



Tears of the Neko

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A younger brother buys his brother, the Duke and heir to the throne, a surprising gift for his brother's birthday--a young, very skittish neko slave. But ,Damien has no use for a personal slave. But a bet with his two younger brothers has Damien keeping the boy at his side as a matter of pride. When attempts on his life begin, Damien discovers just how protective the cat-like human can be.

This is the story of a young neko who wasn't given the choice to become a slave. Having been captured by hunters who killed his parents and sell slaves illegally to the mines, Kayden grew up with the hunters torturing him into submission, until they finally sold him six years later to a slave market. It is here where the young neko is bought on a whim by a peer of the realm as a birthday gift--and his life begins to change.

This book contains m/m relationships and sex between men. There is also a scene of non-consent [rape]. Please do not read if any of these situations offend you.

Tears of the Neko Details

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Author : Taylor Ryan

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From Reader Review Tears of the Neko for online ebook

Lyn says

OMG! This book!!

This book was hurt/comfort at its best. It made me feel all gooey inside. There were dark and angsty scenes, but the comfort outweighed the hurt.

In this story, slavery is an option and not forced. Slavery gives those who can't take care of themselves the choice to be taken care of by a master. Forced slavery is outlawed. Unfortunately, there are those operating outside of the law.

Kayden is a neko who was illegally taken at the age of twelve and forced into a life of slavery. He is tormented and abused. His growth is stunted leaving him at only 5 feet tall, and he is left scarred.

Kayden is gifted to Damien a Duke in line to be the next King as a joke. That joke develops into a tender and loving relationship between a master and his little neko slave.

Katerina says

That was so good. So loving. So sweet.

For those readers who had their pleasure with *"The Violet and the Tom"* The Violet and the Tom and for all those who love and adore cats.

It is so beautiful written and I'm head over heels in love with Kayden ... this skittish little catboy ;)

It was funny, it was sad ... Roman is a terrible villain and Damian is simply divine. But the main role in this play takes Kayden ...

."Bullshit, Roman," his brother spit. "He's just scared at the moment. And he's my gift to Damien. I'll not let you destroy him before I give him to Damien. If Damien doesn't want him after that, then we'll see."
The tall noble glared down at the neko, whose ears drooped back. The thin creature slowly slinked toward Roman's feet submissively, while Arnett kept a tight hold of his leash. The neko rose slowly into a low crouch

before leaning in.

Roman eyed the feline warily and was shocked when tiny hands grabbed his arm and a moist tongue slid over the scratches. He jumped back, shoving the boy away from him.

"What the fuck?!" Roman sputtered, wiping furiously at his arm as the boy stumbled then fell to his knees, dropping his head to the ground. "How dare you touch me without permission?!"

Arnett started laughing, and Harrison held back a chuckle behind his hand.

"Sorry, my lord," Jacob apologized, sobering quickly in the face of the marquis's wrath. "It's just their way of cleaning. He's basically saying he's sorry and trying to help you with the wound."

Roman scowled.

A really great book that puts a smile on your face and lifts the spirits.

Let's go to the next part!

Alex ☆ Comets and Comments ☆ says

"That was the best part of the day--waking up with his boy in his arms."

This was a cute and pure read. If I reviewed it at the time I finished, I probably would give it 3 stars - however, if it weren't for the notes on kindle, this was a unmemorable. Unfortunately, I only got into it after about the 60% mark and wish it was beautiful all the way through. Fans of MM romance and Captive Prince would enjoy this read... (i hope)

Reflection says

I have had a bit of a reading slump, and this put a smile back on my face.

Kayden is a young neko (cat and human hybrid) illegally hunted and placed into slavery. After enduring five years of emotional and physical abuse he is traded by his captors to a slave auctioneer.

Bought on a whim, as a birthday present for the Duke and heir to the throne Damien, Kayden's life begins to change.

