



The Dark Tide

Josh Lanyon

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As if recovering from heart surgery beneath the gaze of his over-protective family wasn't exasperating enough, someone keeps trying to break into Adrien English's bookstore. What is this determined midnight intruder searching for?

When a half-century old skeleton tumbles out of the wall in the midst of the Cloak and Dagger Bookstore renovation, Adrien turns to hot and handsome ex-lover Jake Riordan -- now out-of-the closet and working as a private detective.

Jake is only too happy to have reason to stay in close contact with Adrien, but there are more surprises in Adrien's past than either of them expects -- and one of those surprises may prove hazardous to Jake's own heart.

The Dark Tide Details

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From Reader Review *The Dark Tide* for online ebook

Shile says

Baby, you win

There are so many great reviews, nothing more to add and since I am too tired to write a proper one. I believe this will do:

5++++ for the Audiobook

3.5 stars for the story

I liked this one but didn't love it as much as i loved the previous books. I felt there was something missing.

- Adrien is one of my favorite character ever. He is forever in my heart.

- The writing was flawless as always.

“He smelled like soap and sleep and bare skin. He smelled familiar. Not the déjà vu familiar of Guy or Mel. Familiar like...the ache in your chest of homesickness, of longing for harbor after weeks of rough seas or craving a fire's warmth after snow—or wanting back something you should never have given away.”

-Jake redeemed himself, but for some unknown reasons it did not make me love him, I liked him a tiny bit but he is still on my shit-list.

-The steam level was a major letdown.

- I found the mystery part boring.

- We have a cat and a dog. That made me happy.

Overall it was an enjoyable read.

Lena♥Ribka says

If I have to judge only the mystery part, then I'd say that the last book of the Adrien English Mystery *The Dark Tide* was the best.

But it was different.

And our two guys, Adrien and Jake, that I have taken into my heart, were different, they have changed

comparing to the other books.

We were shown totally new sides of their characters.

One can argue if it was favourably for the both MCs but it was for sure a benefit for the romance between the two.

I experience different inconsistent emotions after finishing *The Dark Tide*.

I am SAD!

I have to say GOODBYE to Adrien and Jake and hope that they will be happy together in the old big house of Lisa, with a cat and a dog and a pool and...maybe a new criminal puzzle?

And I am HAPPY.

HAPPY that they find each other once again, that they had their first time together with no secrets and no restriction.

And I am satisfied.

That Josh Lanyon didn't turn this wonderful mystery series into the long soap-opera with everlasting misunderstandings and endless inner conflicts.

Well, if it can't get any better, you should stop.

So... it was a perfect timing to stop.

And I'm excited.

Because I developed my new favourite author, Josh Lanyon.

With Adrien English Mystery he has deserved a personal shelf on my TBR! And there are so many books that are waiting for me!!!

Not only for MM readers, not only for mystery fans
highly recommended.

Lenore says

This review contains spoilers

I'm not happy, Mr Lanyon. Not happy at all.

I know I was angry at Jake in the previous two installments but you made me angry at Adrien in this one. What was that behaviour about? At some point I seriously thought you were going to use his heart surgery as a plot device to make him have a "change of heart." Seriously.

And what exactly was Mel, the self-centered, heartless (pun not intended) ex, doing appearing in this book?

Tsk tsk tsk. I thought you weren't one of those authors, Mr Lanyon. Such tricks should be beneath you.

As for Guy, he was like an ornamental plant in this book. I didn't like him in previous installments but I felt sorry for him in this one. I really tried not to picture him like some athletic grandpa but I wasn't very successful I must admit. And I also admit I gigglesnorted when Jake called him Gandalf. I'm gigglesnorting again as I type this.

Jake. My dear Jake. He was ostensibly going through so much in so little time, he was practically forced to come out (I know he said he didn't do it for Adrien but it didn't seem like that to me) and, on top of that, he had to deal with Adrien's juvenile behaviour. Adrien could have said he needed time. I know he put up with Jake's douchebaggery for very long, but he could have afforded Jake some time after what they both had gone through on that yacht. Instead, he turned into an inconsiderate juvenile and I got the impression he was yanking Jake's chain, having him jumping through hoops, until one day, just like that and because of a phone conversation with a stranger, he had this epiphany and off he took for Jake's place to throw himself into Jake's arms. Just like that. Meh. Very anticlimactic.

Also, why did that poor woman, Kate, had to meet Adrien under those circumstances? Can you imagine what she thought, how she felt as she left that house, cardboard box in hand? Not good. Not good at all.

So, yes. This last book is my least favourite in the series. And it's a little frustrating because, judging by the previous Adrien English books and by your other work I've read, I'm positive you could have worked wonders with this one, too, Mr Lanyon. Pity.

