



YGG

MAGAZINE

ISSUE 1 JULY 2013

Reviews-
FANTASTICA
BIG DEAL

Backstory-
STARFIGHTER WEBCOMIC
IKOKU IROKOI ROMANTAN

COVER STORY-



Welcome to
HALLIWELL HOTEL

OTOME'S WAY INTERACTIVE MANGA

LGBT Erotic Bookfair

Writers Romance & Rainbows

Writers & Publishers tables, sales and autographs
Panels and workshops for readers and writers
Male Book Cover Model Contest
Formal Dress Dance!

**Bent
CON**

2013

Los Angeles
November 8-10
bent-con.org

The Magazine for Yaoi a GoGo

Editrix-in Chief
DL Warner

Editrix
Marie Lecrivan

Graphic Design
Jon Cunningham

Proofreader
Stephen Hoffman, Jr.

Contributors
Sarah Curtis
Manda-kun

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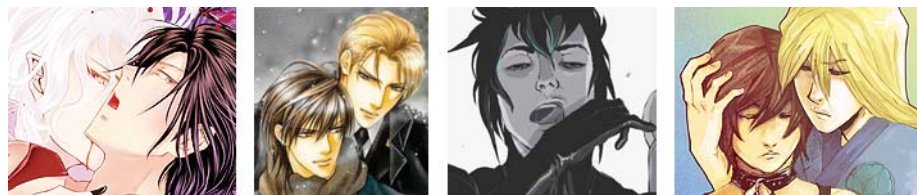
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Contact YGG:
Letters to the editrix
sybpress.com/ygg
sybpress@gmail.com

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In This Issue —

2. Cover Story — Otome's Way

Otome's Way Interactive Yaoi Manga project goes live! But how is it different from other localized manga?

6. Backstory — Starfighter/Ikoku Irokoï Romantan

Who are these characters? What is this anime or manga? Is it yaoi? Backstory gives a synopsis of favorite yaoi anime or manga titles and those titles that fans want to be yaoi.

10. YGG Talks — Jamie McGonnigal

Interviews with the people behind yaoi manga and anime.

12. Artist's Alley — Nevi Star

Bringing the best in fan and professional art from around the internet.

14. Fiction — Enthralled

A new short story featuring Darius and Andreas from *Ensnared*.

21. Panel Topics — Noncon

A place for thoughtful opinions on issues that concern the yaoi community. These are often the same subjects for convention panels.

25. Reviews — *Fantastical Big Deal*

In depth reviews of the newest and classic manga and anime titles.

Otome's Way

There has been a great deal of curiosity about Yaoi Publisher Otome's Way (<http://otomesway.com>) and the purported game changing difference it will bring to ebooks. Recently, the people behind the company kindly agreed to an interview on how it will all work.

YGG: How is Otome's Way different from companies like Digital Manga and SuBLime?

Otome's Way is similar to other BL/Yaoi online publishers with a few key differences. Instead of translating already published manga and marketing it overseas like the previously mentioned companies, we're starting fresh with new faces, new talent, and new stories. Rather than trying to get our hands on what's already popular, we're helping unpublished artists get their creations out to the whole BL-loving world with bilingual, online releases.

In addition, we've got some fundamental differences in the digital releases themselves. Instead of just offering simple images and stories, we've also got interactive animation, audio, and color embedded in some of our manga files to make reading itself an all-encompassing experience. We figure that if we've got all this great technology at our fingertips, why not use it to make digital manga live up to its cutting-edge name?

YGG: How many titles per year will you be offering?

We have plans to release at least one new title every month, with potential for a greater amount as we gain more popularity and resources. To start with, we're featuring some works from each of our new artists every month. Our goal is between 12-15 titles per year at least.

YGG: Will readers be able to download these titles or will they be able to read them only from the website?

Both! Using our partner site, Tigris+Reader, users can access and read our titles online from their PC or smartphone. Some titles are also available for download, depending on the wishes of the artist and whether they want to allow downloads. Those are coded as EPUB files and can be read with iBooks or other comic reader apps.

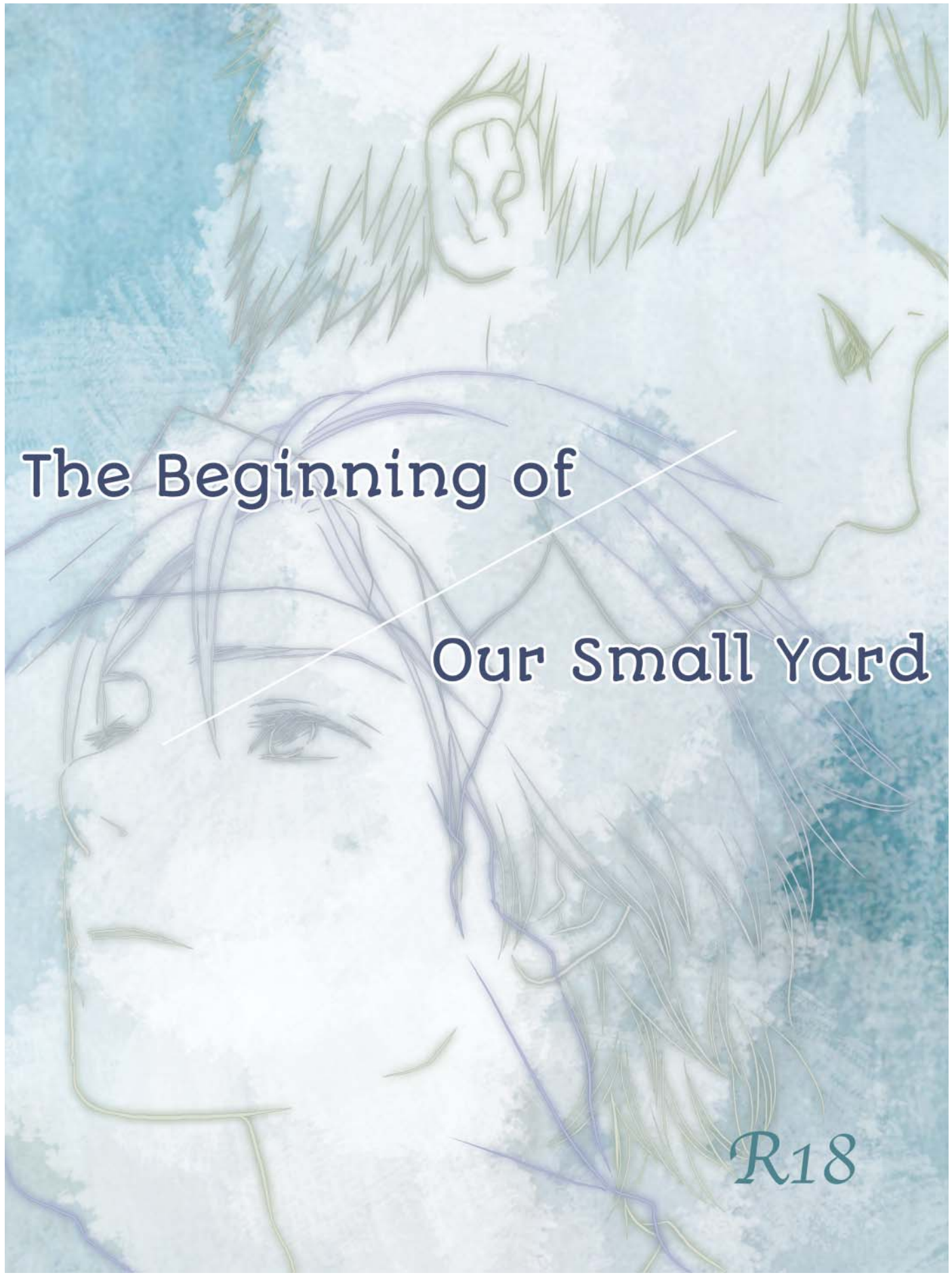
YGG: How did you get the idea to have audio and visual elements to

your manga?

We saw how so few online manga sites took advantage of the whole fact that their manga isn't printed on paper. It seemed a shame that such interactive potential was going to waste with simple digital copies of manga, so we decided to make some of the manga titles that we had to offer extra special. Not all of our titles include these special effects, but we intend to continue to release more of these truly digital creations in the future. We hope that the readers will enjoy a chance to have a unique manga-reading experience, too.

YGG: Will you make appearances in North America or Europe at conventions?

