



## Snowmancer

*Olivia Helling*

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A future king. A slave's last hope. Can a sacrifice become something more?

Ilyas wants someone he can trust. As the heir to a great kingdom, all he can count on is the treachery of his younger brothers as he protects his future throne. When he receives his latest spoils of war, he meets a slave who's different. A slave with a hidden agenda...

Jem is the last chance for his people. Shunned by his brethren, he yearns to save them with an impossible task: kidnap Prince Ilyas and sacrifice him to Jem's Dark God. Against all odds, he captures the prince and carts him across the frozen wasteland.

Now Jem must keep Ilyas safe for the sacrifice and push down his urges to do more than protect the heir to the throne. Ilyas knows he can't trust the slave, but he feels like he's finally found a man he can love. As their attraction builds, they grow closer to a god that could destroy them both.

Snowmancer is an LGBT dark fantasy novella set in a far-off kingdom. If you like unpredictable plot twists, rich descriptions, and tantalizing chemistry, then you'll love Olivia Helling's incredible tale of adventure, sacrifice, and love.

This story was written as a part of the M/M Romance Group's "**Love is an Open Road**" event. Group members were asked to write a story prompt inspired by a photo of their choice. Authors of the group selected a photo and prompt that spoke to them and wrote a short story.

## **Snowmancer Details**

Date : Published June 24th 2015 by M/M Romance Group @ Goodreads (first published June 23rd 2015)

ISBN :

Author : Olivia Helling

Format : ebook 131 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Romance, M M Romance, Magic

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## From Reader Review Snowmancer for online ebook

### M'rella says

Warning: Make sure to read the book description, because that's all you gonna get for the first, missing part of the story, Snowmancer 0.5. It's absolutely vital because only then you will be able to understand (somewhat) what's going on in the first chapters.

As for the review:

I appreciate the author's imagination in some aspects, in others I find the book seriously lacking of common sense, let alone of the above mentioned imagination.

Editing was another - and very serious - problem for me. I wasn't always sure what was going on and why. Silly things like the capital city full of villagers and peasants in "the kingdom of miners", for example, bothered me to no end. Another, separate problem was that while Lumi is trade oriented, it never occurred to anyone to trade outside their own peninsula. Or branch out and build a few ships and a port, since they are literally sitting on the ocean shore. I mean no one ever went out on a boat fishing or for simple fun? wth?

The last three chapters redeemed this book for me somewhat. Enough to round the initial 1.5 stars up rather than down.

While I hate giving a free book (with a beautiful cover) 1.5 stars, I do have my very strong reasons:

- i didn't like the editing;
- I didn't like the logistics (little made sense);
- I didn't like the MCs
- all in all, I didn't like the book itself.

Now, hear me out and before telling me I am too blunt or too rude!

I read through the reviews, and almost every other reader admits to either "not connecting with the characters" or "it's not the book, it's me". Sure, I use those excuses myself all too often. Sometime I legit believe that it's ME, not the book, like when it comes to bikers or ghosts, for example. NOT MY THING. Sometimes I don't connect with the characters, for whatever reasons. I also use those excuses as a polite "I didn't like your book and I feel bad saying it out loud". So when the majority of the reviews claim same excuses to give the book three or four stars? The picture is clear - it's not the readers, and it's not even the characters, it's the book.

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### Diane says

**Fantastic! Amazing! You'll be swept away to a world you won't forget!**

I received a copy of this book from the author.

This was fantastic!

The characters were believable, lovable (once you discovered the evil forces at work) and totally wonderful by the end.

The plot was amazing. I'd love to get inside the workings of Ms. Helling's mind to find out how she develops such an amazing plot!

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### **Alison says**

If you enjoy fantasy, this story is definitely worth the read. If a sequel ever comes out, I'm grabbing it.

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### **Seeilin says**

I'm not sure why there aren't more ratings/reviews because this book was great!

Don't get me wrong - it's not a romance. Actually the romance is kind of... a bit underdeveloped? I missed the feelings.

