



# Strange Fortune

*Josh Lanyon*

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## **Strange Fortune** Josh Lanyon

Valentine Strange, late of his Majesty's 21st Benhali Lancers, needs money. Happily, the wealthy Holy Orders of Harappu are desperate to retrieve the diadem of the Goddess Purya from an ancient temple deep in the mountainous jungle—an area Strange knows well from his days quelling rebellions. The pay is too good and the job seems too easy for Strange to refuse. But when Master Aleister Grimshaw, a dangerous witch from a traitorous lineage, joins the expedition, Strange begins to suspect that more is at stake than the retrieval of a mere relic.

Grimshaw knows an ancient evil surrounds the diadem— the same evil once hunted him and still haunts his mind. However, experience has taught him to keep his suspicions to himself or risk being denounced as a madman. Again.

Harried by curses, bandits and unnatural creatures, Strange and Grimshaw plunge onward. But when a demonic power wakes and the civilized world descends into revolution, their tenuous friendship is threatened as each man must face the destruction of the life he has known.

## **Strange Fortune Details**

Date : Published December 2009 by Blind Eye Books (first published 2009)

ISBN : 9781935560005

Author : Josh Lanyon

Format : Paperback 313 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Romance, M M Romance, Magic, Lgbt, Gay

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## From Reader Review Strange Fortune for online ebook

### Barb ~rede-2-read~ says

An excellent story from Josh Lanyon, definitely different from his others. I don't usually like fantasy but this one was so rich in detail, complex, interesting and intriguing that I just couldn't put it down.

Valentine Strange is a soldier, but he's also a gambler, and as the book opens he's in so much debt that he agrees to take on a job for the Holy Order to find a diadem, a jeweled crown belonging to a past god. Aleistair Grimshaw is a witch, a master of magic and is the person appointed by the Holy Order to accompany Strange on his quest.

Their journey is complicated and fraught with danger but they do manage to retrieve the diadem, only to lose it on the way back. Aleistair lost his conscious mind during the journey and is almost catatonic on the way back. Apparently Venavir, one of the first gods who is usually only whispered about as a legend, is attempting to make a come back using Aleistair's body as his vessel to accomplish this.

The men manage to make their escape back to their homeland but Strange is convinced to set out one more time to try to find the lost diadem and he finally convinces Grimshaw to go with him. The next adventure that awaits this pair is even more harried and dangerous and ultimately there's a showdown between Aleistair and Venavir when Venavir makes his move to end the world.

The story is so much more complex than I've described it here and I loved the way Mr. Lanyon just kept moving it along, keeping it interesting and exciting and building toward a very suspenseful climax. And, oh yes, our two heroes do get at least a HFN. Excellent story, highly recommend.

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### thelastaerie says

Proof that Josh Lanyon can write pretty much any genre (well... that's not to say I want him to write het romance!) and it will be brilliant. While breaking new grounds with his first fantasy novel, he keeps his trademark wits and sharpness. There's great chemistry between the two lead characters, and real conflicts, emotional turmoil, and a great adventure/mystery to make it difficult to put down the book. Not to mention flawless characterisation and structure (the devil is in the detail). I can see this fantasy world in my mind and I can see the voices of the characters, it's an exciting story to get lost in.

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### Vastine Bondurant says

I love Josh Lanyon's writing, particularly his historical romance. But I had never heard of this book, 'Strange Fortune', until a friend recommended it.

I'm at a loss as how to review it. Sometimes a book is just too beautiful---prose, imagery, tension, romance, sensuality---and my limited vocabulary is just that...too limited.

First of all, the MC's, former soldier Valentine Strange and witch...yes, witch...Aleister Grimshaw were two

of the most memorable, perfect characters ever. Particularly, for this reader, the luscious witch Grimshaw. Oh, sugar. Hell's bells.

I could write a lengthy essay just on Grimsaw alone, his appeal to me. When a character is clearly described physically as not outstanding (in Grimshaw's case, he's called bony, skinny) and yet the author spins him into a painfully beautiful presence that the reader falls head over heels for, right along with the fictional love interest. Well, Aleister Grimshaw was one of those cases. Mild, quiet, a deceptively delicate persona melded inside a powerful and quite cabable man. I found him incredibly sensual.

Major Strange was a rousing Indiana Jones type. Fearless. Handsome. Rugged. Big hearted, though---especially when that heart of his tangled with the mysterious, mesmerizing witch.