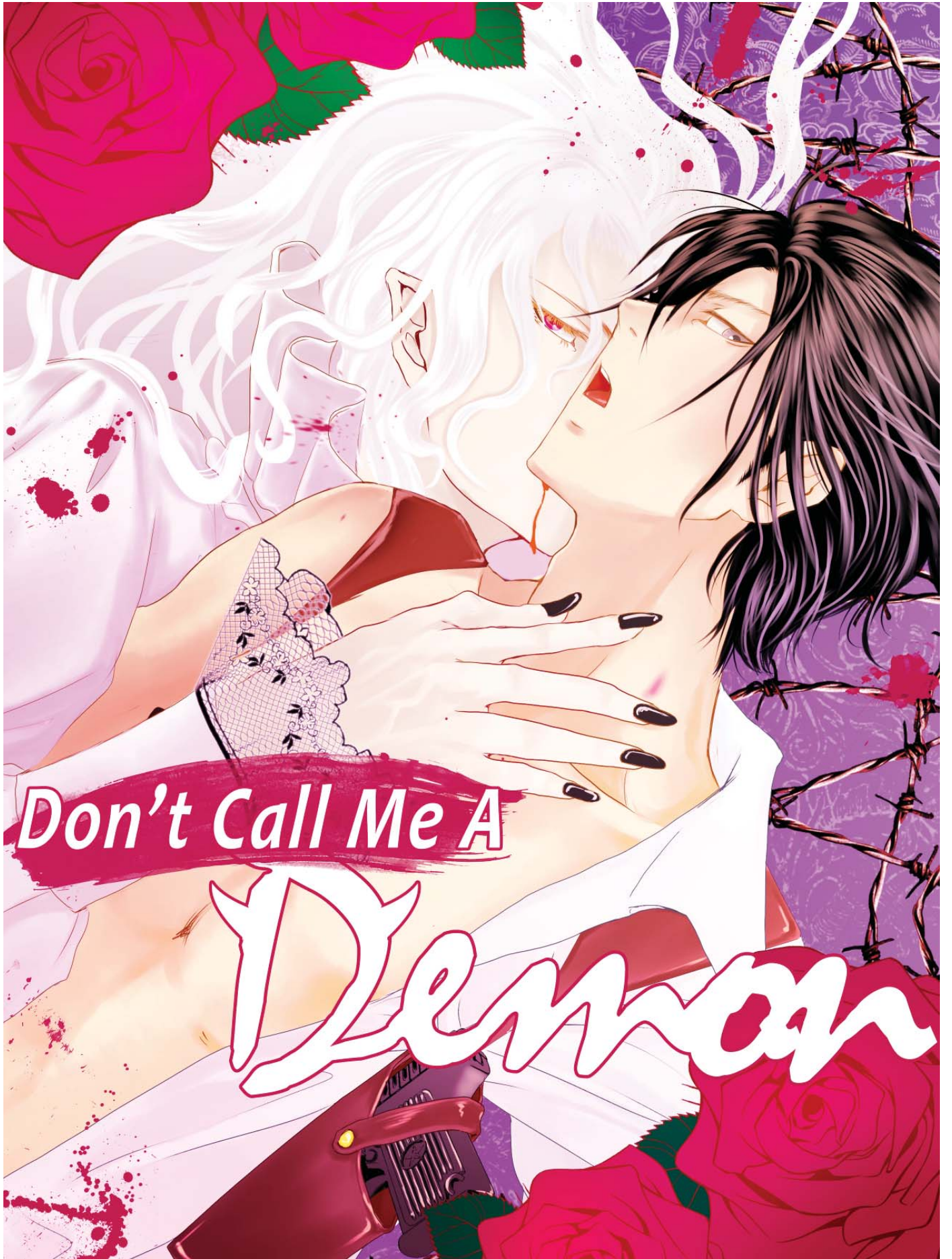
Plans are in the works! Our next foray into anime/BL conventions is going to be at AniManGaki, an ACG event in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on August 24th and 25th. But we definitely intend to visit both North American and European conventions in the future.



The Beginning of

Our Small Yard

R18



YGG: Can you tell us about the first title Otome's Way will be releasing?

Our first releases at Otome's Way are going to be these 3 titles:

- **A Fujoshi's Guide to Japanese: An interactive Japanese study guide.**
- **Rensou:** A love story set within the traditional Japanese performing art,

kabuki.

• **Yusura Ai Anthology 1:** Short stories by our featured artist, Yusura Ai.

Novels haven't enjoyed the same notoriety overseas as manga have, ostensibly because manga are full of pretty pictures, and many people find

comics more entertaining reads than text-only books. But reading BL novels is pretty darn popular in Japan, and it's a tragedy that so many great books are going untranslated just because fans like you don't know you even want them yet!



Backstory

THEY'RE NOTHING BUT



A PACK OF WILD DOGS..



SPEAKING OF WHICH..

I HOPE YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN TOO COMFORTABLE WITH YOUR NEW FIGHTER



WHAT'S HIS NAME?

CAIN?

STARFIGHTER

starfightercomic.com

Abel has defied his family's expectations by joining up with the Navigators to battle a distant threat. He's paired up with a Fighter, Cain (they're code names, not a terrible coincidence), who's pushy, violent, and, Abel finds, quite charming. And the truth is, Abel joined the military for two reasons, and one of them has nothing to do with fighting a war. It's an exciting storyline that is spare in its telling and illustration. However, the characters and their arc are far more complex than the typical Seme/uke relationship. It's not even clear who the actual Seme is at any given point. Each week, the suspense builds. It's right sexy to boot.

Characters



Abel is from a cerebral class from which the Navigators are chosen. They can become one with their ships and guide it through the most intricate battle maneuvers. They are known for their cool, calculating natures. Abel seems to be meek, especially up against someone as intimidating as Cain, but he shows a great deal of mettle in his first battle. Abel is far more than he seems, and his relationship with Cain is far more complex than most realize.



Cain is from a warrior class. They are drowning in testosterone and seem barely able to control themselves outside of a fighter. Cain seems to be the most violent of the lot. He comes across as brutish and unfeeling. It appears that Abel has been thrown to the wolves in being partnered with such a man. However, Cain is more tender than anyone could ever believe.



Backstory



A Foreign Love Affair

異国色恋浪漫譚

Ikoku Irokoi Romantan

A **Foreign Love Affair** (*Ikoku Irokoi Romantan*) is about the son of a yakuza mob, Ranmaru, who gets married for convenience to a yakuza daughter, Kaoru, on a cruise ship in Italy. Because they are Japanese they are the center of attention on the boat. On their wedding night, the couple fight and Kaoru kicks him out of their room. Ranmaru goes to the boat's bar and fights with some yakuza. He is assisted by a blond Italian man who can speak Japanese, Alberto, and as a thank you Ranmaru asks Alberto if he wants a drink in the bar. They get thoroughly drunk and have sex. The next morning, Ranmaru finds out that Alberto is the ship's captain. The manga and OVA are beautifully drawn and gorgeously colored. The action is exciting and sexy and even funny at times. This is an unusual pair as far as Seme x uke tropes go, but they are a lot of fun to watch.

Characters



Ranmaru is not a typical uke. During his first 'date' with Alberto involves a gigantic fist fight with rival yakuza. He is never a proper uke throughout the story. He all but rescues himself before Alberto has a chance to, and he always has enough strength to kick someone's arse.



Alberto would love to be a typical Seme. This makes his character so entertaining. Only someone lovestruck would see a dangerous yakuza like Ranmaru as a delicate flower that needs rescuing. He is charming and deliciously romantic.



Interview



Jamie

Jamie McGonnigal is an organizer and founder of TalkAboutEquality.com. He is also a contributor to Huffington Post and LGBTQNation. He currently works as the Community Engagement Manager for the New Organizing Institute.

As an award-winning producer and director and as a founding producer of the New York Musical Theatre Festival, Jamie has created some of New York's most important theatrical events over the last decade, raising funds for victims of floods, earthquakes, tsunami and inequality. His World AIDS Day Concerts were named the best theatrical events of the year from 2003-2007 and his concerts have featured performances from Rosie O'Donnell, Ben Vereen, Chita Rivera, Betty Buckley, Laura Benanti, Jai Rodriguez, Mike Nichols, Cheyenne Jackson, Michael Urie, Gavin Creel and hundreds more.

As a photographer, Jamie's work can be seen at EqualityPhotography.com and on the cover of Tracy Baim's book, *Obama and the Gays*.

As a voice actor, Jamie can be heard on more than 100 anime titles including *Pokémon*, *Yu-Gi-Oh!*, *Viva Pinata*, *One Piece* and many more.

Do you see more fanservice aimed at yaoi fans in recent years? If so, does this surprise you?

I actually don't have my finger on the pulse of the fan service, so I wouldn't really know about the volume

of the fan service. I am rarely surprised by anything though. I think the first thing I ever saw when I was hired to play Barry in *Pokémon* was a dirty drawing of him and Ash getting it on, so no - it never surprises me.

Can you see a day where a yaoi series can run on Hulu or even Adult Swim?

If it was a series that wasn't too risky sexually, I could see it happening. Something like *Kizuna* (if it was more than three episodes) would be appropriate. But to be completely honest, considering *Kizuna* is the only yaoi title ever even dubbed professionally in the US, I'd be really surprised to see that happen. Additionally, there is still a great deal of homophobia in this country, and sexism. So while the media has no problem showing a boob or "down there" on a woman, they very rarely show the male private parts on screen. So again - I'd be pretty surprised to see Yaoi on anything that would be as accessible as Adult Swim or Hulu - but hopefully I'm wrong.

What do you think about fan creations based on your shows (cosplay, amateur Music Videos and fanfiction)?

I LOVE THEM! I'm not a hugely well-known voice actor, so when I see someone recognizing something I've worked on, I'm really honored. Actually, I've been uninvited to judging

cosplays because the first one I judged, I gave the big award to someone who was cosplaying one of my characters - and I will absolutely admit it's because I didn't know any of the other characters. As for music videos, I'll search youtube once in a while and comment on things people have created - again - I find it really flattering...even (and especially) the yaoi pairings.

Not that we want you to drop names (HA!), but I must put you on the spot the way a con panel would. Do all Voice actors react well to finding their characters in explicit doujinshi?

HAHA! No. They most certainly do not. There's one voice actor who shall remain nameless, but is a big celeb. Anytime I've been on a panel with him and someone has asked a question about this, he's been very vocally upset about yaoi pairings of his characters. This always confused me because when I first met this actor, I thought he was gay (as did most of the people who work with him). But apparently he's not, therefore he's very offended that someone might think a character he did a voice for might be gay.

Most voice actors are pretty cool about it and well...I love it. But once in a while you run into someone who's fairly homophobic and is truly not a fan.

Do you advise your fellow actors on handling a different vision of their characters than they

McGonnigal

might have envisioned?

Well, we never really have the opportunity to work together in the studio. Additionally, it's bad form to tell a fellow actor how they should do their job. Where I do get to advise, or talk to my fellow voice actors is on the issues affecting LGBT people on a daily basis. Many of them come to me when they have questions about equality and the LGBT movement. So that means a lot that I'm able to pass along some of the things I've learned.

What characters would you love to play that you have not?

Truly, anything fun. I haven't done much of late since I moved to Washington D.C. two years ago. I finished out what I was working on in *Pokémon* and there's not much access to new things down here, but I'm certainly open if someone calls!

