



Cornering Carmen

S.E. Smith

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Carmen Walker has spent the last three years of her life focusing on avenging the murder of her husband. Following leads to the man responsible, she finally has a chance to bring closure to the overwhelming pain and grief that is slowly eating away at her. Catching a ride on the business jet her sister is co-piloting, she heads to California to meet with her informant. Plans change when one of the women on board is kidnapped when they land and Carmen is mortally wounded. She wakes to find herself on board an alien warship heading to a distant world.

Creon Reykill's skills as a warrior are legendary among the Valdier. He is credited with ending the wars between the Valdier and the Cruizan and Sarafin worlds and building a strong alliance with their former enemies. But, that victory came at a cost. Creon has given up hope of ever finding his true mate, believing his soul is too dark to ever be gifted with one.

That all changes when a small, delicate female unlike anything he has ever seen before is brought to his world. The moment he sees her, he knows she belongs to him. His dragon will do anything to claim her, his symbiot will do anything to protect her, and he would do anything to chase the shadows from her eyes. For he knows he has found the light to his darkness.

Now, the challenge will be to corner her long enough for her to realize he is the only one in the universe who can heal her shattered heart. She will fight him at every turn to return home to finish what she has started. He will do everything in his power to keep her by his side. It will take every skill he possesses to stay one step ahead of her.

Can he convince her to give love a second chance before she risks everything - including her life - for revenge?

Cornering Carmen Details

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From Reader Review Cornering Carmen for online ebook

Rosebud says

love the series. I think I waited to read this book/character so bad that when it didn't live up to my expectations I felt let down. Disappointing.

Pros of this book: emotional, roller coaster of a journey, kick ass H/h, author gets deeper into the psychological mind set of the characters than previous, finally find out about the last of the circle of friends who started out in this series.

Cons of this book: really no meaningful plot, many unresolved issues, bad guy was almost a non factor in the story, not enough action/adventure for me when I compare it to the previous books of the series

Gmc says

Cornering Carmen Dragon Lords of Valdier Book 5 by S. E. Smith

Carmen Walker has a hole in her heart big enough to throw a spaceship threw, since the murder of her husband three years ago and she has spent those years recklessly tiring to get herself killed and this time she nearly makes it.

Creon Reykill his dragon will do anything to claim her, his symbiot will do anything to protect her, and he would do anything to chase the shadows from her eyes. All he has to do is corner her long enough to change her mind.

Jennifer Robinson says

Magical, that is the word that comes to mind when I think of this story. I love Creon! He has had such a hard life I am thankful Carmen was chosen as his mate. They are perfect together. I cried more during this book then all the rest of them, poor Carmen. She has survived so much, she deserves to be happy. I especially loved Vox, can't wait to read his full story, Riley sound fun, lol. I loved seeing The birth of the twins, I wish we could have seen the birth of the other babies as well, but at least we got to witness one birth! I can't wait for all the kids to grow up and give their parents the hell hey deserve, lol.

Pete says

Cornering Carmen is book **5** in the **Dragon Lords of Valdier** series, by **S. E. Smith** . Wow! What a start!! I almost didn't want to finish. True love to true disaster. How was Carmen going to recover from that?

Each book starts with a review of the Dragon Lords focus and the fact that dragons need mates! The theme is interesting but fraught with some misogyny type atmosphere where the male gender is always superior and can inflict the mate status without real equality.

This story had an interesting POV, Ferris Wheel style, with lots of migration of opinions. Creon and Carmen had mountains to overcome with a generous amount of steam to ease the distractions. Overall, it was a good read and I finally enjoyed the story.

Heather says

Surviving the death of a loved one is incredible difficult to say the least. Carmen is but a shell of herself for the past 3 years after losing her husband Scott. So when she finds herself aboard an Alien ship all she wants is to get back to Earth for her revenge. Then she can join Scott on the other side.

Well that is until a certain Valdier dragon Prince discovers this fierce, wild, highly skilled beautifully dangerous woman is his true mate. Now he must convince her that life is worth living and she must go on and join him as his true mate or not only her life will be lost.

Love lost, love found, revenge and a lot of mating (eventually) as well as some other plot twists and previous characters as well as some new.

Celibel Shadowsong says

Carmen is a soul driven by revenge. She's looking for the man responsible for the death of her husband and unborn baby, and that's the only thing that can give her peace.

Creon has a dark soul forged by war and betrayal, but when he sees that little woman from another world, he discovers that she is the light in his darkness.

I was anxious to read the story of Carmen and Creon and I was not disappointed. I loved it, it was a book that moved me.

