate for older YA too - there is one episode of more explicit sex in the second book but it was not erotic, and most of the sex is off-page or lightly described. A lovely pair of books, with a HEA at the end. I didn't think these were as stunning as *Wicked Gentlemen* for pure originality and complexity of character, but they are sweeter, more romantic and less dark. Highly recommended.

Sarah says

Beautifully written, Ginn Hales' novel *Lord of the White Hell* was difficult to put down. There was almost a bitter sweetnes in finishing that last page and knowing I'm going to have to be less of an impatient pants, that I normally am, in the wait for the next book.

The scene is deftly set by the author. The world building around this renaissance fantasy is rich with crisp, clear detailing. As a new student at the Sagrada Academy, Kiram initially struggles to find his way through the upper crust of Cadeleon society, especially as he is Haldiim. He finds it hard to fit in with the social mores, so very different from his own less ridged culture, but begins to make friends with some help from Javier an upperclassman and heir to the Dukedom of Rauma. Kiram begins to feel a burgeoning attraction towards his arrogant roommate and while homosexuality is an accepted part of Haldiim culture it is expressly forbidden in Cadeleon. Underlying this more human drama is the story of Javier and a strange and terrifying magical inheritance that threatens not only himself, but also his friends and Kiram.

Rich world building and storytelling is only part of this novels charm. I initially felt that the relationship between the two main characters would unfold down fairly standard lines, exploring familiar tropes. But the author did anything but, and the relationship between Kiram and Javier develops with surprising twists, turns and had great depth to it. The tension between the two is beautifully created and they're two characters you'll find yourself totally wrapped up in. Brilliant.

This book felt so wonderfully original, engaging and clever, I just loved it. I cannot wait for the next installment in this remarkable tale and an not really sure I can wait for September!

You can pre order both books at the Blind Eye Books website and if you get in before June 15th there are some great discounts.

5 Star Plus Read.

[http://sharrow.wordpress.com/2010/04/...](http://sharrow.wordpress.com/2010/04/)

First read April 11th 2010.

Re read March 2015.

Vivian says

In thrall again.

Oh man, this is good, and fun, and got enough sanctioned violence to be so satisfying. Between the friendships, the curse, the power struggles, and the societal boundaries being trampled this has enough going on to keep interest. Basically, I highlighted stuff while reading, but couldn't be bothered to come here and update--no time. Later, chickadillas.

"He'll make a better impression without a hell-branded duke flustering his little flock of hens."

Overall, a high fantasy page turner that's sucked me right into book #2.

NOTE: This is definitely part one of a two part book, so stopping after one isn't possible.

Gene Hult says

My quest to find quality gay fantasy novels leads me to suffer through a lot of small-publisher dreck, rife with awkward, overwritten prose, cliched characters, terrible covers, amateurish typesetting, and many, many typos. While Lord of the White Hell has terrible cover art and its share of typos, it's actually quite well-written, with a strong novelistic voice, complicated, interesting characterizations, and a strong sense of setting and sensual detail.

The book follows the basic trope of the fantasy academy, except with college-age students who are fully sexualized. The story is set in the POV of a 17-year-old mechanical genius named Kiram, who is attending an elite military academy in a country called Caledonia, which has religious, political, and ethnic tensions with his home country of Haldiim. So you get the general fish-out-of-water tale, with the added bonus that Kiram is gay, which is accepted in Haldiim but greatly frowned upon in Caledonia.

Anyway, Kiram is set up in a room with the hottie upperclassman Javier, who is Caledonian and a Duke, but also ostracized because everyone is scared of him, since he apparently has a "white hell" inside him, which gives him some very simple powers. Kiram thinks this is superstition, but he's still wildly attracted to Javier, and it's pretty obvious from the start that the feeling is mutual. Their personalities don't mesh easily, but they do become friends . . . and more . . . as they struggle together to figure out who is casting a curse that's killing off Javier's family.

This is barely a fantasy novel, beyond the semi-medieval setting and Javier's seldom-used powers. It's much more of a romance, even falling into that genre with some purplish emotions, although I welcomed a gay romance with a semi-fantasy setting while still feeling disappointed that it was more romance than fantasy. The challenging characterizations carry the story relatively well, keeping interest up even when the plot digresses and loses earlier, potentially fascinating threads.

Finally, the story feels incomplete, without a full arc and climax -- there's already a sequel available, and I'll bet that one feels more like a Part II than a true second book.