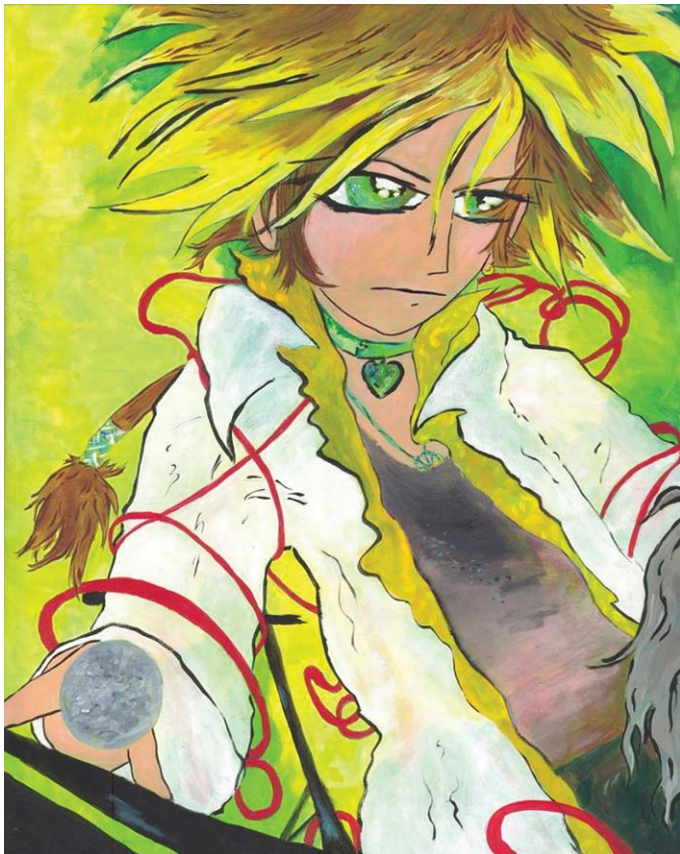
(<http://www.sybpressyaoi.com/2013/04/voice-over-actor-interview-1-jamie.html>)



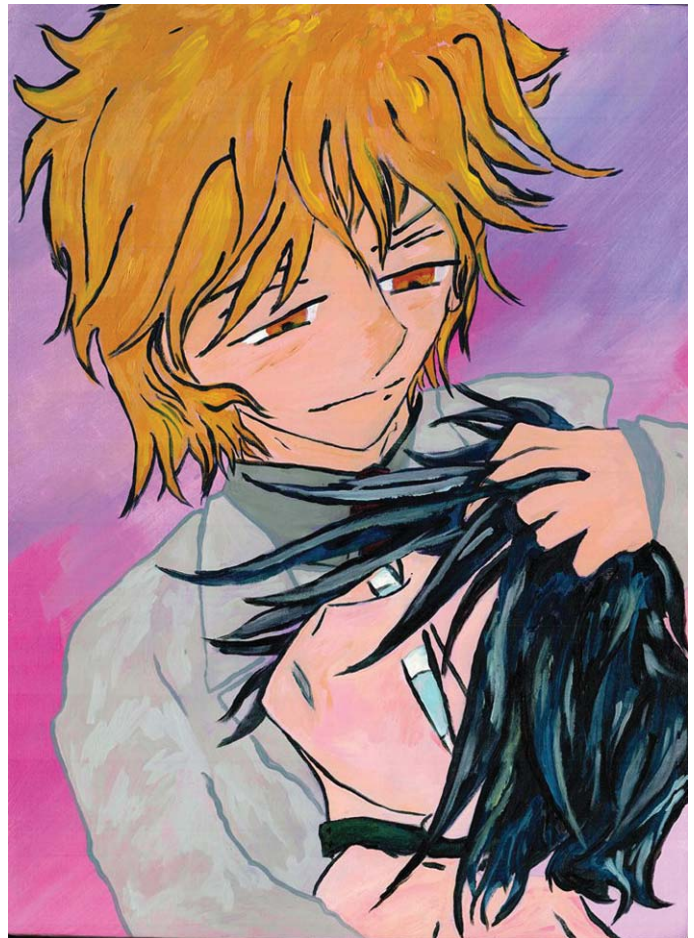
Nevi Star

Nevi's Gallery on Deviant Art
(<http://happynakama.deviantart.com/>)

Facebook
(<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nevi-Star-Spirit-Art/459459877451343>)



Skye Crestal from the *Inertia* series on the cover for book two (coming in March 2014). Part of a larger set of paintings that include the cover of book one.



Raw Cover of Dani R.R. Hermit's short story for M/M Romance (goodreads group) Don't Read in the Closet Event, "Tinman", with the characters Master and boy. Painting.

Website & Blog

Art:

(<https://nevistarspiritart.wordpress.com/>)

Books:

(<https://wanderingstarspress.wordpress.com/>)

Nevi Star has always had a passion for art, from when she was a little bitty Nevi copying the cartoon characters off of cereal boxes to drawing children's books in college. After leaving art school, she met and fell in love with Dani. After the usual sort of drama, they moved in together and have been happily co-habitational for nearly 14 years. In 2000, Nevi discovered anime and manga, which has deeply influenced her art ever since. It was around that same time that she began writing slash & yaoi fan fiction with Dani. Soon, what they were writing influenced what she was drawing. In addition to fan art, Nevi does all the cover art for the yaoi-inspired books she writes with Dani R.R. Hermit. She is also working on a couple different Tarot and Oracle decks and an art book which is tentatively slated for release mid-2014.



An adorable art piece of the character Brodie from *Ghost House* series. Drawn for a journal giveaway for a fundraising event in 2012. Marker and painting on paper.



The raw cover of *Monster: Book One* with the character Siris in a half-transformed state. Painting.

Enthralled

by D.L. Warner

Darius considered releasing Andreas from the shackles, but his Dami didn't seem to mind them. He was, in fact, soundly and contentedly asleep. His face had the same blissful expression it would when he dropped into sleep after being well used. He only sighed as Darius gently cleansed him.

"What were you up to, exquisite one?" Darius murmured as he moved the warm, damp cloth lower between those beautifully formed cheeks.

Andreas gasped then as if he were in some discomfort. Darius frowned. He then noticed how angry some of the love bites looked.

"Did I harm you?" Darius asked aloud softly. "Would you tell me if I had?"

The Cosi pressed the button along the headboard without giving it a second thought. A moment later, after covering Andreas with a warmed bath sheet, he beckoned Yannis to enter.

"Yannis, I'd like you to summon Dr. Heller at his earliest convenience," Darius said quietly.

The Major Domo his his surprise and concern quickly behind his usual professionalism.

"Yes, milord," he said. "Lord Estevan is en route."

"Is he?"

"Yes, milord. He told me that I need not interrupt you, but he did wish to speak to you as soon as you were free," Yannis replied. "Shall I see to

some refreshment for him?"

"Please. I shall be out shortly. Thank you."

"Very good, milord."

Darius smiled to himself as he finished drying Andreas. He then unhooked the shackles. His endearingly cheeky Dami seemed to have caused a protective streak in everyone, including his frosty Second.

"Darius," Andreas murmured as the Cosi gently rubbed his wrists. They were red already.

"Shh," Darius said softly. "All is well. Rest..."

Andreas smiled again and turned onto his side facing Darius. His hair had grown longer since the collar had been replaced. It suited him, especially with the gold comb Darius gifted him with to pull the soft, dark hair up and away from his ear. He seemed to want to show the Dami tag at all times of late. He was revealing the collar more and more as well, according to Lexo. Darius removed the comb then smoothed his hair.

"I wonder if that has anything to do with your behavior today?" Darius murmured, rising to dress for the arrival of Mykos and the doctor.

He'd just entered the livingroom as Dr. Heller was being shown inside. Darius was surprised to see him so quickly. The doctor took note.

"I was on a call very close by, your lordship," he explained. "How can I help you?"

"I need to have you examine Lord Hephaestus," Darius replied. "I may have...harmed him just now during our last coupling."

"Really?"

"I was angry when I caught up with him today. He had never...kept himself from me in any way," Darius explained.

"Was he bleeding that you noticed?"

"No. There was no blood on me and none that I saw when I cleansed him," Darius replied.

"Was he showing any signs of discomfort?"

"No. He's soundly asleep."

Doctor Heller raised his brows in genuine surprise. "Very well. I will examine him and get to the brass tacks here."

"Would you like some coffee or tea?" Darius asked, remembering that Andreas would do such a thing. "Perhaps some food?"

"Coffee and something light would be most welcome, your Lordship. Thank you."

"I'll see to that whilst I fetch the wine, milord," Yannis said.

"Thank you, Yannis," Darius said.

He hadn't been afraid when Darius came storming into Lady Santorini's solarium. Were Darius about to take on an opponent in a fight, he could have taken Andreas' reaction as the appraisal of an adversary. His green-gold eyes were alert and wary. Darius knew he was seeing the underworld Crew Leader

in those eyes just then. However, for an instant before Darius reached for him, he could have sworn there was concern in his expression before the wariness returned. Yet he didn't resist in the least when he was pulled hard against Darius and kissed senseless. It was as if he expected all of it to happen.

"Your Lordship," Ogdigos said from the hall entrance. "Lord Estevan is here."

Andreas' guard was still puzzled as to why his Lord had tracked down his charge and carried him away from a meeting when nothing was obviously amiss. He had no answers for the man, nor for his closest Cosi brother who was staring at him strangely.

"Make yourself comfortable, Brother," Darius said mildly. "Wine will be along directly."

"Are you still wearing the recorder?" he asked bluntly.

Darius raised a brow. "Yes. I have been for the entire day."

Mykos raised a brow then, but he relaxed a bit as he seated himself. Chiron appeared then with a decanter and glasses.

"Yannis will be along shortly with the food, milords," he said as he deftly poured their glasses. He was gone an instant later.