Trio says

Re-read with the JL group on GR December 11, 2017

my original review: <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

As I finish up this re-listen of The Dark Tide I'm enjoying it more this time around, I'm less mad at Jake all the way through... Chris Patton is absolutely incredible though (esp as Jake).

Adrien and Jake, what a perfect romance - just the right amount of passion, angst, betrayal, misunderstandings and love.

Wendy says

I can honestly say that I am very happy with how this last book turned out.

I really needed Jake to bring his A game and start so some major groveling and in my opinion ...he did. I never expected him to win me over again...but again...he did.

This time it's Adrien's turn to act all wishy washy, but I myself did not care one bit. He has been through the wringer...he deserved to conflicted and confused about what he wanted.

What I wasn't a real big fan of, was Mel showing up out of the blue. This too me seemed a bit too much.

In the end things turned out exactly the way I wanted them, I got my closure which I am very very happy with.

I can honestly say that this has turned out to be one of my favorite mm series and I am sure I will be re-reading these books over and over again.

Jenni Lea says

Series review

What a ride that was! I have to tell you, I did not expect to love this series as much as I did. I'm not a big mystery fan and I think that was why I put off reading this series (and Josh Lanyon) as long as I did. But let me just say this: I'm so glad I finally gave in and tried it.

Josh Lanyon has an amazing ability to create characters that are so believable; so fleshed out that you feel as if you know them personally. They are so complex and alive. These characters are nowhere near perfect, which makes them that much more real.

Adrien held my heart throughout all five books. He's quirky and funny and so brave. He's also stubborn and snarky and annoying. And he can sometimes be a big ole pain in the butt. And I loved him all the more because of it even though some of the stunts he pulled and the decisions he made had me wanting to give him a good, swift kick in the rear end.

Now Jake. Jake is... well... How should I put this? I didn't really like Jake in the first book but I didn't really know him all that well either. In the second book I got to know him a lot better and I grew fond of him. Then I read book three and I HATED him with the fire of a thousand suns! I didn't feel that he was in any way redeemable. Book four wasn't much better but by the end of it he was starting to grow on me again. But with this last book I really got to know him and you know what? He's still gruff. He still has issues. He's not perfect and never will be. But I ADORE him. I adore him for his patience and his honesty and his caring and his love. I read on someone's review "no one says Baby quite like Jake". Yeah, so true.

All of the plots in each of these stories flowed well and seamlessly into each other. I discovered no plot holes or inconsistencies. The writing was smart and beautiful. The secondary characters were as well fleshed out as the MC's. My eyes did gloss over a bit with all the classic movie and music references but hey, they're just not my cuppa. No big deal. They didn't hurt the storyline in the least.

And that one scene after Adrien finally pulls his head out of his ass? Guh! It was breathtaking! It was perfect in every way. I was irrevocably smitten by the time I finished reading it.

I had the best time reading this series and I will definitely be checking out all of Mr. Lanyon's other works very, very soon. I also had a blast with my status updates and I thank each and every one of my Goodreads friends for putting up with them and me while I spewed my thoughts and emotions onto you. ♥

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

Gif-y review with the help of my boyfriend, Chris Martin, beginning in...

3...

2...

1...

Thanks for that intro, Chris, that was spot on. The final edition of the series was a Jake sap-fest... and I, for one, needed that. No, Jake was *NOT* back in my good graces after book 4 and I needed him to suffer a bit, to put his feelings out in the open and on the line. **I'm evil, I know** I wanted Jake to show some emotion and I got that in this story.

Lots of people were annoyed with Adrien's waffling but I loved that he had Jake by the balls in this book. I think Jake needed to sweat it out and get the barest hint of what he put Adrien through during the previous years. Adrien had to sort out all of his feelings of abandonment, deception, and betrayal before he could move on with Jake, and I liked that this storyline allowed him to work out his emotions.

True that.

And DAMN the path to this resolution was hard. I felt like I went on a long, exhausting journey with these two men and that isn't even counting all the sickness and murder (*though I couldn't give two craps about the mystery in this book... just couldn't bring myself to care*). Jake and Adrien's relationship was painful for me to read at times, and I wanted to punch Jake in the nads often, but I'll begrudgingly say that I'm happy that they found their way back to each other.

Good luck with that boys...

Oh, and a final note about the narration. Please, all of you audiobook lovers, please get this series on audiobook. It is worth all of the money, all of the time. It is simply phenomenal. The range of distinct voices and the breadth of the emotion in Chris Patton's performance was astounding. I truly think that listening to the audiobook is what allowed me to continue with this series when I was ready to throw in the towel at times.

