



## **Fatal Shadows**

*Josh Lanyon*

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# Fatal Shadows

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One sunny morning Los Angeles bookseller and aspiring mystery author Adrien English opens his front door to murder. His old high school buddy (and employee) has been found stabbed to death in a back alley following a loud and very public argument with Adrien the previous evening.

Naturally the cops want to ask Adrien a few questions; they are none too impressed with his answers, and when a few hours later someone breaks into Adrien's shop and ransacks it, the law is inclined to think Adrien is trying to divert suspicion from himself.

Adrien knows better. Adrien knows he is next on the killer's list.

## **Fatal Shadows Details**

Date : Published May 1st 2007 by MLR Press (first published 2000)

ISBN : 9780979311048

Author : Josh Lanyon

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Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Mystery, Contemporary

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# From Reader Review Fatal Shadows for online ebook

**Lena♥Ribka says**

I know I know, I'm a bit too late with my excitement and my new discovery of a F\*CKING ADORABLE COUPLE!!

But better too late than never, right?

So...A late reading has its advantages also.

**I knew already before the reading:**

That it is one of the best MM series we have.  
That it is one of the best MM couples we have.

**I just need to add:**

Josh Lanyon is one of the best MM-writers EVER.  
I LOVE his writing. LOVE IT!

Do I need to say more????????????????????????????????????

I ask myself: **WHY FGS have I waited so long to start with the series?!**  
And the answer is very simple.

It is like a dessert.  
We eat it at the end of a three/five/seven-course-menu.  
It is my dessert now.  
So. Well done, Lena!

And now....  
during all of you...  
poor poor friends....  
have to search for a right book....  
get exasperated with disappointed instalments of other series...  
hoping to find something valuable...  
somewhat at least a little bit comparing to Adrien(with an -e-) English Mystery...  
I can just seat back and be pleased with the next(how much? enough to make you jealous!) sequels...  
that are supposed(according your reviews) to be better and better and better!!!!

I'm in love. Already.

Am I easy?

For *Josh Lanyon* **YES.** (My third of this author! He is great. GREAT)

For *Adrien English* **YES.** (He is very promising. And...I have a weak spot for writers. Always have and always will have! So- a perfect MC for my taste! YEAH!!!)

For *Jake Riordan* **YES.**(Mmmmmm....Tough, smart and sexy cop...Dominant? Delicious!)

It is a VERY BEGINNING. And a VERY GOOD start for a super series!  
Now I'm hooked, addicted, drugged!

I WANT MORE OF THEM! AND I CAN HAVE IT WITHOUT A LONG WAITING!

A late reading has it's advantages also.;))

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### **~Mindy Lynn~ says**

I think this is my third time around with this book. I think I enjoyed it more and appreciated the story telling more. I really do love Adrien. He's one of those character's that you just feel like you could totally be friends with. Well, I could be at least.

Riordan really frustrates me with how he see's a homosexual relationship. Or how there can't be one. In his eye's it's OK to fuck a man but a relationship with one is out the question. He is gay and homophobic all rolled up in one. Frustration is all I get when he's on the page. Yet I want them together.... Yeah..

The mystery is solid and I enjoyed how Adrein (the author) weaved all the clues together.

JL is a go to favorite of mine when I want a good mystery and some good MM cop action.

On to the next.

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### **Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says**

A mystery with almost no romance whatsoever and very little sex content? For me? Oy, this book was *so* not my thing... in theory. But I surprisingly enjoyed it and the promise of what's to come is making me itch for more. I think the fact that this was an excellent audiobook really helped its case. In fact, it is well worth continuing with the series just to hear Chris Patton speak.

All in all, a promising start to a series I will hopefully come to love.

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### **Ingie says**

*Written May 26, 2014*

### 4.3 Stars - not much of a romance but wildly fun to 'hear'... and breathlessly thrilling

#### Book #1

I just finished my listening to the first part in the series about *Adrien English* by Josh Lanyon. Kind of highly "hyped" M/M books as many readers here 'talk' about. This is also books my wise (missed) friend Vio recommended me long ago.

