

ELLORA'S CAVE PRESENTS

Jaid Black

USA Today Bestselling Author

Guide to Trek MiQ'an

An Ellora's Cave Romantica Publication



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Guide to Trek Mi Q'an

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E - ROTIC

X - TREME

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The following material contains graphic sexual content meant for mature readers. This story has been rated S-ensuous.

S-ensuous love scenes are explicit and leave nothing to the imagination.

E-rotic love scenes are explicit, leave nothing to the imagination, and are high in volume per the overall word count. E-rated titles might contain material that some readers find objectionable – in other words, almost anything goes, sexually. E-rated titles are the most graphic titles we carry in terms of both sexual language and descriptiveness in these works of literature.

X-treme titles differ from E-rated titles only in plot premise and storyline execution. Stories designated with the letter X tend to contain difficult or controversial subject matter not for the faint of heart.

GUIDE TO TREK MI Q'AN

Jaid Black

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From the Desk of Jaid Black: How The Empress Launched an Empire

April 23, 2007 A.D. (Anno Domini)

November 2007 will mark the seventh anniversary of both Trek Mi Q'an and, because of that distant galaxy, Ellora's Cave Publishing. While I've written dozens of fiction novels and novellas since the day the first book in the series, *The Empress' New Clothes*, was published, Trek Mi Q'an (pronounced Treck Mee Khan) will always hold a special place in my heart. Every author's name is, after all, synonymous with the book or series of books they breathed life into, and those which their readers cherish the dearest. From the beginning, the names "Jaid Black" and "Trek Mi Q'an" have gone hand in hand.

When my publisher, Raelene Gorfinsky, approached me with the idea of writing an introduction for this book, I was very willing but not exactly sure what to write about. After much thought, I decided to go back to the beginning, to explore what was going through my head all those years back when I first started writing *Empress...*

I was in college at the time, an avid romance reader who was giving some serious consideration to a career in anthropology. While my interest in becoming an anthropologist lasted only until I found out I'd have to do excavation work under gross conditions to obtain my doctorate (not this diva!), my fascination with cultural differences—especially sexual ones—continues into the present. That scientific enthrallment is what molds the campy, irreverent, seemingly far-fetched universe of Trek Mi Q'an.

For instance, the opening scene in *No Escape* typically brings me a lot of amused reader feedback, but did you know that there really are females in some matriarchal African tribes who pack-hunt husbands? In one particular tribal nation, when a woman's eye is caught by a good-looking piece of man-flesh, she and her sisters will band together, chase the male down like prey, hit him over the head and drag him (literally) to the altar.

In *No Fear*, Jek and Brynda make their way to Wassa, an underwater world where fish-men rule. Brynda is stunned when they visit a pub wherein the waitresses cover their private parts with food, lie down and welcome the clientele to lick the food from their bodies. As naughty as such a scenario sounds, it really happens in modern-day Japan and has caught on in other parts of the world. (At the time *No Fear* was written, such eateries existed only in Japan.)

For being such a short novella, *Dementia* has always brought me an inordinate amount of reader mail. Women LOVE the gorilla men! I'm not surprised, though,

because from a psychological perspective, Dementian males represent the most primal, powerful part of manhood. You Tarzan, me Jane. *Grrrrrrrr*.

There is, of course, no denying the parallels between the harems of Tryston and the harems found in modern and historic Arabic culture. While I doubt most women would want to live forever after in such an arrangement, the ménage aspects are—at least until the hero and heroine fall in love—undeniably titillating.

While some of the sexual mores of the various cultures of Trek Mi Q'an are based on the matings of real people, many times they are just made up. For example, I don't think there are any tribes where women are led around naked on leashes by their mates à la Joo, but I could be wrong. (At least I hope that doesn't really happen.)

At any rate, I've been digressing. Back to the late 1990s...

I wrote *The Empress' New Clothes* freestyle, meaning I had no idea what was going to happen until it happened. The only thing I was sure about was that the heroine, Kyra, would be a modern-day human woman thrust into an alien culture with foreign sexual habits. She would learn the shocking ways of the Trystonni world as each new sensual encounter presented itself. Kyra would be given no warning of anything—she would learn it by experiencing it. (I chose the name Kyra after seeing Kevin Bacon's wife of the same name on TV.)

I couldn't seem to write fast enough. The pages whizzed by as I had fun watching her complete her journey. I had expected that Kyra's adventure would be the only time I ever visited the Trek Mi Q'an Galaxy so I wasn't sure what to do when a reader named Giselle kept hounding me for a sequel. In the end I chose to write another story called *No Mercy*. And I thought to myself, "Giselle. Hmm. What a nice name for a heroine..."

From there on out, all of my heroines in the series were named after readers, family and friends. To this day I have a large backlist of reader names I hope to give to some warriors in the future. ☺

Despite the fact that by now reader mail was coming in daily, I still had difficulty accepting that anyone was really reading my work or particularly cared if I ever wrote another sequel. My wake-up call came the first time I received a fan letter from a famous person. She was—is—a tennis star and she wanted me to write a story for Geris, which I later did in *Seized*. And then came a letter from a famous singer via her manager. And then another singer wrote; she needed more to read between gigs. And then an actress. And then another actress's very demanding mother.

Okay, so by the time I got to the exceedingly trying mama bear of a then-famous TV star who has since disappeared into obscurity, I learned two things—one, I might be on to something here with this series, and two, I needed to remove my email address from the public domain because tempestuous mama bears and quality writing time do not go hand in hand. She kept insisting between expletives that I explain to her how the magical sands of Tryston worked to form the Kefa slaves. I finally told her, and this is practically verbatim, "Look, bitch, do you see the word *magical* in there? Well the sands are *magical*. That means I don't have to explain the science behind it because there isn't

any. It's *magical*. Magi-fucking-cal. Now go give your daughter a nervous breakdown and leave me the fuck alone." Apparently she did, because I haven't seen Daughter-of-Psycho on TV since. Poor girl. Nor have I heard from mama bear again. Of course, I changed email addresses that day and kept my new one private. I was brought up in the *kick-their-ass-then-run* school of social interaction. Hey, I'm not stupid. They might get back up.

