




The Condor

Isa K.

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Nobody ever said running a gay escort agency was going to be easy. Harry takes on more than he can chew when he recruits a new boy who might be straight, might just be confused, or might be interested in servicing someone other than the clients. Then there's a client whose specific kinks mean for the first time in years Harry will have to handle a job himself.

Long-time boyfriend Liam may be losing patience with having his life so influenced by hookers and emergency phone calls. Looks like he might become ex-boyfriend Liam... but is that such a bad thing? What should be done about the pushy bottom who won't go away until Harry agrees to dominate him? Is the new boy cut out for this business? There are vultures in the city. Harry is just a big, sparkly, gay one.

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The Condor Details

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Download and Read Free Online The Condor Isa K.

From Reader Review The Condor for online ebook

Shelley says

Reviewed for The Blog Of Sid Love

‘Christ on a cracker!’

This book is superb, amazing even ... but I don't have to like it ALL do I?

Have you ever wondered about the world of prostitution and how it REALLY works? Wondered how Escort agencies recruit their employees and their clients? What about the people who own these establishments? Who are they? But the most important question for me is. "How could they?"

Well, if you want answers then Harry is most qualified to provide them.

He is an ex prostitute, ex Dom, and ex twink. Nowadays he's an effeminate Top in the body of a bear, the owner of a gay escort agency, recruiting his own 'stock' and clientele. In fact, you'll get to see him recruit Danny (a straight boy) first hand. You'll get all this with an exclusive look into the world of prostitution: the machinations, the kinks, the clients, the mind-set, the interactions and the malicious set ups.

The Condor is Harry's story to tell, and he tells it well.

Allow me to begin with what makes this book *really* stand out.

The **originality!** Thank you, thank you, and thank you again! I never knew what direction this was going in. There is no trope to define this plot and no category for me to slot it into, and I love that.

The **humour!** Again I give thanks. What could have been a pessimistic and gloomy perception is lifted by Harry's unaffected and often cutting twink humour.

The **characterisation** is remarkable. Prostitute or pervert the author makes each uniquely human without adopting the hype and drama that usually shadows such easily stereotyped characters.

The Condor is an **ingenious** character driven puzzle stressing the superficial makeup of people. It gets really interesting when the author snubs customary cause and effect profiling in favour of something quite ... unique. Read between the lines, interpret the character performances and you get to draw your own conclusions. For me the message is loud and clear. Everyone is a manipulative shit.

Now here's the part that stings

Reading this novel is akin to running my hands over razor grass. Unsuspecting leaves with razor sharp edges that will slice. Just like Harry. He is so unaffected and belligerent about his lifestyle, the man makes me hiss. Allow me to demonstrate:

“Lately I've just started to rotate our stock around, convinced that clients can be tricked into thinking they have the variety they crave if they can't recognize the boy they fucked three months ago.”

Slice. Hiss.

“I'm not interested in souls. I'm interested in bodies. Your soul is immortal, but your body has a definite sell by date. Call me unscrupulous, but I can't always wait for prime stock to figure out their morals, their philosophies and to be comfortable in their sexuality all on their own.”

Slice. Hiss.

Between this, and Harry's big ole gay heart I couldn't get a handle his true self, and perhaps that's the point. I held him at arm's length for the entirety of this novel - too wary of those unsuspecting slices. Sure he softens it with good intentions and humour, but girlfriend - I ain't any fool. I see you ... or so I thought.

For a long time after finishing this story I focussed on the ~~offensive~~ condescending aspect because it felt most pertinent in my mind, but then I realised that it was all relative. There is a romance here which serves to highlight the great elements of this novel, but I won't tell because you'll never guess who the love interest will be.

It is basic flaws, and not my personal discomfort that diminish my rating. This book needs a proof read. The excellent writing is spoiled by poor editing, which is not something I usually comment on but there where even words missing. Very shoddy. The chapters are serialised which interrupts the flow when read as a completed novel. I was never given a reason for 'straight boy' Danny's obsessive attraction to Harry.

So should you read it?

I say yes, refer back to the good stuff and then remove your politically correct filter. There is fun to be had here, but also the risk that you realise how truly fickle your psyche and perception of others really is. *The Condor* leaves me with much to ponder. I may not have liked it all, but I can appreciate and admired it. Isa K certainly makes into onto my favourite author shelf.

Favourite quote.

“Sex is the great equalizer. Whores and debutantes all moan the same.”

Julio Genao says

Well, fuck me sideways—that was *fun*.

I dunno how much to share. Half the relish was in slowly piecing together the immensely satisfying parallels between the principals and their grossly inaccurate perception of themselves.

I think the rewards of parsing these things on your own far outweigh the smug triumph I might feel in crowing about them on your behalf.

So let's just be gratuitously vulgar, then, shall we?

Lawdy, did this bring out the fuckin' cunt in me, or what? Half the fun was in casting off these dusty rags of superego and slipping on the shiny fluorescent spandex of my id.