*Five and a half audiobooks hours later:*

**Jeez, Yahoo, Yeah!! - I'm just like a nerdy** out of time, "Thriller" dancing girl (se below). ~ What an 'unusually' wise decision of me to jump on this wonderful *Adrien English* wagon at last. I'm sure this will be a fantastic journey to contiune.

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**The bookseller Adrien English's** best friend has been murdered and Adrien is getting weird phone calls and a lot of odd thing happening. The cops just think he's trying to divert suspicion from himself and Adrien fear he is their murder suspect instead pf a victim.

“That's one of the oldest tricks in the world,  
Adrien-with-an-e.”

Adriens love-life has been poor (simply nothing..) these last years but now are suddenly two attractive men there. A very keen journalist, *Bruce Green*. Bruce is for sure a nice and sweet man and Adrien really try to like him more...but it doesn't feel quite right.

And although Adrien's life just are a big huge mess for the moment, he can't help himself. He just need to look a second to long on that homofobic, scary big, tall **homicide detective Jake Riordan**. Is this cop really a black-leather clad guy who likes dark mysterious kink clubs at night? The plot thickens. ~ As if that wasn't enough is Riordan also 'swoonish' good looking and sexy. ...Of course!!

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#### **More crime than romantic stuff was the rumor!?**

That's a rumor, and a warning to actually listen to. But sh!t the same! My adventure with the '*Adrien English Mystery*' started both fun, chuckling witty and very very promising. I like this style, a kind of old *black & white Film Noir* feeling.

**For a quite long time was I wondering who the 'other' guy**, the future boyfriend or sexbuddy, would be.

‘He was probably selfish in the sack. Probably selfish and greedy and...unsophisticated. And hung like a horse.’

By now I know I probably will like MC #2 as well. ~ I have a soft part in my heart for big seedy macho men. Hunky police officers with drawling voices are perhaps the very best kind. - But is he really a future *larger-than-life hero* who will take Adrien to fabulous (steamy) adventures..., possibly? We'll see.

I'm an very curious and impatient lady-smut-reader and must immediately continue and start to read (or actually listening to) part #2, *A Dangerous Thing* (my review).

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### **The audio book...**

The main character Adrien has surely his own strong narrative voice (this is constantly told in his POV, first person). But it was perhaps after all this excellent and accessible audiobook version that gave me that little extra this time.

**The "voiceover" artist Chris Patton**, the man with the wonderfully raspy glorious audiobook voice (so whacking great and expressive), who has narrated this book made it itself quite amazing. I cross my fingers he will continue to read the rest of the series for me. Please!!

[ I wholeheartedly recommend new readers to LISTEN to this book. Even if you're an hardcore romantic M/M romance book reader and require lots of love, steam and heat in your books, you will hardly be able to resist this. ~ Quickly done, just five and a half hours long. ]

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**There wasn't much romantic love and steam parts** in *Fatal Shadows* but I know I'm gonna love these 'crime' books. - Superb well written, witty and cheeky with that right humorous tone I love.

**I LIKE - Yep ... this is going to be wonderful reading**

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*Just \$6.50 for both the ebook and the audio on Amazon.*

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### **Lenore says**

I'm surprised by how much I liked this. It was slow and it dragged a little and the mystery was a bit sloppy and the villain was meh and Adrien's inner monologue could be irritating—if you let it.

But still, I can't describe how much I loved the writing. I now understand why some people claim they would read the telephone directory if a certain author wrote it. Well, when it comes to m/m crime/mystery/romantic suspense, I'll read whatever Lanyon writes.

And, by the way, Detective Riordan! Oh, Detective Riordan! So little page time, so little dialog, and yet you were easily the most captivating character in the novel. I can't wait to read more about you.

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## Argona says

I'm writing this review after finishing the entire series. I have to say I went back and rated every single book 5 stars. What can I say, this series has officially joined my all time favorites, Adrien and Riordan making it into my most favorite couples. Forever!

