



Grim

M.K. Eidem

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King Grim Vasteri is the strongest, most feared warrior in the Tornian Empire. He has been sent by his Emperor to find and retrieve compatible females for their dying civilization.

King Grim Vasteri is the strongest and most feared warrior in the Tornian Empire. He is the King of Luda, blood brother to the Emperor and his line will die with him. He will have no offspring for no female would join with him for once he was scarred he was considered 'unfit'. The Tornian Empire has been dying ever since the great infection caused the birth of females to become a rarity. Since then they have been searching the known universes for compatible females. The Emperor's discovery of a compatible female on a slave ship changed that. He'd ordered Grim to find his Empress' home world so more 'unprotected' females could be obtained, knowing Grim would never be allowed to Join with one.

Lisa Miller is a widowed mother of two little girls, Carly and Miki. Her husband died just a year ago, after a long battle with cancer and she misses him immensely. Friends want her to start dating again but in her heart, she knows there isn't a man on the planet she could love like her Mark. Who could love their girls like their own. Therefore, she'll stay alone.

When Lisa is discovered 'unprotected' at her husband's grave, she wakes on an alien ship heading for an alien world. Refusing to accept this she confronts the large males, demanding she be returned to her children. Seeing his chance to have a female, Grim agrees to accept and protect her offspring, if she agrees to Join with him and only him. Realizing this is the only way she can retrieve her children Lisa agrees and the Tornian Empire changes forever.

Grim Details

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From Reader Review Grim for online ebook

Sh3llraiser says

No. I don't care if you are a self-published author, you can do better than this. I have never come across more run-on sentences, grammar mistakes (multiple, multiple misuses of their, they're and there), using wrong words, no commas, changing the present tense to past tense, using the wrong person's name in a scene, etc. I am VERY lenient, very, and there were more than a hundred mistakes in just 16%. Nowadays, you can find tons of people willing to beta read and help edit indie books - for free! (If there is an edited or updated version of this somewhere, please let me know. I'd be willing to give it another shot.)

The premise is great if you are a fan of the "Mars Needs Women" trope, which I am. It was a bit baffling how easy the main character just "went along with it" - being kidnapped and taken as a mate by an alien and off to live on another planet forever...but I can allow stuff like that in fantasy.

For once, the editing errors actually ruined a book for me. It was that bad. Maybe I'll try again, but probably not. I don't think you should charge \$3.99 for a book that has hundreds of errors in it and reads like a draft.
my two cents

Jaycee says

Previously posted on Amazon.com

4.5 stars, and a plea to fellow readers:

This was an excellent story at the heart of it. Great concept. Solid basic design and heartfelt execution.

Was it perfect execution? No. But herein lies my plea to fellow readers, and I will subject you to it prior to my actual review:

The large, NY-type Publishing houses take horrible advantage of readers; that's a known fact. They take even more horrible advantage of writers as I've learned in the past year or so. To that end, I will bend over backwards for a writer who endeavours to bring his or her vision, for MY entertainment, to "printed" life without the aid of a big-house.

I am beyond tired of complaints about editing issues for self-pubbed works. Its a proven fact we can read through horrific misspellings and know what is intended; in fact, we don't even notice most errors. So if an author, or someone who desperately wants to be one but can't get past the NY houses, takes the time and blood and sweat...and yes, likely tears, to write something and self-publish it for MY escape??...I am damned sure going to overlook a few errors. I will give every opportunity for them to hit. Particularly when it is obvious that the basics are there, and are solid, and are well developed...and all that's missing is the big-house backing (which you pay for, and the authors do not reap rewards from) to correct things that spell/grammar check missed. (I doubt Sylvia Day corrects her own spelling. I would like to see her submitted galleys before they get to print! Professional editing makes for a smooth read but costs readers more, takes from the actual author's bottom line and allows publishers Draconian contractual rights to the property...and no, I am not an author. Just an avid reader...)

Now for the review: I loved this story. I love the characters, and connected with them instantly. I loved the world and I am hoping for a series to come out of this, as it's clear there are more great lives to be lived vicariously. I loved the honest, genuine effort that went into this story, and I root for the author and their continued good fortune...and by extension, my own.