Nothing like a pert urban homo to put things in perspective.

New York is all about change—and money. Entire neighborhoods spring up from the crumbling bones of another nearly overnight, only to be annexed by yet another twenty years later.

So too are its denizens thusly flexible: we need such skills to survive here without resorting to the obvious but short-sighted path to enlightenment that leads one to push other people in front of subway trains.

As everyone does to a certain degree. We show our employers one face, our coworkers another—and our families another altogether. We have to.

Or people get hurt.

We don't even need to know how it works. We just do it. Usually until some crazy bullshit goes down that forces us to look more closely at the narrative we've built from the most flattering or useful pieces of our true selves.

But enough of all that armchair psychology—this one's about *hoors*!

Fucked-up, self-deceiving, horribly disingenuous hoors!

Hoors fucking other hoors, even!

I was in love from page one.

What can a manipulative baby-gay, a faggot Heidi Fleiss, and some sort of vaguely sociopathic savant (with a touch of the Syndrome and maybe even Asperger's as well) possibly have in common?

It is almost literally killing me not to say, but it's cool. Isa K.—that deplorable, scandalously talented, utterly wretched creature, god bless her black little heart—has said it quite well enough, here.

It's not perfect, of course. Very nearly nothing ever is. But there's kink and sex and awful, awful people doing awful things to one another. The subsequent hilarity is only slightly this side of wickedness—but allowing this woman to debase your eyeballs thusly proves to be a categorically rewarding experience, even if you choose not to read between the lines.

Which you should totally do, you know? Read between the lines? Cos there's hella juicy shit in there.

Behind an agreeably profane *Memoirs-of-a-Mama-San* exterior lies a more or less devastating examination of the space between how we perceive ourselves and how we truly are—plus hoors.

Highly recommended.

Hannah says

Following *The Condor* while it was in progress was one of the highlights of my summer. I *love* this book. The characters are complex and humanly flawed. The writing is humorous, charming, and so insightful.

Edit 12/15/12: Now that this book has been edited and is available as an ebook, it's even better. And the two

bonus stories at the end are fun and delightfully smutty. Read this! I highly recommend it.

Vivian says

Loved it.

This book is a lot like a demolition derby: fun to watch, things look worse than they are and everything banged up can be sorted out with a few whacks in the right place. Isa K's voice was hysterical--I'd read anything with this delicious helping of sarcasm and self-deprecation. Frickin' tickles me like nothing else. The characters were great. There were no goods guys and no bad guys--just a whole bunch of people trying to straggle through life the best they can while trying not to wipeout completely. Everyone fucks up. Perfectly messy.

Favorite quote: There can't be just one.

"The last thing I need is Stanley Kubrick directing my life. It's fucked up enough under my own direction."

"There's a state of bliss that can be reached only by deliberately bringing your own worst fears into reality."

Jenni Lea says

"And in a taxi full of hookers, away we go."

What else is there to say?

This is my new favorite. It was scandalously delicious, unashamedly wicked and just friggin' fabulous! I want more!

Fangtasia says

The greatest strength in this story is the wonderful characters: human, fallible, with all kinds of quirks, virtues, and foibles. The author does an incredibly good job of making them start out at one end of the personality spectrum and end at the other. The guy supposed to be most jaded ends up being the most innocent, the "innocent" guy turns out to be a great actor, and finally, the crazy guy is crazy like a fox, he got what he wanted, aaaall of it. No one is all good or all bad, but the realistic mix of both we all are.

The end result of the above is a refreshingly original story based on a common plot: the hooker with a heart of gold. The final pairing makes all the sense in the world, two true capitalists in love. Enjoy!

Trix says

[One of the things that made me love the book is Harry's voice throughout the book. He is funny, witty,

sarcastic, insightful, human. He is by no means perfect and is prone to mistakes and misjudgments, like everyone else but you can't help falling in love with him as he tries to be the good guy.

Probably the best feature of this book for me, was the cha

Erika says

I'm going to give this one 3.5 stars. It was good and I liked the characters, especially Harry, but I'm rounding down for the extreme amount of typos and missing words. It was obviously self published.

I'm also rounding down for the condescendingly racist way some of the characters were portrayed and/or talked about. For example, does the black drag queen HAVE to use made up words like "you'is"? I hate when black people are made to speak "a certain way" in books, and this is coming from someone who is black and doesn't know anyone who speaks like that in real life.

Otherwise, this was a great book with a unique premise and I would be happy to read more about these characters.

Syfy says

Thank you Isa!

"I wish I could say this story has a nice instructive moral for you to take home, but the things I've learned won't fit on a cross-stitch."

K, Isa (2012-10-18). The Condor (Kindle Locations 6441-6442). . Kindle Edition.

Oh sure, starts off with Harry telling his story all full of snark and witty common sense. I'm all laughing and wondering what's next? Delighted with this wild cast of characters. Harry's got it all under control.

