

[Reading] ➔ In Allegiance By Kate Islay – Soccerjerseys- wholesale.co

Posted on 03 February 2018 By Kate Islay

4.5 stars Shame on me for taking than two years to act on a recommendation for this book. In my defense, I can say that I completely misunderstood the blurb at the time and I thought the relationship would be one of the master slave types, which is definitely not the case. Although Mathias and Reve started as master and slave, their circumstances were forced on both of them and their relationship was never about that dynamic, Mathias had to live with it and try to make the most of a difficult situation just as much as his slave, if not. It all worked out in the end, I read this book at the perfect time for me I was looking for a good story, with an interesting plot and solid characters, a slow and realistic relationship development without tons of meaningless sex, possibly a decent world building, and I got all I wished for and. This story is so much than a romance honor, loyalty, family and friendship play a huge part in it There s a romance and a happy ending, which I loved, but romantic love is just one of the many forces moving these characters and often not even the strongest. Big thanks to Love and honor in war. Reve is the second son of Salenne s king and a tribute of war given to Matthias, the conquering Cortesian general Though a slave he maybe in the eyes of Cortesian law, Mathias respects the young prince Mathias has earned his men s fealty through honor and good decisions it isn t long before he earns Reve s as well When do we forsake one of our oaths Choose between them Leal, Reve s younger brother, still impressionable is taken as a vassal, security for Salenne s good behavior Reve has always seen Leal s safety as his prime responsibility When their lives intersect in Cortesa,

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Reve can't not act on his brother's behalf. Engaging military read with machinations and questioned loyalties More fluid than the original work and romantic, it comes full circle The Roman Empire, Julius Caesar tone definitely works well as you get see the powers at play in Cortesa Overall, a civilized warlord slave story that plays political chess A copy was provided to me for a No Glitter Blown review Reviewed for Hearts On Fire Reviews Review of Version on Live Journal 02.12.13 My review of the published version of this work is here This book is not getting the traffic it should be I picked this up after reading Captive Prince and in seeking something to settle my CP high I found the recommendation for it on freece's S U Pacat's message board This is not Captive Prince, however, the similarities are there in plot concept and certainly in the well delivered flow of prose In contrast, if one were to describe the action in CP as intense and stunning, then the action in IA would be calm and calculated I can appreciate both presentations Reve is a captured prince gifted to the Captain of the conquering army, Mathias Reve is young, headstrong, prideful, but not naive or even brash Mathias is experienced, war weary, highly intelligent and masterful at navigating and playing the political court of which he is a part Despite their Master Slave roles, Reve and Mathias are on equal footing as heroes A well evolved somber dynamic replaces the usual formulaic passionate one and is a refreshing aspect, particularly how there is much conveyed both to the reader and each other in the silence between them This not a typical slave piece and will not sate if you are looking for the commercially grown master slave power struggles that, though satisfying for a certain mood, deliver only what is expected But if you enjoy the subtle approach, well crafted characters and substance for your mind as well as your appetite IA delivers a well written read with memorable characters Whether you loved Captive Prince or hated it, shouldn't bear on your enjoyment of In Allegiance, clearly there are some likenesses, but don't assume for a second it is the same book Highly recommend to all fans of m m, particularly those who enjoy the enemies become lovers trope. 4.5 HEART POUNDING HEARTS Holy mother of all things heart pounding and nail biting THAT was a good book I feel a bit like this after reading it though. I'm sorry to say it but I put off reading this for ages I think it was the