Write on, M. K. Eidem, and all my best wishes for you...and of course, for the Tornian Empire.

T00zday says

LOVE this book. Constantly re-read. Such a good story and the hero & heroine act like ADULTS the whole time! Long read you WONT want to put down. Self Published author, so there's some editing issues, but greatness on plot & character development. Can't WAIT for the next book in this series. :)

Tornian females are a selfish, self-centered, gold-digging, entitled bunch of spoiled brats. But since the male to female ratio for Tornians is 200 to 1, female Tornians can get away with that behavior.

...until the human woman is brought there.

When the story begins, Lisa is sitting at her deceased husband's grave side. She's thinking about him and their two young daughters. Suddenly she is knocked out cold.

When Lisa wakes from her kidnapping & begins to have a serious meltdown over being separated from her two children - the other 11 captive women on the Tornian space-ship rally behind her & get the attention of the crew, and eventually Grim.

(Grim is a wonderful hero. He feels guilt over kidnapping these 12 women from earth. The other crew on the space ship are patting themselves on the back for 'rescuing' these unprotected females, Grim's inner dialogue has him questioning if the women will see the Tornians as any different than any other slavers.)

Lisa is not cowed by the big aliens telling her she will "get over it" concerning not getting her children back. Lisa demands to be taken to retrieve her children. All of the crew are assuming her children are male, so no one is volunteering to claim her offspring.

Grim steps up & says he will claim her offspring if Lisa joins with him. After Lisa extracts a few promises from Grim as to her children's treatment - they go get her children from Earth.

(Excellent scene by the way!)

Grim just kept showing how a man of honor should behave and think.

As the book progresses, Grim is constantly confused & startled at how Lisa acts & reacts. (His only base of comparison is how the exceptionally selfish Tornian females behave)

Every time Grim realizes he has said or done something to hurt Lisa, his regret for hurting her is instant and he wastes no time with his ego in asking for her forgiveness in the most thorough ways. Lisa, by the same vein always forgives Grim & explains the earth custom & how the situation affects her. These two act like ADULTS!!! It's so refreshing.

Not a chapter goes by where Lisa doesn't make human women look like the diamond standard against the self-centered Tornian females. Lisa breaks the societal mold by speaking with the men in the guard and service in Grim's palace.

(Tornian females only speak to the men they've joined with)

Lisa is tenacious in reminding the Tornian warriors that she loves Grim but learns all of their names, duties etc. After a certain time, the castle staff are both enamored and protective of Lisa and her girls. So much so, that during one tense scene, Grim snaps at Lisa hurting her feelings and the captain of Grim's guard very uncharacteristically points out to Grim what he said and how it sounded to all who heard it, especially Lisa.

There is a decent conflict in the story aside from Lisa fitting into Grim's world.

There is a rival family within the Tornian system plotting to overthrow both King Grim and his brother the Emperor. Lisa is the one that connects all the dots in that plot as well and brings it to the attention of Grim and the guards.

Eventually, Grim, Lisa & the girls are called to stand before the Emperor and defend their joining to the family planning the coup. Lisa is forced back with the other 11 kidnapped women of Earth and....

Well, I won't say any more but I loveLoveLOVED the ending. Lisa is MY GIRL!

I can't recall the last time I enjoyed a heroine so much.

** HEA on several counts and room for more books in this new Tornian-verse. I can not wait.

** Initial sex scene between Grim & Lisa was *HOT/Erotica*. Loved it. All the rest were sweet/romantic with no details.

Although this is the first book in the series, I know MK Eidem is about to publish Wray & Kim's story.

Aside from some editing issues that I didn't fixate on because the plot & characters ROCKED, I have no complaints about this book.

5 Stars because I stayed up until 5am reading it on a work night, and am having to WORK to not flip to my Kindle app and start it all over again at my desk with these huge bags under my eyes.

* Update - I re-read this book about every three months. It's a comfort read that still gives warm fuzzies.

Stacie says

Very solid 4 "Loving me some Tornians" Stars!