Au revoir, Adrien and Jake. May you find happiness and fewer dead bodies in your future.

Vio says

When I have collected my thoughts I will attempt to review, that's if I can do it justice. It seriously deserves one even if I have to suffer trying to write it. This has been one of the best series I have ever read. You get the best of both worlds. Fantastic writing, good mystery, killer romance and the wonderful frustrating Adrien English. A sorrowful brilliant character who is adored, loved and worshiped. Gorgeous and truly loved.

Deeze says

Noooooooooooooo its finished

You know a book or series is really good when you read the last page and feel both happy and sad at the same time.

The final book was as well done as the rest Mystery wise. The 50 year old murder and all the suspects kept me intrigued and interested.

Lisa is one of the few female characters I adore, and surprisingly even Natalie did not annoy me. I could be wrong but I even thought there might be a little something about to go on between her and Angus lol.

But the romance between Jake and Adrien is what I really read for. Their chemistry is hard to explain, but Jake stole my heart completely in this book.

This really is not much of a review, but if you are looking for a set of books that's more plot than endless sex, books with love not just lust, and books with interesting characters that have a purpose in the story and not just added as fillers then this might just be the kinda books you are looking for.

The ending seems to be missing an Epilogue to me, but that's probably because I'm the sort of person that likes things spelt out. Maybe I'll get what I'm looking for in the Interviews lol.

ETA While re reading this series I started to doubt my previous feelings for Jake. This book is all the reason I need to stand by my original feelings

all the way

Ms. Smartarse says

[January 2018 reread] Heavily disappointed by *Death in a Difficult Position*, a book written under the author's real(?) name, I was in despair. Did I reach my fill of M/M romances as well?! Even with Josh Lanyon, whose writing style can do no wrong?! I am in complete denial about *The Curse of the Blue Scarab*, by the way. But I digress...

The Dark Tide begins right after Adrien's escape from the family home. For those of you looking for the ninja-like crawling, along with the sliding beneath the laser beams, remember that Adrien's still recovering from open-heart surgery. An event he's been hoping to deflect for most of his adult life, but more specifically for the readers, since the beginning of the series.

Everyone's favorite detective, Jake Riordan, has been... turning his life around. He quit the police force, came out to his family, got divorced, and set up a P.I. business... but things are not looking up for him. All in, moving seems like a much more viable option. Unless, there's a certain someone who'd *want* him to staaaay...?

Adrien is undecided. He *should* really let Jake go... which is why the very *minute* there is a suspicious break in at the bookstore, he asks for Riordan's help. And true to his reputation of a knight-in-shining-armor, Jake races to Adrien's side... ***reviewer sloooowly slides to the floor in a puddle***

Objectively speaking, the mystery is not that interesting. Heck even *Jake* has his doubts about it after a while, even though *he's* paid to care about it.

But, you know... after the 6th-7th(?) reread, it's not the 50s-era murder that keeps bringing me back to this book. It's Jake who finally *says* things, and my thumping heart that gets synchronized with Adrien's... as a direct result. And *I'm not* recovering after surgery.

Cryptically, she added, "But there's no question Jake Riordan is mad about you."

I blinked. "There... isn't?"

"Although I suppose it's beside the point."

"It is?"

"Of course."

Was I drunk on one glass of wine?

... and of course, the humorous parts are still as funny as hell.

“How are you?”

Pretty civil given the fact that I hadn't spoken to him for nearly two weeks and was choosing three in the morning to reopen the lines of communication.

“It's kind of a long story,” I said vaguely. “[The cat] got mauled by a dog. I'm not keeping him, though. He's only staying here until he's healed. After that he goes back to the alley.”

“Uh-huh. Did you name him?”

“Tomkins. John Tomkins.” I felt it necessary to explain. “I had to name him for the vet. He was a pirate.”

“Only you would have a pirate for a vet.”

Score: 3.8/5 stars

I had initially rated it 3 stars, but given that after the 6th-7th(?) reread it can still wake all the butterflies in my stomach, AND have me laugh out loud on occasion, the book deserves an additional star.

...about my initial question? No! I am DEFINITELY not yet over M/M romance or Josh Lanyon. PHEW!

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review of book 1: Fatal Shadows

review of book 2: A Dangerous Thing

review of book 3: The Hell You Say

review of book 4: Death of a Pirate King

review of book 5.5: So This is Christmas

review of Stranger Things Have Happened: An Adrien English Write Your Own Damn Story

Baba says

Review completed January 31, 2013

He smelled like soap and sleep and bare skin. He smelled familiar. Not the déjà-vu familiar of Guy or Mel. Familiar like...the ache in your chest of homesickness, of longing for harbor after weeks of rough seas or craving a fire's warmth after snow—or wanting back something you should never have given away.