These books might not have such complicated mysteries and for some people, they might drag a little, but after finishing the entire series, I don't have the heart to give anything less than 5 stars and I can't exactly rate each book separately since the romantic relationships develops in stages and reaches completion at the end of the series.

I seriously don't understand why I waited so long to read these books! After finishing the series, I tried to immediately start another book from Josh Lanyon, but I simply couldn't bring myself to say goodbye to Adrien and Jake. Book hangover! It's real people!

I ended up rereading the entire series instead. Actually, I reread the parts that my favorite boys are interacting since I already knew the mystery. My main complaint is that I haven't had enough of these two. I seriously want another book. A 6th book! There wasn't nearly enough. I wanted a lot more to happen between Adrien and Riordan! Then again, the suspense, the constant wondering and worrying over their relationship while I was reading this series was very unique and I enjoyed every second of it. No wonder I am addicted!

I really enjoyed this first book. It got me hooked after all. I was patient while reading this book regarding the romance. I was really curious to see how these two connect considering their personalities and how they met each other.

What immediately captivated me was Adrien himself. I love him so much and I really enjoyed reading the story from his eyes. He is smart, stubborn, witty and kind. He is such a beautiful soul. He has a unique sense of humor and the way he deals with everything that life throws his way is simply amazing and moving. Despite being judged by many people during most of his entire life, he judges no one and does not hesitate to lend a helping hand. This world needs human beings like him.

Then there is Jake Riordan. He is an equally captivating character. He is a selfish jerk in certain parts of the series (and he knows that!), but he is the kind of jerk that does things for his loved ones that no other soul is ever willing to do, and that's why his selfish actions can cause serious damage. People we love are the ones we should fear since only they have the ability to hurt us the most. Jake cares for Adrien in a way that no one else can, since he understands Adrien the way no one else does. I love him. I love everything about him and I know some people think he is too selfish and Adrien deserves someone better but I understand why Jake acts the way he does and I can't blame him when I consider his circumstances. Who knows what I might have done in his place? I also understand why everyone else blurs in Adrien's vision when Jake is present. His physical presence is overwhelming and there is a delicious tension when he and Adrien are in the same room. He is a complicated flawed character and I enjoyed rereading the series even more since this time, I actually knew what was going on in his head in each scene. It's amazing how his smallest gestures count!

In my opinion, Jake and Adrien are perfect for each other and I seriously can't get enough of them. They are MADE for each other. The way they switch from flirting to hostility and back again, the way they constantly bicker and get on each others nerves and the way they reveal their deep love for each other with small gestures and words is simply perfect.

The writing is wonderful. I'm officially a Lanyon fan! I plan to read all his books! His supporting characters are also very unique and strong and easy to become fond of and the crime stories are nice enough to captivate the reader.

At the end, the Adrien English series is a must read if you are into m/m novels and I strongly recommend it!

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## **Loederkoningin says**

**2015** After an embarrassing number of rereads, I've decided to up my rating from 3 to 5 stars for the first book, because I can't view this book separately from the rest of this fantastic series anymore anyway. So, there.

### **2013**

Isn't it nice to root for a male lead who is such an adorable cookie? The 32-year-old Adrien runs a little bookshop in LA. Getting his hands on rare detectives makes his heart beat faster (ah, the effect books can have on us book nerds!). Speaking of Adrien's heart; it does tend to over-accelerate whenever he gets into a frenzy, a souvenir from a brush with asthmatic-fever.

And lately, Adrien gets into frenzies a lot...

You see, his high-school friend and employee suddenly gets brutally murdered. Everything seems to point at a hate-crime. And if that isn't terrifying enough, the cops apparently want to frame Adrien for the murder. The fact that he receives roses with threatening cards and creepy phone calls doesn't prove a thing to them. He's probably just another hysterical ho-mo-sex-ual. Worse, Adrien also decides to give dating a shot again after an abstinence of 8 months..

It hardly comes as a surprise that all goes wrong, horribly wrong.