The scenery is out of this world beautiful. Lush, ancient, mystical, haunting. The supporting characters wonderfully drawn to such real-life images, it was as though watching them in a film.

No plot sharing from me except to say the storyline is intense in a nail-biting sort of way.

And let me tell you, sugar. When John Lanyon writes an intimate scene, get ready. You will be aroused. One scene in particular. A secluded natural pool at the foot of a waterfall. Oh, gods. Nipple rings, navel rings, touching, lovely men's bodies. Sensuality off the charts.

As I said, I'd never heard of this book, although I adore Lanyon. It's no exception to the author's fabulous story telling. Just a might off his beaten bath. But TRY this path. Really. Try it. You will not be sorry.

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### **Feliz says**

This fantasy is once again proof of Josh Lanyons great writing skills. Colorful and brilliant like a Persian Carpet, this story, set in an alternative reality colonial India could have flowed from the quill of a Kipling or a Kaye. Far eastern lore interwoven with fascinating magic makes an exquisite backdrop for the love story between a grizzled soldier and a young yet jaded witch.

And since Josh Lanyon wrote this, the plot contains a solid, gripping mystery complete with a deliciously nutty villain and a good deal of mischievous humor.

Highly recommended!

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### **KimberlyRose says**

3.5 stars

Nothing Lanyon has written since The Adrien English series has been as wholly enjoyable. Good thing that was my introduction to Lanyon. Start there, I assure you it's solid mystery, sexual tension, and character development, and exquisite--exquisite!--reward for all three.

Strange Fortune is not without its charm though. It's an alternate historical (think British occupied India of the late 19th century) that includes fascinating mystical elements, but the characters feel like thin redoes of

the Adrian English dynamic. I enjoyed this quest tale, I surely did, but the romance and round character development was slightly unfulfilling, or lacklustre. Still, definitely worth reading.

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### **Lauraadriana says**

This was a very different world...as fantasies go it was an interesting place. It was a familiar, but also new. I was surprised pleasantly by the commentary on the oppressiveness of organized religion and colonialism I thought it was subtle but clearly thought out...

Valentine Strange I loved, his strength and sense of humor were fantastic. Josh creates these characters that are so strong and rough, but have this ability for tenderness and caring that is just so lovely. I loved the chemistry between him and Aleister, the dynamics between them were just great.

A touch of the hand, a look and I was holding my breath. I like the plot and the adventure...loved the words, as always crafted exquisitely.

Another great book by Josh.

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### **?? Michaelle ♡?? says**

4.5 Stars

Holy shit. That was absolutely nothing like anything I've ever read by Josh Lanyon, and while it is definitely *not* my genre...it was still really entertaining. Kind of like reading Indiana Jones. If the plots of all 3 movies (we don't count the last one) also happened in a Fantasy dimension with all sorts of magic, spells, rituals, archaic gods, some cray-cray priests, divine prophecy and a plot to basically bring death to the entire world - plus the handful of misfits that try to stop it.

So yeah. If that's your thing then OMG read this.

(Also, you can tell I don't read many Fantasy-based books because I had to *create a shelf* for this book!! Now I have to go back and re-shelf all the ones with magic that I originally grouped in with Paranormal...)

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### **ttg says**

Strange Fortune is probably the biggest departure for Lanyon, a fantasy adventure novel about two very different men, one witch, one soldier, who are forced to journey together to retrieve a religious artifact, and along the way, discover a far more sinister plot with potential world-ending consequences.

The story is set in an AU world, but Lanyon's fantasy setting is heavily inspired by turn-of-the-century India under Britain's colonial rule. In this story, ruling Alba is trying to maintain its control over the colonized Hidush, and any talk of mutiny or displeasure of the ruling government is treason.

The MCs--Major Valentine Strange, seasoned soldier and heavy gambler, and Aleister Grimshaw, a powerful witch haunted by fits of madness, are both sympathetic and interesting. Their relationship at first is based on mistrust and irritation with each other, but that slowly burns away as they realize that to get home, they'll have to rely on each other, and in doing so, they unearth something far deeper between them than either had expected.

Lanyon told the story from both MCs' perspectives, which is a nice change since he often writes from one sole perspective, and it gives the reader a glimpse inside each character's thinking (while still allowing the reader an idea of when an MC's narration is somewhat unreliable. Like when Valentine's attraction and feelings for Aleister grow, but he keeps thinking inwardly that any romantic thoughts must be because Aleister bewitched him. Yeah, that must be it...bewitchment.)