Damien agrees to a bet that he will keep the exceptionally skittish and mostly mute slave as his companion for a month.

The two men bring out the best in each other. Meanwhile a dastardly plan is underway to take the throne, and Damien's life is under threat. Kayden and Damien must negotiate the dangers and ensure each other's safety.

I had some quibbles (view spoiler) but book two Blood of the Neko already awaits, and perhaps it will have the outcome I am hoping for.

All in all this is a rather sweet romance with one quite explicit scene of non-consensual sex which if I am

honest seemed gratuitous to the overall plot.

Damien and Kayden are an unlikely pairing and it was fun to watch their romance blossom as Kayden's confidence is slowly restored.

David Jones says

Simply Outstanding!

A very good book. Great characters, with a very good story line, with a very interesting twist on the institution of slavery. I've already purchased the next two books, and if you're reading this review, I highly recommend that you quickly buy all three! Excellent work, Taylor Ryan!!

JenMcJ says

This one got a lot better after the first 20 pages or so. I really had to push myself and I almost DNF'd this because the beginning writing is awkward, stilted and the author spends way too much time trying to make the idea of slavery palatable with little actual downside. For the vast majority we're lead to believe slaves are more like voluntary indentured servants on yearly contracts to benevolent masters that see their humanity and appreciate their work at least until they might be deemed unusable. Fortunately, she calmed down with the awkward name thing and the explanations and got down to the story.

Neko was cute but I saw him as so much of a cat and a child that I had a hard time with the sexualized relationship between him and Damian. Neko was constantly referred to as a boy or in some feline way, so it was hard to get past the visual of that even though they made sure he was barely 18, probably.

The bad guy was one dimensional, incompetent and clear from the beginning (intentionally) so there wasn't any real suspense there.

All in all, a good story but it glossed over a lot of the societal problems created with slavery and the damage to Neko psychologically. Damian could see the issues, but they are not addressed or really changed except to possibly make things worse for the older, less able slaves. Additionally, Neko wasn't "cured" over night, but it's still a "love and understanding" cures all book.

ERIN smith says

So good

I was surprised by how much I really liked this book. I can't wait to read the next one in the series.

Karla says

4.5 kitten stars!

Tears Of The Neko is the story of Kayden, he was capture by hunters and made into a neko salve. As a joke he ends up being gifted to the the duke and heir to the throne, Damien. Of course the future king doesn't quiet know what to do with the skittish cat like human.

All the feels for this book! So sweet and heartbreaking at the same time, especially for Kayden. His past was Brutal. The slow burn relationship between Damien and Kayden was so good. Watching them both be leery of each other, but slowly become tender and sweet with each touch and kiss. Damien was so caring and patient with his kitten and once he realized what Kayden went through he became so protective of him.

Kayden was **adorable I wanted to cuddle him!** Loved how he slowly came out of his shell and with the love of not just Damien but the whole household who loved him too. Of course things are not easy for these two lovers with someone trying to kill Damien. But this unknown enemy didn't count on a fierce neko who would do anything to protect his master.

I'm looking forward to reading the other two books in this series and seeing more of Damien and his kitten.♥?

"Muchas gracias mi querida lyn for this rec! This one hit the spot." ?

?❁❖👉 Sammy ?❁❖? says

4.75 Stars!

DarienMoya says

This was ok-ish like I don't hate it but I'm not exactly over the moon about it.

First, they took too long to kill off the villain. I was annoyed by him from a few pages in. It was clearly established that he was the bad guy so the rape scene felt unnecessary and just too much (hated it).

Still will check the sequel out though.

Seriously, it took damn long to get rid of that asshole called Roman ???

Susan says

Re-read May 2018

Still as good as the first time I read it.

Original review:

4.5 stars

Well, this was hurt/comfort heaven! So much to love in this book. Thank you, Lyn, for recommending this to me!

