



## Josh Lanyon Collected Novellas #1

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In *Dangerous Ground* a casino robbery finds government agents Taylor and Will playing a game of cat-and-mouse with remorseless killers in the wilderness of California's High Sierras. *Snowball in Hell* introduces police detective Lt. Matthew Spain and reporter Nathan Doyle, men thrown together by murder. But, in post-WWII Los Angeles consequences of their attraction are serious, even for good guys. Lanyon fans take note: It's around Matthew and Nathan that Lanyon builds his new mystery series. Writer Tim North assures his lover, homicide detective Jack Brady, that there's little danger in researching a sensational Hollywood murder committed decades before either of them was born. But, with *Cards on the Table*, Tim discovers that he's very, very wrong. This collection includes the bonus short story *In Sunshine or In Shadow*.

## Josh Lanyon Collected Novellas #1 Details

Date : Published April 28th 2009 by MLR Press

ISBN : 9781608200061

Author : Josh Lanyon

Format : Paperback 373 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Anthologies, Mystery, Lgbt, Suspense, Adult Fiction, Erotica, Fiction

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# From Reader Review Josh Lanyon Collected Novellas #1 for online ebook

## Kati says

In this volume, you can find "Cards on the Table", "Dangerous Ground", "In Sunshine or In Shadow" and "Snowball in Hell" - I read all of them already except for "In Sunshine or In Shadow" that was written especially for this collection. And even though I had three of the stories in ebook form already, I had to buy them in print - yes, the stories are that good! My favorite novella in this volume is probably "Cards on the Table", I don't even know why. Tim and Jack just click for me and I hope that Josh Lanyon writes more stories about those two :)

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## Tracy's Place says

This collection includes:

Cards on the Table, "Snowball in Hell," "Dangerous Ground" and a new short story, exclusive to this collection, "In Sunshine and In Shadow".

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## Anne Barwell says

This has been on my wishlist for a while so when it came back in stock and at a discounted price I grabbed it. I love Josh Lanyon's writing, he's a very easy read, and his characters are very 3D, and flawed with it. He writes a good mix of action/drama/romance but the romance doesn't take over from the plot of the story he's telling. I'd already read Dangerous Ground and Snowball in Hell as ebooks and loved them - I want to read more of these characters - and wanted hardcopies of them. Cards on the Table was the original seed for Fatal Shadows, his Adrian English series, but works well as a one shot. I'd love to see more of these guys too. The short story was more on the romance side plot wise, but of course, it doesn't run smoothly.

Definitely a collection I'd recommend. I'm keeping an eye out for Vol 2 now.

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## Emily G says

### *Cards on the Table*

I really like stories featuring characters dealing with a potentially debilitating medical condition but not letting it stop them from living their lives. I also enjoyed the interplay and misunderstandings between the two lead characters, so like RL.

### *Dangerous Ground*

A story based on the 70s tv show *The Professionals* where the agents in question are actually gay? I knew I was going to love this story just from the introduction! And I wasn't wrong, although I must admit that I was

expecting a non-fraternisation rule in the Bureau of Diplomatic Security to crop up to throw an extra kink in the guys getting together. I've read too much Pros fanfiction, haven't I? \*g\*

#### *In Sunshine or In Shadow*

A bonus story for this collection, which revolves around two detectives that have been paired together for five years when one decides he wants out and goes to Ireland for a holiday. The other must decide what he really wants...

#### *Snowball in Hell*

I loved this story, I love the time that it is set: somehow darker, romantic but more simple than life today. Also having gay relationships could have serious ramifications in those days, which adds another element of friction to our lead characters getting together. A fantastic story - a good rec, KatiKat!

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### **Traci says**

I love Josh Lanyon, and I'm happy to say that this collection of short stories (novellas) is pretty darn good. There's an intro to each story, so the reader gets an idea of what the author was thinking about when he wrote the story. I love that, a little insight into a writer's mind....

"Cards on the Table" gives us the story of Tim North, a writer who is investigating an old unsolved murder mystery. His neighbor, Jack Brady, happens to be a cop, and he finds himself helping Tim when it appears that someone doesn't want this mystery solved.

