



# Draconian Measures

*J.C. Owens*

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The immortal Finnarians mate for life and once they find their mate, nothing on earth can make them leave them. But what about when that mate is not Finnarian at all, but a stubborn, fiery, extremely irritable Draconian? What if that Draconian wants nothing at all to do with his Finnarian mate? It seems the Finnarian prince, Sadan, is going to have his work cut out for him. Fortunately, he is just as stubborn and far more persistent than said Draconian has ever had to deal with.

Graithaan is the last remaining Draconian and he has attracted the eye of a Finnarian prince, who claims that he is his bloodmate. Sadan may want to be mated, but Graithaan has developed a passionate hatred for his Finnarian commander, prince or not. Too bad Finnarians are persistent as the hells. Especially this one.

## Draconian Measures Details

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Author : J.C. Owens

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# From Reader Review Draconian Measures for online ebook

## KimberlyRose says

I can't rate this book with the star system: my responses were just too polarized!

On the one hand, it was an intense page-turner, full of emotional, lively characters. And the sex scenes were a fascinating and arousing combination of emotions and thoughts. The descriptions of the world and of the creative characters were wonderful!

But!

On the other hand, it was horrible how all Sadan ever really did to the Draconian was constantly rape him of his will and dignity. He talked down to him while minimizing his words and feelings. I'm not against rape/abuse-fic (in fact, it's one of my favourites themes in fiction when there is true character growth), but this story wasn't even presenting Sadan as wrong. When Sadan's father tells the Draconian to not hurt his son, I screamed, "What the hell about all Sadan's steamrolling over the poor Dragon?!" There was no true character growth. I am totally unconvinced that the Draconian would forget about all the patronizing, condescending and dismissive treatment that his "loving mate" bestowed on him.

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## Diane says

It's your classic bodice ripper romance with a prince vigorously perusing his love... but in this case his love is a six foot tall humanoid dragon warrior complete with wings and a tail. There is a lot of humor, emotion and hot interspecies sex. Recommended.

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## Alyosha says

A rom-com by J.C Owens? Who would have thought.

+ Enjoyable, hot, funny and light read.

- Lacked grittiness, the "feeling" and tune were completely different from the previous books. Also the dialogue (and inner monologue) were slightly repetitive.

3.5 stars

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## Simsala says

A wonderful and totally captivating love story!

The best book by J.C. Owens that I've read so far. I fell hopelessly in love

with the Finnarian prince Sadan and his stubborn, grumpy, fierce - and incredibly cute - Draconian mate

Graithaan.

Draconian Measures is the sequel AND a prequel to Gaven 1+2 and should not be read as a standalone. Most of the worldbuilding, description of the Finnarian culture and introducing of the Mc's takes place in Gaven 1+2! Btw... Vlar as kid is adorable.

HIGHLY recommended!

Note:

Perhaps I should mention it. - Graithaan is not a shapeshifter. He really is a dragon. With wings, scales, claws and sharp teeth!

Curious? - Read it!!

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### **Nikyta \*Miss Forgetful\* says**

Loved this book. It was much different from the previous books in the Gaven series but I felt since this one focused on two new characters it fit and felt exactly right. As opposed to the previous two books, this one is light, funny and an easy read.

Sadan is an amusing character with his easy going attitude and his desire to conquer Graithaan. Graithaan is a more subdued character who hasn't had the best childhood growing up. He's lonely, a bit broken inside and can't admit the feelings he has for his sexy commander. Sadan, however, has no problem admitting his desire for Graithaan.

I enjoyed this book a lot because it focused a bit more on things besides the humans. I loved the description of Graithaan, although I had a hard time picturing what he looked like. It was still extremely fascinating (view spoiler). One of my favorite parts of the book was how Graithaan made it quite known how he hated being around Finnarians. I also loved the way whenever he'd get angry at Sadan he'd just start throwing whatever was close by at Sadan. I couldn't stop laughing and the end of the book was my absolutely favorite scene. It was so cute.

Overall, a great book. I love all of J.C.'s books but this series is definitely holding a special place in my heart. I can't wait to read more in this series (which will hopefully continue!). Definitely recommended.

