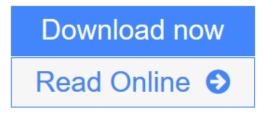


Silver Embers

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Dear Author, "Where you used to be, there is a hole in the world, which I find myself constantly walking around in the daytime, and falling in at night. I miss you like hell." –Edna St. Vincent Millay

I miss him like hell. Our first meeting nearly ended with bloodshed. He was arrogant and cold and so infuriatingly self-righteous that I damned him a thousand times for the power he held over me. I didn't want to trust him, didn't want to need him, and certainly never thought I might grow to love him. Now, I miss him so badly I can hardly bear it.

Photo Description:

A man lies on his back, sun streaming onto his burnished skin and through his curly brown hair. He looks like he should be comfortable in his red toga and on his soft white sheet. Yet the man reaches beside him, the heartbreak almost palpable around him.

This story was written as a part of the M/M Romance Group's "**Love's Landscapes**" 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.

This story may contain sexually explicit content and is **intended for adult readers**. It may contain content that is disagreeable or distressing to some readers. The M/M Romance Group strongly recommends that each reader review the General Information section before each story for story tags as well as for content warnings.

Silver Embers Details

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From Reader Review Silver Embers for online ebook

Neyjour says

This one was a DNF for me. So disappointing, because in the beginning I thought it was going to be one of the better offerings from the Love's Landscapes event.

I loved the setting, which was a very intriguing blend of science-fantasy. The story is told from Reynard's PoV, in a storytelling/flashback style that put me in mind of The Princess Bride. I'm normally not too keen on flashbacks, but I found I enjoyed the way this was done very much. I also love a good enemies-to-lovers story, and these two characters were setting off some major sparks at the start. The bickering and sniping and sexual tension were wonderfully done, and I was loving the hell out of it all. And then the story just choked and died...

They're suddenly bound together (if you blink, you'll miss it), and it's done in a way that felt so incredibly lazy and contrived. Then a little bit later comes the first, brief sex scene, which just left me feeling... meh. After all the insults Reynard had endured from Sebastian, he's suddenly happy-happy gung-ho to jump in the sack with this man? And Sebastian obviously has some serious issues with Elementals. Not to mention, we already got a hint previously that he's had a bad sexual experience with one before, and yet he just passively rolls over and begs for sex? That whole scene just felt so... off, and completely out of character.

And then the scene the next morning was even worse. They both very casually and off-handedly agree that the sex was "pretty good" and oh hey, we should do that again.

Errr... no thanks. At that point, my interest in the relationship between these two instantly evaporated and I had to call it quits. :(

Gina says

OMG OMG!! Another fab story from Love's Landscapes!! This one has magic, fantasy, enemies to lovers, cool action and romance of course! Oh YES!!

Alexis Woods says

This was almost a DNF for me. I found the setting very strange...some sort of mix of futuristic, sci-fi, apocolyptic paranormal. Like steam-punk and Rome mixed together and then turned upside down. The use of modern American English felt out of context, and the choppy and demeaning dialogue left much to be desired. I barely was able to puzzle out the action, the twists and turns more annoying then jaw-dropping. A HFN ending and a scratching of my head at this very bizarre tale.

K says

a nudge over 3 stars

Interesting Sci-fi story with a hint of the fantasy about it as well. Reynard is a fire elemental, and member of the ruling family. When he attacks a rogue sorcerer who is being tracked by Sebastian, a necromancer, he is stripped of his powers. The story is told by Reynard in a mix of current time and the events of the previous month, which does get a little confusing at times. There were some really good concepts to this story which was fun to read.

Serena Yates says

This story is set in a world that feels like fantasy for the longest time, magic included, until a twist reveals it to be crossing over into science fiction land. The world building is great, and the characters are interesting - especially the two main characters. They start off hating each other, and being amusingly vocal about it, until they learn more about who they each are. In terms of style, it is close to an action/adventure with a dash of quest thrown in for good measure.

If you're looking for an unusual story that feels like fantasy yet has a scientific background, then you will probably like this free short story.

TS says

I think the concept is interesting but poorly executed. The story he writes is not for his sister but for an unknown reader. The author could have gone with a diary like story instead of a letter. That would at least explain why he would put such detailed sex scenes in it (honestly, who would write that for their sister to read!?).