But yeah, scratch that.

This is fantasy in a world of ice and snow. It's devastating, some time confusing but also quite hopeful.

It wasn't perfect, I'm still not sure if I got everything in the end but it was captivating.

Defintly worth recommanding if you love fantasy.

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### **Nana says**

The writing felt a little disjointed, especially in the beginning. I was also having hard time believing the relationship, the romance aspect of it. Having said that, it has an interesting plot and a good world building. Overall, enjoyable, but it could have been better.

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### **momokaachan says**

This book did not end the way I thought it would when I started reading. What a way to sneak in a great solution, Ms. Helling! The only reason that the rating is missing a star is I really didn't like Ilyas.

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### **Kevin says**

This story starts out with no setup and only as you go along do you get the full picture. By the end I had fallen in love with the story and the characters. You have a proud captive prince, his captor, and various other people. The captive prince only gradually learns the situation but he bears up amazingly well. You despair right to the very end.

This is a beautiful love story in a bleak environment, with a bit of magic to spice things up. I give it my highest recommendation.

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### **Finnegan says**

The author made clever use of the prompt and the prompt picture, weaving an interesting tale about a dark God, sacrifices and so on. The writing was very vague, and I had trouble trying to figure out what is going on. It is also not really a romance, as I did not feel any real chemistry between the MC's. Not a bad book, just not for me

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### **BWT (Belen) says**

This one is totally mea culpa. I should have paid more attention to the tags before starting:

**Tags:** *mage/sorcerer, royalty, sweet/no sex, dark, enemies to lovers, homophobia, magic users, soulmates/bonded, tattoo, slave, captivity, tearjerker*

Because I would have realized this was absolutely not for me.

Once again, thanks to the author for participating in the event.

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### **Elena says**

A nice freebie, full of snow \*winks\*, magic and twists. Of course the captive/prisoner element raised my rating... ;)

I enjoyed it a lot!

That's what comes to my mind after reading it...

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### **Mandy Quinn says**

#### **I really loved reading this book the author wrote a wonderful book here**

I really loved reading this book it was so beautifully written. I loved the relationship between Ilyas and Jem they have a beautiful relationship. I loved the edge of the seat action and all the twists and turns in this book. I really thought the author wrote a wonderful book here. I will recommend this book to all of my friends and all the people I know.

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### **Reader says**

the world building in Snowmancer is out of this world. Fabulous.

I'm glad I caught 'the one' HEA Olivia might have written in one take. Based on the author's note at the end of this book, she doesn't do such things. Why not? I ask. There is barely any HEA for us in the real world, so why not get it for a short time from the stroke of a pen?

Well I'm glad Jem/Hemi got his. Poor sod, he deserved it.

I purchased Damon Snow (2 books so far) but don't know if I want to read them now. I just love me a HEA.

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### **Regencyfan93 says**

I respect Jem for how much he was willing to sacrifice to keep his county alive. It was amusing to see Ilyas' reaction to his new surroundings - thin ice, cold rooms, food suitable for long storage. Both characters had to be open to the idea that the world was different than they thought, whether that was about one's fate or about love.

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### **Alyssandra says**

I really enjoyed this book! When I first started reading it I was not sure if I was going to finish the book. The beginning isn't bad, but it was a tad confusing. Everything does come together though as you read the story. So, I am very glad that I kept reading! I love the world the author created and the characters. The book was short, but I really got to know the two protagonists. This book had a very nice blend of fantasy and sweet romance. I reccomend it for a quick and sweet read!

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### **Meep says**

*Thanks to the author for participating and offering this freebie*

Not really my genre but I gave it a go.

For me Ilyas was too unsympathetic a character I found him hard to champion despite his situation. There'd need to be a lot of character development for him become likeable. Jem is mysterious but no where near as sinister as hinted. The plot - I was wanting them to stop being vague and get to the point.

Nothing wrong with the fic, imagination went into the world-building, but it's not a match for me - case of 'it's not you, it's me'

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