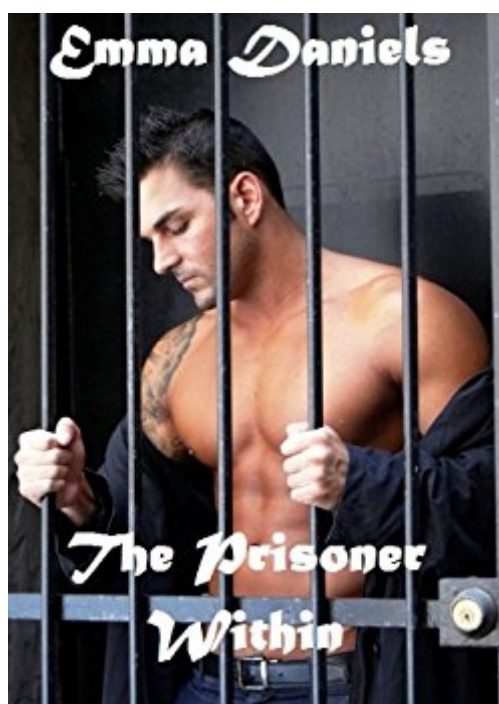


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THE PRISONER WITHIN



Synopsis

A pub brawl gone wrong lands Luke Alexander in prison. Whilst inside, a horrifying event almost sends him mad. When at last Luke walks free, he's not the carefree young man he used to be. He has to learn to live all over again. Trying to find work and overcoming the prejudice of people like Karen Shaw is only his first obstacle. There are also people who want him dead. Karen's sister, Lynette decides to give Luke a chance when her company needs new staff, as she sees more in him than his criminal history. Lynette has travelled the world, been married twice and dated a rock star, so Karen can't understand why she'd want to get involved with an ex-prisoner... until the rock star returns and wants Lyn back. Karen, on the other hand, has led a completely different life to her sister, too shy to fight for what she wants. When she discovers what Lynette had done to Luke, she decides to make some dramatic changes in her life... and his.

Review by Rita V from Readers Favorite - Four Star Review ****The Prisoner Within is an intrinsic romantic novel, yet it is about tragedy and dealing with consequences. The Story starts when Luke Alexander, a young man in his mid-twenties, is leaving prison after having served 5 years for being involved in a pub fight that went horribly wrong. He longs to live a normal life and vows to do everything possible never to return to prison. He must face the changes of everything that has happened in the past five years outside of his prison cell. But having a criminal past carries its prejudices and people cannot seem to get past that with Luke. Looking for work becomes very difficult when he meets Karen Shaw. Karen carries many prejudices herself and treats him like a leper. He was now branded and labeled 'no good'. It is Karen's older sister, Lynette, who sees much more to Luke than his criminal history. With his work release money almost gone, she decides to give Luke a chance and hires him for a large Communications Company. Luke and Lynette discover they have chemistry for one another and fall in love, but would it last? Luke's fears that he had buried away come back to life after he finds out that his brother, Chris, is gay and in a relationship with a man named Tony. Luke has fears against the gay community and must come to terms in accepting that his brother is gay. Something dreadful also happened to Luke while in prison; something that he had blocked out and locked away until it comes back full force and he must face it once again. Karen also has plans for Luke that changes his life dramatically. Will Luke finally come to terms with his dark past, find romance, and accept his brother?

Emma Daniels is a very powerful and intriguing writer. The Prisoner Within is a complicated novel with several suspenseful twists and turns. The story does get long in some parts, but after getting back to the main plot, I enjoyed this book tremendously. I love how Emma draws the reader into her books. This story has it all; from suspense and thrills to romance and tragedy. It contains a real life story that we can all relate to on some level.

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Psychological

Customer Reviews

I've read other Emma Daniels stories and enjoyed them, so I expected a light romance. This is not a light romance. That's not to say it is a bad story, but it isn't what I was looking for when I started it. The subject matter is very tough, starting with a hero that is homophobic. That's a big turn off for me. Although he moves towards acceptance in the story, it made for tough reading - at least for me. There are also 3 violent, unpleasant scenes. I too had a problem with the heroine's acceptance of the hero's relationship prior to her. It should have been an uncomfortable situation at the least, but not one word was said about it. I didn't quite buy into the hero/heroine attraction that was based on their fantasies. So what if the person looks like someone you have fantasized about? There's got to be a lot more there for me, and I didn't see that develop. There were a few proofreading errors - not too distracting for me, but I mention them because I know a lot of readers are intolerant of that. There were nice things about the story, I enjoyed the setting in Australia. And the story certainly made me think - those are good things, just not what you might be expecting from a romance.

This book has been on my to-read list for a while now and after reading it I don't know why it took so long! I love unique stories like this that are not the cliched billionaire-meets-virginal-heroine books, and this book didn't disappoint. Luke was everything I look for in a book boyfriend-- hot, emotionally scarred, and with issues (call me crazy, but that's now I like 'em). Unlike most novels that don't reveal what caused the hero/heroine to be traumatized until the last 10% of the book, what happened to Luke was something he was struggling with throughout the book. This added so much depth to the story and his character for me.*SPOILER*I wish the story had focused a bit more on Karen and Luke and how their relationship helped him heal instead of them being thrown together and falling in love toward the end of the book (I felt like Karen was barely present in the story until the end). Overall, it satiated my craving for an abused and tormented hero. I wish I could find more books like this!

it was a good book because it dealt with a really tough issue. it did feel extremely rushed but it was a good plot and story line

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