I was also kind of enjoying the book because it's so different from Lanyon's other works. It's his most fantastical, way more than *The Darkling Thrush* or his story in *Irregulars*. It's the longest of his works, at over 300 pages (which at times it felt very leisurely-paced, but it was still enjoyable to read.) It has quite a few action scenes, sword and gun fights, magic spells, etc. The romance is a very slow burn. (Not as slow as *Fatal Shadows*, but it's up there on the list.) The few scenes of intimacy are either non-explicit or off-page.

Lanyon's usual focus on murder mysteries comes to play here mostly in the way that he unravels the pieces to the larger puzzle that plays out over the novel, slowly drawing out the reasons behind Strange and Grimshaw's quest for the diadem.

Like Lanyon's other books, the writing is very clean and well put-together. There were a few tics that he usually steadfastly avoids (like using nouns instead of pronouns, "the younger man", "the witch") but overall his writing is smooth enough that it didn't jar me out.

Because it lacked so many of the usual Lanyon-isms, outside of the MC pairing of strong fighting MC and learned bookish MC, it would have been easy for me to not know that this was a Lanyon work, and just think it was by someone else who, like Lanyon, was a good writer.

My main quibbles are that it did feel a little slow during the first half, but overall I enjoyed the chance to read a longer novel by him. I also almost wish that he went balls-out and created a completely new fantasy setting rather than have a setting that is so recognizable. I kept mentally comparing the faux colonized India with details from real colonized India. (This might be a more personal reader issue though, since I didn't really dig the faux Russia and Japan references in the fantasy-steampunk novel *Havemercy* either. I find it can be distracting, but that's just me.) This distraction by the setting did lessen though as I got further into the novel, either because I was so used to it, or the story was rich enough that I stopped caring (and stopped mentally comparing.)

I was a little worried at first since the story focused on two "white" MCs in a colonized faux-India, and I wondered if I was going to read something fantasy-orientalist and it kind of started that way for me, but Lanyon moved it into an interesting direction, and I appreciated the story's trajectory and how the MCs were both participants in shifting *Hidush's* future as well as bystanders (view spoiler)

*Strange Fortune* is a very solid fantasy read, and I definitely recommend it if you like m/m fantasy. (And it's also a safe book to read on a crowded plane or bus since it's not explicit.) If you love Lanyon, but don't like fantastical elements, I say maybe give it a shot since it does have Lanyon's smooth writing, so it may still work for you.

Long story short--good fantasy story, very different from Lanyon's usual work, but still enjoyable.

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## **Mandi Schreiner says**

If you read this blog regularly, it comes as no surprise when I say I am a big Josh Lanyon fan. He is known for clever, witty mystery male/male romance books. *Strange Fortune* is his first foray into fantasy, and it is an amazing one at that. While this book took a chapter or two to really get into, I ended up with a love of the two main characters and picture of the world stamped in my mind.

Valentine Strange is in desperate need of money having bad luck at the gaming tables recently. His fortune changes however when he is propositioned by The Holy Order, more specifically Brahman Warrick. He asks Strange, who has a reputation of a man who knows how to get things done, to go on a mission – retrieve an ancient diadem belonging to the goddess of Purya, one that The Holy Order will pay Strange for handsomely and allow him to pay off all his debts. Strange has never heard of this diadem, but according to Warrick, after Purya defeated monsters and demons, she forged this diadem to be worn by her successor the next time the world was in danger. Strange isn't necessarily buying this tale, but for the right price, he will find truth in any story. This is a dangerous mission though – having to journey into the White Mountains, so he demands all of his money upfront. Warrick also decides to send Aleister Grimshaw, a witch with Strange to help if needed, but Warrick has ulterior motives. Warrick doesn't think Grimshaw is mentally stable, and thinks he needs a break from the Holy Order.

Grimshaw comes from a trueblood family, one that conspired in a mutiny against Strange's people. Although Grimshaw saw his own father and grandfather executed for their crimes, Strange saw many more terrible things done to his people during that time. They set off with history already clouding their trust. Grimshaw is just as "excited" as Strange to go on this mission, but Warrick is giving him no choice.

