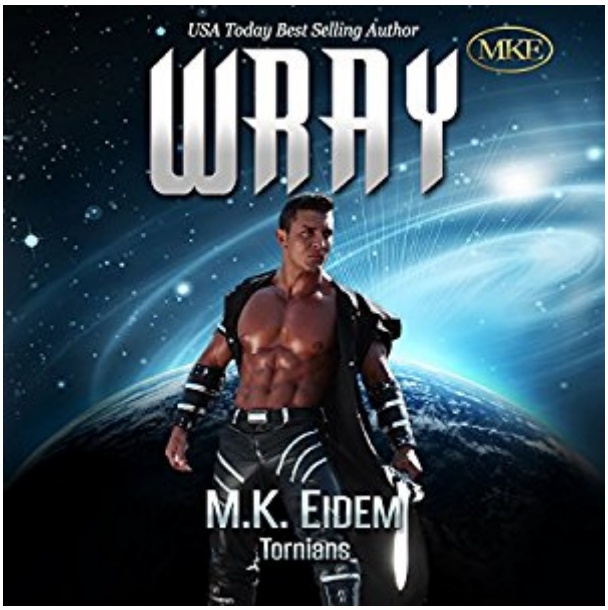
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Wray: Tornians, Book 2



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Synopsis

Emperor Wray Vasteri was the ruler of the Tornian Empire. His house had ruled the empire ever since the great infection, which struck over 500 years ago, and he feared he would be the last. The number of compatible females was dwindling faster than anyone knew. If they could not find compatible females soon, their entire civilization would cease to exist. It was the reason he agreed to meet with Liron, the emperor of the Kaliszian Empire in Kaliszian space. It was the only reason they had crossed paths with a Ganglian ship leaving Tornian space, and it was the only reason that the small female was discovered. Could she be what they had been searching for? Wray found himself drawn to the small female he'd found beaten and abused on the Ganglian ship. She resembled a Tornian female but was much smaller. Could she be what he had been searching for? Kim Teel has had a hard life - at least she thought she had until her parents were suddenly killed, and then her sister and brother-in-law disappeared. At 19 she realized she'd been protected from all of life's hardships. She had been cared for and loved her entire life and had come to expect it. She was terribly spoiled. Determined to change her ways, Kim went looking for her sister, only to be captured by the Ganglians, and it was then she learned what happened to the unprotected females of the universe. Wray and Kim are both doing the same thing - trying to survive. But what they find is that there are more important things than just survival. And once they learn that, the universe changes forever.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you read the first one, you already know 'what happens' in this one. Basically, Kim becomes

Empress. We knew that before the book even starts, so its not a spoiler because the beginning is when she's holding Destiny.The reason I can't rate this book higher is because... it wasn't as good as the first one. I really liked 'Grim' and found that although the heroine had a tendency to speechify (esp. at the end) and thus subdue a patriarchy, I liked it. I really liked the interaction between characters, her daughters (THANK YOU--moderately acceptable writing of children!), and the fact that it was an alien-kidnapping romance ++++ world building/alien sociology, etc.But Wray.... although it kind of added to the world building in terms of better understanding the 'laws' of the Torian culture, didn't meet the expectations of the first book. Firstly, it was a LOT more exposition and less interaction between characters. Even when it was just Kim and Wray. We were in his head, in her head, but rarely did it seem it was between them. There was what seemed to be the 'token' other-female-alien friend, and the usual confusion about whether the other guys in the story could rape the heroine or not... not cool. I also wanted more about how Kim wouldn't tell them where Earth was. That seemed a huge point in her favor in book one and barely touched upon in this book. And another problem I had was how the Healer seemed so very skeezy in this book becomes okay in the previous one? confusing.Personally, I liked it, but it Grim will be my favorite--although I'm hoping for a Rebecca (or was it Rachel?) & Callen book 3. (This comment is made because her named switched back and forth--there are other editing errors to be overlooked as well).Still, rather enjoyable.

I'm torn over this book. Some things I did like, some things I'm iffy on, but it did keep me reading.What I didn't care for or what I wish had been a little different: From the sample you know the heroine is abducted from Earth by aliens different from the H's people, and you know that she is raped and beaten for a several days, maybe even a couple of weeks. I felt that her trauma was a little too easily gotten over. I just felt that there needed to be more time to adjust and to get back to herself. I think she's with the hero only about a week? or so once he rescues her, and she's already falling in love with him, and he with her. That felt kind of soon. I wanted that paced out a bit more, the love and the build up to sex.Also, I was confused about how Tornians feel about females. It's explained that females are respected and cherished and sought after, virtually having all the power in that relationship, being able to pick and choose males to mate with at will. But then, it seems any female who is not Tornian is really at risk and subject to attack and to a general lack of respect. I was trying to piece together how long this way of thinking had been about, and I didn't understand how the hero, the Emperor of all, did not know this was going on.I would have loved more to the epilogue. I felt so invested in getting to Destiny that I really wanted more time with her and about

what she means to this world, how she changes things. And what about Jen? I really hope the author picks up that thread, maybe writes a book for her. Last thing, the editing could be tighter, but it didn't bother me too much.What I did like: I liked how the heroine changed, how she looked at herself and saw her flaws. I liked that she wanted to heal and be true to herself after her trauma. I also liked the hero, how he's alien and bronze-colored, with gray eyes and long black hair, and about seven feet tall. I liked how he treated the heroine; he really cared for her and was gone over her. There was a real feeling of romance/love about them, even if it did feel kind of instant. Nice POV from both h/H. Also, the Tornian world and culture were interesting, as was the Goddess and how she played into the story.Overall, the story was enjoyable to read. Just a few things I got hung up on, but by the time I got to the end of the story, I felt I'd had a fairly imaginative read with a kind of interesting set up and a sweet h/H. I'd be willing to give this author another go.

2.5 stars for Wray. I really enjoyed Grim and with high expectations, awaited Wray. Grim was a great story hidden inside atrocious spelling and grammar, misused words, and non-existent editing. I slogged through it all because of wonderful world-building, likable and hatable characters, and heroes/heroines that were so compelling they dared you to follow them to the end of the universe.Problem 1. I don't care how many family members or friends told you that you didn't need an editor. They are wrong, wrong, wrong. This is not your first book. Be professional and get editor recommendations from authors that you admire. Hire professional editors! No excuses! The mistakes in this book, while fewer than those in Grim, show a mediocre 10th grader's comprehension of English. You have a wonderful imagination, which is a skill I admire and envy, and it is rare. Good editors can make your writing better and help you sell more books.Problem 2. It's incomprehensible to me how anyone can trivialize rape and torture. I expected this book to show Wray and Kim's arduous paths to empathy. Regaining trust in any individual in this hostile universe, let alone those who pretend to revere women, while outrageously subjugating them, is a huge risk. I wanted Wray to realize the part the monarchy played in the subjugation of all women, including Tornian females. I wanted to watch him value Kim as a sentient being who was using all her strength and intelligence to overcome her own adversity, while trying to elevate the status and safety of the human females that would be hunted down to repopulate Tornian society. If she was hesitant about bringing female children into this society, well, that was never properly explored either. Perhaps a good editor could have pointed out that Kim couldn't reasonably be expected to overcome rape and torture issues and then jump Wray's bones after one whole week, no matter how handsome he was.The rest of the book was okay. There are some nice moments which

demonstrate that Kim isn't as shallow, slutty, or ignorant as problem 2 suggests. Wray's character never reaches the maturity, depth or heroism of Grim's.

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