"Lady Kronos called," Mykos said after a nice sized sip. "Her circle were alternately appalled and thrilled at Andreas being, and I quote 'ravaged and dragged from their meeting.' Since you have the opportunity to ravage his Lordship at any opportunity, they were quite annoyed that you couldn't spare him for a few hours. And there was a mild fear that you were actually angry at Andreas and may have harmed him. I was sent to check on his welfare and voice their collective displeasure."

"I see," Darius replied trying to hide his amusement.

Mykos was not pleased with his attitude.

"The Ladies were not inaccurate," Darius replied, deciding to placate him. "It's that I am unaccustomed to



being questioned about anything I do, and they show considerable cheek in challenging a Cōsi."

"Indeed," Mykos agreed. "May I see Andreas?"

"Not just yet," Darius replied. "He's with Doctor Heller."

"Really?"

"As I said, the ladies were not inaccurate," Darius said quietly. "Andreas...evaded contact with me today and managed to keep members of my staff from contacting him as well. I'm not sure how he kept me from reaching even Odigos. I have not been out of contact with him for that many hours since before he originally came to me. I was...extremely provoked."

Mykos looked at Darius sharply, but could not comment as Dr. Heller was leaving the bedroom. The physician was smiling as he entered the livingroom. He took a seat in front of them as Yannis and Chiron entered the room. A tray of appetizers was set before the Cōsi while Dr. Heller had coffee along with a half sandwich and a cup of soup from lunch.

"I should have more house calls like this," he smiled as he prepared his coffee with cream and sugar. "And I don't just mean the food though this is a very rare respite to my day."

"I'm happy to oblige, doctor," Darius said. "Andreas would be cross were I remiss."

"How is Andreas?" Mykos asked pointedly.

"Well sated and very sleepy," Heller chuckled. "I wish more Owners showed the concern you do, but it was unnecessary. Your Dami was quite ready for you. He was not only very well lubed, he was stretched. He had to have been using something until shortly before your encounter for that to have worked. Also, if he had been afraid of you, he would have tensed at penetration causing damage."

"He arranged this?" Darius asked in dismay. "Why in the world would he risk being hurt provoking me?"

"His Lordship was still very sleepy

when I talked to him," Heller replied between bites. "All he said was that you needed him. Also, he was not interested being spared from any of his duties to you. The only thing I had to do was wrap his wrists in lambswool bandages in case you wanted to use the shackles again. He was not interested in being spared those either."

"I see," Darius said though he was clearly befuddled.

"You have a rare relationship with your Dami," Heller said. "It's a type that I see less and less of these days. His Lordship is enthralled by you. Being owned and used by you is an aphrodisiac for him."

"They use drugs on Dami more often now?" Mykos asked.

"Almost always," Heller replied in disgust. "Many are annoyed that the Dami they contract for isn't already on them when delivered. In addition to drugs, they use physical intimidation and outright abuse on them far too frequently."

Darius frowned. "Is that why you asked if I noticed whether Andreas was bleeding?"

"Yes. Many owners don't right away," he replied darkly. "The case I just left had been bleeding for nearly 24 hours without treatment. He is on his way to the hospital. I knew you were a caring Owner when you said that you cleansed Lord Hephaestus after coupling with him."

"Doctor, we wouldn't want you to violate confidentiality, but we would like to talk to you soon about the general treatment of Dami here and off world," Mykos said. "We strongly believe that things need to be brought under tighter control for the sake of all."

"I cannot spare the time today, and his Lordship has a Dami waiting for him," Heller said with a smile. "But just give me a day, and I'll carve out the time. It's damned near a crisis. I should be off. Thank you for the meal. I really needed it."

"Thank you, Doctor," Darius said

as he rose. "Good day."

"Good day, milords," Heller said before departing.

Darius gave Mykos a sidelong look. "Have I been stressed?"

"Yes, for you. And you have not been getting the kind of rest you were prior to the business with Lord Panin and Victor Stamos. Nothing was wrong with your work, but you have been more easily taxed," he replied.

"Just before the magnetic storm lifted, I told Andreas that he would have to be most clever in carving out time for us to be together as we were then," Darius said with a smile. "I'd say he's been very clever."

Chiron appeared then to clear away the Doctor's dishes and cup. Darius realized that the former Dami was very much aware of everything that was going on.

"Chiron, was Andreas trying to find a way to serve me better as a Dami today?" He asked in his most mild tone.

"Yes, milord," he replied a touch anxiously. "Is his Lordship okay?"

"He is. I just wanted to make sure that he was well," Darius replied. "I am so much bigger than he is."

"I told his lordship how to make sure he stretched before you took him," Chiron said without a hint of a blush. "He took care to do everything I told him."

"Yes, he did," Darius said. "Why don't you look in on him to see he wants anything?"

"Yes, milord. Thank you!"

"That should prevent my staff from revolting," Darius said drily. "Even Odigos was upset with me. And so were you, Brother."

"I was perplexed," Mykos corrected. "I didn't think you would deliberately harm Andreas, but I didn't think the ladies were prone to hysterics either."

Chiron returned then looking quite relieved. "His Lordship wants some cool water. He also wanted to know if he should dress for dinner."

"Take a pitcher of cool water and

a decanter of wine with appropriate glasses to the bedroom,” Darius said. “Tell his Lordship he is only to leave that bed to use the bathroom. I have not finished with him yet.”

“Yes, milord!” Chiron said brightly.

“I suppose this means no dinner invitation,” Mykos said ruefully.

“I don’t want to thwart my Dami’s carefully laid plans. Take the ladies out for dinner on me,” Darius said with a smile. The gesture would dearly lighten his purse, but it was worth it to smooth ruffled feelings. “And you can talk to Andreas while he writes them a note.”

They enjoyed a little more wine while Chiron dashed downstairs to Andreas’ office to pick up some stationary and his writing seals – and tell Lexo that their Master was well, no doubt. At short while later, Darius lead the way to the Master bedroom while Yannis whipped up a light repast.

Andreas was propped up against the bed reading by the soft bedside light. He was a picture of wanton beauty bathed in fire light. Andreas was completely different from the 10th Lord Hephaestus or the crew leader while in that bed. He was covered to the navel with the bronze silk top sheet. The sleek muscles of his abdomen was still visible. Strength radiated from him even while he was relaxed. Being a Dami did not in any way make him weak. That still impressed Darius above all. His eyes lit up when he saw Darius

then grew puzzled when he saw Mykos.

“The ladies thought you needed to be rescued,” Mykos said dryly.

Andreas blushed beautifully. “I hadn’t thought about that! I just assumed they’d know that Darius wouldn’t hurt me.”

“No harm done, I’m sure,” Darius said. “Just write them a quick note. Mykos is going to take them to dinner on me.”

“Oh, thanks, Mykos,” Andreas said as he accepted the paper and other instruments.

“Believe me, I will have a marvelous time on my Brother’s coin,” Mykos laughed.

Andreas shook his head at the pair even as he wrote out the note. He quickly blotted then sealed it. Darius gently stroked his cheek after taking the supplies from him.

“Stay where you are,” he ordered softly. “I’ll return shortly.”

“Yes, Darius,” Andreas murmured. “Goodnight, Mykos.”

“Goodnight, Andreas,” Mykos smiled.

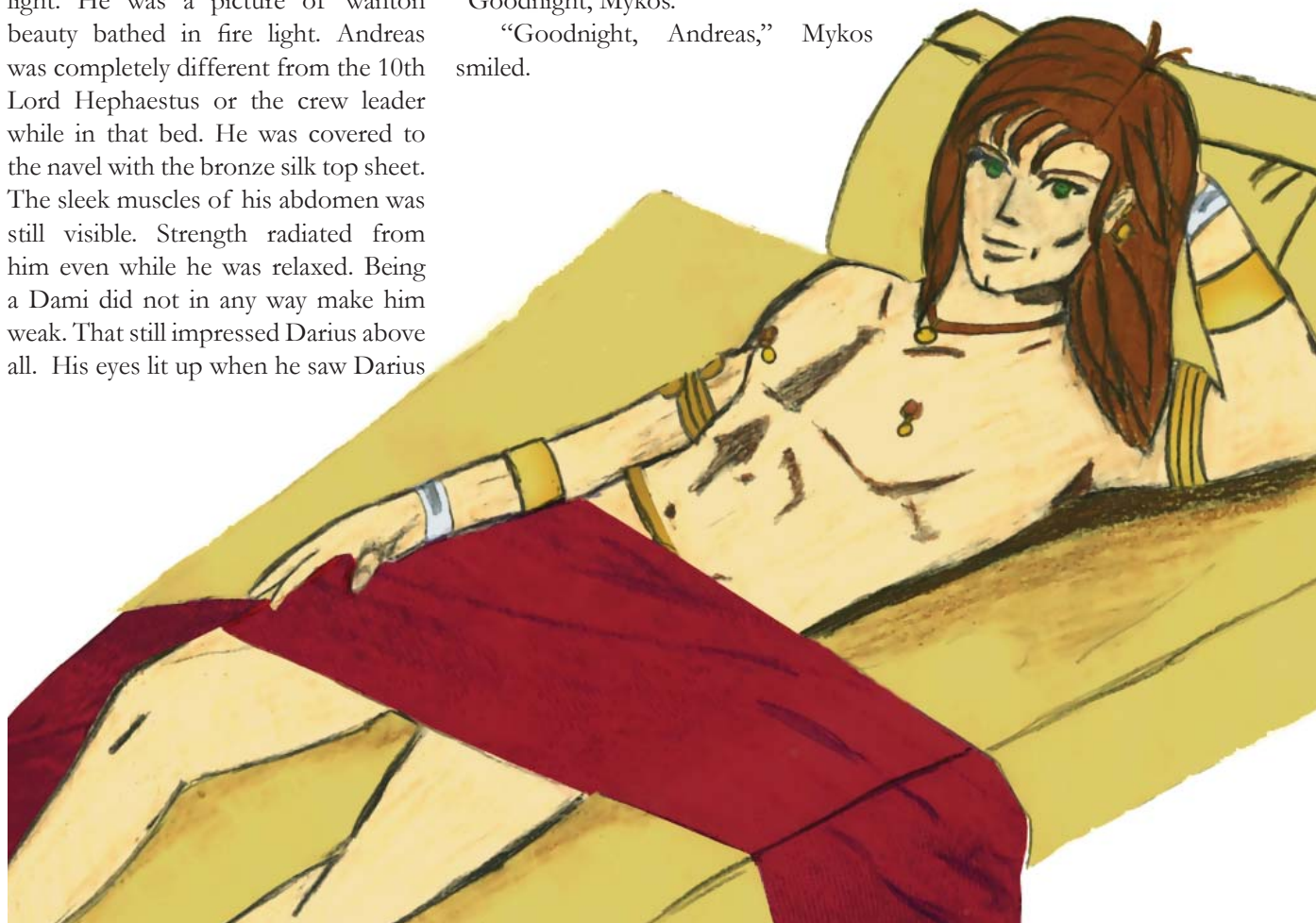
“You’ve shown a lot of patience this afternoon with the Doctor’s lingering visit and even mine,” Mykos said. “But perhaps for your well being, you should be more selfish with your time on occasion. We have many difficult weeks ahead.”