Well, let me start by saying, I've had this book sitting on my Kindle for... can't be less than two years. I kept passing it up and I don't know why. What a mistake! This book was really good. It started off kind of "bow-chicka-wow-wow"; and that is totally cool with me from time to time. Or really a lot of times, but this turned into a very good story.

There was the usual alien warrior/human female getting to know you ebbs and flows, but there was also a whole political take over the throne coup going on that I quite enjoyed.

I liked both Lisa and Grim. Lisa was a super strong and feisty lady. She did not take crap from anyone from the very beginning. She accepted her circumstances without a lot of drama. She was a good mom and the kids were actually involved in the story, not just mentioned now and then. She was a bit of a goody, goody, but that's ok too. I liked her a lot. She was sweet. Grim was suffering from a serious lack of self-esteem because he'd been terribly scarred in battle. Because of that he was deemed unfit to take a female and would

never have "offspring". This jeopardize his place in society. So he saw Lisa as his chance when she had to get her kids back from Earth. But what started out as a convenient solution to his problem quickly blossomed into true affection and admiration. (That went both ways) Grim was a total sweetheart. I completely fell for him. But he was also a terrifying warrior when he had to be.

This was a fantastic Science Fiction romance. I enjoyed it a lot and I wish I had read it sooner. I'm sure I will be reading or listening to the others in the series soon. Happy reading!!

*Mostly an audio read for me.

HJ says

Wondering why anyone could possibly give this any higher than a 2 star even if they absolutely loved the story. Authors will NEVER learn to STOP asking for money for their fucking drafts if they aren't held accountable by the readers.

If you can't afford an editor, then post it on a free-to-read AMATEUR site where readers expect errors.

****OR****

Get an editor for grammar/punctuation, and learn how to be consistent with tense and point of views.

Terrible, TERRIBLE writing/grammar/editing issues in this book.

R *is for Relentless* says

SciFi alien capture romance/erotica My feelings on this book are mixed. I loved it- 5 stars I could not put it down. I finished it at 2:30 in the morning when I had to be up at 6:30! I wanted to know what happened to Grim and Lisa. I love this kind of book.

However, (1 star)the editing was nonexistent. I don't think it was done at all. The book was full of wrong words, bad sentence structure, names wrong and a multitude more grammatical errors. There were other elements that were somewhat annoying too. 200 to 1 male to female ratio? Impossible. There is no way this could happen. Who is having all these male children? I can see if something had wiped the women out quickly but this had been going on for centuries. I think some clarifying/clean up of the world building is needed to make it more "believable".

I gave the book 3 stars despite the terrible editing because it held me captive. Books with better editing have failed to do that. Maybe I was desperate for my SciFi alien fix. I hope the author gets an editor because she has great potential in this genre.

Erika says

4.5 stars!!

While this book may not have been perfect in all ways, it did fulfill all of my romance-reading needs. Grim and Lisa were a fantastic couple.

What I Liked:

-Grim's and Lisa's relationship: though they had some bumps in the road, I loved how they never let anything go for long without talking it out. These two loved and cared for each other; they couldn't stand to see the other sad. This was the case from almost the very beginning and that is something I prefer over couples who fight and carelessly hurt each other over and over without any resolution till the very end. They were a very romantic couple.

--non stop action and drama (though not of the relationship kind)

-- Lisa's girls: Miki and Carly. OMG were they utterly adorable. The way they loved Grim and made him so happy just melted my heart SO many times. It was so freaking sweet.

--Grim's warriors. Unlike in Wray, there were lots of worthy and likable warriors in this book. It gave me a better feeling about Tornian males in general, and made me think that the bad men were definitely the minority.

--the way Eidem acknowledged and started the resolution process for many problems in Tornian society AND, more importantly, for the fact that they had kidnapped women from Earth. (Kind of a big deal, no?)

-- Grim: he was a fantastic hero. Protective, possessive, gentle, loving, strong and brave. He had a big vulnerable side due to his scarring and insecurity about his worthiness.

--Lisa: she was a loving woman. She was a great mother. She was also really smart. At one point, she says she had wanted to be an interior decorator, but honestly she would make a great lawyer or leader.

