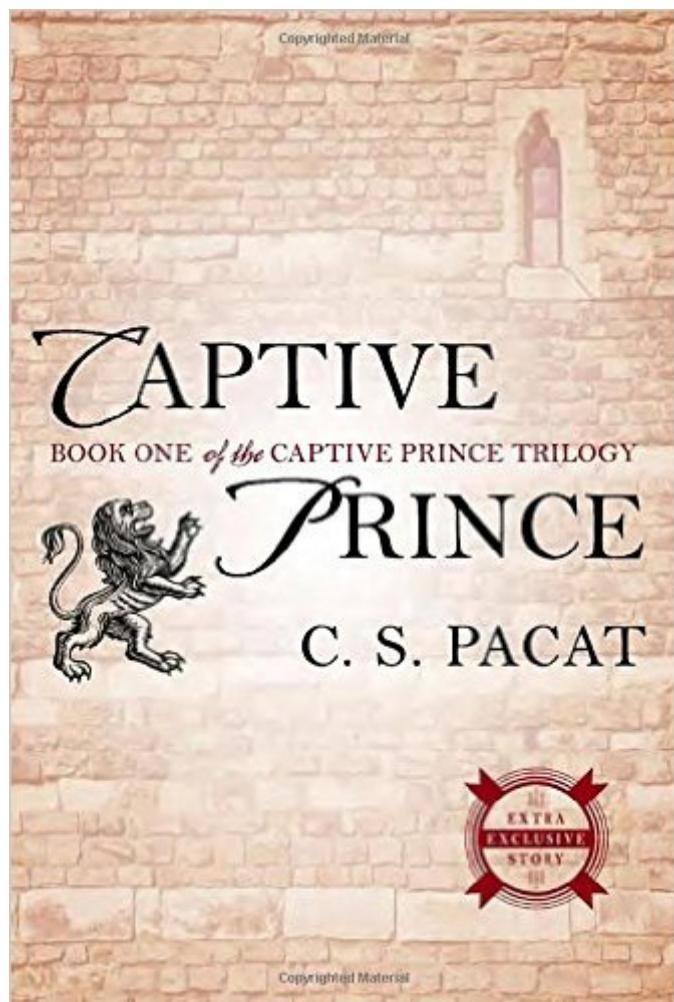


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Captive Prince: Book One Of The Captive Prince Trilogy



Synopsis

From global phenomenon C. S. Pacat comes the first in her critically acclaimed trilogy "with a bonus story. Damen is a warrior hero to his people, and the rightful heir to the throne of Akielos. But when his half brother seizes power, Damen is captured, stripped of his identity, and sent to serve the prince of an enemy nation as a pleasure slave. Beautiful, manipulative, and deadly, his new master, Prince Laurent, epitomizes the worst of the court at Vere. But in the lethal political web of the Veretian court, nothing is as it seems, and when Damen finds himself caught up in a play for the throne, he must work together with Laurent to survive and save his country. For Damen, there is just one rule: never, ever reveal his true identity. Because the one man Damen needs is the one man who has more reason to hate him than anyone else." Includes an exclusive extra story!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read the free, online version of Captive Prince last year. I adored it. It was, hands down, one of the top ten books I read last year. The writing is divine - especially as the book progresses - and the story! Oh, it is marvelous, addictive, the kind of book that will knock you out and then suck you under and then - beware the cliffhangers! - leave you desperate for more. Sometimes, after a spate of books that are good but not quite good enough, I'll start wondering if I've lost the ability to be transported by a story. I'll think it's my fault. And then something like Captive Prince will come along and set the world right again. Captive Prince is, indeed, the story of a captive prince: Damen. He's a Prince Charming type. Noble, goodhearted, gifted in manly pursuits like swordplay and military

strategy. He's heir to the throne of Akeilos but, on the heels of his father's death, his bastard half-brother seizes the throne and sells Damen across the seas as a slave. Damen ends up at the court of the Rabatian Prince, Laurent. Laurent is everything that Damen is not. He's devious, intellectual, distrustful, capricious, sly. At first he seems spoiled, petulant, and vicious - not just at first, really. But while Damen is an open book, Laurent is a maze, hard to know, hard to understand, hard to love (though eventually all three are inevitable). Laurent is not a kind master to Damen; and, in fact, the early chapters are exquisite precisely because Damen and Laurent hate one another so much. But there's an openness and guilelessness about Damen that's deeply endearing, and his slavery forces him through a kind of culture clash. Damen pays attention. He listens.

I highly recommend reading both volumes of the "Captive Prince" - and wait anxiously for the third to be published in 2014 (per the author's blog). Fortunately, the end of Volume 2 is a great transition point even while setting some deep barbs to keep you checking back for Volume 3. I found that I reread both Volumes right after finishing Volume 2 for the first time and enjoyed the reread at least as much as the first pass because I was able to enjoy how the story unfolds from an entirely different perspective. I found the author's use of language pleasantly and uniquely different than the usual highly edited fodder from the big publishing houses. I hope Volume 3 is not radically different! As noted elsewhere the character's are enjoyably developed. Based on 20+ years in the military, I think the author shows an excellent understanding of prototype military command styles, how they are developed, how each binds their subordinate fighting forces together and to their will in the face of horror and death, and how successful senior commanders arrange layers of plans, operations, and resources across both time and space while hedging for uncertainty. Like this story perhaps, my own experiences have shown me the common and very similar human side of men who were once my enemies in battle. In truth, brotherhood comes in many forms. There is certainly more than one "Captive Prince" in this tale, each struggling for freedom... and coming to a new understanding regarding the complexity of just what "freedom" implies. For me the books were an easy, straight forward, enjoyable read without being simplistic or obvious. Unlike the "Game of Thrones," there are no jarring transitions across an inflated, gratuitous storyline.

A friend recommended Captive Prince Vol. 1-2. I'm so glad she did or I would have missed these books altogether. The subject matter of a prince being sold into slavery to an enemy kingdom so he cannot take the throne is a definite plus for me. But even for those not into captive/slave fiction, this book still offers good solid writing and amazing characterizations that play out slow reveals of

character secrets and vulnerabilities that make it a page turner. When I read, I want good characters and solid character building. The author does such a good job in that arena, while also building the tension and chemistry between two main characters who have every right to want to kill each other, but instead slowly come to admire and respect each other's respective strengths. Though the characters are very opposite in some ways, they are alike in more. Both are princes who were groomed to rule. Both have had to face duplicitousness and deception and betrayal within their own ranks. Now one is the "owner" of the other. The awkwardness and humiliation of that is later overshadowed by a growing dependency they develop for each other, including carefully and artfully set up scenarios where they must save each other's lives to survive. Though born enemies, each needs the other to attain his goal, one to ascend the throne alive, the other to escape back to his home kingdom. The set up is compelling to say the least, and ingenius. Seemingly invulnerable characters slowly show vulnerabilities but without ever breaking character. The build up of their relationship is slow and steady. There is no sex between them in the first novel but unlike another reviewer stated, it is not a disappointment because we know there are 2 more books (the third coming soon, I hope).

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