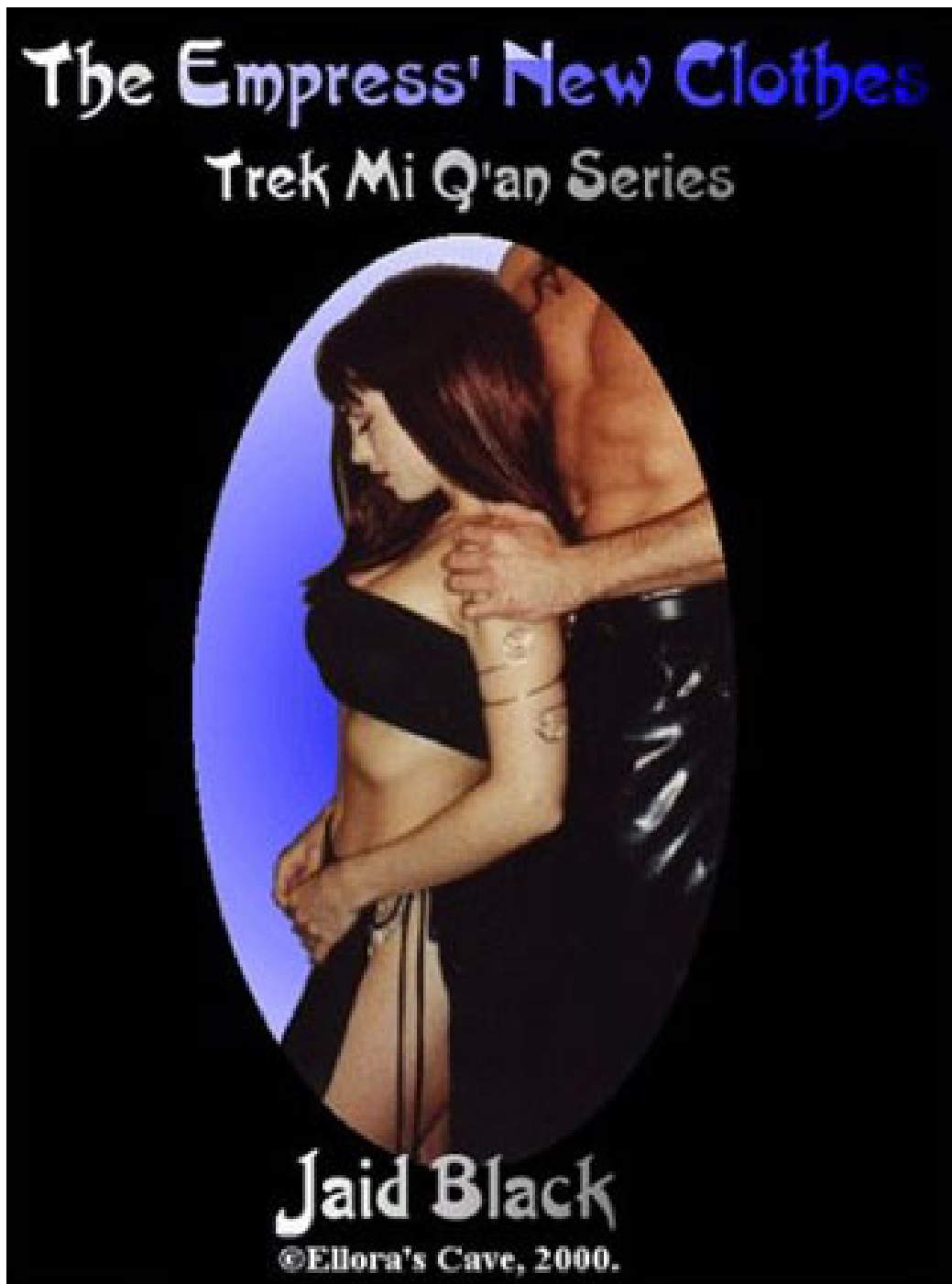
And so a few sequels and a near breakdown later, I felt that a series had been born. Right now I am currently embroiled in writing the final saga of Trek Mi Q'an, at least for the first generation of Trekkies. Until then, peace be unto you.

Jaid

The Evolution of Empress

The current version of *The Empress' New Clothes* isn't *quite* the same as the original. As you can see, the cover has evolved. And then there's the "Which chapter should be first?" issue...

