



The Chimera

Adrienne Wilder

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Kaleb Holten's father's debt to an underground group The Association has just been called in, and the man can't pay the loan. Instead of turning over his wealth, he releases his son and Kaleb finds himself thrown into a world where a class of men see themselves as untouchable. Going so far as to call themselves gods.

After the Great Economic Collapse there are no laws that cannot be broken. And Kaleb is forced into a ten-year sentence of servitude where he will have no say, no rights, no value and yet be coveted and protected as if he were a priceless treasure.

Leo Roan, has slipped the noose the Association bound him with by breaking his addiction to ambrosia and Kaleb Holten was supposed to be his last assignment as a doxie Master. But something about the boy begins weaving a new net that will not only ensnare him but the conscious darkness inside, that craves pain, agony, suffering, and death.

The Chimera Details

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From Reader Review The Chimera for online ebook

Melissa says

This wasn't to my taste. :(I love Adrienne Wilder. Her writing makes me feel so many emotions. In the case of The Chimera, I mostly felt disgust and nose wrinkling icky. I don't understand Kaleb's choice; I certainly would not have made the same one. And I don't understand *why* doxies must be treated in this way. They can still provide the ambrosia needed without the suffering Kaleb is just starting to be put thru.

I didn't like Leo, and I certainly didn't like Kaleb's father (what a selfish asshole!). I did like (love!) Sammy; that kid is tough and deserves all the goodness in the world. I can understand Kaleb wanting to make sure his brother is protected and gets everything he needs (I am leaving out a spoiler element), but to endure what he is going to be put thru for 10 years...no. Just no. Kaleb and Sammy would be just fine if Kaleb had said no. Their father's company would have been sold, and more than likely their father killed for his debts, but Kaleb and Sammy would have still had hidden resources from their father they could survive on.

Will I read the next book? I'm not sure. Chances are 60/40, not in the books favor. But me and my curiosity are known problems, so we'll see what time brings. 2 stars. :(

Vivian says

Society sways
Fallen days, an unpaid debt
Sweetly pain whispers

Managed to inspire a haiku review if not a lot of other excitement.

So, this is a dystopian debt slave fic. I suppose if it is one of the first you've read about training and breaking then it's more powerful. It's got the usual psychological and physiological barrier breaking scenes and they're interesting. The mythological/technological tie in has potential, but not sure if it will be realized. I'm not a fan of serials so less enamored with that, but I did know it going in so no demerits for that.

My favorite part is the man versus self conflict of Leo. Probably one of the things I enjoy most about various Wilder stories that I've read. Especially, when man loses to the beast inside. I didn't really connect with this for whatever reason, but the pain was nicely done. Again, a strong suit of Wilder's that I appreciate.

Not sure I'll follow on, aside from an arc plot surprise I think I've got a handle on where it's going, and the sectioned nature of serials makes it very hard for me to invest in the story. Mayhap I'll try it when it's completed.

Overall, a sweetly possessive slave trainer story.

Mimi says

This is the first book by this author and this was a nice introduction to her. Can't wait for the next book.

Chris says

A great start to this paranormal series. Clearly a strong erotica BDSM vibe which has been beautifully written- there's a delicious edge to these characters... I'm hooked for book 2 !

Laurel says

~3.5~

Up to 50%—4 Stars The buildup of Kaleb's father's transgressions and selfishness leading to his son's 10 year servitude was riveting. His dad is the worst

After 50%—3 stars

It was well written and intriguing, but the subject matter made me uncomfortable, and I couldn't move past the indignation of a "God" owning a Doxie. And there's no way around it, but to accept it. No "I fell for you so let's be equal." Just an ongoing process of Leo "breaking and rebuilding" Kaleb in various sexual and controlling acts. I did like that Kaleb was conflicted between curiosity, pleasure and anger, rather than being the perfect submissive doxie. It wouldn't be easy to shed all autonomy that nurture creates, even if it's in one's nature to be submissive.

The Chimera, the beast within Leo that craves death and sex, is a rare and unique ability of a god bestowed on Leo, and the Chimera/ambrosia conflict was another interesting aspect of the story that I'm curious to learn more of. However, I'm not sure if I can continue on with the series if it's more of this BDSM/slave theme and heavily focused on the sex. Book 4 sounds more like what I'm looking for...

Debra says

Review originally posted at Sinfully.

This was an intense start to a new, dark and dirty paranormal series. Set in the United States after the Great Economic Collapse, there is intrigue, a wealthy and powerful group called the Association and the mysterious men involved with it that are not quite human. This story won't be for everyone and includes dubious consent, kink and references to past rape.