Adrien was sleeping on his sofa when he heard a faint but persistent scratching. Someone tried to break into his bookstore *Cloak and Dagger*. Even though he is calling nine-one-one they put him on hold at three in the morning. That's why he is calling Jake for help and his former lover comes to his rescue immediately. Jake who had hidden his homosexuality from his fellow cops as well as his family and friends for nearly twenty years is not in the closet anymore. He resigned from LAPD, came out to his family and (view spoiler) Now he is working as a PI.

“Don't take this the wrong way. I didn't come out for you. I came out because I had compromised everything that I believed in, everything that was important to me. You were

part of that, sure, but it wasn't just about you."

Bookshop owner, part-time writer and amateur sleuth, Adrien English, is recovering from open heart surgery. Also, he has to go through cardiac rehab sessions. There is a huge team that takes care of him which included his cardiologist, physical therapist, exercise therapist, dietitian, and a shrink. Though Adrien didn't really care for any part of his cardiac rehab. As it was, he didn't appreciate it that everyone scrutinized him so closely—his recovery was almost unbearable. To top everything off, he hated Dr. Shearing's poking and probing into his emotional state. And even though he knew that he would probably outlive his mother, that he would really be more than all right again, he can't seem to feel anything right now. He can't seem to be happy. And he doesn't want anyone in his life right now. Adrien feels exhausted--physically and emotionally drained. He has no energy or motivation at all. And the break-in felt like way more than he could handle.

"I don't know what's wrong with me."

I know what's wrong with you, Adrien. You can deny it all you want but I think you are depressed.

A construction crew is renovating Adrien's bookstore *Cloak and Dagger*. They make a gruesome find when they discover a very old skeleton that has been hidden in the floorboard of Adrien's attic. Adrien's place was built back in the 1930s. Originally it was a hotel called the Huntsman's Lodge. Back in the 50s a murder took place in this hotel. In fact, it's the skeleton of Jay Stevens, a part-time musician and full-time hustler. He has been murdered in 1959.

Bodies under floorboards would not be good for business. Not even at a mystery bookstore.

After another break-in Adrien hires Jake to investigate the murder case as well as the break-ins because his physical condition doesn't allow him to track down leads in this very cold case.

"Believe it or not, once upon a time I did actually solve a number of police cases without your help."

Adrien and Jake have come a long way. Their road was bumpy and difficult and yet with enough persistence they could achieve their goal. You can't help but cheer them on and they truly deserved their HEA. While Jake gradually redeemed himself in *Death of a Pirate King*, he more than makes up for his past behavior in *The Dark Tide*.

„I can't promise that I'll never hurt you again. I never deliberately hurt you. I wouldn't deliberately hurt you. But..."

“Yes,” I clipped out, “I know. Hurt happens.”
I heard that long weary exhalation. “It does. That’s life. It’s the good and the bad, the ugly and the beautiful, the wins and the losses. I never thought you’d be too afraid to try. I thought you were stronger than that.”
I hoped to hell they’d never used him in trying to talk potential suicides down from ledges.

“(…) I can’t promise you”—I stopped, tried again—“that I can let go of everything that happened between us. As much as I want to. As much as I feel like I should. You’ve called it right. I am angry, and I guess I am hurt. I want to trust you...but I don’t even trust myself anymore. All I know.” I had to stop again. I took a deep breath steadied my voice. “All I know is, I can’t ...face you leaving right now.”

In *The Dark Tide* the emotional struggles go on, mainly because Adrien is afraid to get hurt again. Also, I felt that he wasn’t quite sure what he wanted. Plus, the reappearance of Guy and Mel did not make me any happier either. Ugh. *pulls hair* Now and then I was so ready to yell at him “Adrien, make up your mind already. ~~He is~~ It’s in front of your nose—so take ~~him~~ it or leave ~~him~~ it!” With that said, he realized that it was not about Jake—or at least it wasn’t just about Jake. Most of the problem was Adrien himself. His inability to trust Jake as well as his inability to accept that he might get hurt again.

You know what it is? It’s a dark tide sweeping in and pulling you out into the deep. Way out. And you go with it even when you know the end will be your destruction, because you’re too afraid not to. You’ll trade your soul for one day, one hour, one minute more of safety. It’s why people do the things they do—that dark tide dragging them along like an undertow.
(…)
I thought how Jake had swum in that dark tide for most of his life, and yet somehow kept from going under.

Yes, Adrien, you have to ask yourself why you wouldn’t trust Jake...