-- the look we got at other characters I can't wait to hear more about: Oryon and Isis, Ynyr and Abby, Callen and Rebecca. Plus all the other awesome characters, including the men of the King's guard and the Queen's guard, not to mention some of the non-Tornian people we met. This book was just filled with great characters.

What I did not like:

-- the beginning was a little shaky at times as it seemed Lisa accepted her situation way too easily. I decided to just let it go, and go with the flow. lol.

--the first sex scene came on kind of abruptly and unexpectedly to me. Everything worked out fine, but I didn't expect Grim to want to "join" as quickly as he did. Though I understood his haste, considering ALL the men wanted Lisa.

--Lisa's feelings and reminiscences about her deceased husband Mark. If it had been the hero who had a love they grieved for, I would not have been able to handle it (since I kind of view things from the heroine's perspective when I read). I felt a little bad for Grim, but he was actually just so happy that he found the love of a woman and two little girls, even if there had been another man before. As a side note though: Lisa says that sex with Grim was way better than anything she had experienced with her first husband.

--the editing issues. Sometimes the tense-mixing made it difficult to read smoothly. Also, Eidem really likes to italicize and use exclamation points. Ah well, not a big enough deal to detract from my enjoyment but thought I should make it clear to readers that there is a lack of editing.

So overall, this was a wonderful read. I am looking forward to the rest of the series.

A NOTE ABOUT READING ORDER: I read book 2, Wray, first because it occurs chronologically before Grim. I don't know which would be better to read first. Grim gave a more positive view of Tornian men, BUT Wray really comes first, so I suppose I would recommend starting there, but knowing you will get an expanded view when you get to Grim.

Tam B. says

My rating and comments may seem at odds but at heart this is a great book that I wish had been edited. If you have some editing peeves about books I highly recommend that you try the sample as most of the issues I'll mention appear in the sample. The issues are:

Word choice:

It isn't spelling so much as the wrong word being used. The one that first jumped out at me was consul being used instead of console. This is not the only example and it continues for the length of the book.

Character Name Changes:

There is one part where a good guy (Callen) for a sentence or two becomes a bad guy (Luken). And the Callen actually undergoes a partial name change and is Cullen at the end of the book.

Writing Tense Changes:

I'm not sure what the specific phrases are regarding tenses but the book is written in the 3rd person. However the 3rd person goes from omniscient to observational in parts and this is what actually threw me the most and took me out of the story. You get caught up and then every so often it's like Sir David Attenborough pops in for a sentence or two and this happens during love scenes!

Custom Inconsistencies:

In the story we have Lisa (human from Earth) making changes to life on Luda partly because she doesn't know the customs and partly because she thinks the current customs are ridiculous. An example of this would be that women do not talk to men other than their mates. This initially pops up during a conversation about the castle household with the butler. The butler won't take direction unless it goes via the King. Lisa decides this is ridiculous and promptly ignores the custom. She continues this with the rest of the household. That's fine and they adjust. But when Lisa gets called before the Emperor for the Joining Ceremony she speaks her mind and to males and this disregard of custom is barely remarked upon. Lisa actually takes down a Lord in front of the whole of the Emperor's court and not a single person is outraged by her speaking with a male not her mate. This custom would have been far better to have been a class issue and not a gender one or not included at all (it didn't add to the story) and then the inconsistencies would not be there.

This isn't the only inconsistency but the one that stood out for me the most.

General World Building Issues:

Our heroine and the other women abducted with her are given an "educator" prior to waking after being abducted. This means that they are able to understand the language and access historical information. What irritates me is that things on this far away planet share similar names to those on Earth, not a translation. The main one that stood out for me was a "trampo" being a trampoline on Luda. I find this very slack on the part of the author. They have gone to all this amazing effort to create this world and then give things Earth names or close approximations with spelling differences. Why would a civilisation with no contact and nothing to do with Earth share a common naming for such things? It is the small things such as this that mean this book

falls short.

I would dearly love for the author to have this book properly edited as the story is worth it. Grim is worth the effort.

Mei says

What an unexpected and unusual romance!
I really enjoyed this story!

Seeing this really bad cover, I expect the usual SF-abductors-romance, where the heroine is a little stupid, a little overwhelmed, a little too beautiful.