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### **Lilia Ford says**

J. C. Owens' books are on a short list of automatic-buys for me --I have loved almost everything I've read by her, but I probably enjoyed Draconian Measures the best. The juxtaposition of the two first-person perspectives is unusually clever and well done. On one page, poor Graithaan is fuming about the obnoxiousness of Finnarians in general and his commander in particular. On the next, we hear Sadan's musings on how adorable his "little Draconian's" temper is. The back and forth between them is bright and witty and full of energy--their sparks not surprisingly give way to scorching sexual heat. Unlike so many romances, the conflict between the couple does not feel at all contrived, but is an inevitable expression of their personalities. Though you never doubt the deep attraction there, you also know it cannot be easy for someone like Graithaan to give in to what he feels and submit to Sadan.

All in all the chemistry and wit made for one of the most satisfying MM fantasies I've read.

Note: this is technically the third of the Gaven books: I read it first not realizing it, which did not create any problems for me. I would highly recommend the other two, but this is my favorite.

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## **Julio Genao says**

### **One Talon, Two Talons, Three Talons—Cock.**

I should have known.

The title is a pun that only makes sense to certain human beings on Earth, not the world this story is set in.

But the premise! Surely....?

A dragon and a vampire walk into a bar...

...I mean, doesn't that sound novel? Doesn't that sound *refreshing*?

Well, it was. For a minute.

And then it was the MM-Standard™ foolishness.

Like fucking with river water as lube. Like elaborate displays of antipathy despite mutual attraction.

Like dragon-flouncing. Or whatever.

Plus purple prose and interminably slow pacing, with silly alternating first person POVs as pointless as they were dramatically neuter.

Bah.

I mean—seriously? Seriously?!

Not even Edward Cullen and a Lizard Man can fuck without the "preparation?"

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## **Emanuela ~plastic duck~ says**

4.5 stars.

I'll tell you right away that the little something I didn't like in this book was that Graitaan, the Draconian, sometimes reminded me too much of a feisty heroine than a fierce and fearsome hero.

I really like the world building and in this book I think it's even richer than in the previous books. The story

is a prequel for the other two books in the series. Graitaan, the last survivor of the Draconian company, and Sadan, the commander of the Finnarian army, have been fighting together for 8 years in a war in the human realm. Graitaan can hardly stand Sadan, while Sadan feels that Graitaan is his destined mate. The story is about a long seduction.

The narration alternates between the point of views of both the male protagonists. Graitaan is probably the more interesting, because he has a troubled past - in a society where belonging to a clan is paramount to have social respect, he is of unknown origins - and he was given a chance by a childless couple. His recollection of the past is very moving. Since he barely survived his childhood, Graitaan is smaller than the other Draconians. Having known little love and a lot of despise, he is a loner and he became more so after losing his companions. I liked that he was proud and almost careless, he reminded me a lot of an adolescent, with a rebellious and uncompromising streak, but also loyal to his mission.

Sadaan was less fleshed out, probably because we only saw him in his pursuit of Graitaan.

In the book we get to see a very young Vlar, the protagonist of the first Gaven books, and he was incredibly cute, almost unrecognizable from the first time we meet him in the series. He had the funniest pages of the story.

This book had much less angst than the Gaven books, but it's characters are more memorable in my opinion, because they are much easier to approach and they are more open and more equal than Gaven/Vlar.

I highly recommend this series, especially this book, but even if it could probably be read before the first two books in the series (or even as a stand-alone) I would recommend to read them in order, because the contrast between the adult and the child Vlar is priceless.

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## Lee says

*Draconian Measures* is hands-down the best book in the Gaven series. It's a love story between a Finnarian and a Draconian, and if you are asking yourself what the hell is a Finnarian and a Draconian then this is not the book for you. You should start reading the series with book one, Gaven, then read book two, The Bonding. After reading those books you will know what a Finnarian is, and what a Draconian is.

*Draconian Measures* is a prequel to the first two books and while its two MC are semi-independent from the other books, I feel that it should be read in order because most of the world building takes place in those other books.

The writing is very good and the time and effort that Ms. Owens puts into developing the characters is truly appreciated. The only issue I have with the book is its changing POV. I find the ping-pong effect of changing POV to be intrusive and tiresome. I prefer to have a narrator. Aside from that, I truly enjoyed this series and I highly recommend it.

I give *Draconian Measures* four stars.

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## **Adara says**

I think I enjoyed this one the most because of the switching points of view, and because watching Graitaan fight the attraction was more fun than watching Gaven fight his to Vlar. And, watching a young Vlar and Graitaan interact was sweet too. And the last scene of the book was hilarious. It's reminiscent of the relationship I have with my husband (though I wouldn't have thrown the table).

