



The Parting Glass

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Two and a half years ago, travel writer Timothy O'Shay let NYPD Detective Luke O'Brien talk him into hiking into the New Jersey Pine Barrens to face down a monster.

Now Tim and Luke meet again under very different circumstances. The old attraction is still there -- but so are some of Tim's monsters. Is it too late to find their way back to each other?

The Parting Glass Details

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From Reader Review The Parting Glass for online ebook

Jennifer?Pher? says

This is so getting 4★'s JUST FOR THAT ENDING. This book killed me. The first was all Blair Witch and scary with a hint of dark and sad but this, this was just emotionally crushing to me. Completely different than the first book. I think there are things that I don't like to read about and with this book I realize one of those things is addiction. This was so very sad for me and I just felt scared the entire read. Scared that Tim would fall off the wagon, scared that there wasn't going to be a HEA, really, just scared. The ending was beautiful though so all else is forgiven!

Barbara says

Only 72 pages but so powerful.... with a lot of angst, but heart-wrenching beautiful!

LOVE IT!!

Karen says

One upon a time, there was this author...

and he wrote a story, actually he's written several but let's just focus on this one for now. His name was Josh Lanyon and the story was called 'In a Dark Wood' it was short about 40ish pages, it was excellent, it was about 2 men who went on a camping date that turned into the date from hell and it scared the crap out of me. I loved it.

Fast forward to the present (ok September 2013) and what should appear in the reading world but a follow up to that book. Of course I bought a copy ASAP and it has sat in my TBR pile every since because well to be honest...I was a bit apprehensive about reading it. I had very little doubt that it would be good after all it was written by Josh Lanyon and I love his books. No my problem was I wasn't sure if I wanted to know what happened to Tim and Luke after the events of their camping date gone horribly wrong, but as will happen with all innately curious people, my curiosity eventually got the better of me and I needed to know and now I do.

One of my friends on GR warned me that she had shed many tears over this story and so I grabbed my box of tissues and my comfort bear and curled up in my fav reading chair. I was going to do this I could handle anything...well almost.

Have you ever read a book that grabbed you and grabbed you hard and you wanted to cry...sweet jesus crying would be so much easier than the hollowed out feeling that was building inside of you leaving you

feeling so empty and alone and just desperate for those tears that would wash it all away. That's where I'm at right now. I finished the book and I wanted to cry, to just curl up and quietly cry it all out but I'm afraid to. I'm afraid I won't stop...ever.

We all have stories that for whatever reason have a stronger meaning, a deeper connection for us than they do for others. Not because we're special or we see some cosmic design that others missed just because our life, our experiences make us more empathetic towards a particular set of circumstances or something about the story reminds us of people and events in our own lives that we miss or we wish had happened differently. Whatever the reason this was one of those stories for me.

Everything about Tim and Luke clawed at my heart and made me hurt in so many ways. Josh Lanyon is one of the few authors who can leave me feeling emotionally raw on such a regular basis. It's sometimes a good thing because it makes me step back and look at what it is that has made me connect with a story so strongly and sometimes a little introspection is a good thing. But mostly it's just because I love his stories and the characters he creates for his readers to fall in love with and care about.

'The Parting Glass' was a very well done, emotionally filled follow-up to 'In A Dark Wood' I loved it and would totally recommend it to anyone, however, only if you've read 'In A Dark Wood' first, this is just one of those times that you can't have one without the other.

4.5 stars rounded up here on GR

Ami says

3.5 stars

Just a quick recap of **In A Dark Wood**: Travel writer Timothy McShay met NYPD Detective Luke O'Brien at his best friend's dinner party. Tim told Luke story about skullhouse in the wood, The Pine Barrens, and The Forester who are like Boogeymen and grabbed kids. Then Luke asked Tim to go camping to the wood with him -- where they connected, got lost, faced a monster, and survived. That story ended in HFN since Tim was an alcoholic and he wanted to be sober for Luke.

Flash forward 2.5 years later, **The Parting Glass** opened with Tim ran into Luke, *unexpectedly...* and what happened after the end of **In A Dark Wood** was now revealed to us readers. How they tried to be together but it was difficult and Tim cut all ties to get himself sober. Now he lived in California and had been sober for two years.

There was that trademark of Josh, his efficiency with words, that's like a punch to the gut or a rip to the heart or ... oh, you know what I mean.

Happiness was too thin, too watered down a word to describe that wellspring of feeling. Joy. That was the word. A blaze of delight that almost defied definition. His startled face was alight with it, and I guess mine must have been too.

Luke's anger and pain was so vivid ... how hurt he was. He didn't understand why Tim just left, how it all fell

apart. I want to hug him!!