“I’m sure that you are correct, Brother,” Darius said ruefully. “But I must confess that all I can think about right now is getting back to that bedroom and my Dami.”

“As well you should. Until tomorrow?”

“Yes. I am certain my crafty one means us to be back at our tasks on schedule,” Darius said. “Until tomorrow.”

Andreas was still in bed when Darius returned. His gaze was mischievous. His beautiful green-gold eyes were hungry. Darius took a moment to simply gaze at him. A small smile played at his lips. There would never be enough that he could give



Mykos for getting him to get to Club Zero the night he found his Dami. Still, the cheeky imp had to be punished in some fashion.

“Stay where you are, and bare yourself completely,” Darius said as he entered the room and closed the door. “I want to look at you.”

“Yes, Darius,” Andreas replied as he pulled away the sheet, revealing an erection that was growing as he gazed at him.

This pleased the Cosi a great deal. He peeled out of his clothing quickly. His haste was almost unseemly for a Cosi Leader, but he didn’t care. All that mattered was the beautiful man before him. Andreas had moved up onto his knees, anticipating Darius’ plans. He took Andreas by the wrists in one hand while the other grabbed a fist full of hair to tilt his head back.

The kiss was deep, hungry and possessive. Andreas moaned into it, sagging against him. Darius did enjoy the way his Dami melted during a kiss. He gentled it after a while until it was more tender and affectionate. It was clear that Darius had power over Andreas’ body, but he also wanted him to know how deeply he cared for his Dami. He didn’t use the word love often, but he made sure that Andreas felt it. As the kiss ended, Andreas’ eyes were dreamy, but Darius could feel that he was still very hard.

“Suck me, Dami,” Darius murmured, releasing his wrists.

“Yes, Darius.”

Andreas complied as if he couldn’t wait to do so. He placed his hands on either side of Darius’ hips while Darius helped him keep his balance by holding onto his hair. He licked the shaft thoroughly and with relish before taking it in as far as he could then sucked with a surprising amount of strength and skill – far different from his first tentative try. His tawny skin was beautifully flushed. His cheekbones were more pronounced with the movement. Those green-gold

That tactic might have worked – though Darius would never have admitted it – if his need for Andreas had not been temporarily slaked. He was thus clear headed enough to not just see the ploy for what it was but also have just the right response.

“Do we stop now while you are in this... rigid state, exquisite one?” Darius asked in a honeyed tone.

“Darius...please!” Andreas gasped.

“You can have all you want...all you need from me when you agree, sweet Dami,” Darius murmured before running his tongue along those elegant collar bones.

“Ahn...you bastard...aahh...yes, Darius...anything...”

“That’s my Dami,” Darius murmured as he moved to straddle him and then strapped the shackles into place around the bandages on his wrists. “Exquisite...”

Andreas gazed up at Darius as if he wanted to say something, but it came out in a breathy moan.

“Don’t close your eyes,” Darius ordered.

“Yes, Darius.”

There was almost too much tawny, responsive flesh to enjoy. Darius almost couldn’t choose a patch to begin his assault. In that moment, Everything that was on the horizon for Darius and Andreas and the Cosi and Amara, and Kacia and Eris and all he controlled disappeared from his thoughts. All of his considerable focus was on Andreas’ firm, honey-colored flesh.

As always, it was scent that spurred Darius’ choice. Andreas’ scent was not that of a real cooking spice. It was a warm, subtle, spicy smell that was the same no matter the fragrance in the shampoos or bath oils he used. Darius nuzzled the spot behind Andreas’ ear he was always drawn to before inhaling deeply. Scent always led to tasting. Darius tongued the places he scented. Andreas began to struggle.

“You courted this, exquisite one,” Darius murmured, nipping at the nipple he had been tonguing. “You

eyes were dreamy and riveted on his face. It gave his Dami so much pleasure to pleasure him that Darius was moved to come far sooner than he expected. The pleasure almost weakened his knees, but that didn’t trouble the Cosi. It made him even more pleased with his Dami.

“Move back toward the shackles, sweet Dami,” he said softly.

“Yes, Darius.”

Darius moved to cover Andreas with his body so that he could better feel his Dami. He needed to be as close as he could. Andreas needed it as well. Neither had known how much the Dami needed the contact after the attack. He was restless during sleep when he could no longer sprawl across the front of the Cosi’s body due to the injury to his arm. Andreas found he could only sleep with Darius partially covering his body as he lay on his belly. The need was logical as they spent as many of their waking hours as possible reclining together on the sofa. They had become addicted to each other physically. Neither of them minded.

“You have succeeded in making me quite overwrought this day,” Darius continued. “But you have skillfully blunted my hunger for now.”

“Have I?”

“This was all very clever, exquisite one,” Darius replied. “And you listen for my needs and my will with an attentiveness that I don’t see in even my Cosi Brothers at times.”

“I love you,” Andreas said simply.

Darius smiled at his beautiful Dami, nuzzling him. “You have shown that so thoughtfully this day. Now, I will do the same.”

Darius brushed his lips along Andreas’ warm temple then moved his head to speak into the nearest ear.

“The second that your arms or wrists feel strained, you will call for me to halt,” Darius murmured. He nipped at the delectable lobe for emphasis.

“I’m not tired, Darius,” Andreas countered in a sultry tone. “I rested while you were talking to Mykos.”

sought my undivided attention. Now, you shall have it until I've had my fill."

Andreas cried out and then growled at the next nip, causing Darius to chuckle. He loved the fire in his Dami, but he was not going to be dissuaded from enjoying him the way he most wanted – slowly. A hungry kiss stilled Andreas enough to make him stop struggling for a while. Thus, Darius scented then licked or gently bit his way down to those well shaped thighs. It was amazing how that scent and the taste of that skin and the sound of those moans and gasps and Darius' own name made the Cosi's blood rise again.

"It is little wonder my Brethren still fear your closeness to me," Darius thought as he pushed those thighs far

apart. "You affect my body, mind and will in a way that should be frightening."

"Darius...please...ahn..."

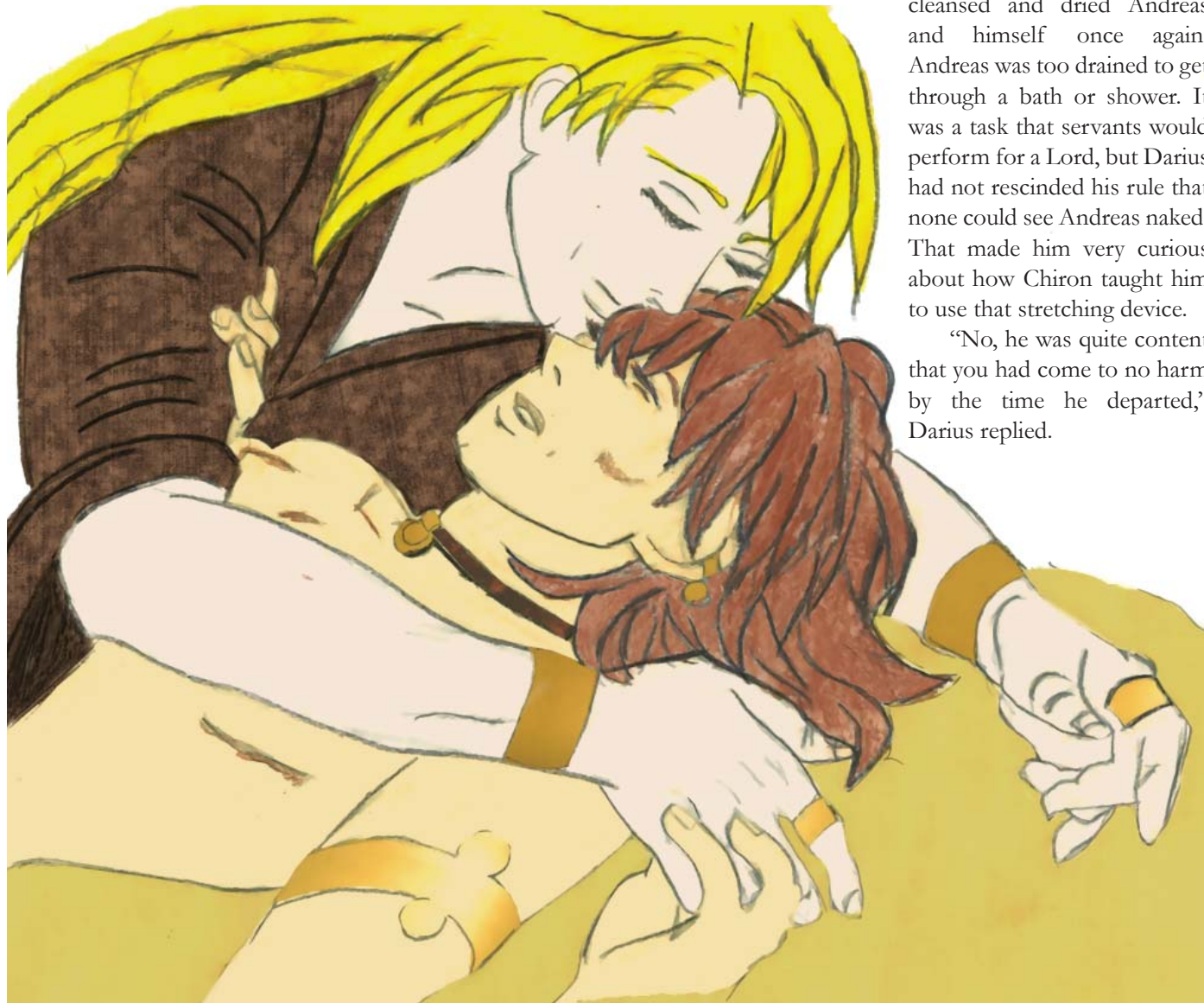
He didn't need to ask. Darius was hard and leaking once again. He wanted that tight heat to bring him relief. He wanted to see the bliss on his beloved's face as he came. Darius didn't even have to tell Andreas to look at him. Those green-gold eyes never left his face as Darius pushed slowly into that willing body. He groaned at the tightness and the heat, stilling himself against coming too quickly. Andreas was breathing very slowly as he fought for control. All the while, they watched each other's eyes. Eventually, Andreas nodded and wrapped one leg around Darius' waist. The Cosi undulated his hips, pumping hard into Andreas. For a short while,