"Dangerous Ground" gives us two law enforcement men out on a camping trip that turns into a fact-finding mission regarding a casino robbery. Taylor MacAllister and Will Brandt have been partners for years, and one of them would like that to be off-duty as well as on-duty. The danger reveals itself as they make their way back to civilization after finding the remains of a plane crash, the plane that was used to whisk away the thieves. Turns out not all of them died on impact...

"In Sunshine or In Shadow" is a very short story about Keiran Quinn and Rick Monaghan, homicide detectives and partners. Keiran makes a huge decision about his life and runs as far as he can to put space between him and Rick.

Finally, there's "Snowball in Hell", a period piece set during WWII. Homicide detective Matt Spain meets reporter Nathan Doyle during the investigation into the death of a very wealthy and famous young man. The sparks fly, but this isn't the world we're used to; their attraction is dangerous and could bring them both a lot of trouble, including the loss of their careers.

I liked all the entries here, although I thought "In Sunshine or In Shadow" wasn't fully realized, perhaps due to the length of the story. The one thing that I have noticed now that I've read quite a bit of Lanyon's work is that he definitely has a thing for cops! Makes me wonder about his significant other, if perhaps he's in law enforcement himself. And while I enjoyed these shorter works, I still believe Lanyon's novels are better. The good news is that "Snowball in Hell" is supposed to be the start to a new series. I really enjoyed the subtle relationship between Matt and Nathan, and I would definitely be interested in reading a series of novels about these two.

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## Becky Black says

I rationed these out for myself, reading another novel between each novella and I was always impatient to get back to them. I loved them, especially *Dangerous Ground*. Great writing with fascinating, complex characters. I'll definitely be reading more Lanyon.

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## Bob says

Josh Lanyon's Collection #1 was an interesting and enjoyable read. While I am a fan of a well-told crime story, the "pulp fiction" format is not high on my list of reading. They tend toward cliché - a tough talking hero, a strong-willed dame with a heart of gold, breathy and forbidden romance between characters who for all intents and purposes should not be involved but are still right for one another, dark and rough settings, dark alleys, shadowy figures lurking - and the novellas were filled with lots of just that. The twist, and what actually made it work for me, is that Josh Lanyon tweaked the clichés with the hard-talking hero and strong-willed dame both being tough talking, strong-willed men. Suddenly the clichés were no longer just clichés, and worked in an unexpectedly, entertaining way. The stories were old and yet new again, which was a great approach because it worked just as well. Admittedly, I was a little caught off-guard by how erotic the stories were, but no complaints! I do look forward to more from Lanyon with the Lt. Mathew Spain and reporter Nathan Doyle story and how their relationship progresses in post-WWII Los Angeles. I will quibble a bit about typos in the last story in the book, but blame that on slips in the editing stage, and hope they are corrected in subsequent printings. I received this book through the Goodreads give-away program, and will be passing it to my friends on the site for their feedback.

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## Ami says

Josh Lanyon has become one of my favorite authors. I am so happy that his novellas are now available in one book collection. Being a fan in Indonesia, that is surely a benefit. All the stories here are strongly written; even if some of the themes are similar or that the characters are always from law enforcement agencies (hey, they're murder mystery stories, we except cops and detectives to be the main characters)

In **CARDS ON THE TABLE**, fans of Adrien English mysteries will discover the prototype of Adrien and Jake in Tim and Jack. Parallel in stories and characters, Josh still make the story feels fresh, tugs my heart everytime. I am such a sucker for UST and the one that get away stories. In **DANGEROUS GROUND** and **IN SUNSHINE OR IN SHADOWS**, we find how two guys can move on from partners to lovers -- and how resisting the inevitable, like love, is just waste of time. In **SNOWBALL IN HELL** (my favorite of the collection), we meet Matt and Nathan, one cop and one reporter, in Post WWII in Los Angeles, which gives a very good homage to noir movies as well as whodunit genre. Josh said he would love to visit Matt and Nathan again soon. Well, this fan surely hope so.

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## Susan Laine says

Liked each and every one of these four stories. I admit I've reread *Dangerous Ground* over a dozen times :)

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## **Johanna says**

I give these five glowing stars to the novella Gards on the Table. I've rated the other three novellas separately.

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## **Montana says**

"Cards on the Table" (\*\*\*)

"Dangerous Ground" (\*\*\*\*)

"In Sunshine and In Shadow" (NEW-UNREAD)

"Snowball in Hell" (\*\*\*\*\*)

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