4.5 stars, rounded down to 4 until I see if it has the re-readability that will up it to 5.

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## **Dee Wy says**

4.5 stars - I decided to start this series with this prequel, and I'm very glad I did. The fantasy world created here was simply amazing to me. Easy to understand and so interesting without overwhelming political detail or too many characters to keep straight. That seems to be tough to find in this kind of story, so, bonus points to the author.

Graitaan is a Draconian (dragon with scales, tail and wings) and has become quite grumpy in his solitary lifestyle now that all his Draconian mates have perished in the war he continues to fight. Enter Sadan, a Finnarian (known as a beautiful human-like race who derive energy from drinking blood and absorbing energies from others on an occasional basis).

Sadan is Graitaan's commander and they get off to a very rocky start, with Sadan trying to seduce Graitaan his god-given mate and Graitaan fighting him tooth and nail. Graitaan's reluctance to admit his attraction to Sadan lasted for most of the book, which felt a bit too long for me (deducted 1/2 point in rating). But all ends well.

I really liked the addition of Sadan's son to the plot, adding a lot to the story. The ending was very satisfying. Really enjoyed this story and would highly recommend to those considering this series.

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## **Kassa says**

Draconian Measures is the third book in the Gaven series (I assume the last too) but is actually a prequel to the other two books. It can be read easily as a stand alone or in any combination with the two Gavin books. It tells the story of Vlar's parents –really Vlar's father and his partner- and their oft mentioned difficult courtship. It's a cute book with a lot of humor but ultimately the book feels too introspective and repetitive to totally satisfy. It's a nice easy read though and a welcome change from the usual dark overtones this author usually offers.

The plot is very circular and simplistic. Sadan, a Finnarian prince, decides that Graitaan, a Draconian, is his mate. Graitaan disagrees. They go back and forth for 170 pages until they live happily ever after. Really that is the entire book in a nutshell, which isn't necessarily a criticism since the writing and light touch keep the pace quick and angst low. Just know going in that there isn't much to the novel in terms of plot. Instead the two main characters share first person narrating duties as they explain in great length and repetitive detail

why they are on opposites sides of the mating fence.

The story is very internal, too much so. The two characters repeat their positions over and over without much variation. Sadan is an interesting character and very dynamic, fun to read while he's narrating but is somewhat two dimensional. He's definitely fleshed out but he rarely alters from the expected script of Graitaan is his mate, end of story. He has moments of sadness, insight, hope, despair, pain and happiness but these are very brief, fleeting emotions while the overwhelming majority of the time Sadan is smug, arrogant, and extremely confident. He's a fun character to be sure, especially as he needles Graitaan but he's not a very exciting character.

Graitaan is slightly better as a reclusive grump annoyed at Sadan's easy going, dominating manner and determined to refuse Sadan's charms. His perspective is more nuanced with greater emotional variation. The scenes depicting Graitaan's childhood are affecting as is his deep well of loneliness and need. He has a lot of charm within the grumpy exterior and offers a great deal of humor during his narration. The angst is kept pretty light so the back and forth is easy and never too serious. There's no question Graitaan will eventually give in and the novel is merely the length of time it took for Graitaan to admit his feelings.

Unfortunately this is slightly too long for me. The story is entertaining to be sure, but the writing is entirely passive and told to the reader. The introspective narrations contain very little, if any, dialogue and thus numerous details are repeated often. For example Graitaan explains early on how everyone stays away from him but especially when he's injured. This exact sentence is repeated two paragraphs later and then again from Sadan's perspective. This kind of repetition is littered throughout the story with very little regard for the fact that readers aren't likely to forget things so soon.

The other downfall is that the story itself is repetitive. Sadan mentally claims Graitaan as his mate, they have sex, Graitaan freaks out and stalks off in a sulk while mentally lambasting Sadan. Rinse and repeat for the duration of the story until Graitaan accepts their love and all is well. This kind of back and forth, sans any banter or dialogue, can only go so long before starting to drag and slow. I personally started to tire of it around the halfway point but reader tastes vary and the light writing may help readers finish.

