



Queen's Man

K.D. Sarge

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Joss Ravid works security for a major tribe on Kari's Star, but he'll tell anyone that he doesn't actually care if the ruling families kill each other off. He's not interested in politics; he just likes getting paid to hit jerks, and also the many opportunities for hitting on straight men. The Galactic-imposed Interdiction may keep Kari citizens stuck on their war-torn world, but Joss has connections. If the situation gets too messy, he can leave whenever he wants.

He'll also tell anyone he doesn't care about girls, but that doesn't stop him from rescuing 12-year-old Paige Carlyle, newly arrived on the planet and newly orphaned by tribe violence.

If Joss were making a "don't care" list, though, at the very top would be Zeke Cayden, Heir to powerful Tribe Cayden. Never mind that he and Joss were lovers; that's long gone. Saving Zeke's life when the shooting starts is just business. Some tribes don't want peace, and killing a Galactic citizen like Paige—or controlling Cayden through the Heir—would serve them well.

So Joss is on the run, risking his life, his pretty face, and his precious liberty to keep Paige and Zeke alive and the peace plan that can lift the Interdiction on track. Why? Because...how often does a guy get to piss off half a planet while displaying his talents for woodcraft, cross-dressing, and scaring straight men?

When Paige is kidnapped, though, the lives of Paige and Zeke, the leadership of Cayden and the future of Kari's Star all ride on the wrinkled shoulders of Joss' work suit and he has to decide—does he care, or not?

(Though this book is set in the Dream'verse, it is not a sequel to Knight Errant.)

Queen's Man Details

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From Reader Review Queen's Man for online ebook

Lire says

I really liked Joss. It was great to have a character that responded to challenges by beating them up and singing "What's next?" rather than getting defeated. I really loved that he had rubbed off on Paige by the end of the book. I thought that the political plot was fascinating (I love when the personal and political overlap like that) and that Joss's solution was brilliant.

The ending left me a little worried, though. I really like Joss and I hope he's happy with the future he got caught up in.

Kelly H. (Maybedog) says

4.5 stars rounded up

This was a fun read, and I loved the characters, although the MC was a little over the top. It was nice to have an M/M story that had people of different races and wasn't particularly sexist. The pacing was great and I couldn't put it down. The plot was good, too. I wanted more real danger and peril, but it was good enough for most people. I did like that the MCs weren't perfect. Joss was constantly making generalizations about women that were a little misogynistic, but the author made it clear that it was just his personality and that he actually didn't really feel that way.

I hated how Joss was constantly referred to as "the redhead," even when we were in the head of the guy in love with him. It was really annoying. I also couldn't stop picturing that redheaded male model who models female clothing.

As I said, Joss was over the top, and he was wearing thin for me by the end. I wanted him to grow up more than he did. The ending felt like more of an (view spoiler). I really hope there's a sequel at some point.

I really need to read Knight Errant now.

Erica says

I didn't enjoy this one as much as the others I've read by this author, although I can't quite put my finger on why. Still a good story, I just didn't think it was a *great* story.

Danielle says

Well this sucks. I think I'm the first person to rate this book anything lower than 3 stars. So clearly before reading this review note that I'm definitely in the minority her.

This was one of those books that sounded from the blurb like it was going to be right up my alley. I think I underestimated how much I hate kids though. Not to say Paige was the only thing that made me dislike the majority of this book, but she played a big role. Most of my issues weren't even really with the plot, though I think it could have used a little narrowing, it was with the constant repetition. Joss's never ending appetite, Zeke's "I love you be with me" talks, hair brushing, only ever describing Joss as "the redhead", "oh wow Joss is pretty/beautiful", etc. It just got on my nerves. I couldn't get into this story at all.

Now for a book that I was under the impression was a romance, there wasn't actually any romancing going on. Yes, Zeke was a terrible stalker, yes he was in love with Joss, yes (view spoiler), etc. Yet, at the end when they were playing the whole no I'm not going to leave you because I love you thing it made absolutely no sense. Joss never once gave any indication to Zeke that he was in any way shape or form infatuated with him and suddenly he's all for it? It was just frustrating because it made no sense.