2000



Cover by Tina Engler, 2000

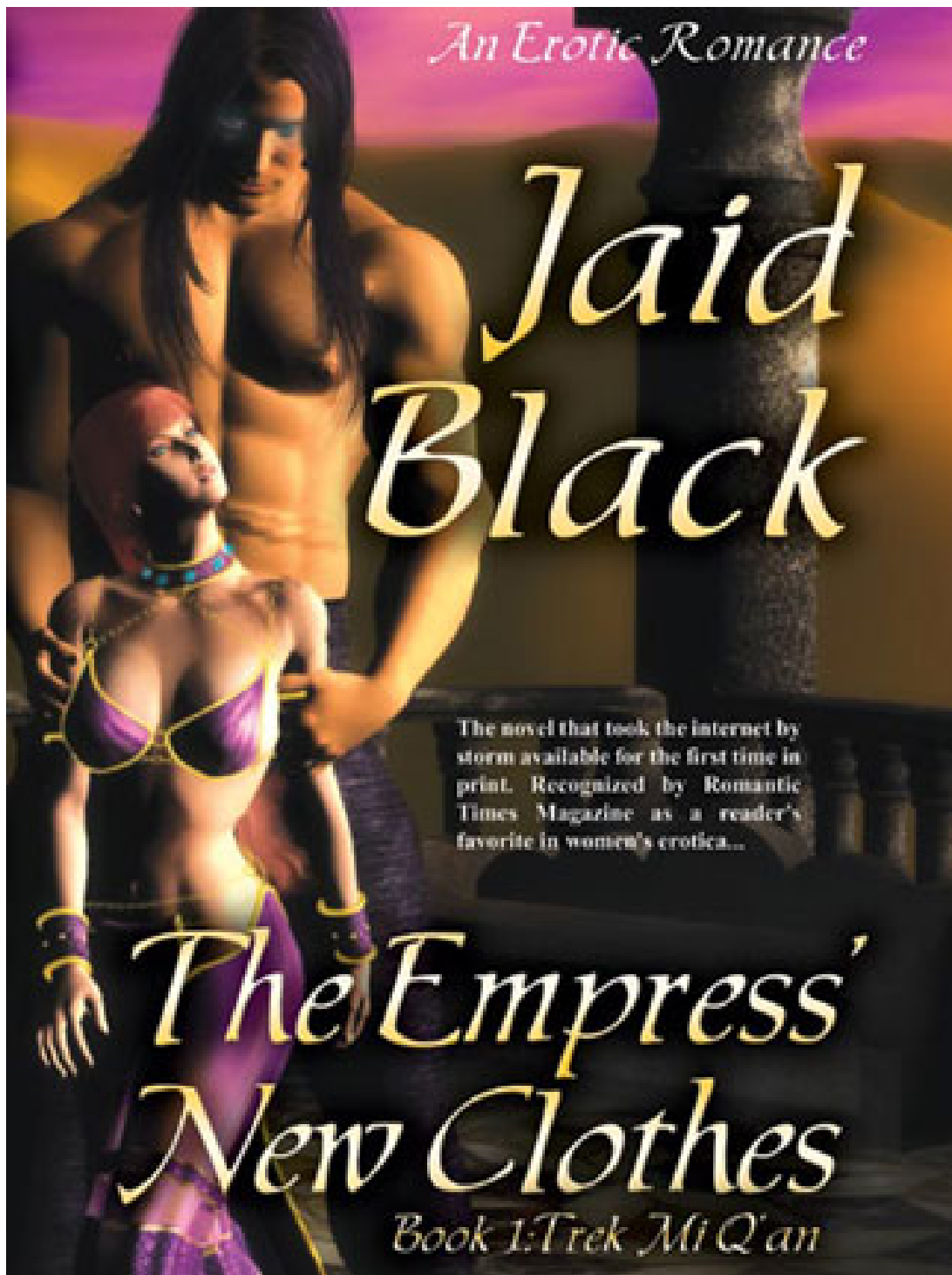
Jaid Black

2001



Cover by Daio, 2001

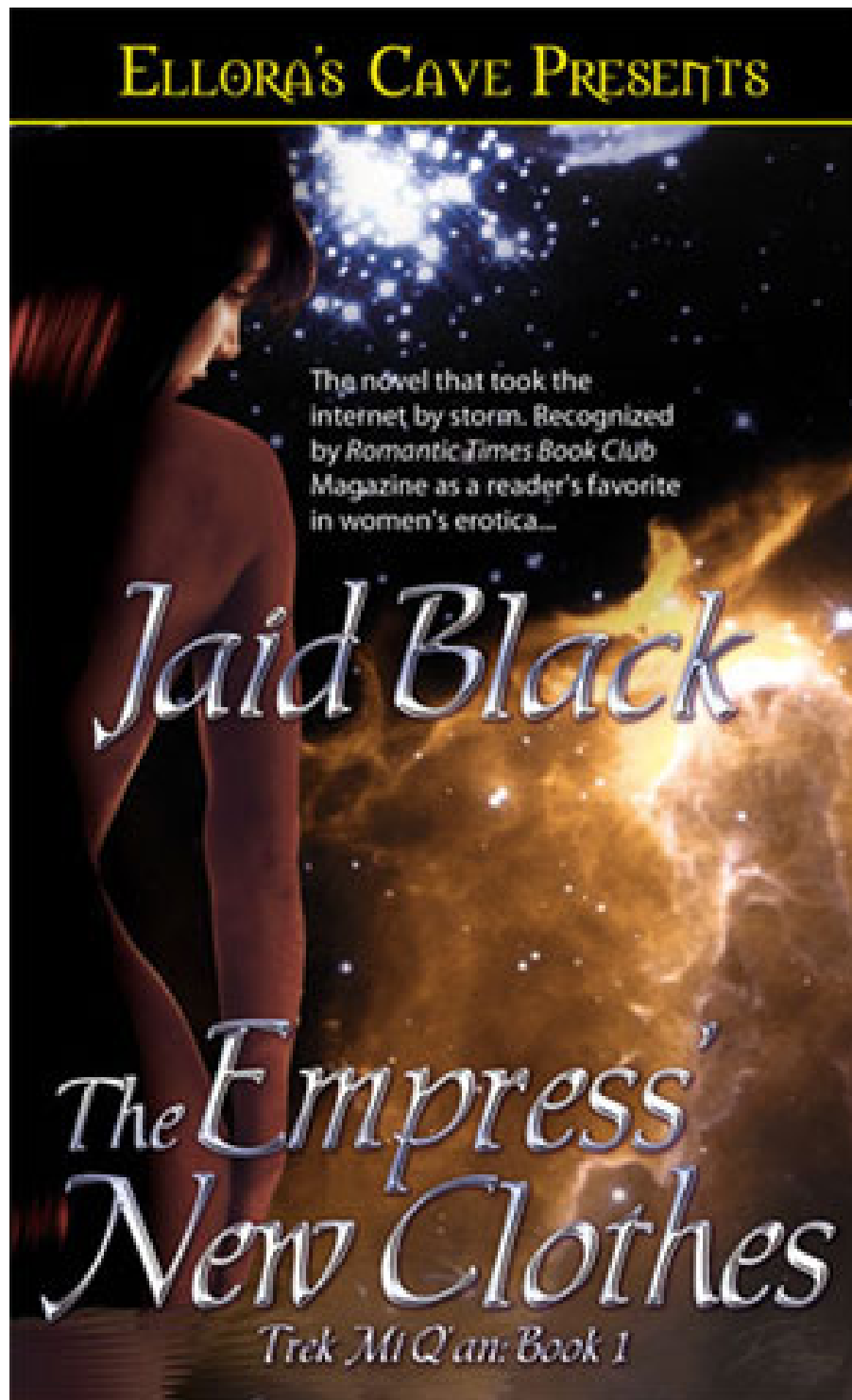
2002



Cover art by Darrell King, 2002

Jaid Black

2005



Cover art by Darrell King, 2005

About Jaid Black

Because inquiring minds want to know – and keep asking.

Q: Where do you get your ideas from?

A: I have no clue. Like the sands from which the Kefa slaves are created, it's a magical process. (Take that, mama bear.)

Q: Are you married?

A: Yeah. Very happily so. Why? You proposing?

Seriously, I don't get why people always want to know if I'm married. I think they feel relieved or something. Like if I was single I must be a horny nut-job, but since I'm married I'm allowed to be a horny nut-job. Double standards, people. Double standards. I'm a horny nut-job no matter my marital status.

Q: What do you look like?

A: I usually get this question from creepy old men. I guess it's the written equivalent to the crank caller's "What are you wearing?" inquiry. The answer I have for all the creepies out there is this—I AM BUTT-UGLY AND I HAVE MULTIPLE VENERAL DISEASES. To all the non-creepies, my answer is this—I'm average height, long, curly hair, sometimes fat, sometimes less fat, and always a hottie. Once you go fat you never go back, baby. And if you try I will sit on you so you can't go anywhere.

Q: What do you do in your spare time?

A: I don't really have any. With two kids, a writing career, several dogs and a strong, brooding, tattooed-from-head-to-toe husband who turns into a whining wuss if I don't pay him enough attention, my days are quite full. (My husband's nickname is BHB—Big Hairy Baby.)

Q: Are you as obnoxiously funny in real life as you are in your books?

A: Yes.

Q: Do you get a lot of people asking you for sexual advice?

A: Yeah, I do. So much so that you'd think the covers of my books read "Masters & Johnson" instead of "Jaid Black". Use a cucumber. Hell, I don't know.

Q: How come you do so few book signings?

A: The answer is pretty blunt and cold – because I hate them. I love my readers, you see. Love, love, love ‘em! But my nerves can’t handle all the anticipatory anxiety associated with public appearances. I’m a very behind-the-scenes kind of girl so thrusting me into a situation where I have to be the object of attention isn’t exactly my idea of a good time. Truth be told, I have to take a Xanax just to get through a signing. Pretty sad, huh? Boy, do I suck. Thanks. Now I’m depressed. I need a cookie.

The Mind Behind Trek

Ellora's Cave put erotic romance on the map. But at the root of this sexy empire is one woman who dared to think differently. Jaid Black answers a few questions about the mind behind Trek and what makes it tick.

Is the goddess the Trystonnis worship named after a real person?

Aparna is a real person. She's my oldest friend—we've been friends since age ten. She is presently a physician and lives in the northeast.

Did you name Khan-Gor after the John Norman sci-fi books based on the planet Gor?

I guess there really is no such thing as an original idea because I'd never even heard of that series of books until reviewers started making comparisons. I read the first Gor book afterwards to see how many similarities there were, but besides the word "Gor" in "Khan-Gor" I still fail to see them.

You do diverse cultures with diverse sexual customs. You do elaborate world-building and complex characters. But one of your trademarks seems to be a taste for the dark and brooding. From many of the Trek planets—like Dementia, which also gets its own title—to a lot of other Trek titles—*No Escape*, *Seized*, *No Way Out*—there's a theme of foreboding. Where do you get the inspiration for that darkness, that sense of danger?

I don't know if I'd call it "inspiration" so much as it's simply the way I like to tell a story. I think the more dangerous and forbidden the fruit appears on the outside, the sweeter the nectar becomes inside. ;-)

Do you think Tryston is more like Earth than it might seem at first, only without the attempts to appear "politically correct"?

The warriors of Tryston are not a violent race of men. They feel it is their duty to restore order where it isn't and prevent future chaos from erupting in the seventh dimension of time and space. It was stated in *No Fear* that the cultures that worship the female goddess (for example, Tryston) are the least violent of the races, the cultures that worship male deities are the most volatile and those that worship gods and goddesses of both genders fall somewhere in the middle.

But if you really stop and think about modern day Earth, the parallels can't be mistaken. Damn near all the wars on our planet are caused by men who worship opposing male gods.

You say you've drawn inspiration from real-life friends and foes for some characters, but are there any who go the other way? Any characters you really wish were real? How about ones you love to hate?

The only one that comes to mind is Lord Death. He wasn't supposed to be anyone special, just another secondary character who provided opportunity for a few one-liners. But from the beginning he took on a life of his own and at the end of the day his story will be the most provocative of them all. I'm almost afraid to write his story because I don't know what paths he plans to take me down.

And do you ever find yourself having to hold back on a particular character, scene or plot because it's just getting too intense or crazy?

Definitely. Kyra and Kil's relationship is a good example of that.

Other than the obvious (variety of worlds, opportunity for conflict, complex infrastructures), what are some examples of the appeal of creating a whole universe like Trek Mi Q'an instead of just a single planet? Is it the greater feeling of escape? The craving for omnipotence? The inability to make up your mind?

A little bit of everything? ☺

Seriously, all of us are guilty of omnipotent desires to some extent or another. Whether it be playing God, judge and jury in the Middle East or supporting the death penalty, it's human nature to want to control those things we feel are least controllable. What we can't control scares us. We don't want to think about it or contemplate it, just end it. I'm not saying that's right, in fact I'd say that fundamental truth accounts for the darkest part of the human psyche, but it *is* in all of our natures.

In *The Empress' New Clothes*, the foci were on Tryston and its satellite moons. I began expanding the universe – and thus my artificial omnipotence – after meeting Giselle, the woman I named the heroine after in *No Mercy*. Giselle's life story touched me profoundly and I couldn't shake off the desire to give her a happy ending, at least in fiction. Without revealing too many details of her private life, let's just say that Gis is a brain cancer survivor and has some physical problems that stem from it. She was also responsible for her ailing, aging parents and so rarely got to go anywhere. I gave Giselle a fun, sexy adventure in *No Mercy* and I put her in a dimension of time and space where people live hundreds and thousands of years, where illness is curable and where men love their women faithfully and completely.