*Fatal Shadows* was such an enjoyable, charming read! I haven't come across this dry sense of humor in a while. In terms of blazing intensity and sizzling hotness, this one doesn't leave much of an impression though. The suspense was entirely by the book as well, meaning that you mustn't expect exciting plot twists or shocking turns of events. In fact, if you're all about well-plotted mysteries, you will probably find this one dull. I usually don't find out who the murderer is until I'm slapped in the face with evidence, but even I immediately picked the culprit.

Oh well, despite the rather forgettable mystery-elements, Lanyon makes sure everything runs smoothly, is quite amusing (book 2 really brings the witty one-liners!) and Adrien's potential love interest seems both promising and deliciously complicated.

*A Dangerous Thing*, here I come!



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## Wendy says

After re-reading this one yet again... I figured it was time to finally write a review for it as well. I also changed my rating. I normally don't do this, but I have re-read and enjoyed this series so many times already that a higher rating is definitely deserved ;)

That said, this first book is my least favorite of this series. This is usually the case for me, when I start a series, because the first book is always more of an "introduction" into the series. The second reason that this is my least favorite, is the lack of romance and steam in this one. I can do without the heavy steam...but I do love my romance...

This is a mystery series though and I am a big sucker for mysteries !!! Also...since I have read every single book in this series already, I can tell you not to worry, because the romance will come....and so will the frustration and angst.

Now about the story...

Adrien (32) is a smart and very witty bookstore owner and writer (he writes crime novels). He is also an amateur sleuth. All in all he is a big geek. I myself absolutely adore Adrien..he is awesome !!

He is also quite sick, he suffers from a heartcondition ever since he has asthmatic-fever when he was young. He suffers many symptoms which get worse when he gets upset or excited..

So when his best friend and employee is murdered, leaving him as a suspect, it does cause a bit of a strain on his already damaged heart. The big blonde cop investigating said murder causes a bigger strain though...

Jake is what you would call a big, sexy, intimidating and homophobic homicide detective. Jake was quite an asshole at times and I would love to say that his jerky behaviour is very fleeting... but it's not. I wanted to punch him in the throat many many times in this series :P

Like I said before...there isn't much of a relationship in this book. Its ends with a very little hint at one though.... For me...this was all I needed to want more !!!

Definitely one of my favorite MM series !!

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## Rosa, really says

Update 4/30/14 - Editing all my reviews of this series in preparation for writing my review of The Dark Tide (YES, I KNOW I TAKE MYSELF WAY TOO SERIOUSLY, THANK YOU - and NO I don't know why I can't write a review without acting like I'm Gustav FUCKING Flaubert). I can't seem to write it 'cause I just don't want this series to be oveeer! \*sob\*

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March 28, 2014

I love the noirishness (hope that's a word) of this novel.

I love that Adrien owns a bookstore. It's total reader porn. I love that his bookstore is in a converted '30s hotel.

I love that Josh Lanyon clearly knows & loves his genre (mystery/crime fiction/romance). It shows in everything he writes.

I love that Adrien criticizes his own fashion sense, then a few scenes later puts on worn Levis & a blue cashmere sweater. Yup...I'm sure you looked like crap, Mr. English.

I love how (view spoiler) Det. Chan asks Adrien to read the novel he's writing. "It's a police procedural," he says. Hilarious.

(view spoiler)

I love when Jake says to Adrien "But you are a homosexual?" Is it just me, or is that luuuurve in the air?

I HATE the fact I loaned this book to someone on Lendle so I can't look up the CORRECT FUCKING QUOTES. (Seriously, though, I'm glad to loan it cause it's so good I need to share!)

I love how Riordan is sex with a badge. However, it's only one book in & I already want to punch him in the larynx for all the hurt he hasn't visited upon Adrien. YET.

I love Adrien and his questionable taste in men.

The only thing I hate at the moment (other than the quote thingy) is typing this review on my FUCKING Kindle. As I type this, it insists that Adrien's name is really Darien or Adrienne. Shut up, Kindle, YOU KNOW NOTHING. No cuddles for you tonight.

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## Simone says

\*\*\*5 Stars for the audiobook\*\*\*

Chris Patton did an amazing job with his narration and reminded me of how much I love Adrien-with-an-e

and what an a\*\*hole Jake was most of the time.