Damien is the new heir to the throne, since his uncle, the king, didn't have any children. He is only 25, but Damien seems to have forgotten how to be young and carefree, weighed down under his new responsibilities.

And that's why his younger brother, Harrison, thinks it is a good idea to gift him with a slave. Slavery is voluntary in this world. And that's why lots of poor people choose slavery, so they have a master to take care of them while they do their duties and try to be a good slave.

So when Harrison sees the little hybrid at the slave market, he thinks he is there voluntarily, despite him being in a cage. The little neko with the cat ears and the tail seems the perfect companion for his serious brother.

When Damien sees the gift his brother got him, he has no idea what to do with the little neko. Kayden looks small, underfed, and is so skittish he jumps at every sound.

But when Damien gets to know the little hybrid a bit more, he finds out exactly why Kayden is so skittish. And that brings out Damien's protective instincts like nothing else...

This was just wonderful. Kayden was so sweet, and so hurt. He really needed Damien's patience and his gentle touch. And Damien was perfect. He knew exactly how to coax Kayden out of his shell.

This book felt like a warm hug with lots of comfort to balance out Kayden's hurt. And there is hurt. So if you're squeamish about these things, be warned. (view spoiler)

I do have to admit there were a few spellings errors and some words missing. Also the years Kayden was with the hunters changed. First he was 12 when he was caught and spent 5 years there, then it was 6 years. It is implied Kayden is now 18.

But this did not take away from my enjoyment at all. I just loved this book.

Elena says

What a wonderful read!!!

Damien and Kayden are great together!

Kayden is a young neko slave whom nobody wants to purchase. He's small, scared and mute. On the verge of being put down by the slave trader... :(

Luckily, Kayden is bought by a young Count as a prank gift for his brother's birthday. Damien, the Grand Duke, doesn't want a slave but reluctantly agrees to keep Kayden for a month - as a bet against his brothers, Harrison and Roman.

At the beginning Kayden is extremely skittish and withdrawn - Damien is big, loud, intimidating... But the truth is Damien is just very busy, overwhelmed by responsibilities (he's to be the king) and unacustomed to anybody's presence in his everyday life.

Soon, however, Damien warms to Kayden. He sees the neko's hidden, playful nature. He discovers Kayden's sad story. Coaxes Kayden to speak. And he himself begins to open up, let some joy and laughter into his organised and strict life.

The book is delightful! Kayden's sweet and loving nature, Damien's transition to a man who can laugh and be happy, the array of wonderful secondary characters: Harrison and Penelope, Ellis, Ysmeria and even Garin - I loved it all!

Of course, there is also a villain and he is awful! And there's this terrible scene when... (view spoiler)
And then later... (view spoiler)

A highly-recommended, 5-star read!

Carol Pedroso says

First let me say I love this story. It was the first one by this author that I read and I have now read all of her work.

The characters are wonderful.

From the beginning you will fall in love with Kayden. With everything he has been through before the story starts, and everything he goes through during, you can't help but want to gather him up and protect him from the big bad world around him.

Damien is lovely, but, he is so buried in his work that he doesn't even really take notice of Kayden at first. There are points when I wanted to reach into the book and smack him round the back of the head.

Harrison is the typical little brother, however, I do think he sees more than others give him credit for.

And of course lastly you have Roman...well let's just say he would be better minus certain parts of his anatomy and leave it at that, shall we??? I'll let you come to your own conclusion about him when you read the story.

My favorite bit had to be Kayden playing with shaving cream, I could almost imagine it in my mind. I

laughed so hard.

Overall a great story full of ups and downs.

n2reading says

Kayden was so sweet and it was so easy to imagine his character with his cat-like habits as well as how scared he was. I wasn't sure about Harrison for a while, and Roman is a horrible brother and person in general. Damien grew on me as well, at first he seemed rather dispassionate but he and kayden melted my heart.

Paul says

4 STARS This was a bit slow and quite dark but made for an unusual but interesting story