Jake needed and wanted Adrien to forgive him. And he wanted another chance to make things right. Even though he never voiced the important three words in the previous books, it was obvious that Jake was in love with Adrien. There was nothing he wouldn’t do for him. In fact, Jake was very understanding and he supported Adrien unconditionally in *The Dark Tide*. He took care of him after his surgery and he respected Adrien’s wish for breathing room when he needed to rethink their situation, when Adrien wasn’t sure how he wanted to go on with their relationship. I loved this “new” Jake—a rather relaxed, quiet, sweet, tender, and caring man.

“I cried. And then I begged. You’re damn right I begged. I promised—not that I had anything worth promising—but I was willing to give anything for you to be able to walk away from that.” His smile was the rare one, the wide and unguarded one. “And you did.”

Jake whispering against my face, "I missed you."

Let's face it, I had to bear a lot—emotionally speaking--while reading this series. However, in the end it was so worthy of all my anger, pain, frustration, and exasperation. They've come full circle. *Baba beams*

„You were the first in every way that counted. You were the first guy I ever kissed.” He smiled faintly, unreadably. “Come to think of it, you were the first guy I had sex with in a bed.”

I know I sound like a broken record but Lanyon's writing is excellent. With *The Dark Tide* Lanyon provides another solid and engaging mystery. Adrien's overbearing, overprotective and ever-present mother Lisa, his stepsister Emma as well as a horse, an alley cat and a puppy crank up the entertaining factor perceptibly. Plus, I think that Lanyon did a fine job portraying a recovering heart patient. Adrien is tired, physically and emotionally drained and unmotivated, and yet there is always room for his snarky and deadpan humor which made me smile time and again.

“What?”

“You just seem...different.”

“I am different. I’m an imposter. I killed Adrien two years ago and buried him under the floorboards. My real name is Avery Oxford.”

He seemed to think that was unreasonably funny. When he stopped guffawing, he said, “You seem the same but...older.”

“Uh-huh. I hope you’re not counting on a pay raise anytime soon.”

“Not old. Older. Or more...”

“Wiser? Mature? Worldly?”

He was grinning. Yeah. All of the above.”

“(...) My father was an original.”

I couldn't help remarking, “So were Vlad the Impaler and Adolf Hitler.”

“Don't be bourgeois, darling.” Lisa gave me a chiding look. (...)

The Dark Tide is an excellent end to a great series. Granted, I wasn't swooning over the too weak first book, however, I thoroughly enjoyed the sequels and I loved book 4 & 5. If you haven't read anything by Josh

Lanyon then I recommend you to give this series a try because it's definitely worth reading. As a matter of fact, I'm sad that I'm done with it, and I will miss Adrien and Jake greatly.

„I love you,“ Jake whispered. “Are you strong enough for this?”

My ranking:

- 1) Death of a Pirate King
 - 2) The Dark Tide
 - 3) The Hell You Say
 - 4) A Dangerous Thing
 - 5) Fatal Shadows
-

Martin says

Adrien English is by far one of the very best m/m series I have ever read!

In the romance category, it might take some getting used to, though. While other series about two guys concentrate on finding each other and building a life together, Adrien and Jake are struggling until the very end before they manage to even *be* in a relationship.

In this last book, construction works reveal a skeleton hidden away under the floor of Adrien's Cloak and Dagger bookstore building (a former hotel). The dead guy - a case as cold as a cold case gets - was a musician from the 1950s who vanished and -obviously- ended up dead in Adrien's floor.

Curious as always, not even recovering from surgery is preventing Adrien from taking a 'private' interest in the case of 'his' dead body.

Jake, who finally came to his senses and turned into one of my favorite characters (EVER!!!) is helping Adrien with his investigation, taking care of *his* guy even though Adrien constantly pushes him away, afraid that Jake might hurt him again, like he did in the past.

But Jake needs the money after his (view spoiler), trying to set foot in the PI business and with Adrien being his first and only client, he is determined to help his former/sometimes/who-knows-when(!!) lover find out why the poor musician ended up as a bag of bones under Adrien's floor boards.

This story was exactly what I hoped it would be and more!!

While the previous books focused on cases that happened 'in real time', 'Dark Tide' has Adrien and Jake investigate a case that goes back 50 years, making this book especially interesting to me. I absolutely love Agatha Christie's novels set in the 1960s where the investigator needs to deal with something that happened decades earlier during the war. I got a similar vibe from this book. There's something intriguing about trying to find clues that go back that many years. It's like a treasure hunt. And a 'Treasure Hunt' it was for Adrien and Jake. I found the plot absolutely wonderful.