I want more dragons. ;)

Tiffany says

I was a little disappointed after reading Tracking Trisha-Trisha and Kelan didn't have that spark that makes me love certain characters. Corning Carmen has redeemed the series for me. Carmen was sad, depressed, consumed with getting revenge. She was hostile, unhappy, defensive until Creon came along. I would say Creon's mother Morian helped them get together though. She told Creon to look beyond Carmen's rough exterior and try to ease the pain and sadness she hides behind. Once he really saw Carmen, it was all over. They became inseparable, they were made for each other. Loved the epilogue, Creon's reaction, typical male but cute. After Morian has helped her sons find love, she needs her own HEA. Paul's Pursuit is next!

Coyora Dokusho says

Last book, I was getting to this one and thinking freedom FREEDOOOOOMMMMMMM!!!! But noooooo, I had to start jumping to the rest of the series as well. Liked Carmen.

I was going to do this detailed instruction manual of what incredibly complicated order to read the books in, but life is too short! Basically, I read books 2-5 at the same time, skipping between them at points of intersection of the books! Because! Spoilers! Ye flippin' gods the spoilers between books. And it irritated me. I had to keep going to the next book (books 6 to... 9?) because the previous book was spoiling. I skipped the sex scenes. I started reading the series because my Amazon kept suggesting I should read the Dragonling's Christmas and such. I wanted the adorableness!!! And they were adorable... But thank gods I'm out of that interminable morass of nonsense!! Ah, plenty of continuity errors, mostly timeline.

Karen says

This was one of my favorite books, Carmen was so broken as a person, loss was all she had on her life. Now this new man who has suffered loneliness and war after war in his few hundred years of life finds his true mate in her.

He is a black dragon, cunning and dangerous, the same as Carmen she is very dangerous. The two find love and new life with each other but will it be enough in the end? Carmen still mourns for her first love and the baby she lost even though she has found a new love and is pregnant again. Depression has set in and Creon knows he cannot let her out of his site for fear of her self destruction and depression.

A great love story and very exciting 'undercover' revenge on those who have caused war for the Valdier and for those who caused pain for Carmen, The ending is spectacular left me wanting more....

CANNOT WAIT FOR BOOK SIX.

Charlene says

S.E. Smith skillfully weaves the same time line through her "Dragon Lords" series. The books share some scenes presented in the main characters' POV all the while telling the story of the growing relationship of each couple and their separate dangerous encounter with a common enemy. The books can be read independently, and there's no irritating repetition of information.

Carmen seems to be living on borrowed time. Her husband, Scott, was murdered by the leader of a drug cartel while they were on a bodyguard assignment in Mexico three years ago; Carmen was gravely injured in the same event. Her sister (Ariel) believes that sorrow, depression, and the need for revenge lead Carmen into taking dangerous risks. One of those risky incidents occurs when a friend (who fell in love with an alien -Book 1) is attacked, and Carmen suffers life-threatening wounds leading to the group of women being taken to Valdier.

Creon fights demons of his own. The Reykill royal family battles Creon's uncle (Ruffvin), who killed his father and is trying to wrest the kingdom from the family. A lover's betrayal leads to the capture of his friend, Ha'ven. After discovering the spy, Creon interrogates her for information to rescue Ha'ven and kills her, but not before Ha'ven is tortured. Creon suffers massive guilt for Ha'ven's suffering and the death of his lover at his hands, but great joy enters his life with Carmen's arrival. She is his true mate-an extremely rare being. He faces the doubly difficult task of acclimating his true mate to life in an alien culture and helping her to heal from her loss while convincing her to risk her heart again.

Intensely emotional, this book reveals information about Carmen and Creon readers don't know leading to tears on my part. Yet, the powerful novel still delivers on the continuing battle building up to Ruffvin's defeat completed in the sixth and final book containing Morian's and Paul's story (the Lords' mother and Trisha's father). Even the S.E. Smith signature humor appears in an irreverent battle scene introducing Riley St. Claire.

The imminently satisfying novel led me to quickly purchase and read the final book in the series, Paul's Pursuit which fortunately doesn't really end my love affair with her books. I also bought and read Choosing Riley, the hilarious (and connected) first of the "Sarafin Warriors" series. I now have to impatiently wait for more!

Kirsty Bassett says

spoilers ahead

63% through this and its such a dissapointment. I dont even want to finish it but I want to see if it gets better.

I think its because the Carmen we see in the first 4 books seems completely different to the carmen in this book.

Revised review after finishing it:

Even the scene where carmen fibally kills javier cannot make up for how bad this book was. Its so annoying, its just arghhhh.

My main gripes, by this point its book five, the whole dragon fire without them knowing whats going to happen is real old.

Also the fact that they do not mention anything about protection, and are happy to get pregnant aftet knowing the guy for about five minutes. Also that they all get pregnant so quick!

But my main issues with this book, I would rather have read about Carmen and scotts relationship than Carmen and Creons. They just didnt fit, and while Carmen was Scotts partner and equal, she didnt seem to be Creons.