Andreas was able to move in counter rhythm. But he was soon overwhelmed by the power of the Cosi's big body. All he could do is hold on and watch his Owner's eyes. The day robbed Darius of his usual stamina. Either that or he didn't really want a long, hard ride. Whatever the case, he was brought to the brink far sooner than his norm. Darius rewarded his Dami by grasping his leaky erection and pumping him to completion as he came.

"Are you in any trouble with Mykos?" Andreas asked later.

Chiron had fetched a basin of hot sudsy water, and Lexo brought a basin of warm, scented rinsing water along with warm wash cloths and towels. Why both of his Dami's servants were in the Penthouse, he could only guess. Darius cleansed and dried Andreas and himself once again. Andreas was too drained to get through a bath or shower. It was a task that servants would perform for a Lord, but Darius had not rescinded his rule that none could see Andreas naked. That made him very curious about how Chiron taught him to use that stretching device.

"No, he was quite content that you had come to no harm by the time he departed," Darius replied.



"I can't believe Lady Kronos called him," Andreas muttered as they worked through their delicious supper of small plates. "They all know that I don't fear you."

"Why wouldn't she?" Darius asked with amusement. "Your staff and mine are in an uproar over your safety."

"Really?" Andreas asked with a disbelieving frown. "That can't be."

Just then Odigos knocked and was granted entrance.

"Forgive me your Lordships," he began. "I thought I should check in before I left to see if our spar is as scheduled tomorrow."

"Yes. I'll see you then," Andreas said. "Please, forgive me for any worry I caused you. I was looking after his Lordship's safety."

"Yes, milord. It is essential for all that you both remain safe," he replied easily. "Good evening, milords."

"He was upset with me earlier," Darius said wryly.

"He isn't at the moment, Andreas observed. "He needed to be certain of something. He is now."

"I suspect Chiron talked to him and the others," Darius said. "He knew a great deal about the matter."

"You need for me to be a real Dami, Darius," Andreas said quietly as he sipped his wine. "Chiron was kind enough to teach me. And he merely described the things I should do. I was never naked before him."

Darius smiled at him before bestowing a brief kiss.

"Thank you," Darius murmured. "All of this effort wasn't just about how well I was resting, was it?"

"No though that was very important," Andreas replied quietly. "While I was healing, I ran the scenarios for the next several months like I would on a gig for you. The place where we are most vulnerable is my being an untrained Dami in a society full of rigid rules."

Darius saw all that Andreas was doing that day instantly. He also saw some major problems with that

strategy that could make them even more vulnerable.

"How far are you willing to take this?" He asked mildly as they enjoyed dessert with their wine.

Andreas chuckled at that. "Only as far as you're willing to let me."

"That was the perfect answer, exquisite one," Darius murmured. He then yawned. "As was your service of me today. We will sleep deeply, no doubt."

"Oh, yeah," Andreas sighed.

"One more question," Darius said. "You looked at me strangely before I grabbed you..."

"I worried that I had hurt you by avoiding you this morning," Andreas said with a deep blush. "No strategy is worth breaking your trust."

"I'll have to reward you for that, beloved."

"You already have, Darius," Andreas smiled sleepily.

Yannis entered then, rolling a trolley to collect the dishes of which there were many.

"Yannis, I'm so sorry my plans upset everyone," Andreas said. "You know I'd never worry you guys on purpose."

"All is well, milords," Yannis said. "Chiron explained everything. We should have been more trusting as well."

"We appreciate how deeply you feel for us," Darius said.

"Thank you, Milords. We do care very much for you both. On that note, Lord Estevan just called," Yannis said with a sympathetic look that made Darius want to groan. "He was having a nightcap nearby with the Ladies."

"Tell him no," Darius said as he slid down on the mattress, pulling Andreas on top of him. "We are ready for a long needed good night's sleep. I do not want a gaggle of dowagers touring our bedroom."

Andreas promptly dissolved in a fit of giggles.

"Tell them I'll meet them for coffee on the way into the office," he

managed.

"Very good, milords," Yannis said. There was mirth in his voice. Darius noted that his long time servant was very happy with them. "Goodnight, milords."

"Goodnight, Yannis," Darius yawned. Andreas giggled his goodnight.

He settled after Darius gently and slowly rubbed his back.

"Night Darius. Love you," Andreas said softly.

"Goodnight beloved," Darius sighed.

As deep sleep claimed him Darius was elated and full of deviltry. He couldn't wait for those scheming against them to find out just how much his clever Dami had in store.

Noncon

Panel Topics is the opinion corner in YGG Magaine. Here we rant on all things Yaoi. Since this is the first one and I am the Editrix-in-Chief, the soapbox is mine in this issue. Please note, I will be referencing my blog and my yaoi fiction. These are relevant to my rant. The added benefit of advertising my books is purely coincidental. (HA!) Do you want in on this kind of action? Send a rant to us and you may end up on Panel Topics! Send submissions to sybpres@gmail.com with Panel Topics in the subject line.

In the last few years that I've been heavily involved in Yaoi as a writer and an editor, I have sounded off on the issue of rape and non-consensual relationships (non-con) in many blogs. The first included how I came to be a panelist on the topic at Yaoi-con:

(<http://www.sybpresyaoi.com/2011/10/why-cant-no-mean-no-panel-at-yaoicon.html>)

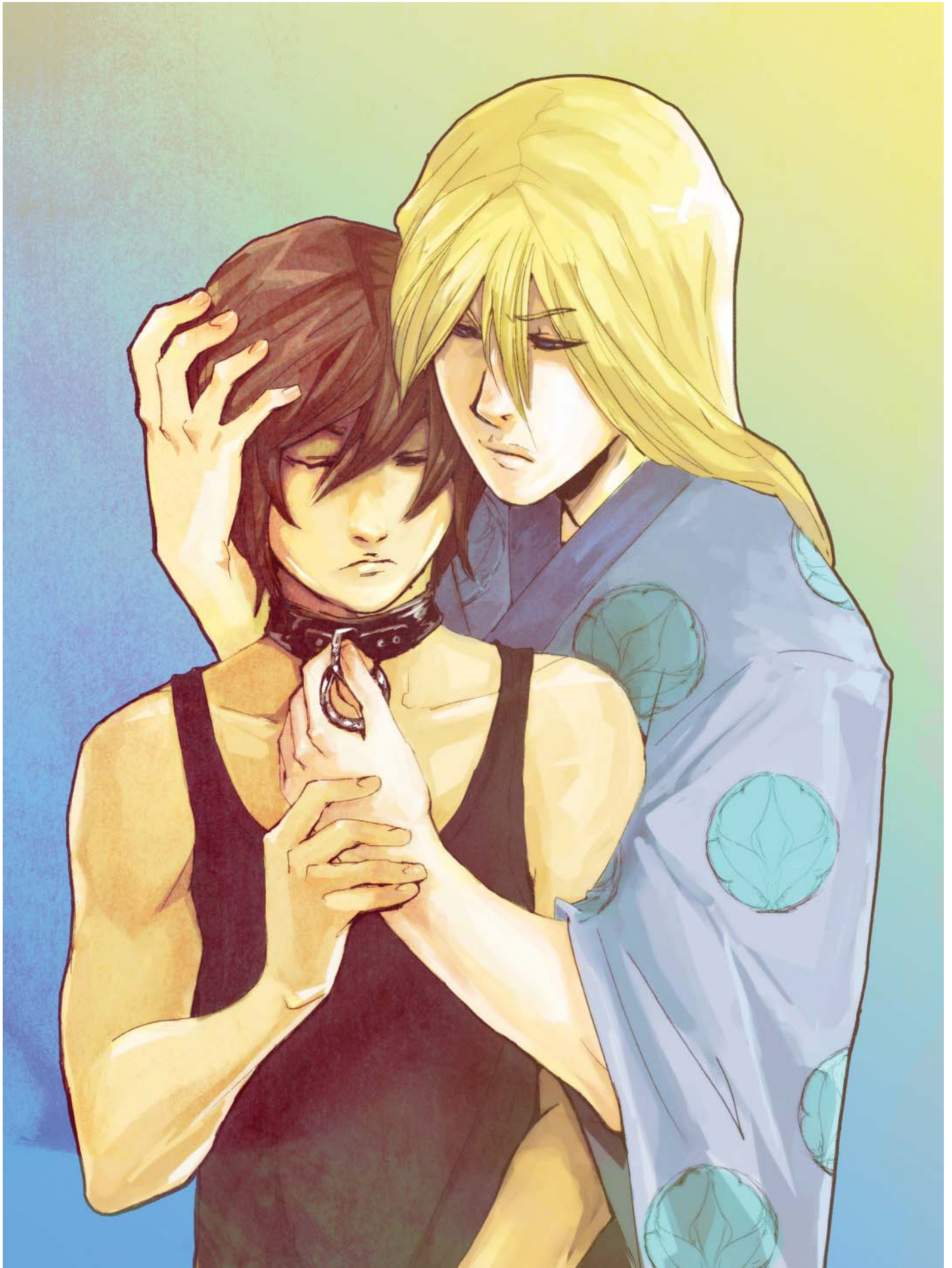
Now, not everyone could be a Yaoi-con and I've also come across a lot more readers and writers through the blog and later the YGG Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Yaoi-a-Go-Go/385070831573155>). It's come up more than once. Allow me to share my view on this highly charged and controversial topic.