Kaleb Holten is 18 years old and prepared to start college, he's hoping to get out from his father's overwhelming control, when everything comes crashing down. Finding out that he is the collateral for his father's massive debt, created for the sole purpose of being sent into 10 years of servitude and sex slavery

with Alton McKinely and the Association rather than his father having to part with any of his money, leaves him with an agonizing choice to make. Yes, Kaleb has a choice, but he accepts the contract out of equal parts naivete and love for his siblings, especially 16 year old Sonny who is hoping to transition to male but is being blocked by their father who is planning to fix her by marrying her off to an older business acquaintance as soon as possible.

Known by some as a god, Leo is a man, but within him also exists the Chimera, a beast that was spawned from violence and thrives on the suffering of others. He has weaned himself off of the ambrosia that gives him immortality and is planning to pick up Kaleb, keep and train him as a doxie for a year, then pass him off and then be done with the Association. He is already feeling the effects of stopping the ambrosia on his newly mortal body. Despite his qualms about Kaleb's youth, innocence and lack of knowledge of what he is, Leo begins training Kaleb to serve. Leo knows that Kaleb must be special from the way he and the Chimera react to him, as well as the way Alton wanted him collected and trained by Leo specifically. The more time he spends near Kaleb, the more he realizes that the boy was seemingly created to be perfect for him.

Gods such as Leo need ambrosia to maintain their immortality. It is addictive and the flower that is its natural source is limited. That's where doxies come in. They are young men bred and trained to produce the flower's nectar once they ingest it. It's produced by their suffering and the release of their adrenalin. They are held in high esteem to the extent that anyone that harms them, be it god or mortal, earns a death sentence. At the same time, they are stripped of everything and made to serve for the pleasure of and at the will of the gods or the mortals rich enough to contract them. They are at the same time, both nothing and everything to these people.

Poor Kaleb is in way over his head. I don't know how many times I yelled "Don't do it!" in just the beginning of the book. Kaleb's father is horrible and I'm already hoping to see him die a slow and painful death. Kaleb is clueless about everything that is happening and a virgin with a pure heart. Leo is cognizant and concerned, but it won't stop him from doing what needs to be done; breaking Kaleb down and building him back up. It's not "a BDSM lifestyle", there are no safewords. Leo is in control and will decide when Kaleb has reached his limits. Kaleb has no power, no say. Kaleb is both terrified of Leo, yet inexplicably drawn to him; he sees that he has the power to affect Leo through sex and that confuses things even more. Leo sets him up to fail and punishes him. Leo pleasures him and then hurts him because it pleases Leo.

Adrienne Wilder knows how to write dark stories with plenty of emotion. She had me wanting to cry with Kaleb at one moment and me wanting to see him submit to Leo in all ways the next. So wrong at first, but undeniably hot as Leo jumps right into Kaleb's reeducation. There is a strong connection that both of the men are only starting to feel and already you can tell Leo will never be able to let him go and Kaleb soon won't want him to. The sex is intense, dosed with plenty of kink (pain, humiliation and exhibitionism to start) and there is nothing romantic about it.

I was glad to get both Kaleb's and Leo's points of view. Without being in Leo's head, he would likely come off as nothing but an evil monster. Leo is complex. We see compassion from him towards Kaleb and the others in his house, but he is also a killer and in his job as a Master, cold and cruel. We are given some background on him, but he still remains mostly a mystery. There is a mission that arises at the end of this book that will presumably take Leo away from Kaleb. Leo is not thrilled at the prospect of leaving Kaleb during his training, but we do get to see just a bit of the feelings and possessiveness he is already developing for Kaleb in spite of all of his intentions to leave this world behind.

There are some secondary characters that make quite an impression including Kaleb's transitioning younger sister, now known as Sonny. He is only on page briefly but is obviously strong, feisty and very protective of

Kaleb. We are also introduced to one more of the gods, Zen, who has his own powers and flair. I absolutely loved the little bit we got of this sexy troublemaker and hope there will be a lot more of him to come. Finally, there is also Alton, the man behind the Association. Part businessman and part scientist, he is one of those characters that you're not sure if he's good or bad (he's probably somewhere in between) or what his motive and end game are.

This is the first book in a serialized story that will consist of at least 4 parts. There was a lot of initial setting up of the characters and the world, but it didn't overwhelm the story and I had no trouble understanding what was happening. I was immediately drawn in and taking sides. With a bit of mystery developing at the end of the installment and the promise of getting to know more of the gods and see into the depraved world of the Association, I'm really looking forward to continuing on with the story.

? Marco ? says

A promising and intense start to this series. I'm intrigued.

dammit, liz says

Well. That went out with a bang.

Katerina says

Oh my God (uhm... yes and there we are already in the middle of this story). That was so great. And it's as addictive as Ambrosia.

Greek mythology. Good if you can remember that. And also the Chimera.

The Chimaira was, according to Hesiod, a daughter of the monsters Echidna and Typhon, her siblings were the Hydra, the Kerberos, the Sphinx and Orthos. She lived at the place Chimaira at Olympos in Lycia, where she threatened humans and animals; Since time immemorial there have been rare natural phenomena of gases from the stony soil that have been ignited.

