

Magnus Thren has been known by many names: the Red Nail, Avenger of Zorb, and Captain of the Illendian Guard. But these days, he's not known at all. Once the mightiest warrior of the most feared species in the universe, the Zorb, Magnus has been on the run ever since the coup that rocked his home world and overthrew his beloved king. But he's not running from his enemies, he's pursuing them: hot on the tail of his king's assassin, Magnus finds himself on the back-water planet of Earth, where centuries of war and famine have reduced humanity to scrawny, illiterate scavengers. Here is the last place he expects to find a mate worthy of his Zorbian seed. But as the days mount since he last spent himself, he realizes he must find one, and quick, or face the death that awaits a Zorb that goes too long without a mate. When he stumbles upon the beautiful--and surprisingly not-scrawny--Jepha, he believes he's found an easy prey. But Jepha proves to be a more skilled warrior than he ever could have expected, and while he refuses to become Magnus's mate, he might be willing to become something even more valuable: his partner in vengeance.

Jepha doesn't remember much from before the Temple of Decreation. All he knows is that when the Brothers took him in as a child, they saved him from a life of scavenging, starvation, and early death. The Brothers showed him another way: one of celibacy and rigorous discipline, where, through the purification of their minds and bodies, they plan to lead the human race to salvation. But after violating one of the Brothers' most sacred codes, Jepha has barely escaped with his life. Now, he has nowhere to go and no one to turn to. So when he is attacked by and defeats the fearsome off-worlder Magnus Thren, he sees an opportunity to travel the stars and learn about the universe from which he has been sheltered. If that means he must put up with Magnus's raging orgies at every space port they stop at--not to mention the Zorb's dangerous and addictive desire for him--then so be it.

As Magnus and Jepha journey deeper into the galaxy, they wrestle not only with their feelings for one another, but with their long-held beliefs. Jepha's secret, conflicted longing for the brutal but brittle warrior forces him to question the Brothers' teachings that desire of the flesh leads only to domination and destruction; while Magnus's grudging respect for the monk's strength and spirituality challenges his certainty in the Zorbian way of taking any mate he wants, even by force. And while they fight and fuck their way across the universe, haunted at every step by Magnus's enemies and Jepha's mysterious past, the unlikely duo must come to terms with the fact that the hardest battle they fight not be against a Zorbian army, but for one another.