What was your inspiration for the characteristics of a Trystonni pregnancy?

Well, seeing as how women on Tryston are only pregnant for a couple of months, I think the inspiration for that one is obvious! On Earth, I found pregnancy to be far less than "glowing", as it's so often described. My ankles swelled up, I felt bigger than Dom Deloise at an all-you-can-eat buffet, and I was pretty sure my kids would never come out. I carried my youngest daughter for what seemed forever, especially considering I was at my biggest during the sweltering heat of a Florida summer. Had she stayed in much longer, she would have come out with a college diploma in hand.

You seem to be pretty dead-set on monogamy as the end result of your main characters' relationships. Sure, there are plenty of luscious ménage scenes in the Trek stories, but ultimately there's one hero and one heroine. Do you think it was purely a product of the time, since you were already pushing the envelope on so many things and erotic romance had yet to catch on, let alone permanent ménage stories? Or is it more about your personal tastes – at least in romance?

This is a really good question and one I've never before been asked. I'd have to say it was a lot of both. First, when I wrote *Empress* ménages were not, as you indicated, even remotely acceptable in the romance genre. There came a point in the story where I had to make a choice as to whether Kyra would have intercourse with Kil or not. My hormones screamed yes, but the monogamist in my heart screamed no. It was a very difficult decision, but not unlike the choices real women face daily. Ultimately, as sexy and risqué as sex outside of marriage can seem, I'm a strong believer in fidelity and intimacy between two people, whatever their genders or orientation. You never see love triangles work out – ever. I defy you to show me even one long-term example!

How long did it take you to write *Empress*? Did you find it got easier or harder to write later stories as the series got longer and more in-depth?

I wrote *Empress* very quickly. I'd say it only took me about two months at best. It got much harder to write stories as the series went on. I think I've put off the remaining stories in the series for as long as I have because of a fundamental laziness on my part. I enjoy writing, not fact-checking!

Your portrayal of the Smiling Faces and Peaceful Hearts Meditation Retreat in *Empress* is charming and funny, and it's a very effective foil to the major change of scenery Kyra and Geris are about to experience. And the retreat helps most of the characters, Lord Jameson notwithstanding. (On second thought...) But do you think we as humans need a little healthy shaking up – even if it's not as extreme as what our Earth-born heroines get – as much as we need serenity and relaxation?

Absolutely. I get bored when things become routine, no matter how pleasant and uneventful such a situation is. We need yin as much as yang and vice versa.

As you've hinted before, *Empress* is about more than sex and romance – it's about diversity. Along with the hot fantasies and a vivid alternate universe, are you offering your readers a gentle suggestion to keep an open mind?

The point of the entire series is that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. What is considered beautiful in one culture is ugly in another. As women, the greatest gift we can give ourselves is the ability to fall in love with what we see in the mirror every day. That isn't vanity; it's simply – and beautifully – self-love.

Titles in the Trek Mi Q'an Series

Main Series Titles

- 1 The Empress' New Clothes – *Zor and Kyra*
- 1.5 Seized – *Dak and Geris*
- 2 No Mercy – *Rem and Giselle*
- 3 Enslaved – *Kil and Marty*
- 4 No Escape – *Kara and Cam*
- 5 No Fear – *Jek and Brynda*
- 5.5 Dementia – *General Zaab and Dee*

Related Short Stories

- Naughty Nancy – *Nancy and Vorik* [Available in *Strictly Taboo* anthology from Berkley]
- Devilish Dot – *Dot and Vaid* [in *Manaconda* anthology]
- Never a Slave – *Lord Julian Jameson and Klykka*

Coming in Future

- 6 No Way Out: Jana – *Jana and Yorin*
- 7 No Way Out: Dari – *Dari and Gio*
- 8 No Way Out: Kari – *Kari and Death*
- 9 No Way Out: Armageddon

The Planets and Moons

Trek Mi Q'an: (pronounced Trek Mee Kwan) The prominent galaxy that exists within a seventh-dimensional plane of being. Literal translation: "Galaxy of Warriors".

Tryston: (pronounced Tri-sten) The ruling planet of Trek Mi Q'an galaxy, the principal seat of the Emperor, and the principal seat of the High King. Tryston is on the far edge of Trek Mi Q'an galaxy.

Morak: The dominant satellite moon of Tryston; home of King Kil, second-born son.

Ti Q'won: (pronounced Tee-Kwan) The fifth closest moon to Tryston; a general name for the habitable part of the fifth moon; home of King Dak, the third son.

Sypar: A satellite moon of Tryston; home of King Rem, the fourth son. King Rem's home is the "Ice Palace", a structure molded from ice-jewels-splinters of ice fused with precious white gems, a development that takes thousands of Yessat Years to occur.

Galis: The only matriarchal planet in Trek Mi Q'an galaxy. Galis is ruled by female Mystiks who are proficient warriors and skilled in the erotic arts.

Myrak: Planet situated between Tryston and Galis.

Tron: Planet from which Tron insurrectionists come. The Wani sector (mentioned in *Enslaved* and *No Fear*) is on the planet Tron. Most of the planet has been destroyed by the insurrectionists. High Empress Jana, mother of Zor, Kil, Dak and Rem, was killed by insurrectionists on the planet Tron. The world is tinted blue. The planet has four moons.

Brekkon: Referenced in *No Escape*. The males of this planet are not reputable or reliable.

Kampor: Large planet of dull purple. It has twenty moons. It is fifteen billion years older than Earth. The inhabitants are crude primitives compared to the inhabitants of Tryston, but they are one thousand times more advanced than Earth in biological evolution and technology. Kampor is the planet that Jek points out to Brynda in *No Fear*, when she tries to tell him that her disease is incurable.

Tojo: Large, orange-red planet with a "chilly" atmosphere. Indigenous life includes *pugmuffs* and *Rustians*.

Unnamed Fifth Dimension planet: Referenced in *No Mercy*. A planet inside a wormhole. A treacherous land full of predators, many of which are transparent and fanged. The ground is red and gel-like, sometimes slippery, and covered in a red mist. When Giselle, Rem and the others crash on the planet, the sky is smoky and black. The planet has three suns.

Joo: Sixth dimension planet, close to the penal colony of Trukk. The humans (lusty, naked women, clothed males) have silver and lavender skin tones. The environment of the planet is jungle-like and the sky is filled with purple haze. The natives of the planet

tend to live underground. The towns of Treeka (where women can't have money and instead barter with oral sex) and Lii-Lii (where women can wear no clothing and must be leashed) are on this planet.

Zolak: Vakki sector of this planet is ruled by King Jun, son of High King Zor and High Queen Kyra. The sector is practically nonexistent after insurrectionist occupation.

Zideon: Home of Cam K'al Ra.

Khan-Gor: "Planet of the Predators", a supposedly mythical planet of barbarians in the Zyrus Galaxy of the seventh dimension. Legend has it that the inhabitants of the planet, humanoid creatures who can take a gargoyle-like shape they call "*kor-tar*", closed off the planet in response to the rest of the galaxy's fear of them. The planet is silver-toned and icy cold. The barbarians live in Clan strongholds. There is no monetary system on Khan-Gor, the inhabitants barter the low-intellect beings called *yenni*.

Kabka star system: Star system in the third dimension with four suns. Referred to in No Fear as "a hell", Kabka is a hostile environment with primitive, violent inhabitants.

Wassa: The outlying planet in the Kabka star system in the third dimension. Wassa is small, no bigger than Europe on first-dimension Earth, and is frigid. The daytime is arctic, but there is no snowfall. The inhabitants of Wassa, fish-like humanoids, live underwater. The planet is lime-green, the waters blue. The slave trade is booming on Wassa but the planet is primarily peaceful. They worship a goddess.

Dementia: The second farthest from Kabka's four suns, Dementia is inhabited by violent, gorilla-like humanoids. The planet is jungle-like and dark and gloomy with red-tinted skies, and is as dangerous as its inhabitants. Carnivorous animals roam freely. Predatory plantlife has been harnessed by the Dementians to aid in breaking their slaves. Native Dementians are male; Dementians only have sons.