Anyway, again I'm the minority here. I didn't get anything out of this book. I wouldn't recommend it either. The author is a good writer, but I just wish different descriptions were used, or the plot followed a more logical pattern.

Jax says

How much you enjoy this book depends on whether you find Joss to be a lovable scamp or a pampered, attention-seeking brat. I was in the latter camp. Not much happens - aside from constant reminders about how beautiful and desired Joss is - and the "romance" is one long tease without any substance.

Kaje Harper says

This book was so much fun. SciFi but of a low-tech variety, with wonderful characters, adventure, snark, hot guys, lethal grandmothers, smart teenagers, cross-dressing, sewer tunnels, strong women, besotted love... and great writing. Joss is flamboyantly in-your-face and equally likely to proposition, insult or hit a homophobic idiot. This book would be fine for older teens - there is sex but off-page. This is the third book in the series begun in Knight Errant. It would stand alone just fine, but is even more fun if you know who Taro is when they compare Joss to him.

I loved Joss - he may be too perfect for some people, but he was a blast to watch work his way through the mess of murder, kidnapping and intrigue he finds himself caught up in. And he does make some painful mistakes, mostly by misreading other people. His pure joy in life - be it sex, dancing, teasing, food, carnivorous trees, or mayhem, was a pleasure. I look forward to more from this author and have her firmly on my favorites list.

Alison says

KD offered me the chance to read an ARC of this book and I took it. I've loved her other two books - KNIGHT ERRANT and HIS FAITHFUL SQUIRE - so I was interested in seeing how Joss' story would play out. I wasn't disappointed.

Joss is a chaotic bundle of energy with little respect for authority and a big ego. When he inadvertently witnesses a murder and an attempted abduction, Joss finds himself put in the position of defending a damsel in distress - something difficult for him since he doesn't really care for girls. Paige's continued existence is key in the struggle for the removal of the Interdiction on Kari's Star, so Joss puts his freedom and his life on the line to protect her and Zeke, the annoyingly good looking heir to the Tribe Cayden, when a situation arises that forces the three of them to go on the run.

Initially I wasn't sure if I would like Joss since he was completely different from any of the other characters KD Sarge has written about previously. But as the story unfolded I actually found that he grew on me and by the end of the story I adored him as much as I adore Taro and Rafe.

KD has written a classic theme in sci fi, a war torn world and a single hero being selected to defend the key to peace, but has given it her own twist. Her humor is very much in evidence in this book and the character development is dynamic and the personalities very believable. As always, I look forward to see where she's going from here with her writing.

Fangtasia says

Rarely have I loved such an asshole character, as I learned to love Joss. He's too much. But the author found a way to get him his perfect match. Thank goodness, because he really is *insufferable*.

Mandapanda says

3.75 stars. Fun m/m adventure/romance set on another planet. Joss is a security agent for one of the major tribes on the world of *Kari's Star*. He's a force to be reckoned with, gorgeous, lethal, and very fickle. Waking up after a one night stand he sees his lover assassinated before barely escaping with the man's young daughter. The girl attaches herself to him as the only person able to avenge her father and keep her safe. At the same time another of Joss's old lovers, the obsessed and determined Zeke Cayden, heir to the powerful Cayden Tribe, has inveigled his way back into Joss's life. There is a suspicious link between Zeke and the girl and before long Joss is on the run, risking his life to keep both Paige and Zeke safe.

This story starts with a bang. I felt like I was dumped right into the action without really getting to know my characters so I had a bit of catching up and rereading of some pages to do before I felt totally comfortable. It's an engaging if slightly chaotic tale about a villain wanting to take over Kari's Star and prevent their world from joining the civilised Interplanetary Alliance. Joss is more appealing with each page. Always ahead of the game. His terror of girl cooties and his gradual return of Zeke's feelings are especially fun to read. I didn't quite enjoy this one as much as the stellar Knight Errant and sequel but it comes close.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

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Riayl says

[For one thing he is just mindlessly obsessed with Joss and seemingly for no reason other

Chris says

3.5 stars. Good m/m sci-fi romance about Joss, a bodyguard who sees his one-night stand gunned down, then saves the guy's daughter and spends the rest of the book protecting her, his boss, and his "stalker". While it was a fun read, I couldn't relate to Joss' over-the-top perfection.