They set off with an unknown road ahead of them. Much distrust swirls around Grimshaw because he is a witch and his powers are not trusted. They soon realize, they not only have assassins following their trail, but their own laborers attempt mutiny. Strange soon concludes that retrieving this diadem is not as straight forward as Warrick assumed it to be. Once they reach the monastery where Warrick promised the diadem to be located, Strange and Grimshaw realize there is much more going on. Strange also realizes his basic intentions of keeping Grimshaw safe, have turned into a much more stronger desire. Having been in a relationship with a woman previously, his feelings for Grimshaw come as a bit of a surprise, and Strange soon finds himself trying to keep Grimshaw safe, no matter the cost.

I could probably write a five page summary for *Strange Fortune*, but that is because Josh Lanyon puts that much detail into this story. Valentine Strange is the type of character I love – cocky, finding himself in continuous trouble, and more concerned with his polo ponies or weapons than anything of significance. In the beginning, all he truly cares about is finding the diadem to uphold his part of the bargain, but that is before he meets Grimshaw. The witch is a mysterious one – he keeps to himself, and performs spells at night which keeps everyone on edge since magic is not trusted. Strange likes a mystery and finds Grimshaw's riddled answers and secret ways antagonizing but it keeps him on his toes. Grimshaw is lonely, and finds talking to Strange a great source of relief and a friendship develops. They soon learn they really have only each other to trust, as the others plot and uprising against them. The romance unfolds very slowly, Grimshaw falling a little faster in love. Strange always has in the back of his mind the question of whether Grimshaw is glamouring him, but it is more of a defensive thought, since he hasn't been with a man in a long time. These two really become allies first in this mission as their friendship is tested, especially on Strange's part. At one

point in the journey, Grimshaw is unconscious for two days, and Strange never once thinks of leaving him behind, even though it puts him more at risk.

I think for those Josh Lanyon fans out there, and for those who have never read him, it needs to be stressed that this is foremost a fantasy book. Those anticipating the big romance scene may be disappointed – if that is the only thing you are waiting for. Yes there is romance, but it is not written in your face. Rather, it quietly surfaces in the story as Grimshaw and Strange go on their journey.

Their journey to retrieve the diadem becomes very complex and many twists are thrown at the reader. My only criticism is that in some parts it does become a bit slow, but at the same time, this story would not be what it is without the meticulous world building Josh Lanyon has included.

Strange Fortune is much different from his m/m romance books he is known for, but it is a fun, exhilarating change and I hope it isn't the last of this world we have seen!

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### **Cleon Lee says**

Action packed, intense, and adventure filled novel. I am really glad that the romance is secondary to the adventure, I am quite bored with too much romance now. I love that the romance built slowly, and I am doubly glad to read they could restrain themselves and enjoyed simple intimacy whenever they can. It's not all about sex. This novel reads like an epic journey & adventure. There is so much going on, but it doesn't feel rushed at all.

This fantasy world is so unlike any other fantasy story I've read. I applaud you for taking chances with building a world that is similar, but not quite the same as India in the past. It is certainly very refreshing after fae, elves, and such. (and I am guilty for writing them. lol)

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### **Alan says**

Book Review: Strange Fortune by Josh Lanyon

Reviewed by Alan Chin

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Valentine Strange is delighted to accept a job from the Holy Order to find and retrieve an antique diadem of the Goddess Purya from somewhere in the distant White Mountains. Although the mountains are filled with bandits and scoundrels, this soldier of fortune has little fear of anything short of not being paid for his services. But when the Holy Order insists that Master Aleister Grimshaw, a witch with a history of insanity, join the expedition, Strange realizes there is more at stake than the retrieval of a relic.

As the small band begins their search, Strange and Grimshaw forge a tenuous friendship. But they are followed, step by step, not only by bandits, but by a demonic power more powerful than anyone could imagine. When the stakes are raised well beyond the danger level and they are betrayed at every turn, they are forced to rely on each other for survival. Finding the diadem could spell doom for Strange and



Grimshaw, or could it be their only hope of survival?

Strange Fortune is a rollicking good read – interesting characters, fast paced, rich descriptions, and action that kept me turning pages. It's a fun read. Adventurous and romantic. Lanyon has created a wonderful world of magic and spirits and spells and romance. It is a winner.

I stumbled over a few issues that I felt kept this marvelous story from being a great one. A minor annoyance was it held a dozen more misspellings and missing words than I'm used to seeing. The book could certainly use a more careful copyeditor.

