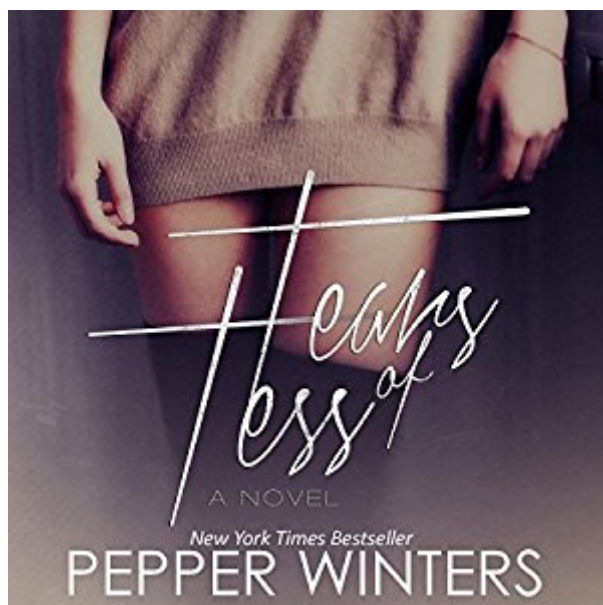


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Tears Of Tess



Synopsis

"My life was complete. Happy, content, everything neat and perfect. Then it all changed. I was sold." Tess Snow has everything she ever wanted: one more semester before a career in property development, a loving boyfriend, and a future dazzling bright with possibility. For their two-year anniversary, Brax surprises Tess with a romantic trip to Mexico. Sandy beaches, delicious cocktails, and soul-connecting sex set the mood for a wonderful holiday. With a full heart, and looking forward to a passion filled week, Tess is on top of the world. But lusty paradise is shattered. Kidnapped. Drugged. Stolen. Tess is forced into a world full of darkness and terror. Captive and alone with no savior, no lover, no faith, no future, Tess evolves from terrified girl to fierce fighter. But no matter her strength, it can't save her from the horror of being sold. Can Brax find Tess before she's broken and ruined, or will Tess's new owner change her life forever?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is one of those books where I am kicking myself for not having read it already. To be fair, it's a dark one and I was afraid of it going in. But surprisingly, I expected it to be a lot darker than it was so I was very happy that I could read this book without freaking out (at least, as much as I expected to). Tears of Tess is about Tess, who goes on a surprise trip to Cancun, Mexico from Australia with her boyfriend Brax. The two of them have been together for two years and while she loves him, Tess is a little underwhelmed in the bedroom department. She wants more excitement, more passion, more than just flat on her back. Having trouble communicating this, the couple just sort of avoids the elephant in the room. It's while they are out being tourists that Tess is taken, kidnapped

and sold into the sex trade. Tess finds herself as the new property of Q, a terrifying yet handsome Frenchman. Yet as much as Tess hates Q for who he is and what he represents, he is the only man who has ever been able to give her what she yearns for, and it brings her an immense amount of shame. As time goes by Tess is bewildered by his behavior and struggles with guilt over her feelings for Q and her devotion to Brax. "I hadn't gone Stockholm - I hated him, knew what he did was wrong, but my body, my body didn't care." This is one of the few dark novels where I have genuinely ended up liking the antihero. He wasn't perfect, but he never cast blame on Tess for the situation she was in. In other dark novels, the guy always finds a way to wriggle himself out of the blame, and Q never did this. Q admitted what he was, a monster, but he took care of Tess in any way he was able to. Was her experience in his home all sunshine and rainbows? No, but it could have been much, much worse. Ms. Winters is a great author because she threw the reader a curve ball and made them rethink everything they had previously read, and look at the facts in a new light. I literally read this book in one sitting because I was so riveted by the story I was reading. It's always so darn amazing to find a book like this, that captures your attention and doesn't let go until it's over. "Only think of me and what I'm doing. There is intimacy in pain slave. Let me make your pain my pleasure."

This was one of the grittiest, Dark romances I've read. And of course, it's by one of my most favorite dark romance authors as well. Drawn to the twisty, heartbreaking journey Tess is thrown into, I couldn't put this book down. So, I bought the audio book to keep it going even when I couldn't read. I was magical. The dual narration fit the story perfectly. The story was good, but the narrative kept me enraptured. My heart broke wide open for every main and side character in this story. I wept for them, I pumped my fist for them, and I grew angry at them for all the wrong-doings in their world. And at the end of it all, I felt content over knowing all the turmoil, all the angst, was worth it all. For those readers with strong trigger points from reading about rape, kidnapping, and violence - this may not be the book for you. BUT those who can handle it, I urge you to take a chance and read or listen to this one. I did, and I am so thankful for it.

I would put Tears of Tess in my category of books with potential. It had aspects that I both liked and disliked, and would've have rated lower if I didn't see what Pepper Winters was trying to convey in her book. I felt that if things were polished up a bit more, it would've been a more intriguing and entertaining read for me. While the writing

could get a bit too melodramatic with some questionable word usage, overall it wasn't that bad. Winters managed to set up who the main character, Tess, was and her background without taking too long to get to the beginning of the book's plot. I appreciated that there weren't many lulls in the story. Since this book is the first in the series, I understand the delicate balance of giving enough information to establish the storyline without revealing too much that will (probably) be explained in the subsequent books. But while reading, I couldn't help but feel an erratic nature to the story. There were times when I felt as if the main players, Tess and Q, couldn't make up what it is they are feeling. I understand that they both have issues (which I appreciated how Winters established Tess's issues in the beginning so it wouldn't seem that her subsequent behaviors and decisions came out of left field; that her own emotional/psychological hang-ups played a part at her eventual outcome) so some indecisions and doubts would come into play. However, the quickness of these turnarounds, primarily on Tess's part, would leave me feeling confused about her state of mind and intentions. Perhaps, the situation she's forced to be in that plays a part in her behavior, but I think it could've been written in such a way where Tess doesn't come away looking like a kid who doesn't know what she wants and so constantly changes her mind. It just made it hard for me to understand her and her decisions. I can say the same with Q but it's more understated and considering he is meant to be mysterious and unknowable (for a time at least), the erratic tone plays into his role. While I didn't love it, I didn't completely hate it either. It tapped into that naughty fantasy of being taken away and finding yourself being held captive by an alluring, brooding, sexy captor with whom you end up falling for (let's face it, in the real world we all know what this would be called). The book also walked on a tightrope regarding some of its story elements: human trafficking, slavery, rape, and rape fantasy (that last one is especially delicate and pushed the line as far as it can without going into full-blown offensive territory) which at times can test a reader's mettle. But in the end I can see that at the core, this is a story about a woman finally realizing and accepting her nature and a couple finding another person who can fulfill their needs and be themselves around (I'm really hoping that the subsequent books - which I'm not sure I'll be reading - will address the fact of Tess's and Q's masochistic and sadistic natures, respectively; frankly, by the end of the book I was getting tired/irritated with having them refer themselves as

“monster” or “freak” for enjoying receiving/inflicting pain during sex).

I never expected the story to unfold the way it did. Downloaded this and read off and on in about 3 days. Slow going in first couple of chapters, but turns into a dark psychological peek into why some want to hurt and some want to be hurt. Crazy at times, but also sexy. This writer has great chops and skill as she involved me emotionally with the characters and allowed us to gradually see them at a core level for their hideous hidden agendas. Would I purchase the next in the series? No, I would not. Simply because this type of erotica is not my cup of tea, but I wanted to acknowledge the decent writing skills and plot.

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