But let's be honest. I'm long past the point where I'm reading this series for the mystery side. I was

BEGGING for any scene where Adrien and Jake are on page together and I was DESPISING every scene where one of Adrien's other 'love interests' (the poor souls who have to live in Adrien's on/off relationship limbus) comes too close to him (*'Don't choke on that cat hair, Guy!'*).

Even though I'm usually holding grudges against MCs who disappointed me, I totally forgive Jake for everything he did in the last few books. He proved to be a reliable caring person, who not only gave up everything to save Adrien in the last book, he also proves to be the ONLY guy Adrien allows to get close, emotionally - and Adrien doesn't even seem to realize it.

Adrien's exes on the other hand...

Mel's only bonus point is his past as Adrien's ex-long-term-boyfriend (well... good riddance to him and his antacids).

And Guy? Well, Guy brings home Thai take out. I can't really find anything else likable about him... Things I dislike about him, I could name plenty!

So with that set of ex-lovers, Adrien might as well just take a chance with Jake, LOL.

For some reason that I cannot even identify, Jake is the most amazing character. I found myself glued to his lips, giggling like a crazy teenager about the things he says. He's funny, sweet, caring. He manages to deliver a line with an even look on his face, then revealing his joke with a crooked smile, enjoying how he manages to rile up Adrien.

"Would you, er, mind if we found a hotel tonight? I'll pay, obviously."

He put both hands on his hips and glared at me. "You think it's just about the money, do you? What about my time? You realize I'll have to cancel my date for tonight?"

"Your... date?" I regret to say that my shock at the idea was only too obvious, and that was pretty stupid too, because why the hell *wouldn't* Jake have a date? Wasn't I the one who predicted it'd be all wine, women and -- well, wine and song with him for the next decade or so?

So why was I stricken at this unsurprising news?

I blinked at him. He stared right back at me, tough and unsmiling, and then a tiny, malicious smile touched his mouth. "Gotcha," he said.

He's adorable. He's everything Adrien wanted him to be back in book 2, where Jake was still an uptight closet case who only came around in the darkness of the night when he found himself in Adrien's arms. But yeah, he hurt Adrien terribly and I understand how Adrien cannot just forget everything that happened before, especially what went down in 'Pirate King'.

Still, I should mention that this is the book where Jake FINALLY explains himself and you can decide for yourself whether you trust him or not after hearing what he has to say.

I'm not too happy about some of it, but I understand him and for the sake of romance I am willing to believe that he is now a faithful guy who will make a reliable and loving out-and-proud partner for Adrien.

Would I trust a guy like him in real life? Probably not. (view spoiler)

I totally understand Adrien's fears, but personally I forgive Jake. And just thinking about him in those tight black briefs in the Sea View Hotel room has me go weak in the knees... I think I'd forgive him *anything* at that point, LOL.

But I admit, the BIG difference between Jake and similar characters (like (view spoiler)) is the fact that (view spoiler)

Man, I have loved every single Lanyon I've read so far, but I had NO IDEA the Adrien English series was THIS outstanding among her work.

Her grasp on the characters is absolutely amazing and the side characters are simply awesome (Natalie is one of the best female side characters in the series). I also loved Adrien's mom Lisa who might be a pretentious bitch sometimes, but she does worry about Adrien and I think her fears for his health and well-being are absolutely genuine. I loved how she tries to include his boyfriends in any family event she is planning. Especially in the last book, Lisa moved me deeply when she explained to Adrien why he always called her 'Lisa' instead of 'mom', even as a child.

I even admired Adrien's newest shop assistant (God, that temp agency must have a 'special forces' staff in store for hardcore clients like Adrien): Naomi Pepper - who was the literary incarnation of Mel Brook's insanely funny character 'Nurse Diesel' from 'High Anxiety' or perhaps even 'Mrs Danvers' from 'Rebecca' *shudders*.

I can't say I'm too fond of Mel or Guy, but they did a great job at riling me up, I'll give them that.

God, I'm head over heels in love with those characters. Oh, I must NOT forget to mention that this series (or rather: Adrien) is insaleny funny and witty. Lots of amazing pop culture references, AWESOME music and simply a cute sense of sarcastic humor made this series a 100% success for me.

My thoughts about the whole series, which I consider among the VERY best in m/m fiction:

Book 1 Fatal Shadows: Was clearly the weakest book for me (though still a 5 star!!). The mystery part was intense, but the romance was depressing aka non-existent and homophobic cop Riordan turning out to be the love interest caught me by surprise...

Book 2 A Dangerous Thing: Was much better. Lots of powerful scenes in a fresh countryside setting, a plot worthy of an AC Doyle classic. Jake turned into a very interesting guy, although I was surprised an out gay man like Adrien was willing to put up with him. Usually rule no. 1 for gay guys: Stay away from the closeted wannabe straight dude!!