Julesmarie says

So much fun! Joss is the most delightful mix of Taro's deadliness and Rafe's flirtatiousness.

The story felt like it began rather abruptly. The assassination was quite a way to open the story in itself, but then we're thrown right in with Joss trying to figure out which tribe might have ordered it and who might have known about it. It just felt so overwhelming that I had to come back and see if maybe there had been another book set on this world that I'd missed somewhere. And Joss's unbelievable energy and his half-finished sentences exhausted me at first. I made it just past 15% and then needed a break.

I read a few other things, but even with just that little glimpse, I couldn't get Joss out of my head and had to come back. I'm not sure if I stopped right when things got less confusing or if the 15% I'd read earlier had just had time to sink in, but from the moment I picked this story back up, I couldn't put it down again!

Kari's Star is a fascinating world, set in the fascinating universe we first got glimpses of in Knight Errant. It was nice that this whole story was set on one planet: I felt like I got to know this world and its people really well. The political structure fascinated me, with the various warring tribes and their efforts at re-establishing peace so they can re-join the galactic whatever and have off-planet trading again.

We also got to see so much of this world: the headquarters of several of the tribes, the Nether with the fantastically awesome drag bar, the forest with Grandma's house, the sewers, the posh building where the government people met. So, not only was this an excellent adventure/romance story, it also became a thoughtful, understated exploration of the dichotomy of poverty and wealth.

And I have to say, ALL of the characters were excellently well created. Even the villain-ess had a sense of humor and was able to verbally spar with Joss. Paige was delightful, and another wonderful example of a non-stereotypical female in m/m. Zeke was fun. His obsession with Joss was delightful to read about, and made him so sympathetic. (view spoiler) And watching him care for Joss throughout the book, even with just little things like always having coffee and food ready to hand him, made me totally love him.

Joss, though. Is my favorite. Sweet and flighty and silly, but also fierce and protective and caring. What he does for Zeke is nothing short of amazing, and it makes me so glad that he finally got over himself enough to give Zeke a chance. They're beautiful together.

Some favorite quotes:

"Bad enough to be caught without a fight, but to be captured, trussed to a bad excuse for a chair with sex toys and then interrogated by someone who answered your questions... Joss was a professional. This was an insult."

"These guys were following the age-old Big Dumb Villain script, and there were only a few ways that could end. All of them Not Well for the lovely ingenue. Since there weren't any Big Damn Heroes around to rescue Joss and carry him off to bed, anyway."

"By then Paige was wishing she'd used Joss' example of manners instead of her mother's and told Kichi to 'back the hell off.'"

"'Your thinking got us in this damned mess,' Joss growled. 'Don't do it any more. Ever.'"

"'All right gang ... think slutty.'"

"and hope when she grew up that she made half as pretty a woman as he did."

"'I'm cold, I'm hurting. I'm emotional. Distract me or there's going to be crying.'"

"'Let him go! You better let him go, you bastard! I've got PMS for the first time in my life and I so want to kill someone so you better effing let go!'"

"the foot rub was turning him into a somnolent puddle of redhead."

"Zeke *needed* to be near Joss. Near him, adoring him, touching him, sometimes he needed to be throttling him--he had to admit that love was where he was."

Plainbrownwrapper says

This sentence from the blurb grabbed me: "how often does a guy get to piss off half a planet while displaying his talents for woodcraft, cross-dressing, and scaring straight men?"

Sounds hard to resist. ;-)

SueM says

A fun sci-fi/fantasy M/M romance about two men and a girl... Um, don't worry, the girl has no role in the romance, except for some well-timed snarky comments.

Joss, an assassin/spy, or in his own words - a thug, wakes up one morning in time to see his latest one-night stand assassinated before him, with the guy's daughter looking on. Retreating, he takes the girl with him, and thus begins the adventure. Joss, Paige (the girl) and Zeke (Joss's stalker and sometime lover) must somehow stay ahead of the political intrigues filled with assassins, bombs and betrayal if they want to stay alive.

This is a romp more than anything else, with snarky comments flying around, particularly during the down

times between the action. Unfortunately, while I'd love to give a higher rating, Joss was a little too arrogant at times and Zeke seemingly a bit too stupid, to make me really care about them.
