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Cirque De Minuit (Cirque Masters Book 1)



Synopsis

It's no easy feat transitioning from the disciplined arena of competitive gymnastics to the artistic whirl of the Cirque du Monde. Kelsey Martin finds secret inspiration in Theo Zamora, a dark, taciturn trapezist--until his partner dies in a tragic accident and he decides to leave the circus for good. Theo doesn't understand why Kelsey reaches out to him, only that she compels him with her unique combination of innocence and recklessness. Before long the two are collaborating on an aerial silks act for a new production, the Cirque de Minuit. Theo's impatience with Kelsey's naivete is matched only by his passion for her, and the two soon become embroiled in a tempestuous, consuming romance. But some still blame Theo for his partner's accident, and danger wraps up the two performers as inevitably as the scarlet silk of their act. Theo and Kelsey must find a way to connect and trust one another as he leads her deeper and deeper into a dangerous world of control and desire. Publisher's Note: This erotic romance novel is approximately 70K words and contains sensual content: Anal play/intercourse, m/f/m menage, BDSM scenes, power exchange themes, and swinging/partner sharing.

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Customer Reviews

4.5 Stars
Cirque du Minuit was another incredible read from Annabel Joseph. This is the wonderful story of Kelsey Martin, a former gymnast and Theo Zamora a career cirque performer. Kelsey has just moved to Paris and joined the Cirque du Monde as one of their newest acrobats. She is adjusting to circus life and the differences between performing and competing with the help of her trainer Jason. But the man who has caught her eye is the temperamental and self-centered, Theo. She's noticed his dark intensity from the moment she auditioned for the cirque and is keenly attracted to him. She gets lost in the training compound one day and happens to find Theo and his partner Minya in a Dominant/submissive scene that has her aroused and wondering what it would feel like to be Theo's lover. Then a tragic accident during a trapeze act takes Minya's life and leaves Theo with the stigma of being an untrustworthy partner. He takes her death very hard and closes himself off from the circus, locked away in his apartment. Kelsey is determined to bring him out of his depression. I was surprised that Kelsey had the strength and fearlessness to keep going to Theo's apartment even after several verbal attacks and having the door shut in her face. She didn't really know Theo that well but her attraction to him was powerful enough to keep her going back and even offer to be his new partner. The new partners are sent to Marseilles to star in a new aerial silk act with the Cirque du Minuit (Midnight Circus). Theo is a demanding task master as he trains Kelsey on the use of the silks. Their love affair also continues with him being equally as hard on her during her submissive training. Their whole relationship is rich with tumultuous emotions. I loved both these characters.

It seems lately I've been reading a lot of gruff, even cruel heroes, and Theo is very much that kind of man. But he's also so much more than that. A complex character, very deep and dark, he seems to come right off the page at you. He's dismissive and scornful of the heroine, Kelsey, at first. She even asks him, "Do you have some kind of syndrome that makes you act this way, or are you just a rude, socially inept a-hole?" I loved that line. I've never been one to like a woman who determinedly chases a man. If he tells me to get lost, practically shoving me out the door, well, you don't have to tell me twice, but with Kelsey, Theo did have to tell twice, and then again, and in a very harsh way. And with Theo having just lost his aerial partner, Minya, his reluctance and anger towards the pushy Kelsey is understandable. Kelsey wants Theo in the worst way, to be his new partner sexually and professionally. Kelsey is young and naive in certain regards (she's 24, and Theo 34 and vastly more experienced in life and sex), but she also has a resilience about her, a determination to get through to Theo, despite his harshness. Many times he makes her cry, and he has the nerve to admit- "I find tears very erotic... Especially when they come from such a strong

person." I found that admission disturbing yet sexy; all of Theo's hardness and roughness appealed to me. If you like rough sex/ bdsm, you'll like this. Theo's physical with her, and I pictured that forcefulness, the hair fisting and pulling, the sense of coercion and forced submission, his rough treatment of her and his aggression-- I mean, he almost chokes her. All of this made for unbelievably intense sex. Theo's definitely hard-edged and rough and rude, but he's also more than that.

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