But again, Jake came to the rescue when Adrien needed him. And he was a hot and passionate cop, so Adrien is forgiven ;-)

Book 3 The Hell You Say: The scariest of all. A Satanic cult is out to kill people and Adrien finds himself right in the middle. The plot reminded me a bit of a HP Lovecraft setting with some Scientology elements thrown in. Jake deeply disappoints me here. I could have torn him to pieces...

Book 4 Death of a Pirate King: By FAR the best book in the series. I found out how much I am able to hate a character, only to turn around and fall in love with him. This one is THE ultimate Jake book. It's among my top 3 all time favorites!

Book 5 The Dark Tide: I didn't really like Adrien treating Jake like an outcast here, but Jake totally redeemed himself with this book. Sign me up for the Jake fanclub!!!

5 stars to this awesome final book in the series!

5 stars to one of the best m/m series I've ever read!

I am so going to miss these guys. I'm actually considering getting all audiobooks and listening to them all over again.

Simply outstanding! If you like m/m, this is so gonna make your year!!

Adrien <3 Jake

Loederkoningin says

Did I mention that I'm a sucker for scars? But an open heart surgery scar, like Adrien's, that's A LOT OF SCAR. Especially when it's still fresh, bloody and zipper-y. I just discovered that Skeet Ulrich had open heart surgery when he was 10 years old though.

And it hardly shows anymore, don't you think? So Adrien will be just fine in the end..

...it's your loss Mel, whuahaha...you stupid fuck.

Spoilery!

Now that Adrien's ex-lover, who shouldn't have been in the picture in the first place, is out of the way, there's still Guy to deal with. Granted, he did a terrific job at bringing in take away Thai food, but other than that he's... *"Good for Gandalf, I'm sure he only did it to keep you from doing it yourself."*

Wooo, looks like Jake already took care of him!

I should get to the point! The point being, in *The Dark Tide* Jake is finally zigging, but - what the heck - Adrien is zagging! When the skeleton of a murder victim is discovered during the renovation of his bookshop, Adrien grabs the opportunity to act out his favorite hobby again: playing an amateur sleuth. He also uses the cold case as an excuse to hire Jake, now a private detective.

The mystery really was less interesting in this final installment. Tracking down the murderer of a crime that happened half a century ago just doesn't have the same sense of urgency. More importantly, my heart broke so many times over the last few books, that I craved some super sweet super glue in *The Dark Tide* to fix it. Instead I got so much mystery I didn't really care for... Eventually though, Lanyon included enough beautifully written scenes to make me sigh contentedly after all.

"He said softly, "This is the first time you've let me hold you since..."

It took me time to answer. "It's not that I don't want it. It's that I want it too much."

"That's not the problem you think it is."

"I wish that were true."

It seemed he had no response to that. I was sliding into sleep when his lips brushed my forehead. He whispered, "I never met a more obstinate son of a bitch than you, baby."

No one says *baby* quite like Jake.

Ingie says

Written May 31, 2014

4.7 Stars - the last part in an fantastic series and a big thunderous applause - what an AMAZING romantic adventure this was

Book #5

Wow, woot, oh yeah!!!! ~ Directly to the shelf for **all time favorite M/M series** and high on my list for "most loved book-couple".

These last days has this lady, Ingela, more or less, being absent from RL and occasionally also completely unreachable. I've not wanted to sacrifice a single free minute for anything but listening to these five, so spellbinding captivating *crime mystery / romances* books.

...I really gave the *Adrien English Mystery* almost all my waking hours, and finally, all my heart. (view spoiler)

I finished my listening to book #4 - *Death of a Pirate King* the day before yesterday, and it was the best book in this series so far. ~ I just wished and hoped that this fifth, and last book, would be as stunning good.

"Love you? Of course I love you. Baby, I fucking worship you."

And o'boy, exactly that was *The Dark Tide*. Josh Lanyon gave us a dignified beautiful and so wonderfully romantic ending to the sweet bookseller, crime writer and 'amateur sleuth' Adrien's and the tough, blond and manly, detective Jake's, long and sometimes very painful heartbreaking, love story.

We first meet Adrien again three or four weeks after the end of book #4. On shaky legs is our hero Adrien now back home at *Cloak and Dagger Bookstore* and is resting (and thinking) in his own apartment upstairs.

(view spoiler)

A lot of stuff in Adrien's complex life is unclear right now. Poor guy!! (view spoiler)

...Yes, it is a lot. In addition to all new 'nagging problems' is there some 'old' questions about (of course) future life, love, sex and his always so tricky relationships with his three former lovers.

Three former ex-lovers?