Geography of Tryston

The planet Tryston is vast, approximately the size of three Jupiters, and possesses seventeen satellite moons. It takes months to travel by floating conveyance from one side of the planet to the other. The geography of Tryston is comprised of three parts—the city centers, the borderlands and the pits.

Throughout Tryston are millions of city centers. A typical city center on Tryston is built around the largest dune of healing sand in any given area. If the city center is also the principal seat of a lesser king's holdings, then the lesser king who rules the area typically lives in a palace that sits at the apex of the dune. The high lords live in strategically placed castles at the bottom of the dune, facing in the general direction of the sectors they rule. There are typically three or four city centers in any given sector.

The majority of Tryston's people, most of them warriors and free men, live within these surrounding centers. It is the function of the warriors to protect the free men of the centers, providing them with security so they can go about their daily business.

Separating the city centers from the pits are the borderlands. The borderlands are comprised of colored sands and little else. The terrain here is harsh and typically uninhabitable.

The pits dot the landscape of Tryston. The black terrain is habitable but severe. Both animal and gel-based predators make their home in pits such as Kogar. When people from Trek Mi Q'an are sentenced to die, they are sent to the pits to fend for themselves.

Royal Lineage

Emperor: the warrior who reigns over the entire Trek Mi Q'an galaxy. If he does not have a male heir, he also carries the title of High King.

High King: the warrior who reigns over planet Tryston; the Emperor-apparent.

Empress: the wife of the Emperor; she also carries the title High Queen if she has never borne a son.

High Queen: the wife of the High King; the Empress-apparent.

Grand Empress: the living widow of an Emperor.

King: title given to son of an Emperor; rule vast areas of land, usually entire planets and/or moons.

High Princess: daughter of the Emperor.

Princess: daughter of a King.

High Lord: title given to son of a King; rules sector within a King's kingdom. There are also High Lords who are not related to the royal family but have been given the title by the Emperor.

Chief Priestess: the governing religious ruler of Tryston and Trek Mi Q'an. Also called "Q'i Liko Aki Jiq" – "She Who Is Born of the Goddess". In the event that an Emperor dies without an heir, the Chief Priestess rules Trek Mi Q'an until she appoints the next Emperor and relinquishes power to him. Although mothered by unnatural means, the Chief Priestess is nevertheless a mortal. She is the biological and metaphysical result of a sexual union between the goddess Aparna and a chosen Trystonni male.

Tryston's Ruling Family

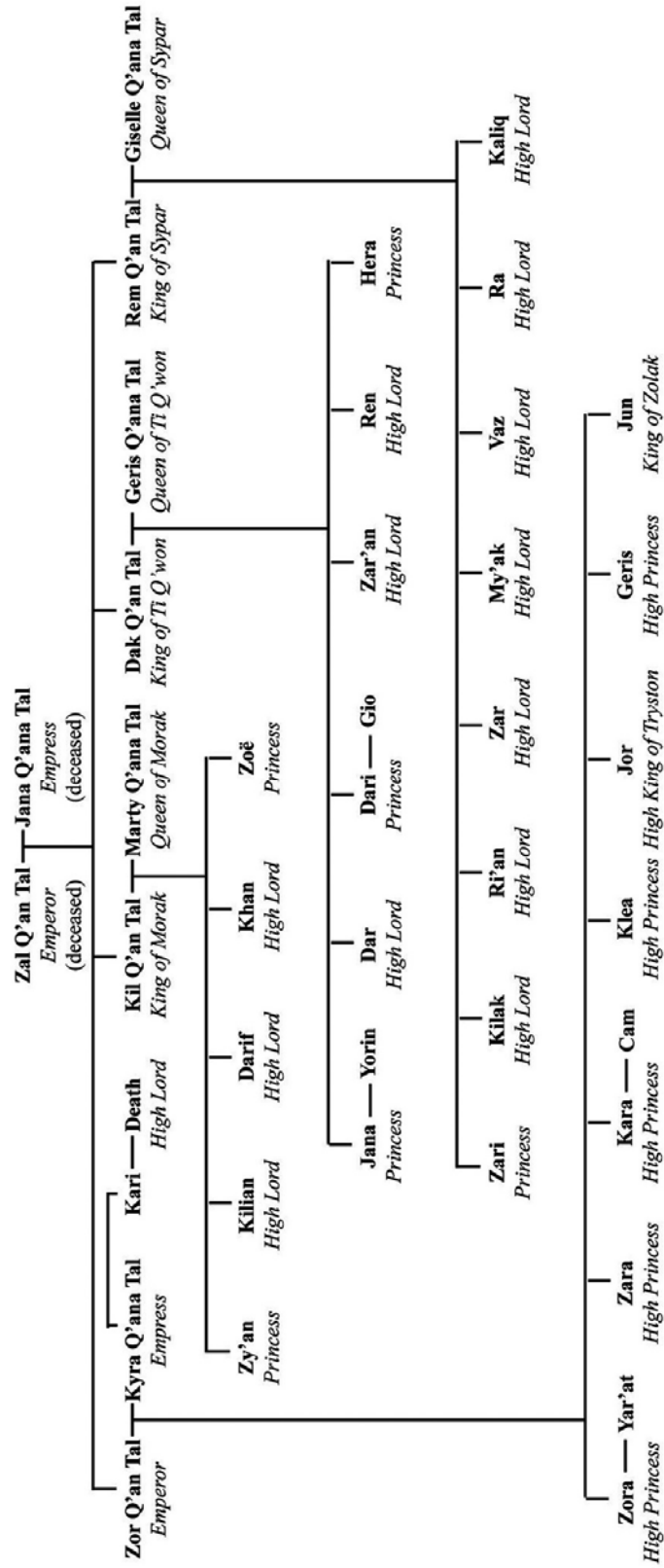
The deceased Emperor Zal Q'an Tal and the deceased Empress Jana Q'ana Tal begat four sons: Zor, the current Emperor of Trek Mi Q'an; Kil, the king of the dominant moon Morak; Dak, the king of the moon Ti Q'won; and Rem, the king of the moon Sypar.

The Emperor Zor Q'an Tal married the Empress Kyra Q'ana Tal in the year 6023 YY. They begat five daughters and two sons: The High Princesses Zora, Zara, Kara, and Klea; High King Jor; the High Princess Geris; and Jun, the king of Zolak.

King of Morak, Kil Q'an Tal, married the Queen Marty "Mari" Q'ana Tal in the year 6040 YY. They begat two daughters and three sons, the eldest of the children named Princess Zy'an, the youngest of the children named Princess Zoë. The king's heir is High Lord Kilian. His other two sons are High Lord Darif, and High Lord Khan.

King of Ti Q'won, Dak Q'an Tal, married the Queen Geris Q'ana Tal in the year 6023 YY. They begat three sons and three daughters in the following order: Princess Jana, High Lord Dar, Princess Dari, High Lord Zar'an, High Lord Ren, and Princess Hera.

King of Sypar, Rem Q'an Tal, married the Queen Giselle Q'ana Tal in the year 6040 YY. They begat seven sons and one daughter: Their only female hatchling is Princess Zari. Their sons, in birth order, are: High Lords Kilak, Ri'an, Zar, My'ak, Vaz, Ra, and Kaliq.



Political Culture

Trystonni political culture is central to the Trek Mi Q'an galaxy and is hierarchical in nature. At the apex of the hierarchy sits the Chief Priestess, the most powerful mortal in existence.

Below the Chief Priestess is the Emperor, the ruler of Trek Mi Q'an galaxy.

Below the Emperor is the High King, the ruler of Tryston and the Emperor's firstborn son.

Below the High King are the lesser kings. Lesser kings tend to rule vast areas of land, usually entire planets and/or moons.

Below the lesser kings are the high lords. High lords rule sectors within a lesser king's kingdom.

Equal in stature to the high lords are the priestesses of Tryston. The priestesses report directly to the Chief Priestess but are bound by the Holy Law to defer in all matters to lesser kings, the High King and the Emperor.