Homer describes the Chimaira in the Iliad as a fire-spewing hybrid creature, which was formed like a lion in the front, in the middle like a goat and behind like a snake or a dragon. According to Hesiod, on the other hand, she had the three heads of the named animals.

King Iobates gave Bellerophon, a grandson of Sisyphus, the order to kill the Chimaira. For this Poseidon

provided him with another hybrid: the winged horse Pegasus. From the air, Bellerophon successfully led his fight against the Chimaira. With the help of a lead lump on the tip of his spear, he killed the monster.

Hah... and here ends the mythology lecture.

Kaleb has no idea what to expect after his father passes him as a pledge to Leo because the man is unwilling to repay his debts. And Leo takes care of Kaleb. In a twisted way. Because... Kaleb is a doxie. And he brings Kaleb to his house, where he is to be trained for a year to fulfill his duties as a doxie for the next ten years to settle his father's debts.

“Here you are furniture, even to the staff... From this point on, you do not ask me why, you simply obey. Do you understand?”

The reality fell on Kaleb. A ton of bricks on his confused mind.

That hits the heart. From one moment to the next, he is completely at the mercy of Leo. And Leo carries the bloodthirsty chimera within. An exciting journey that captures mythology from a different angle. Sexy and so full of debauchery.

I love it!

Christine says

DNF @ 60%

I just don't know why I do this to myself. I don't like hardcore BDSM but I insist on giving this genre a try again and again ?????.

I'm not taking this behavior into 2019 ??

Optimist ?King's Wench? & MANTIES Champion says

My first Wilder and Jesus, Mary & Joseph did she create a fan. In one chapter! One chapter I was hooked! It's like she wrote this for me.

Why he was nothing and at the same time everything.

Sweet slave boy who's a natural submissive and doesn't understand what he's feeling only that he doesn't want to disappoint Leo. Leo is a master that's possessive and even growls!

The kink is splendid-pain play, med kink, humiliation, **CHASTITY!**, and ERMAGERD!@#%^&*%^\$*&^%\$# that whole feeding scene... *stares off into space* I'm so bad wrong. And he cries a lot. I really should feel badly about how much I loved all this "suffering", but... *shrugs*

This is set in an AU USA Kaleb is a doxie in training under Leo. Leo has sworn that Kaleb will be his last doxie, then he will enjoy his freedom from The Association. There's even a little mystery/thriller type plot brewing and a hot transvestite who, I think, is some sort of martial arts guru!

Written. For. Me. Ms. Wilder, just PM me your address. I owe you some flowers or something.

I have a feeling Leo's objective is prolly not how this is going to go down, but who knows?

Debra's review is vastly more articulate than this squealing drivell.

I, however, have to leap into book 2!

Lyn says

I was in the mood for something dark and twisted and this book delivered in a big way. So far I'm loving Leo, who is a super possessive alpha and a god, and Kaleb, who is young, innocent but stubborn and somewhat defiant.

If not for the cringe worthy bdsm scenes, this would be a solid 5 stars for me. I'll be honest and say that I'm just getting tired of the whole bdsm scene. I used to like it until it became too common and overdone.

Anyway on to book two because there are a lot of unanswered questions, and I'm dying to get some answers!

Trio says

I was totally blown away. This book was *excellent*. The characters were fantastic and the story was so creative, very well done. I downloaded the sequel before I had even finished this one.

I've got to knock off .5 star only because of all the sentences which end in prepositions, but that's just one of my things...

Natalia says

4.5 stars

Nazanin says

4 Stars

Kaleb's father had made a deal twenty years ago but he still couldn't pay it or should I say he doesn't want to pay it with his money so instead of his money, they took Kaleb as his payment. Leo is obliged to train him. He is a god born with the conscience of a beast, living inside him, thirsting for violence, craving pain, hunting agony. Leo is a doxie and he isn't familiar with this world.

"This innocent boy. Knew nothing about what he was. What he would become. That his place was at the feet of the gods, serving them any way they chose. Mind, soul...body. Short of physical damage or death, there was nothing they would not do to him Taboo did not exist."

Like always Adrienne Wilder didn't disappoint! Loved this one! I liked Kaleb but I can't say the same for Leo! He is really like a beast somehow! I would like him more if he went a bit easy on Kaleb! It's like he had feelings for Kaleb but I didn't see it or feel it! maybe I'm wrong and he doesn't like Kaleb! I hope in the next books he grows on me! I love BDSM scenes but in this one, they were a bit too much and kinky! It was like you can feel Kaleb's hurt more than his pleasure!

Told in dual POV, 3rd person. It's the first installment in the "Bound Gods" series and it ends on a mild cliffhanger. All in all, I had a good time with it and hope you like it as well!