A more troublesome issue was the story's time setting. Although the author clearly created a unique setting, the physical setting seems to be taken from early twentieth century India, yet the customs and beliefs of the characters seems to indicate ancient times, when Holy Orders ruled, witches were common and people worshiped demons. For me, it seemed to disconnect. One minute they were worshiping idols, the next Grimshaw was checking the time on his wrist-watch or firing his rifle. And the language the characters often used – such as “the bottom line is” – is really quite modern. I just kept getting the impression, that if the author had paid closer attention to keep the language and the physical setting in ancient times (bows and arrows instead of rifles) this would have been a great read, rather than a very good read.

Still, my few minor issues aside, I thoroughly enjoyed this story and highly recommend it to everyone.

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### **Box of Bees says**

If I was rating this in terms of quality, I would probably give it a 4. But unfortunately, it didn't work as well as it could have for me. I found it a bit slow and not as immersive as I would have liked. I didn't particularly connect with the characters and I didn't see much connection between them, nor did I really understand their motivations. We only got a little information, for example, on Valentine's background, so I didn't really feel why Valentine Strange was so loyal to the maintenance of the military and social order.

Regarding the setting, it seemed to be some sort of fantasy version of colonial India. I feel it could have been more effective if it was either just set in colonial India (with magical elements) or set in a completely imaginary place and time. I could have also used more background on the socio-political landscape. We were kind of thrown into without explanation, which is often good if you gain an understanding of what's going on through context, but I was never 100% certain of the history of the conflict between the groups and the stakes particular individuals had.

The plot was kind of interesting, but dragged a bit in the last quarter. On the whole it wasn't my favorite Josh Lanyon (and really didn't feel like one at all - particularly listening to the very British-y audiobook), but I'm glad I read it.

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### **Elisa Rolle says**

I will start this review up front: I'm not so fond of fantasy novel and neither so much of “quest” type of adventures. So why I read Strange Fortune that is the quintessence of both the above genres? Since I trust

Josh Lanyon and his characters; it's strange but whatever he is writing a mystery, a romance or a fantasy (and *Strange Fortune* is his first foray in the fantasy genre), I'm always sure that I will find two men that are unique for their story. Above all, these men are unexpected and well-rounded, with their strengths and faults; but they are also familiar, since there will be always the dashing one and the more brooding.

Major Valentine Strange and Master Aleister Grimshaw are apparently at the opposite, but right for this reason they click together in the right way. In debt up to his neck, and maybe more, Valentine Strange needs a bit of fortune, and the mission to retrieve the diadem of the Goddess Purya seems an easy one. Unwilling companion to Valentine is Aleister, trueblood and witch, apparently the wise man in comparison to Valentine and instead the one who will almost lose his mind.

The fantasy world Josh Lanyon recreates is completely visionary, but in a way has its roots in the real medieval times: Major Strange is in a mission for the church, Master Grimshaw's previous lover is now a priest, the one who hires Valentine. Religion, myths and witchcraft mix together to move and control the known world.

Another familiar trait that links these characters with the previous ones from the same author is the apparently contraposition between "straight" Valentine and "gay" Aleister. Valentine is planning to marry, true, more for convenience than love, but I didn't read him as a gay in the closet; until he meets Aleister and he develops feelings for him, Valentine is not gay; maybe he is not fully straight, and sincerely he questions his feelings for Aleister more since they are ruining his second option to gain money, than for a real moral opposition to them.

Maybe for this reason, or maybe since, sincerely, Josh Lanyon writes romance, and not erotica, the sex scenes are of the old fashioned style, the ones happening behind a closed door, and to only one, necessary to the story, the fulcrum of the romance, the reader is invited.

I read different opinion on this novel, and the most common trend was, this is an unusual novel for Josh Lanyon, something his fans could love or hate, but they have to read it with an open mind, since it's different from the usual... I disagree. Aside from the fantasy genre, the only novelty I found, this is a typical story by Josh Lanyon: the characters are what holds the story; the romance is subdued but romantic; the relationship between the two men is "quietly" passionate, meaning that there are no burst of passion but nevertheless there is love; sometime the stronger man, Valentine, seems to be more the protector than the lover, but in the end it will be Aleister who will wrap up the story. So where is the unexpected in this story? What is that could ring wrong to the usual readers of Josh Lanyon? As I said, the fantasy setting.