Below the high lords and priestesses is the warrior, or military, caste. This caste is responsible for maintaining the tranquility and order of a sector, so there are typically quite a few warriors under the command of a high lord within any given sector.

Below the warrior caste is the caste of free men. The majority of the population is comprised of free men. This class consists of the workers, merchants and craftsmen of the planet.

Below the caste of free men are the bound servants, all female. A bound servant is answerable to any caste above her. She is chattel to whoever owns her during her five years of sexual and physical servitude, and she is not permitted to marry until she is freed. Although, technically speaking, a male of the free caste is permitted to own a bound servant, this is a rare event as her sale price tends to be exorbitant.

Below the bound servants are the Kefa slaves. A Kefa slave cannot be considered a real class as they are not thinking beings. They are made of colored sand, female in form and engineered by magic to do nothing but give pleasure.

The political structure of Trek Mi Q'an is not immobile. A free man, for instance, can move up in caste if his skills as a fighter are remarkable. The only three places on the hierarchy that are impossible to join unless you are born to them are Chief Priestess, Emperor and High King.

Religious Life

Just as the planet Tryston dictates political life throughout the Trek Mi Q'an galaxy, so too does it dictate religious life. The religion of the Trystonni people is monotheistic and is based upon the worship of the goddess Aparna.

Aparna very rarely interferes in the lives of mortals. Instead, her wishes are made known through her daughter, the Chief Priestess Ari. If Ari were to die, a moon-phasing would occur, the skies would turn to black and Trek Mi Q'an would be closed off to outsiders until Aparna begat another daughter with a chosen Trystonni male.

Like her omnipotent mother, Ari very rarely interferes in the lives of the people she was born to rule and serve. Although her station in life is higher than the Emperor's, she typically defers to him in all matters except the spiritual.

Ari is the most powerful mortal in existence and is the sole medium between her mother, the goddess Aparna, and lesser mortals. She is served directly by priestesses she chooses.

The religion of Tryston is very sexual in nature. It is believed that higher levels of understanding are reached through higher levels of sexual enlightenment. Hence, healing and social ceremonies almost always contain sexual touching and intercourse.

Glossary

Aparna: the dark goddess of war and pleasure, worshipped by all Trystonni.

Bloodmate (see *vorah*): Khan-Gori term for wife.

Boggi: a set of four shackles sometimes used by Galian females to break recalcitrant males.

Bound servant: a sex slave, typically acquired through a war. Bound servants, unlike Kefas, are not slaves for life. They are released after five Yessat Years of sexual and physical servitude. Although they wear the *qi'ka*, the traditional skirt of Trystonni females, their breasts remain unbound, separating them from free women.

Bridal necklace: a crystal necklace with which a Trystonni warrior binds his Sacred Mate to him. Bridal necklaces are individual to each male and are irreplaceable if destroyed. If a Sacred Mate dies the bridal necklace stays locked around her neck even in death. If a false Sacred Mate is given a bridal necklace, upon her death the necklace will unclasp and can be used again. Such is the case for the relationship between Rem and Jera in *The Empress' New Clothes*, with Rem claiming his true Sacred Mate in *No Mercy*. Bridal necklaces have many magical properties, most of which are common knowledge in the Trek Mi Q'an universe. Some of these properties include showing emotion via color, linking life forces between Sacred Mates and language translation. During intercourse, the bridal necklace reflects the pleasure felt between mates and, after the male's orgasm, produces a pleasurable "aftershock" that can cause unconsciousness in extreme cases. Unmated males envy mated males the pleasure brought by the bridal necklace.

Bryyif: silver gun-like mechanism that shoots liquid fire instead of bullets. Used by the female warriors of the Wani sector of Tron. (Referenced in *Enslaved*.)

Cherished One: Dementian endearment. (Referenced in *Dementia*.)

Consummation Feast: an ancient custom that precedes the claiming of a King's Sacred Mate. It is the only time that mated warriors and their Sacred Mates stretch their monogamous bonds. It is a time when women work their warriors to a frenzy of jealousy. Before the ceremony ends, the warriors are brought to a peak by *Kefa* slaves, while Sacred Mates are pleased to a peak by unmated males.

Credit: the unit of money used in Tryston and on most planets within Trek Mi Q'an.

Dementian vines: indigenous vines of the planet Dementia. They eat vaginal secretions and inject their prey with a euphoric, hallucinogenic drug. While the vine wraps and constrains the victim, the flowers and buds of the plant work on the nipples and clitoris to produce maximum pleasure in the female, thereby maximizing the production of their food at the source. They are used by the natives of Dementia to

break their human female slaves, but if not monitored, vines can cause dehydration and insanity. Evidence suggests that the needle-like injectors of the vines are sometimes withdrawn by the plant (as in *No Fear*) or can be distracted by a “fake-flesh box” (as in *Dementia*).

Devolution: metabolic change where Trystonni males revert to a primitive, mindless, savage beasts, or “baser self”. The most recognizable sign of devolution is growling, but eye color changes are prominent as well. The Chief Priestess can forestall devolution through healing sex but cannot cure it. The prison of Trykk on the planet Joon in the sixth dimension holds devolved males. Some rationality can occur even in devolved males. (Detailed explanation in *No Mercy*.)

Dreamscape: an opening within the Rah.

Fala: Trystonni numeral referenced in *No Escape*. Represented by a hieroglyphic-like symbol.

Fireberry (also “fire-berry”): fruit of the pici tree.

Gastro-gel: fuel that caused the fires that destroyed Cam’s home.

Gazi-kor: beasts referenced in *No Escape*. They go into heat and have metallic skin.

Gel-lamp: used across the galaxy for light.

Gentling: process whereby the female Sacred Mate of the head of a bloodline is introduced to her “lesser husband” and attuned to his touch in case the female’s mate dies before a male heir is born and the need arises for the lesser husband to produce an heir with the female. It is a time for the establishment of a relationship. The process involves direct touch of the female’s genitals by the lesser husband, but the rules are strict—hands only, no tongue or penis. Some lesser husbands cannot stand the torture and penetration occurs. During the gentling the lesser husband and female to be gentled are locking in a room together. The gentling has no set term of duration, but is ended when the lesser husband is satisfied that the female has been sufficiently gentled.

Giatta balls: a sweet delicacy. Served by Marty at Kil’s feast in *Enslaved*.

Gorak: “sleep of the dead.” Khan-Gori evolutionary process undergone in between the first through seventh Khan-Gori lifetimes. *Gorak* is undergone once every five hundred YY and involves a male cocooning himself (similar to the females’ evolution in a *vorah sac*) for one hundred YY.

Gulch beast: flying predators that live in swamps and trap their prey in “gulch pits”. They are seen as “red flashes”.

Gulch pit: a trap dug by a gulch beast to trap food.

Haja birds: referenced in *No Escape*—“Kill five *haja birds* with one *trelli stone*.”

Hatchling: a post-incubation fetus; a baby. This is also a general term used when referring to one’s own children, no matter their age.

Heeka-beast: a beast whose temper Kil frequently compares Marty’s to in *Enslaved*. They are reptilian, generally about eight feet tall, and armored with a blue-black

substance. They have two hands with five projections, each ending in a twelve-inch razor-sharp nail.

Holo-maze: game often involving betting. Kyra challenges Geris to a game of it in *Enslaved*.

Holo-port: instantaneous transportation that can take a traveler between planets or even dimensions – they step in on one world and step out on another. Evidence (such as in *No Mercy*) suggests that the coordinates of a holo-port are singular and non-changeable.

Insurrectionists: highborn lords trying to reclaim land taken from them because they abused the people living there. Especially prevalent on Tron.

Jaaker: male ape-god of the Dementians, regarded as he who breathed life into their species.

Jee-jee bug: referenced in *Enslaved*.

Joo-joo flowers: referenced in *Enslaved*.

Kazi: the conservative but colorful skirt and top that female Trystonni children wear until they have their come-outs at eighteen Yessat Years and are given a *mazi*.