While Tim's struggle with his alcoholism and his fear that he was just not *enough* for Luke, that one day Luke would just walk away from him also felt real. It might be frustrating to read, because I want it so much for Tim to grab his happiness. But life wasn't that simple, was it? Especially for someone with addiction like Tim. I loved how Tim still thought about how much he needed drink. Everyday was a fight for him and even more so, now that he was facing the one he loved.

So love wasn't easy for these characters and it made such delicious read for Josh's fans like myself. I always love reading emotional inner struggle because it gives insight to the complexity of being human.

Having said that, I did have *personal* issues that were my own. I am not a fan of stories where someone else ended up hurting for the two main characters to be together. Unfortunately, I felt that there was a touch of that, in terms of Jeff (Luke's current squeeze, although they had only been together 4 months) and Dylan (who was getting his hope when Tim agreed to have dinner *date* with him before things with Luke was solved).

So despite the lovely ending between Tim and Luke, I couldn't forget this issue, and it reduced my enjoyment a little bit.

Salsera1974 says

I would wear short shorts if Josh Lanyon asked me to.

I'd slip them on, knot my shirt beneath my middle-aged breasts, find some pom poms, toss these forty-year-old bones into the air, and cheer for him till I was hoarse. If he were a rock star, I'd throw my (metaphorical) panties onto a stage. If e-readers didn't exist, when his books were released, I would stand in the rain to get a copy. In case you've missed the point, I simply love his work.

I won't pretend that he can do no wrong. *Blood Red Butterfly*, for instance, was a misfire. But when he gets it right, *he gets it right*, and *The Parting Glass* is remarkable. This book was so good, there were moments when I had to close it so I could sit back and remember to breathe.

Even though this is nominally a love story -- a reunion story, no less -- it is really more than that. It is about Tim McShay's struggle to conquer the demons of alcoholism, and to reconcile his sober present and future with the unresolved mistakes of his past. Those mistakes have a tenacious grip on him because the people he harmed love him past his errors, and by caring enough to force him to confront his wrongs, he begins to see the value that he inherently possesses. This is a valuable lesson; as his friend, Rob, tells him, the bottle still had a grip on him because the fear of losing his sobriety inspired a life that was marked by isolation, but by facing the mistakes of his past, Tim gained the courage he needed to open the door to a second chance at the life that he really wanted to live.

This is a hard story to read if you have ever struggled or failed, and it is a redemptive story if you have overcome your past. It is rewarding, too, because it leaves us with the hope that no mistake is too grave, and that sometimes, love really can forgive all. Perhaps this is a fairy tale; how many people have a Luke O'Brien

in their lives, who can love so deeply for so long? How many people know a love that can manifest such a deep capacity for forgiveness? I don't know. Perhaps the way to find that love is to offer that love. Whatever the answer, if you read this story, you might find that Lanyon takes up residence inside your skin and decides to sit for awhile. His spare prose and unflinching honesty will bind you, and you may not want to seek release.

(4.5 stars because of one contrived scene, but the overall effect of the story was so good, I'm rounding up, which I normally don't do.)

Natasha says

I can make it through this review without crying. I can. Because I'm an adult and adult's don't need to cry all the time. *wheezing noise*

Spoilers Below. Spoilers and perhaps tears.

This second book was nothing like the first one, which I also read and loved. They're completely different, even though the characters are the same. The books are so different.

This story deals with addiction, which the first book touched on a bit. Tim is an alcoholic and this story is about his relationship after-the-fact with Luke. It's exciting and full of emotions.

These characters are so human. They make mistakes and hurt each other and love each other and because allowed to watch that is really beautiful.

If you'd like a better review than this one, please go read my friend Salsera1974's review: [Here](#). Her review is really fantastic and we generally feel the same way about the book.

This book has a great ending. Fantastic ending.

Don't worry, I'm not going to cry though. I'm not a big fat baby...

...

Edit: Thanks to Sara, I learned that Ed Sheeran sings a version of this song, The Parting Glass, so I decided it was a good idea for my mental health to reread some of my favorite parts of this book and and listen to this song.

Tears, many tears.

Listen to song [here](#)

Johanna says

This story lived up and beyond my wildest expectations. After reading it I felt totally wrenched and smoothed at the same time. Josh Lanyon's books always make me emotional, but rarely has he put me

through as rough ride as Tim and Luke's stories "In a Dark Wood" and "The Parting Glass". I feel like I'll have to learn to breath normally all over again after all the hype, misery, relief, shock, panic and euphoria this story made me experience.

