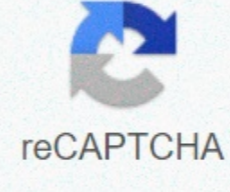




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Gabriels rapture pdf

Literature professor Gabriel Emerson embarked on a clandestine affair with his graduate student, Julia Mitchell. The two have fallen in love and are on a romantic holiday in Italy. While there, Gabriel is a guest speaker at an art exhibition, but after hours, they explore the sensual side of their love. Everything seems to go perfectly, but upon returning home, she faces the wrath of another student whose advances Gabriel rejected. Her turmoil causes a wasp's nest of academic politics that threatens to either end Gabriel and Julia's budding relationship or Julia's academic career, along with all her hopes and dreams for the future. When Gabriel does the unthinkable to protect her, will Julia understand their love and keep them alive or will she fall into the waiting arms of her good friend Paul? Review Before I started the Gabriel's Inferno series, I'd heard a lot of good things about it. Readers were having fun dealing with the Fifty Shades series, which I love, so I thought it would be a good guess for a great read. Unfortunately two books in the series, it just hasn't captured my heart and imagination in the same way other novels have or in the way I would have liked. Gabriel's Inferno, the first of the series, was an OK read for me, but sometimes very frustrating. It ended well enough that I would have been fine with not reading the books, but since I already have Gabriel's Rapture on my TBR pile, I decided to give it a try in the hope that it would be better. In fairness, it was marginally better, but not enough to bump me up to a higher rating. It started off pretty well with some nice sensual interactions between Gabriel and Julianne as they continued their journey to Italy that had begun towards the end of the first book. Other than previously bored by the inclusion of the author of Gabriel's entire speech, which was his original reason for going to Italy, the first quarter or so of the book kept my attention well. When they returned home, there was a lull for a while before Julia's nemesis caused a lot of trouble for her and Gabriel. This part was good and kept me busy, but then, due to manipulations of the villain, our happy couple are separated for a period of about four months, in which they have no contact with each other. This part slowed things down considerably, but I was still invested in what I assumed would be their final reunion. Unfortunately said reunion was not nearly as exciting as I had hoped. I know Gabriel hurt Julia a lot, but when she heard the truth about what really happened and that he had cut off contact to protect her, I expected her to be more forgiving. It happens, but it takes a while, and she's still not quite about what he did. Plus Gabriel maintains some distance, also does not want to make love until she marries him. This did not go true to me, which I will discuss shortly. At the very end they finally get their HEA, but by then I had lost a lot of my enthusiasm for it. Until the rather weak end I was willing to give the book at least four stars, but then I dropped it to 3.5. In the first book, I was about ready to smack Gabriel on the head for the first half of the story, but then he got a personality transplant during the second half that made him an almost dreamy hero. For the most part, he didn't get on my nerves in this book almost as much. Overall, I would say that he was very sweet, kind, patient and compassionate towards Julia. There were only two of his actions that bothered me here. The first was when a man makes unwanted advances on Julia early in the story and Gabriel goes off on a jealous streak. I have no problem with a hero not wanting another man to make on his wife, but instead of being angry at the man and protecting Julia, I felt like he took it out on her by being sexually aggressive, which didn't sit well with me. The other thing is that he tends to be rather stuck and merciless toward people in need. Given his own background and not being brought up in any kind of wealth (his money is something he inherited), I felt like he should have been more empathetic rather than such a snob. However, I allow him to change somewhat in this regard as the story progresses. The main thing about Gabriel that doesn't really ring, though, is the way his sexual past is presented as this filthy, dirty part of him and the author's apparent need to sanitize it by turning him into a very different person, sexually speaking, with Julia. I never really understood what the big deal was. Many guys sow wild oats during their twenties, although granted Gabriel seemed to sleep around quite a lot and often took part in kinky sex games. But again, I don't really have a problem with any of those so long all past encounters were consensual and he is loyal to his heroine after they meet. On the other hand, I also have no problem with a hero with guilt or regret over past sexual encounters and want to change, as long as I understand why. The disconnect for me with Gabriel is that I didn't feel like he had good reasons. The author seems to indicate that it is because he is a selfish user in the past, but this is not confirmed in his interactions with Julia, at least not after he realized who she was and what she meant to him. When it comes to making their love with her, he is magically transformed into a tender, generous lover. I felt the author had to dig much deeper to show me what is bothering Gabriel – Was he in a bad place and looking for escape in pointless sex? If so, why? - instead of just telling me about his drug addiction and guilt about the way he his ex, Paulina, and the loss of their child. I just wasn't allowed to sit in his head enough to feel like I fully understood what was happening here. I will say that I admired him for metaphorically falling on his sword to save Julia's future, even though she didn't appreciate it in the way I thought she should have, but the author still seems to paint him as somehow selfish to do so, which I also never understood. When the story opens, I found that Julia's characterization was very uneven and far too changeable. One minute she finds her spine and stands up for herself, but the other time she completely lacks confidence and practically curls