Kefa: a sex slave that is composed of trelli sand and has been enchanted by the priestesses of Tryston. Such a slave has no thought processes. Their sole purpose is to provide pleasure to their owners.

Kogar: wild terrain outside Sand City on Tryston. Filled with predators, including gulch beasts, dark trees and black, sandy mud. Little light penetrates the tree canopy. The trees run with glowing blue sap that eats organic matter.

Kor-tar: winged, gargoyle form of Khar-Gori warriors. In *kor-tar* form one's hide is thick and silvery. Females have arm spikes in *kor-tar* form.

Laser scan: chemical imprinting device used in Galian hunting. The imprinting is referred to as "tagging". Galian tagging consists of using a laser scan to put a brand along a male's penis, which, once imprinted, will explode if the male couples with anyone other than his bride. Application of a laser scan is described as "stinging".

Lesser husband: the next-born (living) brother of the eldest of a bloodline. The designation is made when the eldest of the bloodline has a Sacred Mate who has not yet produced a male heir. A lesser husband cannot go on a bride search or claim a Sacred Mate of his own until his duty is fulfilled or the designation is removed when a male heir is born.

Liat: wild animal referenced in *Dementia* – "charging liats".

Maga bread: referenced in *Enslaved*.

Maji fruits: referenced in *Naughty Nancy*. Puffy at the base and elongated and ripe at the peak.

Mali juice: suggested as an alternative to sweet juice for Kil and Marty's daughter in *Enslaved*.

Man-sac: scrotum/testicles.

Mani: mother. Literal translation “mommy” or “possession”. The gestation period of an impregnated mani is roughly two to three weeks, after which time she delivers a pani sac.

Mating Mistress: tutors females to please their future Sacred Mates. Helps females master rituals, expectations and techniques. Females practice on lesser males. In *No Escape* Kara and Kora’s tutor is a priestess named Pali, who is second in command to Chief Priestess Ari herself.

Matpow: the fermented, customary drink of Tryston. Similar in taste to a sweet ale or a dry wine.

Maza: candies. A favorite treat of Kyra’s.

Mazi: garment worn by Trystonni females from the ages of eighteen to twenty-five YY, comprised of the see-through top of the *qi’ka* but with the protective skirt of the *kazi*.

Migi: candy Cam obtains on Galis for Kyra in *The Empress’ New Clothes*. Rem compares Giselle’s nipples to them in *No Mercy*, and they are served by Marty at Kil’s party in *Enslaved*.

Mooka: a cigar-like smoking device.

Moon-phasing: a stellar phenomenon during which the sky turns black and seventeen of Tryston’s moons are viewable from Sand City for four successive days. It is during this period that the metaphysical capabilities of the healing sands are renewed.

Moosoos: Trystonni slang for breasts engorged with sweet juice.

Mykk: Priestess or shaman from the Wani sector of planet Tron. Can give language. (Referenced in *Enslaved*.)

Muu: used for boots.

Nee’ka: wife, female Sacred Mate. Literal translation “my desire” or “warrior’s desire”.

Nuba: the standard measure of time broken down into its smallest parts—nuba-hour, nuba-minute, nuba-second.

Nukala: the winter solstice home of Aparna.

Pani sac: contains an unhatched Trystonni fetus. The fetus incubates in the mani’s womb for two to three weeks, then outside of her womb for an additional one to two hours. After the incubation period is over, the tough outer shell of the sac becomes penetrable and the infant hatches.

Pani: infant, baby; can also be used as a term of affection for a grown woman.

Pici tree: blue-leafed shrubbery. Produces fire-berry fruit.

Prygga: treats, candy. Served by Marty at Kil’s feast in *Enslaved*.

Pugmuff: multi-arsed, foul-smelling flatulent creatures. A yellow and red-spotted pugmuff named Kita is friend to Dak, King of Ti Q’won.

Qi’ka: long, traditional skirt worn by females of planet Tryston and a few other minor planets within Trek Mi Q’an. Split up the left thigh all the way to the hip, the

sarong-like skirt is spun from precious gems, giving it a shimmery, see-through appearance. The color of the *qi'ka* sometimes represents a ruler's "colors", but *qi'kas* of "night" color may only be worn by the Chief Priestess and those of the immediate bloodline of the High King. White *qi'kas* are the symbol of lesser kings not directly of the line of succession.

Rah: the mystical barrier that separates mortals from the home of the goddess Aparna.

Rama-hide: animal hide referenced in *Dementia*.

Rustian: tall, handsome, dumber-than-rock creatures who feed on vaginal secretions. They live on Tojo and Ti Q'won in packs, and are nomadic.

Sacred Mate: the destined mate of a Trystonni warrior, also used by said mates to refer to their husband/destined mate.

Sanctum: the center of a Khan-Gori pack stronghold. It is a large gathering place in the innermost cavern where pack religious and ceremonial gatherings occur.

Sekta pearl: Zor compares Kyra's skin to this in *The Empress' New Clothes*.

Sennight: one week. On planet Khan-Gor, a *sennight* is the time it takes for a newly claimed female to undergo the evolutionary process in her *vorah-sac*.

Seventh dimension: a state of existence beyond human fathoming capabilities; the ability to see, understand and interact with the world on a plane of reality incomprehensible on Earth as we know it.

Sii: Trystonni numeral referenced in *No Escape*. Represented by a hieroglyphic-like symbol.

Summoning: act of mental compulsion upon objects performed by warrior-kings.

Sweet juice: comparable to human breast milk; blue plasma substance that fills a *mani's* breasts after her *pani* are born, to nourish the *pani*.

Taka: Dak compares Kyra's nipples to these in *The Empress' New Clothes*.

Taka juice: suggested as an alternative to sweet juice for Kil and Marty's daughter in *Enslaved*.

Tipo: game mentioned in *The Empress' New Clothes*.

Tishi paint: maroon paint used as camouflage by Galian warrior women when hunting in the Trefa Jungle. Referenced in *No Escape*.

Trelli: shimmering, colored sand found in the borderlands of Tryston.

Tu-tu bush: found in the Trefa Jungle on Galis. They frequently have holes near the base of the bush.

Ty'ka (pronounced "tee-kah"): literal translation "my hearts"; a term of extreme affection.

Vazi: "Mommy". Khan-Gori term.

Vesha: an animal indigenous to Tryston that is valued for its silk-like fur. (In *No Escape* the color of the *vesha* hide is described as "rouge".)

Virginity: in Trystonni cultures, virginity is determined by whether or not a woman has had intercourse with a Trystonni warrior. Intercourse with lesser males cannot affect a female's virgin status.

Vorah: Khan-Gori term. Means "wife" or "Bloodmate". Describes the mated female mate of a Khan-Gori Barbarian male, after she has evolved.

Vorah-sac: incubation cocoon where female Bloodmates evolve after being claimed by a Khan-Gori male. Evolution takes one sennight. The *vorah-sac* grows shortly after claiming and is made of sticky, web-like filaments.

Yenni: primitive creature native to the planet Khan-Gor. They are comparably intelligent as a *Kefa* slave of Tryston, run on all fours and have luminescent white skin, black eyes and sharp, icy tails. Males of the species, who subsist on vaginal secretions, run in packs and have designated leaders. Females of the species, who eat life-force (semen) from Khan-Gori males, run in their own packs. Some females are naturally Alpha. *Yenni* serve as the Khan-Gori currency. Males can own *yenni* once they reach eighteen YY of age, and they are an unmated Khan-Gori male's only source of sexual pleasure. In *Devilish Dot*, Dot mistakes a *yenni* mating as a rape.

Yessat Years: the standard measure of time in Trek Mi Q'an; one YY is equal to ten Earth years.

Zahbi: Dementian term for wife or mate. A female is generally not called this unless she is visibly pregnant.

Zorg: leather-like armbands that can detonate various deadly and debilitating weaponry. Can fly the body of a warrior. Created and produced on Ti Q'won.

Zya: "little one". Khan-Gori endearment.

Zykif: a weapon.

Zyon pack: a Barbarian pack on Khan-Gor.