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cover honestly, but I absolutely devoured this book. This book is set in an alternate universe, but one very closely related to the time and period of the Roman empire. It reminded me a lot of the movie *Gladiator*, but without the *Gladiators*, just all the politics, corruption and war. Mathias is the Commander of the army of Cortesa, which is an empire similar to Rome. We meet him just after his army have successfully conquered the northern kingdoms. Mathias is gifted with a pleasure slave for his victory, one of the northern Prince's sons, Reve. Reve's eight-year-old brother is also taken by the king of Cortesa to be fostered by him to become an eventual successor. As you can imagine, Reve and Mathias have a fairly shaky start as Reve wants to rescue his brother and return home, while Mathias is loyal to his king and empire. I really really loved the way their tentative truce and relationship developed. They both felt just in their respective causes, but developed respect for each other and obviously there was also that undercurrent of attraction sizzling away between them. Seeing both Reve and Mathias POV was what made this book so much enthralling and complicated. Mathias' loyalty to his king and country made so much sense and I could see where he was coming from, but at the same time we saw Reve's hurt and how much the war had affected him and his kin. I had no idea how this would end or what would happen to any of the characters in the meantime. My nerves slowly but surely increased as the King of Cortesa's motivations become dubious and conspiracies started coming from all angles. I was so scared for Reve and his little brother. I ached for Mathias as he started to fall in love with Reve and felt weight of his loyalty starting to divide. Goodness, this book was brilliantly written. Despite all the different names and places, I never felt lost. In a story this intricate and with this many characters, this takes a lot of talent. The reason this is a 4.5 and not a 5 hearts is that the romance does take a back seat to the story and conspiracies, which is never a preference of mine. The romance is there though, it's just subtle, and yes there are a couple of sex scenes, which I was highly grateful for. The build up of sexual tension was delicious and when it did finally get satisfied it was satisfied well. If you don't mind sweating a little and you enjoy historical, conspiracy or war stories, I would highly HIGHLY recommend this one. Even if you don't, just try this, I think you will find you'll get glued to the

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story Everyone in this city seemed to be conspiring against one other! I read the original version of this story on Live Journal three years ago and found it to be a solid four stars in its unedited state. In fact, second to *Captive Prince*, it was probably one of the best crafted original works posted on Live Journal. I think if Ms Islay had pulled it to publish as it was, it would have done just fine. However, when she released this new version, she stated she had wanted to make some significant revisions that I think bring out the romance, as well as flesh out some character and plot points. I've also added an epilogue, for a bit closure. And I have to say she delivered on all fronts, producing a very fulfilling novel that is contextually the same while adding depth to the plot, characters and romance. Revolving around the central theme of choices and the freedom to make them no matter how confined your circumstance in life may be, Islay provides fully fleshed out main as well as tertiary characters that are laid out on a political game board. Everyone hides their intentions while playing their roles. At the center is Mathias, Commander of the Cortesian Army and Reve, a prince conquered and gifted as a pleasure slave to Mathias by the Cortesian King. For me, Mathias is the star of the show. He does not embrace the snake pit atmosphere of the royal court, but he knows how to play the game. Unwilling to engage in court antics, but adept at deflecting them. However, as the empire expands the game begins to change and his loyalty to the king is challenged by his loyalty to the people and to make matters complicated for him, he must solve the mystery of a rebellion brewing in the North and a growing attraction to his newly acquired northern slave prince. He navigates the field with a level head, a composed facade and a sharp mind. Reve struggles with his new submissive role, the fact that his father bargained his life as a political pawn and his reluctant admiration of Mathias. Brash, prideful, but aware of his faults and frustrated by his change in circumstances, Reve vacillates between playing his subservient role and begrudgingly acknowledging the leniency he is given by Mathias and clinging to his pride. He emerges as an unwitting player on the board who, despite his status as a slave, is in essence seen as a powerful threat by the empire or an asset to oppose it. He comes to realize he must trust someone, if not himself to choose wisely. There is a lot of