But no, here she's a real life mother protecting her children with the side benefit of finding love with the alien. Said this way it may seem awful, but it is really good and I enjoyed it very much!

Lisa is strong and highly intelligent. When she finds herself in a bad situation, she doesn't fall apart, but reacts in the best possible way!

I appreciated Grim too. He's not just a caveman-like alien, but he's also intelligent and understands that Lisa is too and accepts her help!

Really a nice book! I hope the author will write a sequel! I'll enjoy reading about all the other women and their search for happiness!

CC says

Re read

Still love Grim. So much so he makes up for the sometimes annoying Lisa and her stepford children.

There is an expression in this book I love and want to use in RL. Basically instead is saying "Really?" They say "Truth?" I wonder what people will do if I start saying that?

4.5 stars

I really enjoyed this one! Great world building, good secondary characters, great hero and heroine and 2 adorable little girls who played a big part in the story but did not take away from the sexy/hotness of it.

Loved Grim. He was so insecure, but so alpha! Perfect combination! Hilarious how he thought she should not have more than one orgasm. You knew you were in for a fun ride at that point! Loved how he called her My Lisa. So sweet!

Loved Lisa. She was not a whiner. She was an excellent mother, she fiercely protected her daughters and she did not cry over what happened. She made a life for her family and gave Grim the love and acceptance that I

wanted for him.

Carly and Miki are adorable. Although Miki seems to speak more like a 6-8 year old rather than a 3-4 year old. But they are sweet and add many cute moments throughout the book.

I loved that when Grim and Lisa had disagreements or misunderstandings or were hurt, they TALKED about it and worked things out. No needless drama. That was wonderful to experience. There was plenty of intrigue and drama from outside their relationship, the author did not need to add it within their relationship. Happily she did not!

Why not 5 stars? I HATE dead ex themes, especially when they are beloved. Normally, I would not have read this book but it was highly recommended by several GR friends. I am so glad I read it, but I still hated all of the Mark this and Mark that talk. I just wanted her to MOVE ON!!!! So this cannot be 5 stars because there was way too much talk about her ex. Mostly good, some bad and some sad (he did die after all).

I also would have loved for the little ones to call Grim "daddy". It would have been so sweet. Grim just sounds so...grim.

Safety gang safe (unless the dead ex bothers you - but even then you should give it a try)

Leonor says

First Read 9/2013

5 ??

Reread 7/23/17

4 ??s!!

This book has been one of my favorites and happy to say that has NOT changed at ALL. But I took 1 star off from the original rating and I'll explain why.

I loved Grim.

I loved how he loved Lisa and her girls.

This book has been one of the few books where the dead spouse trope didn't bother me at all.

In days like these where I can't stand to read any more virgins heroines with disgusting manwhores who has slept with thousands of women and are not ashamed of their past but they're really should be ashamed. (Disgusting I'll tell you)

It's very refreshing to read about a hero who's NOT a manwhore, who's scarred and nobody wants him because their women think he's unfit and unworthy.

My heart hurt for him, how he thought he could never have a family because he was worthless.

The book is not perfect and probably needs a good editing job but to me it was perfect.

“He’s never seen anything like it. It is pure innocence and excitement and right then he knows he’ll do whatever it takes to protect these young ones. They are his.”

I loved how protective he was of the girls even though he just met them.

And this is why I took off 1 star ==>

The only thing I'd change would be their first sex scene, the way he treated her, when I first read this it didn't bother me but this time around it did, there were some misunderstandings, both of their worlds are very different so i get that but I still didn't like that first sex scene.

I liked the heroine she was strong, she was also a loving mother.

The kids were cute.

I don't know why the author stop writing this series.. But I sincerely hope she continues because I'll definitely continue reading them.

Lyndsey says

*****Re-Read: 04/25/2014*****

*****Re-Read: 07/20/2014*****

*****Re-Read: 08/07/2015*****

Lyndsey's Rating Scale:

1 - Horrible (DNF)

2 - Not Horrible, BUT Not Much Better

3 – It Was OK, BUT Nothing Special

4 - The Good Stuff

5 - Loved It! Can't Live Without It! Buying the Hardcopy!!!