herself into a ball. One minute she is compassionate and supportive of Gabriel and the things he has been through, and the next she is extremely jealous of his former lovers, despite his repeated reassurance that she is now the only one for him and that what they share is very different from anything he has experienced in the past. One minute she's making a slightly bold sensual proposal, and the next she's practically prudes. It was just really hard to read her. Fortunately, as the story continued, she seemed to find more certain footing, so this did improve. However, when everything touches the fan, Julia still lacks confidence in her relationship with Gabriel and takes his actions the wrong way. Gabriel at least tried to leave her a hidden message to reassure her, even though she didn't get it until he got back. It wasn't any of their mistakes that didn't get the message through, and I can see how it could be easy to think the worst under the circumstances. But when he came back and revealed the truth, I felt like she should have been more fine with it than she did. Instead, she accuses him of taking away her choices. In the strictest sense that was true, but it was more to blame for their circumstances and their nemesis causing problems than anything Gabriel did. It wasn't like he had time to talk to her about the case. He had to act immediately or risk her entire academic future. While Julia was easier to understand in this book and I liked her mostly, she could still be a tad frustrating at times. I would have to say that my biggest frustration with these books, though, is the author's writing style. Every time I read a book, and especially romances, I want to feel something and be busy with the characters. Unfortunately, the way Sylvain Reynard writes leaves a lot of distance. I feel like I'm an observer looking through a window to see the lives of these characters play, when what I want is to be invited in to live with them, and to live with them. and to feel what they feel. I don't understand that with these books because the author doesn't give me deep POV. They (? No one seems to really know if this author is male or female.) tends to head-hop a lot, even to the perspectives of characters, instead of staying longer in the POV of one character. She (?) also engages in a fair bit of passive narration. There were a number of times I found phrases that could have been reformulated to make them more active than really spark from the page. IMHO, the author spends a little too much time philosophizing and sometimes even editorial in her (?) own omniscient voice. Art history and classical literary references usually elud me, because instead of explaining or describing them in an accessible way, it feels as if the author expects the reader to already know these things. This gives the series more of a sense of literary romance. I often got the feeling that the author wants the reader to dissect his hidden meanings, and if that's your thing, I suppose this might be a great read. But it's not really my thing. I prefer my romances to be a little more straightforward without all the philosophy and higher literary references. Even for all its literary handrails, writing can occasionally be a bit rough around the edges, as in the examples I mentioned earlier. Again, the parenthetical asides almost drove me crazy. As a writer, I've looked this up more than once and know that brackets are generally frowned upon in fiction, and yet I've never seen as much in a fictional novel as in these books. And also again, for my way of thinking, they were mostly irrelevant or stating the obvious, and in cases where they weren't, they could just have been included in the narrative prose. Also for as a conjunction is far too much used. In almost every case, it would have been completely eliminated to make the prose snappier, and it also tended to make the story feel pretentious. Finally, I would like to mention that some online book sites have categorized this series as erotic romance, and there are plenty of comparisons to the Fifty Shades series. As such I went into reading thinking that there were going to be some very sexy times ahead, but that's not the case at all. I can't stress enough that these books are just sensual contemporary romances, not erotic romances. The door is closed on some of the love scenes, and the ones the author does write in a little more detail are only moderately descriptive. There is also not a large number of them, so they never overwhelm the story. I mention this, not because it bothers me, just because I want to warn others who expect a lot of steam and might also be disappointed if I was or vice versa for those who might choose not to read them thinking they would be too steamy. I know I had some criticisms of Gabriel's Rapture, but I did find some fun in Story. As I said before, it was on track to be a four-star book until the events in the last quarter or so of the story lost my attention. The characters were sympathetic, and if I could have connected with them deeper, it would have been the great read to me that so many other readers already seem to believe it is. There is currently another book in the series, stating on the author's GoodReads profile that there is another one in the works, but to be honest, I feel like Gabriel and Julia have already found their HEA. In my mind, there's not much more story to tell besides maybe Julia graduating from college with her Doctorate and hints of them wanting kids. These events may have been summed up with a nice epilogue, so I'm not sure what the author found to write another book about it, let alone two. After reading two books in a row that were fine but not particularly spectacular to me, I'm not sure I will stay. After reading the cover blurb of the third book, Gabriel's Redemption, it sounds more like the author is stirring up artificial conflict that doesn't need to drag the story, making me even more inclined to keep reading. All I can say is that we will see, but since I no longer have the books on my TBR pile, I probably won't. VisitSylvain Reynard Themes Book Lovers Geniuses, Scholars & Scientists aka Geeks - Heroes Geniuses, Scholars & Scientists aka Geeks - Heroines Opposite Sides of the Track Tortured Heroes Heroes

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