Power Exchange Between Seme and uke

In the real world of Dominant/submissive relationships, there is an exchange of power between the Dom and sub. The exchange is done without coercion and with full knowledge of what to expect. To put an even finer point on it, the sub is also legally and mentally able to surrender power to the Dom. The phrase that covers this practice is no one unwilling, underaged or unbalanced. Unbalanced covers such conditions as being too drunk or stoned to give consent as well as

the mentally unbalanced. Smart Doms – and I am a very smart practicing lifestyle Dominatrix (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominatrix>) – do this to avoid arrest or lawsuits. Smart subs adhere to these rules to avoid hospitalization, permanent injury or death. One of the most bothersome thing about how these relationships are portrayed in popular media is that the danger for either party is recklessly underplayed. This includes a lot of yaoi I've read that depict this kind of relationship. Sorry guys.

Now, I get that there is a deeply satisfying thrill in seeing a uke conquered by a big, dangerous Seme. But when you think about it, how much conquering is there? These Semes are usually twice or even three times bigger than the uke. They are physically and psychologically terrifying. Where is the seduction? Where is the prowess as a lover? Who wants to see Superman fight a human mugger? Where is that buildup of tension and desire in the uke until he can do nothing else but surrender – no matter what the cost? Where is the continuous seduction that gets the uke to the point that he can't be in the same room with the Seme without getting rock hard? Oh my! I've given myself palpitations.



Now, you're looking at the banner image for this page and saying, but there is the huge man looming over a smaller, more vulnerable man who is wearing a big collar. What about that? That is clearly a D/s relationship. But I always write fiction that upends what is typical in a genre.

That bigger man is Darius, Lord Galatea from *Ensnared, Volumes 1 & 2*. [Note, there are very mild spoilers ahead – nothing that would spoil the twists in the plot.] He is a full half a foot taller than his uke and 60 pounds of muscle heavier as well. Beyond being much more powerful physically, Darius is much more powerful in wealth and political power. He is, in fact, the most powerful being in a whole planetary system. He is one typical, scary Seme. His reputation is so fearsome, it's rumored that he eats babies. But there is a difference in Darius. He would never force himself on someone he desired. His pride demands an absolute surrender to his lusts. Darius rightfully believes that he has the looks, magnetism and sexual prowess to make him impossible to resist when he turns his focus on someone he wants. Darius has such an intense regard that he has had to take measures in his personal life to make sure that no one who works closely with him is even remotely attracted to men. There had been problems in the past with underlings attempting to cross the line with him. In his love life, Darius wants a love to not only surrender, he wants him to beg permission to surrender.

Andreas Hesper is younger and much slighter than Darius and his social status is far lower when they meet. However, Andreas has power in his own right. His underworld crew, Zed Crew, is respected for their skillful, efficient, non-violent work. He has enough money for his needs. He is happy with his crew mates and content with his lot in life. His incredible looks and cheeky, playful personality made Andreas very popular in his world.

Andreas isn't a brawler, but he can be physically imposing when he needs to be. Andreas has never shown interest in any of the highborn citizens that frequent Club Zero, Zed Crew's lair. The frequent inquiries were met with a polite but firm rebuff. To all that knew him, Andreas would never bow to someone merely because that someone was powerful. Nor did he want any riches they had to offer. Andreas was just the sort of man that Darius desired – beautiful, smart, confident, cheeky. What none who knew Andreas realized was that he met his match in Darius the moment their glaze locked, and that it had nothing to do with wealth or social status.

As Andreas dances with Darius the first time, no one but Darius knows that the younger man is fighting being overwhelmed. They see Andreas calmly return to his mates when the song ends. Darius leaves Club Zero shortly afterward. In less than forty-eight hours, however, Andreas has pledged himself as a pleasure slave to Darius for at least a year. Andreas does beg for the collar and tag. Admittedly, Darius does knock the breath out of his uke as well as take his breath away with kisses. Darius does use his size to hold Andreas down during sex. He even chains him to the bed. Never once, however, does Darius cause Andreas pain. Everyone believes that Andreas was blinded by Lord Galatea's wealth and power or he was brutally compelled to yield. Neither is true. It was a skillful though brief seduction by Darius that caused Andreas to trust him enough to give in to the powerful pull when his life literally depended upon it. Later, Andreas begs for that collar and all that comes with it. Yet he is never weak, and he never loses who he is. Darius cherishes that in his exquisite one, despite a carefully honed image for coldness.

In *Ensnared, vol 2*, Viktor Stamos, Second in command of Zed Crew finally asks about what happened between them. (Very minor spoilers)

Viktor was gazing intently at Andreas as the servant left.

"Can I ask you something without making you mad?" He asked quietly.

"Probably," Andreas replied. "What is it?"

"Is everything that is said about Lord Galatea wrong?" He asked. "Is he a lot nicer than everyone thinks?"

"No, Darius is the evil bastard that everyone says he is," Andreas replied with a wry smile. "As scary as the average person believes he is, the truth is many, many times worse. He is cold, arrogant and brutal. That temper is for real. None of that has ever been aimed at me, Viktor. He has never even raised his voice to me."

"But he took advantage of your situation to claim you, didn't he?"

"Yes, he did," Andreas admitted. "But he didn't want to claim me that way. That first meeting...allowing me to call him by his first name...was all about seducing me. He wanted me to walk in to being his Dami without any pressure. He was actually very annoyed that he didn't get to seduce me the way he wanted."

"He was that sure he could get you to do that?" Viktor asked quietly.

Andreas looked at him levelly. "He wasn't wrong, Viktor."

His Second nodded.

"Okay, this makes more sense to me," Viktor murmured. "I couldn't see you wanting to stay with someone who had used your situation to take you."

That awkward moment passes between the two long time friends, but a misunderstanding remains that reflects another belief about Dominant/submissive relationships. If a man enjoys submitting to one powerful lover, he is willing to be that way with any powerful person. All the interested Seme would have to do is use the right amount of force on him. This belief causes a series of tragedies that effects everyone Andreas holds dear. Alas, any more would be a major spoiler. To find out how Darius seduces Andreas into absolute submission and what the impact of their relationship is, read *Ensnared Volumes 1 & 2!*

Is a Duck Really a Duck?

Despite previous blogs like the one on *Power Exchange*, (<http://www.sylbpressyaoi.com/2012/04/power-exchange-between-seme-and-uke.html>) I've had some emails from those kind souls who've taken the time to read the sample chapters of *Ensnared* and some of my blogs. They raise some interesting points – even the ones that kind of called me a hypocrite. I have blogged against and have often spoken out against the continuing use of non-consensual relationships in yaoi (I hope to have an even bigger panel on this subject at upcoming conventions this year). It paints a picture to the outside world that all yaoi is about rape and torture. These opinions have become really important of late as companies like Amazon and Apple have banned yaoi. And, for a short time, Smashwords was going to ban erotica with such themes. It could be argued that it wasn't non-con that got those books banned, but why give anyone that ammunition when it isn't necessary? These perceptions can impact where we can buy yaoi or even if we can buy yaoi. I am a publisher as well as a writer who doesn't want a tired trope impacting my bottom line. I'm not trying to be provocative in saying it's a tired trope. I think times have changed in the decades since Yaoi was young. The general public know a lot more about gay men and their relationships. It isn't looked upon as something to be ashamed of. Thus, there is no need to have these pairings begin with an act of force or blackmail or any kind of coercion.

And as I mentioned in the *Power Exchange* blog, I think there is often a fundamental misunderstanding of how dominant/submissive relationships work. I plan on revamping my *Primer on Writing BDSM* and offering it for free as an e-book later this summer. I love D/s fiction! I adore strong, even overbearing Semes. Who doesn't love Usagi-san in *Junjou Romantica* or Al from *Ikoku Irokoi Romantan*? They are a tad pushier than I like, but overall, they are loving and protective and devoted to their exasperated ukes. They are

irresistible in their arrogance. I'm with you all with regard to this type of Seme. I want yaoi to remain as sizzling hot and sexy as always!

The gentle readers who wrote were asking how the scenario I set up between Lord Darius Galatea and underworld gang leader, Andreas Hesper was not a non-con relationship. I admit that it looks like a duck and even quacks like a duck. But it isn't a duck. It's more like a platypus. Part of my point in creating that couple was that I wanted to prove that there could be all the tension and drama between the Seme and Uke that there is in a non-consensual pair while being a consensual relationship.

But readers of the excerpts point out that it seems that Andreas is being pressured to stop hanging out with his childhood friend and second in command, Viktor. This situation is not at all what it seems. I'm glad that the sample chapters intrigued readers enough to write me with these observations. I will respond to them as best I can; however, the best way to see that this story is not the usual trope but one that turns that trope on its ear is to read the entire story over the two volumes. I will answer what I can without revealing too much if only for the sake of not having readers think I am being a hypocrite. I must first give a little background.