The prose can at times be wordy and awkward with an odd sentence structure. It's not the most natural and occasionally trip over itself but it does stand out as unique and different from the masses. This helps keep my attention on the story because I have to read more carefully due to the wording. I wouldn't label this a criticism of the story just a difference that may or may not appeal to all readers. I personally don't mind but it's a noticeable difference.

On the whole though, those fans of the series will want to continue with DM. It's cute with an absolutely adorable Vlar and the main characters are hot, fun, and definitely romantic. For a summer read, this should hit the spot.

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## **Loederkoningin says**

Maybe I'll take back what I said about Owens writing before.

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## **Vivian says**

To the pursuit of happiness.

Alone, the last of an imperial gift Graitaan serves a human king. The years of military service bereft of his peers has isolated him. With none of his kind left all he has is a promise made.

Sadan is arrogant and overbearing and when this Draconian warrior is assigned to his unit he finds great pleasure in tormenting. Taking advantage of his superior position he pushes, a gambit.

Totally bought into the concept of vastly different species finding commonality in sexual congress. Loved Sadan's mouthiness and Graitaan's surliness. Alas, that was turned once they got whacked by some pixie dust. Suddenly there's a bunch of doubting and introspection and way too much exposition through mental measuring. I was also not fond of Graitaan's newfound wishy-washy behavior. Liked the story, but was expecting more action, dialogue and less ruminating.

Favorite quote:

I dreaded meeting his father, the king. I could only imagine what an ass he had to be if his son was an indicator.

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## **Feliz says**

\*sigh\*

Graitaan - I wasn't sure I could like a lizard as a romantic hero, but here I am. Such a beautiful, tortured soul...almost counteracted by his prick Finnarian mate. Hadn't it been for Sadan's deep grieving in the end, I'd have surely detested him. What is he, Graitaan's lord and master? A stalker? No wonder the Finnarian women prefer the company of their own gender if they'd have to deal with such ruthless macho men otherwise...

First read 9-15-2011

ETA Reread it and still felt the same about it.

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## **Sammy Goode says**

Have I ever mentioned how much I enjoy a novel that boasts a well-written changing point of view?? I do—very much so but the key is that it must flow seamlessly. As if you are standing in front of the characters and possess the extraordinary talent of being able to read their minds at the exact moment their thoughts enter their mind. Changing point of view is tricky and rarely done well. Often one or the other character seems fresher, more relatable, more fully fleshed out. You CAN learn so much about the personalities of the characters when they express their inner thoughts; and, it goes without saying, that if the

story has humorous overtones, the challenge to write in each character's voice becomes even more daunting. So very few writers are able to pull it off...excel at it...write a story that captures the essence of both Main characters fully and allows them their own unique voice...no, not many authors can do that. It takes a gifted author, really. One like, say...J.C. Owens. Draconian Measures. One word: brilliant.

Sadan is the leader of a superior fighting squad of Finnerians, a blood sucking race known for it's unparalleled beauty, strength, and immortality. Assigned to his team is Graitaan the last know Draconian warrior—a dragon, with a tail and wings and a body that drives Sadan insane. Graitaan hates Sadan, finds him arrogant, smug, beautiful, sexy...wait a minute...how did that get in there? Sadan sees Graitaan as his "little one" who drives him mad with lust and want and is determined to make the little dragon his very own. I laughed, I sighed, and I read and read and read and could not put it down until I came to the end. Let me say it again...brilliant. J. C. Owens has become one of my very few auto-buy authors. She should become one of yours as well.

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### **Alex says**

*Graitaan threw a pillow at me, followed by the glass on the small table by the bed, followed by the table. I caught them deftly and placed them carefully back just inside the door, turning to wait for more projectiles. My fiery little mate kept me on my toes, always trying to get my attention. If he only knew he already had it. He did not need to resort to such dramatic gestures.*

Cute.

Poor Graitaan. I liked Sadan's attitude toward Graitaan - this "*you little baby mine*" attitude that pissed Graitaan so much.

It was a cute idea, quite well started and not so well ended. Nevertheless, fleetingly entertaining. :)

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### **Bookbee says**

#### **4.5 Stars**

Never, in my wildest dreams, would I have envisioned loving a character sporting scales, wings and a tail...and not a shifter! But that is Graitaan, a Draconian warrior, the last of his kind, on a world far from home. We get a glimpse of Graitaan's early life which makes him a sympathetic character right away. We also get to see him through the eyes of Saddan, his Finnarian commander, his stalker and all around thorn-in-side! I loved Saddan's single-minded pursuit of Graitaan, his absolute belief that they were meant to be together. And - who knew - the interspecies sex was really quite steamy!