Also, she was made out to be so deadly and kick ass, turns out the guards were only going to medical to amuse her/not hurt her feelings. Whatttt?!

Oh and she doesnt really help Creon in his war effort thingy, she just wanders around in the background.

Also, she was supposed to love Scott so much three years later she was still suicidal and in love with him, barely any time with Creon and shes willing to commit to him?! And forgetting scott?!

Just such a dissapointment.

April says

Carmen's story is the last for the five girls taken in the first book. She has had the most to overcome from her past. She may be the toughest of the girls, but she is the most fragile inside. The perfect mate for her is the youngest of the brothers, Creon, who is also the darkest of the warriors. They heal each other and understand in ways no other could.

I love how each book has a slight rewind to events in the first book. Personally, it helps me recall where we are in the series and what lead to that point. It is also interesting to get in the heads of each girl and get her thoughts on the events. I love how as we get into each book, you see relationships happened much sooner than they appeared to the other people. The scene where they find out about changing into dragons has been a pivotal point in each of the books. You finally get to see what they all knew at this point and where exactly they were in the relationships. Things are not as they seemed the first time I read that scene from Abby's POV.

I love the mixed POV and how you get into so many people's heads! There is much to learn from this style of writing. Some of the transitions are choppy, snippets of one person jumping back to the main POV, this takes me out of the story sometimes. It is always clear who we are hearing the POV from, just not the smoothest of switches.

These books are very steamy with plenty of details to tantalize! Expect some hawt mating action and then at least one scene of smexy stuff while in dragon form. The steam suits the reads and gives the reader that sexy fix they are needing!

David Brenin is a scrumptious delight for my ears!! He has this delicious rumble in his voice when he does the warriors!! Knee melting, swooning and oh so hawt!! This is why he is in my favorite's column and I am always eagerly awaiting his next smexy read! He has a smooth pace that flows with the energy of the read. I just cannot get enough!

I adore this series, it has such creativity and the characters are immensely entertaining. Expect this book to continue the motion of the other stories adding onto the connecting threads. We get to see some new supporting characters, Valdier Warriors who will find other human mates, a Serafin cat shifter who ends up with a very sassy mate, and oh the hints about a certain mom of dragons and wilderness dad!! Not only does this book take us deeper on our current journey, I now have several side series books added to my TBR list!! I am so happy to have found this author and that she is on the audio train!!

Jonel Boyko says

Smith has created a fun, action packed, sizzling SciFi romance that packs one heck of a powerful message. The vivid, action packed tale took me completely out of this world. The fast pace of the story kept me on my toes while the romance builds from the ashes of where both of these characters have been. This story definitely had me crying happy tears at the end.

Seeing Carmen's past shredded me. I enjoyed seeing Carmen's views on her actions and reactions. It gave insight into her psyche. I love how Creon loves and cherishes the contradictions that are the essence of who Carmen is. His first reaction to Carmen was hilarious and served to highlight the differences between the two

cultures that we get up close and personal with here. Creon's dragon is also absolutely priceless. It might just be my favourite yet.

His was yet another fantastic escape into the world of the Dragon Lords of Valdier. I loved every moment of it and I definitely can't wait to see what happens with Mel.

Zuzu Lu says

It took me a few minutes to get into this book. I think it just took some adjusting to the narration, then something just clicked and I ended up enjoying it.

Dragon shifter story was great. Loved how fiesty Carmen was and her ass kickin skills. The inner dragon dialogue kind of reminded me of Simi from Sherrilyn Kenyon 'Dark Hunter' series, which I adore! Just saying 'balls' randomly tends to make me giggle idiotically, dragonball's, even better. David Brenin the narrator did an awesome job. Definitely checking out the rest of the series on audible. They are free to listen to under the Romance package/ audible.

Tam B. says

SE Smith has definitely hit her stride. This is the fifth book in the Dragon Lords of Valdier series and this title had it all.

You get to enjoy the journey of Carmen and Creon each from their respective "dark places" to where they are not just lovers but a mated couple in every sense of the word. I really liked Creon. I think his character has been the most developed of the brothers. I really liked that he asked his mother for advice and his brothers. I also enjoyed the humourous touches where the brothers learn about human females and their 'no win' questions of "does my butt look big in this?". Carmen was also the most detailed character of the women so far. That is perhaps a product her having to come from a grief/revenge state of mind and fight her way to happiness.

In addition to this couple, which is great story on it's own, you get to meet Riley and Vox. This couple is the beginning of a new series and I really can't wait for that one. We also have several new couples being established and I assume that their stories will follow at some point.

Overall, this was great book and a great rounding out of the sisters' stories. I'm looking forward to the next in the series.