Early in the existence of Zed Crew, a couple of members who held powerful positions were either booted from the Crew or, in one case, killed over love affairs that went very badly (in that, a jealous lover killed the Crew Member). These unfortunate events caused Andreas to issue a decree that none of Zed Crew was to be involved in high drama relationships. Further, there were restrictions on how much drinking and partying was allowed. The new rule suited Viktor as he was secretly in love with Andreas and didn't want anyone else closer to him than he was. This rule also coincided with the opening of Club Zero, a nightclub popular with almost all

strata of that society and their Crew's base of operation. Thus, no one who frequented that club, including those who lusted after Andreas, ever saw him party hard or show a romantic interest in anyone. Viktor had spent years at Andreas' side and never saw him show an interest in another man or woman.

To Viktor and the others who wanted Andreas, Darius seemed to be able to waltz into the building and take what they all wanted. Despite everything they witnessed with their own eyes to the contrary, they couldn't accept that Andreas was the one who initiated the first encounter between him and Darius. So there is jealousy from those who want Andreas. Coupled with those intense and dangerous feelings, there is a plot to remove Darius from power by forcing him to take an outrageous action against those who want to trespass into his relationship with Andreas. This is the backdrop to what appears to be irrational possessiveness on the part of Darius. The only danger for Andreas and his freedom is the very real possibility that Darius will deem it unsafe for Andreas to live his life as he has. There are real physical dangers to this uke as those who lust after him grow more and more frustrated that their feelings are not returned. It is Darius' prerogative to determine how best to keep Andreas safe. Under the terms of their contract, Andreas must obey – even if that means being locked away or chained to Darius' bed. This is not a non-con relationship, because Andreas agreed to accept the terms of their contract without hesitation and without coercion. The fun of reading the book is finding out whether or not Andreas can find a way to stand up to such a powerful being and keep his freedom while keeping his Owner happy. And, if this is possible, how he manages to pull it off without triggering Darius' world famous temper.

To get the answers, you will have to start reading!

Review



Fantastica by
Yamila Abraham
yaoipress.com

Yamila Abraham is famous for her serialized yaoi novels with the beautiful covers of compelling bishie characters. Each part slowly builds a tantalizing tale of danger and intrigue and building sexual desire. Each part ends leaving the reader wanting more. *Fantastica* is Yamila Abraham's latest. The characters strongly evoke those from *Black Butler (Kuroshitsuji)* though the story is far different. This is the tale of an ambitious warlock whose blind lust for power leaves him in the service of a cruel demon. For generations, Felix has serviced a cursed contract. He has grown more weary with each generation lost to the curse. The next victim is a beautiful young man whom Felix truly adores as he reminds him of his lost love. Levi has no interest in falling victim to a contract he had no part in creating. He summons Felix's lost love and concocts a plan to free everyone from the curse and the demon who cast it. Not everything goes according to plan. Like the other works by Yamila Abraham, I found this one compelling but frustrating. I no sooner got settled in with the story

and all of those beautiful and lethal characters when Part One was over. It's great that segments are published fairly quickly. Still, that can be maddening.

I was not the only YGG member to be drawn to the lures of Fantastica. Here is another view kindly written for us by Mandakun.

My first impression of *Fantastica* was that of confusion. The first page is primarily a conversation, that when dove into straight away, made little sense. It is a title that unfolds little by little after the initial page, which is partly why it's confusing. At first the reader has no idea what is going on, but it is then revealed to them through the next few pages.

Ultimately, I feel as if *Fantastica* has a lot of potential and room for improvement. There are some grammatical issues involved with it, as well as formatting errors, but it is easy to read and follow. The "conflict" is referred to right away, which gives the reader a good knowledge of what is happening and why. One thing that would make this specific title better is if more detail was used. While there is cover art, it's always good to go into detail about characters and what is happening. The author Yamila Abraham, does this, but it would be beneficiary if she did more so, especially since this is a yaoi title. I know, I personally love fully detailed descriptions of what is going on between two or more boys, as well as feelings, surroundings, etc. I believe should could do a better job "painting a picture" for the reader to envision.

The conversations between characters, while mostly fluid, can get a little choppy at points, with a lot of short sentences between them, which indicate actions. This is good in some cases, but if they tended to flow better into the formatting, the title would read a lot better.

The characters, from what were laid out, have a decent variety, and distinct mannerisms which of course I hope holds still strong in character development in future parts. I for one,

though, have always been a fan of demons, so *Fantastica* gets points for having them.

All and all, I enjoyed the first section of it and look forward to the rest. I hope that Yamila continues to improve on her writing and how it is presented. The base is there, as well as the idea and it is apparent what needs to happen. Nothing is left unquestioned, even though the reader starts out a bit confused. If she were to add a wee more detail, which will come with time, I believe this will be really good. It is worth a read if you like demon boys, which, I think everybody should.

Characters: 8/10

The characters are nicely formed from the start with room for a developmental arc that could go in any direction. What makes them compelling is not only the fear of them surviving but of them changing into something tragic and evil.

Plot: 10/10

The plot is laid out clearly from the very beginning and it is full of suspense and danger an opportunities for some very hot sex. It is the way the plot is set up that will keep the reader addicted and desperate for the next installment.

Sex: 10/10

Their is intense sexual tension in almost every paragraph. The entire plot is sex drenched, making it an organic part of the unfolding action rather than something that happens after a set number of pages in an obligatory fashion. When it happens – yam! It is white hot and descriptive while remaining tasteful.

Review



Big Deal by
Sarah Curtis
AiPress

(<http://ai-press.net/tokyo-beat/>)

Katsura, the wonderful author of this 136 page long book, and Yuramei, the stunning artist with an ability to reveal the characters in all their wonder, come together to bring about a lovely piece of work in *Big Deal: Lust for Vengeance*. This story is complex and the characters are far from two dimensional. One could not ask for a better story about two men who have been intertwined for years through work and then later through jail.

The story starts unassumingly with Judas in bed with some poor soul he picked up. It starts off with the promise of just being another smut book with a pretty cover. Then comes in Fergus, a character who harbors a dislike of Judas for leaving him alone in prison. There is a show of a gun, a hint at the nature of Judas and Fergus, but then nothing of that occurs except for the poor soul who is told to leave Judas' room unclothed and with nothing to show for his effort of enticing Judas.

Despite this torrid beginning, the story soon takes off with Judas and Fergus. There are teasing glimpses at the people within the cold, beautiful

bodies of the men. There is a complex array of personality traits. Judas appears to be nothing but a sex addict, a man who is willing to do anything for a quickie. And Fergus... Well, Fergus is just a cruel man with a penchant for bullying and sex. Then you have Mikhail, a beautiful owner of a brothel. This lovely man has every intent of seducing Fergus and Fergus finds his heart captured by this stunning man. Hugo soon comes into the picture early on. His character is harder to pinpoint in that first other than that he is the husband of Fergus. Despite this, each new character that comes forth within this story promises a new outlook and promises a beautiful twist to the story.

The story develops nicely throughout the 136 pages of written work and beautifully drawn photographs. There are twists and turns, edging the reader on and urging them to turn the next page. And there is sex. There is enough sex within the story for the reader to wish they had a fan permanently placed on them or even for them to wish to take a cold shower. The sex, however, is not forced and it plays an important role in the story and character, particularly that of Judas. It is also wonderfully descriptive and accurate in a way that most yaoi novels are unable to comprehend.

In short, this story will have the reader on the edge of their seats. Who is Fergus talking to? What is Mikhail going to do? What about Hugo? What is going to happen to Judas? Who is he going to take home next? All of it is written in a way that will ultimately entice the reader and bring them into the story. The reader will laugh, the reader will cry, and they will fan themselves. Most of all, the reader will have fun and will wish to come back to the book for another read.

Characters:10/10

The characters are well developed and they are more than adequate in their different personalities. These are not cookie cutter characters.

Plot:9/10

The plot is filled with twists and turns and it allows the characters to interact in a way that is indicative of the real world.

Sex: 10/10

The sex is descriptive, it is hot, and it leaves nothing to the imagination. It is very raw and most of all it is human. It is not forced and there is nothing about it that says that this is a fluff piece.



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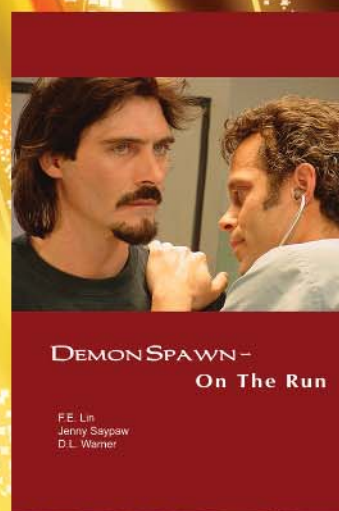
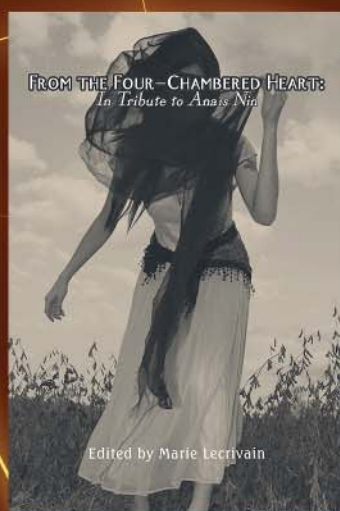
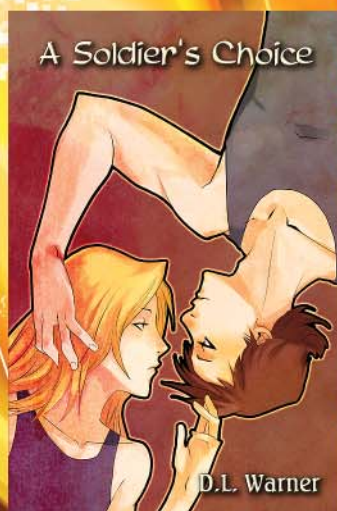
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