I absolutely don't want to write any spoilers, so I'll only say this: I couldn't possibly have enjoyed it more. I cried and I laughed and I highlighted so many great lines that my The Parting Glass ebook pages look alarmingly like a yellow-white-striped zebra. This was the most intense reading experience I have had for a long time — maybe never. Or at least never after Adrien and Jake.

The thing is that I'm IN AWE of Josh Lanyon's ability to mix grief and humor. Trouble and delight. Loss and hope. There is no one else who can write it quite like he can. Reading through The Parting Glass was like walking along a beach scattered with lovely sea shells. If Lanyon's sentences were those sea shells I would have my pockets and hands full of the them by now — I want to pick them, carry them home, keep them and I want to look at them and admire them knowing that whenever I do, they'll give me joy.

This story was about love, forgiveness, respect and courage — and how sometimes the most difficult task of all is to forgive ourselves, to love ourselves.

The Parting Glass will be such a wonderful re-read. And re-re-read. And re-re-re-read. And — oh well, you got the picture.

Josh Lanyon, you rock.

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

4 Stars

This is what I took away from this story.

Real life is messy. Everyone has faults and flaws and makes poor decisions at times, or they have some serious issues that prevent them from achieving happiness and success.

This sequel of second chances aptly shows such. What it also does is show just how much love can be so very very complicated. It is not easy to do, it is definitely not easy to forget or let go. When an opportunity arises to recapture it, it's not surprising that all reason can be thrown out the window.

I'm not making any excuses. In my wants and needs for romantic fiction this story strays far from the ideal. However, this was still an emotional, heart wrenching tale of healing and forgiveness and allowing oneself to be happy if only this time around, things could be done differently.

I don't agree with the MC's actions, but I don't begrudge them their happy ending either. It's a rare thing in an author to win over a reader despite such.

Lori says

We all have those things that speak to us, things that are personal to us. Alcoholism is mine. I, like many, have experienced first hand the devastation of losing someone I love to alcoholism and this is one of the best (for want of better phrasing) portrayals of the illness I have read. God it felt so real.

I loved Tim, I ached for him, I am so glad he wasn't turned into the violent, pathetic, gob-shite drunk that is most often written about. Not because they don't exist, but because that is not my experience.

Lanyon perfectly captures Tim as a person rather than alcoholic, he shows us the man Luke loved despite his illness. Thank you. It is so easy to write a one sided view of an illness it's so easy to fail to see beyond the illness.

I believe sometimes life gives us a kick up the arse when we need it. A reminder. My dad would have been 70 at the start of this week. Except he died 10 years ago, complete organ failure due to a lifetime of alcoholism. He wasn't violent. He was loving and kind but unable to cope with life. Where Tim was able to stay sober, dad couldn't. BUT he was still more than his disease, even though it won in the end it wasn't all of who he was.

Wow, I hadn't intended for this review to become quite so personal. I had no intention of letting all that out. I'm just saying this book spoke to me, it felt real, honest and wow did I love Tim...

It is Luke though, Luke who I utterly adored. I can't express how much. If you read this have tissues at hand...and please, read to the end.

Thank you Sara. <3

Meags says

3.5 Stars

I liked this even better than book one. Where the first story was more focused on Tim and Luke meeting and then surviving in the scary woods, this story was much more personal and had more emotional weight to it.

It's been two years since Tim and Luke met and went on a weird and ultimately harrowing first date camping in the woods. A hell of a lot has happened since then, namely, Tim has moved away to California and gotten himself sober once and for all. Although this was the right thing for him personally, he left a lot of hurt and heartbreak behind in New York.

When Tim visits NYC for an old friend's wedding, he serendipitously runs into Luke - the love he left behind. Over the course of the next 24 hours Tim has left in town, he and Luke reconnect, hashing out every anger, frustration and hurt they experienced together and apart. Ultimately they must decide whether a future together is something they each want or if it's even possible after everything that's happened between them.

Tim's struggle with his alcoholism and staying sober was really well done. It provided this story with the emotional oomph that the first one didn't quite have and I greatly appreciated that.

Unfortunately, there is one story point I can't quite get over, and that's the fact that throughout this story Luke has a boyfriend, who we meet and who he talks about having a future with... but who he then immediately cheats on to spend one more night with Tim. Seriously, that's just an asshole move right there. I couldn't just brush that aside - like they did - and enjoy their reconnection or be happy for them when they ultimately decided to be together, because all I could think was, what about your boyfriend? It was like who cares about that other human being who has feelings? (view spoiler)

This would have been a four or even five star read for me based on the writing and the emotional gravitas alone, but cheating is still cheating and it made me care a little less about Tim and Luke's happiness, which was a damned shame, so points deducted.