#BooksEvokingStrongEmotionsAreTheBest

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### **Katerina says**

Re-read in October 2018 with Chris Patton. So great. Perfect audio.

Perfect reading pleasure. Great humor. I love Adrien :)

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### **Breann says**

3rd reread, second time in audio.

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Adrien, Adrien, Adrien.

You might not scare yourself to death, but you just might do me in.

This was a reread (or listen) for me, I know Adrien is too curious for his own good but I didn't remember him being so STUPID!

Anyway, I loved this. I just love Adrien to pieces and he's one of my favorite narrators. His POV is just a pleasure to read and I don't know if I'd get tired of it.

During this reread of the series I'm going to try my darndest not to want to impale Jake with a butter knife.

No promises.

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### **Macky says**

The Adrien English series is a must read if you love your m/m. In fact Josh Lanyon should be in your library somewhere. Ok it's more of a slow burner than some but that's what makes it so enjoyable. I love the way these two guys dance around each other all the way through the series. Great underlying murder mystery and I say winner and keeper. Magic!

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## **Anna (Bananas!) says**

Five stars for being effortless and entertaining, slyly funny and utterly charming. This is true comfort reading.

Adrien is our amusing gay antihero, a simple guy who owns a bookstore that specializes in mystery novels. He's also a murder suspect. Policemen Chan and Riordan arrive on page one to question Adrien about the murder of his childhood friend and employee.

The mystery isn't terribly complicated yet it's still engaging. I was never certain of the identity of the killer and once it was revealed I found him/her sympathetic, even till the end. Because killers are just misunderstood, right? They just need a little love.

One thing that struck me as odd was the sudden affection for Adrien that Riordan showed at the end. If I hadn't already been aware of the love story, that fondness would've come out of left field. The two men certainly interacted enough but there wasn't much relationship-building, and I don't know Riordan's character well at this point.

Still, that single "baby" got my heart started. It illustrates the power of every word, every sentence. A short novel like this can have as much sway over a reader as any epic. For a straightforward book, the writing is unique and never boring. I found myself laughing at the random humor every other page and overall enjoying myself.

Fatal Shadows delivered a slow, easy seduction so complete it left me mystified at the end. And ready for more.

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## **Martin says**

O.M.G. The very first Lanyon mystery?

I stayed away from that series for a very long time, even though I've been a huge Lanyon fan for several years, simply because I'm usually too lazy to start a series that consists of so many novels.

Finally giving myself a shove and reading this very early Lanyon, where people still held phone receivers in their hands that were considered modern if they had a caller ID display, I noticed once again what I love about Josh Lanyon's work: A hot but complicated law enforcement character who may or may not be gay and be a love interest to poor Adrien English, who is the lead MC in the novel.

I liked Adrien, although he is the typical gay damsel in distress that we find in so many gay crime mysteries. He's a trust fund baby who bought his own book store simply to give his life a purpose and is hoping to one day make it as a mystery author. Together with a group of friends he discusses books, chapters they wrote and simply bitches about life and love - or lack thereof.

One of these friends is his college mate Robert - a promiscuous gay guy who escaped his marriage and moved to West Hollywood to sleep through many beds while earning his money as Adrien's book shop assistant. Rob is dead, though. Killed in the backyard of his apartment.

The police, especially Detective Riordan and his partner, are not a big help in relieving Adrien's fear that a serial killer might be on the loose. It takes another dead body before Adrien can convince anybody that \*something\* fishy is going on.

I counted up to 5 side characters who 'could' have been the killer and I admit I went for the one who didn't want to work on full moon nights. But he might just have been a satanist or werewolf, so... nice diversion, LOL.

I found Adrien a bit on the weak side, which is natural, given his medical condition, so I hope that the next books will have him react to someone more...challenging (Jake?) to give his boring life the spice it needs, hoping he doesn't have to sleep with every murderer, psychopath or maniac that crosses his path. I'm keeping my fingers crossed for you, pal.

5 stars for this awesome mystery that obviously established one of the most prominent gay characters in m/m fiction.

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