The fantasy setting is good, I maybe am not a fan, but just only the fact that I read it is a point to it. What I usually don't like of the fantasy genre are the long descriptions to allow the reader to "fall into" the mood, into the new world, but that is exactly what the fans of the genre love. As I said, I found it easier since some points were familiar, and indeed this is not only a fantasy but also a quest, and so the long descriptions allow the reader to follow the main characters in their quest; what the reader and the characters will learn along the travel is that the real quest is not what they were expecting to be and when they will reach their destination, they will discover that the travel is yet only at the beginning.

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/193556000X/?...>

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## Nikyta \*Miss Forgetful\* says

This was a great book. It had a feel of historical to it but it was also fantasy which I loved.

I liked Valentine because he had such a dark humor. He was amused by the littlest thing and instead of being angry at something he'd get amused by it. Of course, he did get angry but most of the time he was pretty laid back. I loved Aleister, though. He understood Val's humor but he was also quiet and stayed to himself. People thought he was crazy all because he'd start ranting about weird things but in actuality he was just speaking of all the things he saw and learned because of his powers. He was also not well liked because he was a witch, which everyone thinks is unreliable and no one trusts.

I loved the journey Val and Ali go on and all the things they encounter from betraying bearers, masked priests, bandits, bad weather, demon possessions and weak friends. It was quite interesting and I loved it. I couldn't help but laugh at certain times but I also was hanging on the edge of my seat at other times. While the romance is light, it still is there it's just slightly hidden. After all, the book is focused around the journey and not the romance.

The only thing I had a problem with was how Val was called in the book. His name is Major Valentine Strange but throughout the whole book, even when it was in his POV and he was talking about himself, he'd call himself Strange. It kind of irked me a tad because for some reason it threw me off my rhythm while I was reading. I can't explain why although I do find it strange that the blurb calls him 'Val' but in the book he's only ever 'Strange' until Aleister starts calling him Val every once and a while.

Overall, though, this was a great book and I think fantasy buffs will truly like it. It's detailed and well-written and I'll be eagerly awaiting a sequel if there is ever one... Which I hope there will be. Lol.

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## Ami says

### **\*\* A BOYS IN OUR BOOKS SPRING CLEANING REVIEW \*\***

Okay, a disclaimer first, I did NOT finish this book. I made it around 50% and decided to give up. But let me say this upfront: this is NOT the book's fault. I repeat, NOT the book's fault. High-fantasy is not my genre and I always have difficulties enjoying it, M/M or otherwise. When it comes to fantasy, I can count the number of authors I can read on one hand...

What I can say is ... this is a different kind of story from Josh Lanyon who usually writes contemporary. It combines fantasy elements with a dash of historical, where two men go on a quest to retrieve a *dadem*. The world building might not be all out new – it has a touch of Indian setting – but it still feels quite rich in offering. The romance is typical Lanyon's, there seems to be a disagreement between the two men at first and they need time to build their attraction. In fact, until I stopped around half way, there wasn't a single kiss happening yet \*haha\*. So yes, high in fantasy and adventure but rather low in the romance department.

Unfortunately, it was difficult for me to get into the story. Again, the combination of this being a high fantasy and my reluctance of the genre in the first place made me feel disconnected with the world and characters from the very beginning. I think the switch genre from what I am used to from Josh Lanyon's stories also contributes to my struggle – maybe my brain perceives Lanyon with a contemporary setting and

it was difficult to think of his stories otherwise.

There were a few times when I thought I could get into it, especially when Strange and Grimshaw started conversing – but a few minutes later, I found myself being pulled away again. I couldn't find a steady ground in which I could enjoy. The longer I tried, the more the words became gibberish in my head. Definitely an issue that was my own.

Then why the hell did I buy the book in the first place, you say? Well, it was early 2010, I was on a high with the genre (I started reading MM in 2009), I was deliriously in love with the Adrien English series by Josh Lanyon – so you could say that it was an impulsive buy (in paperback no less). Of course after the book arrived a few weeks later (hey, I live in Indonesia!) I realized that I never read fantasy, decided to shelf it ... and voila, it had gathering dust since then. At least now I have given it a try, I know that high fantasy is still not my favorite genre, and I can FINALLY take this off my TBR list and chuck it as “*impulsive buy that sadly doesn't work*” \*lol\*

So, don't let my review be the basis of your judgment. You can see that Tracy, the “*fantasy lover*” in our team gave this her high praise. So, if you love fantasy and quest adventure with a relationship that slowly builds, I think you should give this one a try. I am just not the target reader of this book.

RATING: MNY (ME NOT YOU)

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