plotting in this story So much so that I hesitate to toss it in the category of M M Romance , but if anything it features a love story between two men that is as understated as it is integral to the plot I dare describe it as a well contrived historical AU centered around political machinations with a number of wild card players on the fringe, a mystery circling it s center and at it s core every possible outcome for all involved hinges on whether Mathias and Reve s affection is merely duty bound or A number of chapters even feature Mathias and Reve apart, but Islay keeps their dynamic and influence on the unfolding story remaining as they try to calculate each other s motives and moves from a distance, clinging to the hope they haven t misjudged or misplaced their trust Islay uses not only Mathias and Reve s alternating POV to tell the story, but also that of an unbiased narrator, Luca, who is playing at his own game on the board as well while keeping a careful eye on all of it s players Supporting cast are fleshed out just as fully as the protagonists, two of which stand out Reve s father, who struggles with the choices he has been faced with to sacrifice his sons for his people and later ultimately one son for a slave so another son may succeed, and King Arturus, whose descent into obsessive insanity gives depth to the motivations of his villainy The world building from the mountains of the North to the countryside of the south, the court life of Cortesa and the subtle societal homophobia of the times are adeptly painted The added depth of characterizations, a steady pace of action, fleshed out plot holes and a much satisfying ending with an HEA over an HFN makes this story well worth purchasing, though I am happy I got to watch it evolve from it s free version on Live Journal Recommended to readers who enjoy a well crafted story to accompany their romance. thank you Elena for the push on this one, sitting on my kindle for I don t know how long What a great surprise this book was, I just could not put it down the story was far from what I expected I don t need to repeat the story as you can go look at the many other reviews what clicked for me was the writing of al the characters as well as the development of their relationship I enjoy The getting to know each of the players of the story and feel how they fit, this worked so well and just flowed The political game is so clever and well thought very crafty. Trapped Between Loyalty To His King And His Longing For Home, Mathias Finally Gains What

He Most Wants Home And Peace But When The King Gifts Him With A Personal Slave From A Conquered Princedom, He Can T Foresee The Rippling Effects That FollowAs Reve Struggles To Come To Terms With His New Station In A Foreign Land, He Still Hopes To Reclaim What He And His Family Have Lost An Empire Stands In His Way, Not To Mention His Own Complicated Feelings For His Captor In Allegiancewas a very nice surprise.Set in an indefinite historical past resembling the period of the Roman Empire, the novel focuses on the ongoing struggle for freedom of a Northern people hard pressed by the expansionist campaign of the King of the southern city of Cortesa.Pivoting around the crossed destinies of Mathias, the commander of the Cortesian army, and Reve, a prince sold to the commander as a slave, the book develops a very interesting and compelling story, full of beautiful secondary characters, movement and turns of luck.When I started the novel, not knowing anything about it except for its blurb and the positive reviews of some GR friends, I was expecting something entirely different and mostly based on the master slave dynamics The actual novel, however, was much intriguing and surprising than that.Both Mathias and Reve are rounded characters, layered and complex in their motivations and loyalties Despite its centrality, their relationship is far from being the only focus in the book Their growing closer, overcoming distrust and external difficulties, provides a nice backbone to the plot The question of Mathias allegiance to his king and Reve s loyalty to his people and family, however, shifts the reader s attention to a different set of narrative concerns that are equally involving.For a large part of the novel, the two main characters are not even together Their bond, though, keeps working as a propelling force in the background of all the other events narrated in the bookIn Allegianceis also elegantly written, with nuanced and beautiful characterisations.I really liked it This was recommended to me by a co worker who compared it to The Captive Prince books I can see where that comparison arose from In Allegiance has that same enslaved prince angle However, The Captive Prince it is not In Allegiance just does not have the sharp teeth that The Captive Prince has It is, for the most part, a quiet novel I m not stating this as a flaw, though I d rather not read a carbon copy Different spins are

always preferred, and In Allegiance is certainly different enough it's nuanced, but like I said, quiet I enjoyed that. That said, it's not a long book, and I felt like there just wasn't enough relationship arc development for my liking. I read the last page and wanted, and not in the best of ways I don't regret picking it up, because I did like it, but I can't say I felt entirely satisfied by the journey.