Characters

Chief Priestess Ari

Name means "Holy One".

Tall, statuesque and blonde, with large perky breasts, puffy pink nipples and a great butt. She is described in *The Empress' New Clothes* as being a dead ringer for Pamela Anderson.

When she meets Kyra, Ari is one hundred Yessat Years old, but she looks eighteen.

Bazi

Nine-Yessat-Year-old boy who escapes the planet Arak with Dari.

Brynda Q'ana Ri (née Brynda Mitchell)

Brynda has blonde hair and blue eyes. She is thirty-six years old when she meets Jek Q'an Ri. Her first husband was named Henry.

Cam K'al Ri

King of Zideon.

Cam has golden hair. In *The Empress' New Clothes* he has green eyes. In *No Escape* his eyes are brilliant turquoise.

Dak Q'an Tal

King of Ti Q'won.

Dak has blond hair and glowing blue eyes. He is over seven feet tall and heavily muscled.

Dari Q'ana Tal

Sacred Mate to Gio Z'an Tar, yet unclaimed.

Death

High Lord of the Jioti Sector

Heavily tattooed ex-convict. He has dark hair, golden eyes and a large skull tattooed on his forehead.

Delores "Dee" Ellison, aka "Scheme"

Mate to Zaab of Dementia.

She is twenty-nine when she is mysteriously brought to the planet Dementia. She has golden hair and blue eyes.

Dorothy "Dot" Arazia

Bloodmate to Vaidd Zyon.

She has doe-brown eyes, chestnut brown hair and large breasts. She is thirty-five years old when she is brought to the planet Khan-Gor and meets her Bloodmate, Vaidd.

Geris Q'ana Tal (née Geris Jackson)

Sacred Mate to Dak Q'an Tal.

Geris is described as "long and sleek" with "flawless mahogany skin". Her best friend Kyra compares her to the Egyptian Queen Nefertiti. She has micro-beaded black hair that falls to the center of her back. Fashionably toned and regally sculpted, she is supermodel-beautiful and has light brown, almond-shaped eyes and full red lips. She takes pride in her hair, which has never been cut and she swears it never will be. She is thirty-two when she joins with Dak.

Gio Z'an Tar

Son of King of Arak. Sacred Mate to Dari Q'ana Tal, daughter of Dak Q'an Tal and Geris Q'ana Tal.

Giselle Q'ana Tal (née Giselle McKenzie)

Sacred Mate to Rem Q'an Tal.

Giselle is from Shoreham, Australia, Earth. When she meets Rem she is a thirty-six-year-old virgin. She is five foot four and has long strawberry-blonde hair, large green eyes and pale, freckled skin. She has two pet poodles, named Byrony and Tess, who accompany her to the seventh dimension.

Jana Q'ana Tal

Deceased.

A native of Tron, Jana was Empress of Tryston and Sacred Mate to Zar Q'an Tal, mother to Zor, Kil, Dak and Rem. She had golden hair and blue eyes.

Jana Q'ana Tal (II)

The daughter of Geris and Dak.

She has golden hair and blue eyes and is the spitting image of her father – and her grandmother.

Jek Q'an Ri

Son of Tia and Jik. Jek was a student of the warring arts under Kil Q'an Tal. He is Sacred Mate to Brynda Mitchell. He has blue eyes.

Kara K'ala Ri (nee Kara Q'ana Tal)

The third daughter of Kyra and Zor.

She has black hair and blue eyes. She was labeled a "mischief-maker" early in life, and is a "twin in spirit" to Dak and Geris' daughter, Jana. During her time on the planet Galis, she was known as "Kara Gy'at Li". She is a proficient hunter/warrior.

Kari Gy'at Li (née Kara Summers)

Sacred Mate to Lord Death, yet unclaimed. Younger sister of Kyra Q'ana Tal, nee Kyra Summers.

Kara disappeared one Earth year before Kyra met Zor. She fell off the Pirates of Penzance ride at Disney World and was never heard from again.

Kil Q'an Tal

King of Morak, High Lord of the Kyyto Sectors and King of Planet Tron.

Kil looks like his father, Emperor Zar. He is the second-oldest brother to Zor, Dak and Rem. He has deep tan skin and is the same height as Zor—seven foot four. He has blue eyes and black hair and a jagged scar across his right cheek.

Kyra Q'ana Tal (née Kyra Summers)

Sacred Mate to Zor Q'an Tal, High King of Tryston and Emperor of Trek Mi Q'an.

Kyra has wine-red hair and a pale, creamy complexion. She has the trademark "Summers eyes"—silver-blue. She is described as having a "full" body and being "lush of hip and breasts". On Earth Kyra was a tax accountant. She is thirty-one Earth years old when she becomes Zor's Sacred Mate.

Mari Q'ana Tal (née Martha "Marty" Matthews)

Sacred Mate to Kil Q'an Tal.

Mari was twenty-one years old when she fell into the river in the commune on Earth and thirty-one when she arrived in the Wani sector of the planet Tron. She has honey-gold hair and gray eyes. During her time with the Wani she earns a blue navel ring and a blue ring in her left nipple.

Nancy Lombardo

Lived in Salem, Massachusetts before being mysteriously transported to the planet Khan-Gor. She has brown eyes and soft amber hair, wears glasses and sometimes contacts. She is the mate of Vorik F'al Vader.

Jaid Black

Rem Q'an Tal

King of Sypar, one of Tryston's lesser moons.

Rem is the youngest brother to Zor, Kil and Dak. He has blond hair and blue eyes. His devolution causes his eyes to shift from blue to green.

Ty

Ty was the leader of the Tron insurrectionists. A large man, stocky and sinewy, with a shaved head and a close-cropped beard.

Vaidd Zyon

Heir to the Zyon Pack on the planet Khan-Gor. Bloodmate to Dot.

He is between seven and a half and eight feet tall and has light brown hair with golden streaks. His eyes are silver. He is heavily muscled and a jagged scar zigzags down the right side of his torso.

Vandor

Mate to Zara Q'ana Tal.

He has black hair and vivid green eyes.

Vorik F'al Vader

Son of Yorin, bloodmate to Nancy Lombardo.

Vorik has silver eyes and shoulder-length black hair. He is eighteen Yessat Years old when he meets Nancy.

Yorin

Mate to Princess Jana Q'ana Tal, was a servant on Galis before meeting her. He has silver eyes and black shoulder-length hair.

General Zaab

Alpha Male of the Highlander Mantus Hoard and Supreme Master of the Highlanders. He has green eyes and black hair/fur and is over seven feet tall. He has deadly incisors, but otherwise normal, human-looking teeth.

Zara Q'ana Tal

Daughter of Kyra and Zor. Mate to Vandor, but not yet fully claimed.

Zara is light-hearted and bubbly, flirty and sociable. She has red hair and glowing blue eyes. She is the twin sister of Zora.

Zor Q'an Tal

Name means "The Excellent One".

High King of Tryston, Emperor of Trek Mi Q'an galaxy, Guardian of the Sacred Sands,

Zor has black hair, worn below the shoulders and braided in a series of three rows off his temples. He has blue eyes and golden-brown skin. He is seven foot four and three hundred seventy pounds. He is forty-two Yessat Years old (four hundred twenty years, Earth time) when he marries Kyra.

Zora Q'ana Tal

Daughter of Kyra and Zor. She is the Sacred Mate of Yar'at, though not yet claimed or confirmed.

Zora is sensitive, contemplative and reflective. She has red hair and glowing blue eyes. She is the twin sister of Zara.

About the Author

USA Today bestselling author Jaid Black is the owner and founder of Ellora's Cave Publishing. Recognizing and legitimizing female sexuality as an entity unique from male sexuality is her passion. Jaid has been featured in every available media, from major newspapers like the Cleveland Plain Dealer, to various radio programs, to an appearance on the Montel Williams Show. Her books have received numerous distinctions, including a nomination for Nerve magazine's Henry Miller award for the best literary sex scene published in the English language.

Jaid loves to hear from her fans. You can visit her on the web at www.jaidblack.com.

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