Overview:

My summary of this story: I was kidnapped by an alien and I owned that \$h!t!!!!!!

Lisa, a widowed mother of two, is kidnapped by super-hot aliens (OF COURSE). Almost at once she assesses her situation and demands that her children be retrieved if she is to continue on this new path. There are many growls and posturing but luckily Grim, an undesirable male, arrives and sees an opportunity to finally have the family he's always desired. So Lisa gets to bring her kids, Grim gets a family, and everyone better like it or Grim is going to kick your A\$\$!!!! So the new little family arrives at their destination to find that life isn't so bad on an alien planet especially when you marry the king! At this point I'm sure you're thinking how is this different from any other nabbed by an alien story? It's different **BECAUSE** every other story didn't have **LISA**. She's like a momma bear, seductress, fierce warrior, and politician all rolled into one person... all authority, care, and common sense! Yes, a female character with common sense! Who would have thought that would be popular????? Essentially Lisa saves Grim, her family, and sets the Tornian Empire straight on how females should be treated and how females should act. It's a great story!

Thoughts, Likes, Dislikes:

OK.... First off, MK, you seriously need to invest in some beta readers, editors, or something! For that reason, I am willing to sacrifice all of my personal time to help you out in that area with no benefit to myself... at all... since I'm only drooling thinking about the next book! ? So now that it's been pointed out that this story has some serious editing issues, if you have a problem with this sort of thing please just don't read the story. It's a great story as long as you can overlook the editing issues (otherwise you'll be seriously annoyed). I'm hoping that this author is going to re-issue this book in the future after it's been reviewed/edited. MK you should totally do that because people really need to read this story without being distracted!

My likes.... **EVERYTHING!!!!** Stories involving human women being nabbed by aliens are like crack to me. The only thing better, IMO, would be a human female nabbed and seduced by multiple aliens (please let me point you in the direction of Ninth Orb, not a nabbing but sci-fi). ANYWAYS.... Reasons I loved this story: 1) FMC: Lisa not only had a brain but she knew how to use it. Lisa was also NOT extremely needy or reliant on Grim. She definitely valued his opinion but otherwise she could do her own thing and be ok. 2) MMC: I loved that Grim acknowledged his short falls when it came to understanding Lisa. He had no clue what he was doing but he at least made an effort to adjust (and not by becoming a pu\$\$y)! 3) Supporting Characters/World: I know there's always a plague or war which decimates the female population but I was glad to see that not all females were gone (only that they were B!tches)! I thought it was interesting that the males could have other women but if they weren't Tornian then they basically had no status (didn't they just kidnap 12 human women and give them the elevated status of Tornian). Seems like any female they could breed with would be prized at this point. It was an interesting element/tid bit. Grim's personal guard and household, these men were great and I thought they adapted well. My favorite supporting characters were the dress maker's family. I'm drawing a blank right now on names but I'll update later.

The only thing I would have changed about this story would have been the love scenes. The author starts off with a fairly detailed encounter of their love making but then it just kind of happens at future intervals without much fanfare. I'm not saying I need to know every detail of every encounter but I would have liked to see how their love making progressed. Maybe have Grim be a little more aggressive in the bedroom. I know he turns into a softy when Lisa is involved but DAMN... let's have a little hair pulling and a\$\$ spanking to keep Lisa focused.... that's all I'm asking for! Maybe even a little dirty alien talk???? I have no clue what that would sound like but I bet it would be HAWT!

Happy Reading!!! Lynz

Gi's Spot Reviews says

4.5 Stars

Review to come...

Jilly says

Oooh, alien smut where Earth women are taken to another galaxy because they don't have enough women? Count me in! But, you won't find that much actual smut here. It's so much more.

I know what you're saying, *"But, Jilly, why would I want to read alien smut if there isn't much smut?"* I hear ya, sister! Let's make a toast to blue aliens with ridges!

But, do you like castles, kings, lords, feudal systems, and court intrigue?

Do you like the amusing situations of a man having no idea how our earthy minds work, but is willing to do anything to please you?

Do you like a strong female heroine who breaks down the social barriers between the sexes and not only saves herself and her children, but also saves her man?