Added bonus was meeting Vlar as a youngling! :)

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## Genre says

This book is the prequel to the two other books in this fantasy series: *Gaven* and *Gaven 2: The Bonding*. However, whereas the first two books were very serious in tone and dealt with themes such as slavery and dubious consent, the tone of this book is entirely different. Instead of angst and emotional turmoil, this book is very lighthearted in tone and deals in an almost comic fashion with the relationship between Sadan, the father of the hero of the previous book, and the grumpy Graitaan.

We first meet this couple in *Gaven 2: The Bonding* when Sadan travels to meet Gaven and give Vayl his blessing on their bonding. During that book we are given teasing hints of the difficulty Sadan had in wooing Graitaan. In this book we get to see that wooing as Sadan is determined that Graitaan is his mate, and Graitaan is equally determined that he is not. In terms of plot there isn't much that actually happens: Graitaan and Sadan meet when both are involved in helping the Masaran King fight a war. After the war they travel to Finneria where Graitaan really has the pressure applied in the form of a young Vayl, who was utterly delightful. This means that the book is technically a prequel because in the time line it happens many years before *Gaven*. However, much of the groundwork of the series in terms of setting and worldbuilding is done in the first two books, so I still recommend that you read those first.

The part of the book I liked a great deal was in the prickly interaction between Sadan and Graitaan, and the character of Graitaan especially who was a bad-tempered being on the whole. He's a Draconian which means that, although he stands upright like a human and has arms, his physiology is closer to that of a dragon. He has scales instead of skin, a crest, the slatted pupils of a reptile, a muzzle, wings and claws. For the most part, this didn't bother me because he was such a delightful character and I particularly liked the parts where we get his thoughts. He's the last of his kind on the planet, having been part of a battalion of Draconians loaned to the Masarian king. The last of his friends died many years before and Graitaan is now trapped in a world which views him with a mix of fear and suspicion. I found his lonely situation quite affecting, and the parts where he describes his upbringing on his own planet were tinged with sadness and nostalgia tempered with his own attempts to prove to himself that he didn't care about his lonely state. The first person narratives alternate between Graitaan and Sadan and yet I still felt I knew Graitaan a lot better, perhaps because we get more of his thoughts. For me Sadan was just a little too smug and perfect. His complete confidence that Graitaan would be his, despite Graitaan's protestations to the contrary, was at first a little amusing but after 100 pages or so started to grate on the nerves.

This leads me to the part of the book which didn't work for me. Nearly the entire is constructed through internal dialogue. Whilst this enabled me to find out lots of background information on Graitaan and Sadan, leading to thorough characterisation, it also got a little tiresome as the book continued. This was especially the case because a lot of the internal musings of the characters cover the same ground, ie. Sadan knowing that Graitaan is his mate and not taking no for an answer, and Graitaan fuming over the fact that Sadan is ignoring his protestations. This meant that by the time I'd read three quarters of the book I was getting tired of reading the same thing over and over, so what started out as amusing became a little tedious.

Another part which didn't work so well were the sex scenes. Although these were well written, and certainly interesting in terms of Draconian physiology, I just couldn't get past the fact that it was a human-like man having sex with a lizard. Maybe some readers wouldn't be put off by this, but it affected my enjoyment of that aspect of the book.

So overall, I had a bit of mixed response to this book. Much of it was amusing and I really liked the character of Graitaan and the younger version of Vayl. However, the fact that it got a little repetitive towards

the end meant that my enjoyment waned in the last third. Those readers who liked the first two books in the series will probably still want to give this one a go, but I would recommend *Gaven* as a good place to start the series rather than this book.

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### **Kevin Orth says**

Draconian Measures is a pretty substantial departure from the previous two Gaven books. It is equally, if not more so, engaging. I just love the characters J.C. draws - they have just the right amount of detail to get the reader invested and interested in their activities without droning on too long or being overly wordy.

I love how her Graitaan, the 'submissive' character in this novel, resists, rails against, fights, argues, and resists giving in. Ultimately releasing his inhibitions, concerns, self imposed constraints, and hang ups and gives himself fully to the experience and his love.

The action scenes - both physical and intimate... J.C. is definitely a very talented author!

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