Nila says

Written like cream on butter, always a writer who can confabulate me with his skill.

People carry burdens in life and sometimes they can't escape the burden without escaping places and people they love. Timothy fled across the country to fight his alcoholism, his failures and the poor opinion of his friends. He's been sober two years and is back in New York for a friend's wedding. He'll be gone the next day. Not, however, without a chance meeting with his greatest love, Luke, the man he left so he could sober up. Luke is surprised and so is Tim; the meeting is by sheer chance. Neither man can hide his own joy, but Tim makes feeble excuses and leaves, expecting to never see Luke again. Of course they do meet later and do spend a night making love and feeling the same feelings of love and pain again.

Tim feels he cannot maintain sobriety if he is with Luke. He has experienced life with Luke and knows Luke has no faith in him.

In almost every Lanyon book viewpoints collide; truth and beliefs are exploded when two people finally realize what the other really thinks and feels.

Luke is a steadfast man, truly loving Tim, and Tim comes to know that and to realize he is stronger in his sobriety than he ever believed.

I love it when "truths" collide.

MaDoReader says

4,5 porque en menos de 100 páginas es capaz de decir muchas cosas.

Tim+Luke=?

Sra. Lanyon tiene una nueva fan.

Edina Rose says

Falling in love with an alcohol addict... Among others, this book asks the questions: "How much are you ready to sacrifice for love?" and "How much do you think you are worth?". Tough questions, not to answer lightly when you are in a relationship.

I liked how the plot has unexpected twists. This is not a sweet story. It's a cross between Adrien English series and Come Unto These Yellow Sands. It's not what I expected and it's exactly what I needed: something harsh, tough, more realistic than the classic MM romance, but something very romantic too, with the soul-mate-love-of-my-life kind of love, and very hot hot hot sex.

Susan says

Damn this was depressing.

I have to say, I was a little shocked at how much the two stories felt so...different. I mean, "In a Dark Wood" was edgy, terrifying, but somehow still sexy, and left me wanting more. "The Parting Glass" was morose, broken, and I felt suffocated in sorrow.

I get it, addiction is not fun. And people hurt each other. And sometimes getting back to the one you love is a hard road. But dang, I just felt this cloud over me the entire time I was reading this. I needed a tub of ice cream and a bubble bath or something when I was done. And even though there was, I think, a happy'ish ending, I still felt depressed as hell when it was all done. I couldn't shake it.

I wanted more of Luke and Tim and was happy there was a second book. I was actually surprised to find that they had ended up dating seriously after the conclusion of book 1. I had assumed they weren't going to jump into anything because of Tim's alcoholism...and I seriously wish they hadn't. Reading the demise of their relationship and how far they fell to and how far they had to come for reconciliation was more of a bummer than a hopeful tale. I wasn't even sure it was going to happen by the end.

And, predictably, I could have done without the you-know-what that I hate in books and typically try to avoid (view spoiler) and especially since it was just glossed over and never even...acknowledged.

Add to all of it these sad lyrics sprinkled in and I was feeling all kinds of gloomy.

The writing, per usual, was powerful....clearly strong enough to affect my mood this way. But, it's just...I don't know...such a downer.

Baba says

4 stars. Review posted May 4, 2014

72 pages. Time and again I'm amazed at how much Lanyon affects me with his short reads. The Parting Glass is no exception. No wasted word, no wasted breath...just beautiful. It's a wonderfully accomplished reunion story; emotional, poignant, and heart-wrenching. Gawd, it hurt so good. The icing on the cake is the beautiful cover. Love it!

While The Parting Glass worked just fine as a stand-alone for me, I feel a bit tempted to go back and check out In a Dark Wood.

Trembling hands, a craving mind
Stay strong, resist temptation
Don't let him down

Let it out and let me explain
Don't run, let's not say goodbye yet
Open your eyes, don't hide
Value yourself, you're worth lovin'

Your voice is on my mind
Memories echoing back to me
Distance, time, and space
They can't touch us

Let's slay the monsters together
Sensation, pleasure are
Rippling through me, overwhelming me
I missed this...us

Don't you ever let go
I clutch your hand to my chest
To feel that familiar rhythm
Guiding us back to each other
Home...wherever home is

Reach out and give me your hand
I'd do anything for you
All you have to do is ask

Ask. Say the words.

Let's not part ways. Never ever again.

Favorite "quote":

The Wailin' Jennys -- The Parting Glass

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4egb2...>

Every M/M fan should have read a book by Josh Lanyon.

Recommended read.