Do you like a great romance where both partners learn to work together and a love that grows with mutual respect and admiration?

Then you will love this book. And, not only does it have all of the above, but the aliens also just so happen to be every color of the rainbow. Like Skittles!! Who wouldn't love Skittle Aliens? I want one in purple.

Here is the only reason I didn't give it 5-stars: it starts out a little clunky, but gets its groove going pretty quickly. Also, there are editing issues. It's not that big of a deal, and consideration needs to be given to a smaller, self-published work. Plus, I was able to pretty much ignore most of the problems. Still, even a spell-check or the editor in most programs should have been able to catch most of them. In spite of those little problems, the story was good enough to overlook them and I am anxious to read more in this series.

Hayat says

"You are mine Lisa and I will not give you up. You have opened my world, given me little girls and I will not give them up either, not because of what they represent but because they are a part of you."

This is my first reread of Grim, the first book in the Tornians series (each one is a stand-alone novel) ,and I can honestly say this book is a solid 4 star story and better than the sequel, Wray, because there's passion, slow-building romance and a believable relationship, some world building, great side characters, dual POV and two little girls (Miki and Carly) who bring light, laughter and sweetness to the story. But I loved it when they were cheeky.

The heroine, Lisa Miller, has been a widow for four years when she's taken by the Tornians who are on a mission to find unattached females to replenish their dying race, as fewer and fewer females are born to them. Lisa fights hard not to be separated from her two little girls, Carly and Miki, so she makes a promise to join with Grim (King of Luda, blood brother to the Emperor) if he'll bring her children back to her. The only problem is, the Tornian culture is deeply divided and segregated when it comes to gender. There is a distinct lack of love and affection between the sexes.

'Tornians have lost what it truly means for a man and woman to be together. To join. That it's more than physical act, it's about connecting with that one person that completes you, that loves you, that will stand by you, mistakes, faults and all.'

In no time at all, Grim's world and prospects change from a king considered an unworthy male, a scarred

male whom no female will join with, into a male with three females to care for. Many envy and resent his good fortune because females are rare, coveted and a sign of prosperity and good wealth. Grim is forced to fight for his new family and teach his enemies a lesson they won't forget.

'Three days ago, his life had been empty. He'd been empty. Now his world is full, full of females, full of giggles and what they call kisses.'

What follows is an endearing story about two people learning to trust each other and become family. Grim and Lisa blundered, made mistakes, forgave each other and in the process learned how to protect, love, honor, cherish, respect and appreciate each other's difference. They became partners and family in the fullest sense of the word and I loved that.

"All I want is you...You and our girls."

I was surprised at how much I liked Lisa and Grim as a couple and how well they complemented each other. **There was no cheating, love triangle or a cliffhanger**, making this story almost perfect in my eyes. I especially loved it when Lisa stood up for herself and made her position clear to Grim.

"You are the only male I want, Grim, but I want it all, the good, the bad, the happy and the sad. I want to stand beside you, not behind you. I want to be your Queen, Grim."

Lisa, her girls and the other human women bring huge changes to the Tornian way of life and introduce those they come into contact to many firsts, stirring up the Tornian society and making lots of friends and some enemies along the way. The villains were predictable but I enjoyed the overall impact of the romance, passion, family bonding, side characters and the friends Lisa and the other humans made in the Tornian lands. I also loved how all the women came together, bonded, helped each other and protected each other's rights.

I can't wait to read A Grim Holiday and I'm also curious about the alien couple, Lord Oryon and Lady Isis and I can't wait to read their story in Oryon. I hope M.K. Eidem is planning to add more books to this series because I'm curious about the other human women and who they'll end up with.

If you love a scarred alpha hero who is sweet and vulnerable with his woman and children but harsh on his enemies, then go ahead and read this book. You won't regret it. ;)

Update

I just saw my 5 star previous rating of this book and changed it to 4 stars because Grim was not perfect, it had few editing issues and it wasn't one of those books I can see myself reading over and over again or buying in different editions. But it was an entertaining romance with memorable characters and I had a lot of fun reading it. I've since read some of the books in this **Tornians series** and I can't wait to read more.