I settled in, brain engaged, my sense of humor running amok... but it get's complicated.

As the story progresses, Harry seems to become more introspective, bearing more of his soul. More of his history unfolds, I start to see the reality behind the reality if you will. Maybe Harry is not who he thinks he is. Do I trust his perspective?

Guess what? It's not all sunshine an daisies! There are monkey's from outer space and polka!

Harry's journey to self realization and HEA is one I would not have missed for the world! Yes I recommend, and no, there is no gratuitous sex. (Of course there's sex, just not an overabundance of the titillating stuff!)

;P

Christina says

The Condor was a fun look at how the owner of a gay escort service runs his business. The characters made this book! They were unique and complex. Nothing was as it seemed. It was one contradiction after another and this is what propelled the book. At times it was lewd and offensive, but you know what? So is life sometimes, so I just went with it and enjoyed the ride. Harry, Harry, Harry.....I love him! Harry makes no apologies on how he runs his business and we get to learn firsthand how he accomplishes this. He's funny and snarky and his heart comes shining through.

My only complaint is that I never understood why Danny wanted Harry so badly. Why did he want his approval and want to impress him? This made zero sense to me. I needed a convincing explanation in order to believe the lengths Danny went through to get Harry's attention.

This was my first book by Isa K. but it certainly won't be my last.

Lisa Henry says

Loving this! It's serialised, so the only downside is waiting for the next chapter. But that can be part of the fun -- like when you're a kid and there are all those presents under the tree, but you're not allowed to open them until Christmas morning.

This is like that. But with hot guys having sex for money. So that's win/win right?

EDIT: I'm so sad that this ride is over. More please!

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

****4.5 stars****

This book should have a much bigger fan base. It is snarky, smutty, fantastic stuff. I loved every second of it. Very nice, Isa K.!!

"The Condor" was really a unique read. I found out after I read it that it was originally a serial. That makes a lot of sense. It reads like one, when I think about it. Each chapter kind of ends on a mini-cliffy and, as the reader, I had no idea what was going to come next. I was absolutely clueless about a lot of stuff about this book, especially who Harry was going to end up with. The book kept me guessing in the best possible way. *It entertained me.* So very much. It also had a lot going on, like I guess a serial would (I've never read one). There was drama with lots of the characters and many side plots, but it never felt busy or overworked. It just felt right.

I absolutely adored Harry's voice. He was hilarious, sweet, and a study in contradictions. Give me a dommy,

top, muscle-boy who is also a wannabe twink glitter goddess any day! Seriously, any day. I loved the little tastes of New York and the insights to the inner-workings of an escort agency. The whole vibe of the book was amazing.

I think the this author's strongest skill was her ability to make each character multidimensional. No one was exactly how they seemed. Each person had deeper emotions, deeper issues than what met the eye. The author so brilliantly crafted each character, from the drag queen mother hen to the PhD-seeking boyfriend. Each one was well-rounded. That takes talent, my friends.

As you can see, this book was a huge hit with me. I will certainly be reading everything else that I can get my hands on by this fabulous author!

Dreamer says

5 stars. Just loved this funny character based m/m bdsm romance that I believe started life as an online serialization. Harry is a larger than life twink in a Dom's body and owner of an escort agency with his chain-smoking partner Lena. He takes on troublesome new gay-for-pay escort Danny and equally troublesome new sub/client Logan. Meanwhile Liam, his lover of eight years is keeping secrets from him.

'This client is going to rock my boat. Part of me feels like the boat needs to be rocked and part of me feels like I'm overlooking the fact that the boat is made of cardboard. I will know within five minutes of starting the conversation. Which is what makes it so impossible.'

Silkeeeeeereads says

3.5 STARS

I think the author wanted this to read more like a conversation with the reader. It begins that way and loses point somewhere not too far in. It makes an appearance occasionally and then becomes a little heavier at the end. The characters are really the only reason I continued with this book. It's a bit long, very little sex and the weirdest type of romance. It's just a very strange read.

Emma Sea says

It's been five days since The Condor finished, and I'm still not mentally prepared for it ending. It's not possible for me to separate the *experience* of reading The Condor from the narrative. As others have said, this was the most emotionally-involving reading experience of the year.

90% of that was of course Isa K.'s talented writing. I can't believe she gifted us all the opportunity to read this story for free. I will most certainly be buying a copy when it is published in book form.

The remaining 10% was the other readers, and I want to thank them for the best arguments, discussion, debate, and wild theories I have experienced on Goodreads. Reading The Condor was like participating in the Lost fandom, but with a far superior conclusion.

When it comes to describing *why* The Condor was so good, I become somewhat verklempt. Harry and Logan keep squeezing tears out of my eyes, and I need to re-read some hot Jude/Harry/Danny menage-sex to get over it. I'm not emotionally removed enough from the story to unpick it, but one day I will.

Just read it. Now. It's fabulous.