Yes, *the former cohabitant Mel* is now suddenly in LA again. Then there are of course as before *the pleasant university professor Guy* and our favorite guy, the always so mysterious and stone-tough—but gourgous sexy, **Jake Riordan** also.

“So you're like a ... an amateur sleuth?”

"God no. I'm more like the hapless guys in those film-noir flicks we used to watch. I keep getting tangled up in bizarro events."

As always stumble Adrien again over a corpse.

A half-century old skeleton tumbles out of the wall in the midst of the renovation of the bookstore. The police is there again and Adrien is a suspect once again.

Adrien want to know more about this since many years dead young man and ask his handsome ex-lover Jake (view spoiler). Jake is actually glad this time to have reason to help and stay in close contact with Adrien, but it isn't that easy. There are a lot of trouble....again.

‘...."Are you strong enough for this?"

I made myself comfortable. Said over my shoulder, "Sure."

"Would you tell me if you weren't?"

I grinned. "Maybe. I can't think of a nicer way to commit suicide."

"That's good. I can't think of a more pleasant way to commit murder.”

The mystery and the search for an undiscovered killer (fifty years ago) was as always well done and the various meetings with several oldies (suspects), old acquaintances etc was exciting to follow.

Except ... the most important for me was to go along and soak up every word about Adrien's and Jake's final way to a hopefully grand HEA. Did we get it? ~ Read and enjoy and experience ..

'He smelled like soap and sleep and bare skin. He smelled familiar. Not the deja vu familiar of Guy or Mel. Familiar like... the ache in your chest of homesickness, of longing for harbor after weeks of rough seas or craving a fire's warmth after snow--or wanting back something you should never have given away.'

I've listening to all these five books, and it have been simply fantastic to take part of the story from these well done audio books. So very great narrated by the superb voice of Chris Patton

This series has been an 'freaking' outrageous and enormous hard journey. Sentimental, captivating, expertly narrated and written, and of course most of all - so very amusing funny.

The dialogues, the inner monologues, and the beautiful text (especially in the steamy parts) is worth all the accolades. ~ I understand completely and wholeheartedly why so many friends and readers here at GR has recommended me to read these books. Thanks to Vio, Lena, Sofia and others.

My final rating for it all: Five Huge Stars!

I have to process it all a couple of days and mourn (...sob!!) that it's all over for me now.

'I thought of the words of the Renaissance philosopher *Michel de Montaigne*.
"If you press me to say why I loved him, I can say no more than because he was he, and I was I."

I LIKE - Gosh yes - cheers, happy singing and joy-cry!

...highly recommended:

The Adrien English Mystery ~ Josh Lanyon's 5 part series

- #1 - Fatal Shadows (4.3 stars)
- #2 - A Dangerous Thing (4.3 stars)
- #3 - The Hell You Say (4 stars)
- #4 - Death of a Pirate King (4.8 stars)
- #5 - The Dark Tide (4.7 stars)

...and don't miss the opportunity to listening to the audio books with the splendid narrator Chris Patton.

Natasha says

Spoilers down der.

Ah, the dramatic conclusion to this series. I think I've said most of what I had to say in the other book reviews.

In this book, I didn't really care as much. I didn't care who killed Skelly, I didn't really care about the people snooping around. Well, saying I didn't care if strong. I didn't care as much as I previously have.

I felt like I liked Jake 10% more for a while, then 5% less.. so technically now I still like him more than previously, but maybe that dislike has transferred onto Adrien. I like Adrien in this book. I liked how he hadn't made up his mind about things and was trying to figure stuff out.

I didn't care about Jake x Adrien romance. The sex made me go "meh" and the giant *grand* gesture I expected to come, never really did for me.

"What? I haven't said I love you? LOL, mah bad. I luv ya. Have a dog." Awwwwww, I hope I get proposed to one day in the same fashion. I know this isn't a romance novel. I know. After 5 books of struggling and being pissy about their relationship, it wasn't enough for me. So whatever, forget em both, I say.

So yeah. Let's chat about the series as a whole.

Would I recommend this? Yes. I would. Because caring as much as I did about these characters is special, even if I was mad at them. When I read, I often set my iPad on my exercise bike at home and peddle away, and let's just say that when going through my Riordan Murder Crisis of 2013, I burned a lot of extra calories. So that's another plus!

This series is great. Really. It's about human beings, and human mistakes and prejudice and judgement and self-loathing and growing and learning to love each other and yourself. I know. Deep down, the fundamentals of these 5 books is fantastic. It just wasn't perfect for me, and that's okay. I'll still recommend this series to friends and strangers.

Previous review:

There better have been some major changes, Jake, because I'm reading this book this weekend and I don't want to feel pissy anymore.