Serena says

While this book did have a few redeeming qualities, due to a lack of editorial contribution I would not recommend.

My Rating System:

* couldn't finish, ** wouldn't recommend, *** would recommend, **** would read again, **** have read again.

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

Wow, I don't know why I keep being surprised by all the great stories coming out of the LL/LHNB/HSD etc

events.

It has gotten to be the best way for me to discover genres and authors that I love. (my obsession with m/m/m actually started because of one of the m/m group picture prompt stories)

This AU magic and mage infused story, mixed with technology and sci-fi, deceit and secrets, adventure and love was so much fun to read.

Reynard isn't really a moron, alas he is sort of treated like one, but affectionately by his family and friends. He is bound to Sebastian since, well shit happened and he needs his help.

Along the way they go from despising each other to... not despising each other.

It has a bit of insta-everything, but it totally worked for me here, and even though it was a nice longer story, I'd really love more.

DC says

Overall I enjoyed this book although it was one of the strangest. Sort of wild wild west meets 20th century meets Star Trek. Magic mixed with old technology, cities with high crime rates, flying cars (travel pods) and a bizarre cast of characters. Reynard comes across as a petulant child most of the time yet he and his antagonist, Sebastian, manage to fall in love. Yet Sebastian had been married to Reynard's friend Cathal and the disposition of that marriage was never explained. Soline, Reynard's older sister and ruler of their people, has a husband who is referred to throughout the entire story as "her husband" and is never given a name. If you removed the sex scenes, this could have been a childrens' story. Nothing really memorable but still entertaining for a quick read barely earns it three stars.

Jeanne 'Divinae' says

Okay, seriously can't remember the narrator's name(I am horrible with names). He is the brother of the leader of his city. He is a fire elemental, whose powers are stolen from a crazy mage named Jarcat. Sebastian has been trying to capture Jarcat for a while now. Sebastian is a necromancer. Even at their first meeting, Sebastian has been grumpy and a jerk towards our other main character. He finds out much later on, why.

The story involves a great adventure with some romance building between them. They chase Jarcat to try to get his powers back. Overall, I think it was a fun read and enjoyed the ending.

Sandra says

Offered for FREE from the M/M Romance Group's Love's Landscapes event. Thank you too all the amazing authors who participated!

Verity says

Review to come

Dawn Sister says

A great adventure with great characters. I'd like to know more about this world. I'm sure there's more to tell of Reynard and Sebastian's story but there are surely more tales to tell about the ancients. I am disappointed we never got to see Jarcat's fate. And were the ancients all slaughtered? And what potential does Sebastian have if he uses the elemental's powers?

There are some unanswered questions here that need a sequel I think.

Ameena says

this story to me was an okay, I don't have love or hate relationship with it, it started interesting but then it got too long and slow that I was slightly bored with it, I didn't enjoy it that much but the writing was good, so overall well done and thanks to the author for the effort and I wish I enjoyed it more.

Linda ~ chock full of hoot, just a little bit of nanny ~ says

DNF at 12%

Ugh.

If you're in that big a hurry to find out why your brother is a sniveling mess, because there's life-threatening stuff going on not because you're simply curious, telling him to write it down - long hand - and you'll read along is the least productive and expedient way of going about it. Especially when he starts rambling on about things all the characters in that room already know about. I can't suspend my disbelief enough for that.

This enemy-to-lovers fantasy is more like school children taunting each other in the schoolyard, and given the social status of one of them (the brother of a lord) it's even more off putting. They're just slinging insults at each other based purely on rumor and stereotypes. We get such lovely dialogue as this:

"So, the Order sent you down to help us out? They weren't able to send somebody who isn't an asshole?"

"Besides that, I have nothing more to say to a member, let alone an aristocrat, of a race of untrustworthy, slutty and barbaric creatures such as yourself."

Um, would those be the same untrustworthy, slutty and barbaric creatures who you are working for? Really, dude?

The writing is as juvenile as the characters, with odd word choices and bad punctuation, and for a fantasy

this read more like a contemporary featuring a couple of tweens trolling each other on Facebook.