



## Guardian's Secret

*Amy Raby*

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## **Guardian's Secret** Amy Raby

Drusus, recently retired from the imperial guard, has a secret he's kept all his life. He's a "morsey," the Kjallan slang term for a man attracted to other men. But there is little tolerance for morseys in the imperial city, and Drusus must conceal his nature to preserve his friendships, his pension, and his social standing.

It's not working. Drusus is lonely, and the woman he ineptly courts has sensed his ambivalence and fallen in love with someone else.

When a fire mage starts burning down morsey taverns and the corrupt city guard ignores the crimes, Drusus takes it upon himself to stand guard over the last remaining tavern. There he meets Caz, a gregarious dock worker, who boldly flirts with him. Drusus wants Caz, but is he willing to risk everything in the pursuit of his desire?

Note to readers: Guardian's Secret is a gay (m/m) romance set in the Hearts and Thrones universe. It is a long novella, approximately half the length of a novel, and is a side story that occurs chronologically after Healer's Touch.

## **Guardian's Secret Details**

Date : Published September 8th 2015

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Author : Amy Raby

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## From Reader Review Guardian's Secret for online ebook

### Jackie King says

Not my favorite in the series but it was still well written. Overall I think that this was a good addition to the series and I'm looking forward to anything written by this author in the future.

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### Claire says

Read all in one go last night when I couldn't sleep. I love the semi-Roman world Raby has created and I like that both this novella and the other focus on people from the working and lower classes, plus deal with issues of racism and sexual orientation - but not in a preachy or heavy-handed way.

I haven't read the 4th book yet, but I was able to follow along and "get" everyone's relationships. I thought Drusius' change of heart might have come a little too easily, but since it's early in his relationship with Caz, I'm going to pretend that they have some bumps along the way, as Drusius bungles things up some more, but they turn out okay in the end.

The preview for The Fire Seer at the end was very good (pygmy elephants!) and now I'm going to have to add that to my TBR list!

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### Jessi says

Hear that? That is the sound of my big, long, happy sigh.

It's an m/m by Amy Raby! I was so excited to see Raby tell the story of a gay character in her magically-based Hearts and Thrones series. She brings her usual fast-paced, matter-of-fact style to this novella as well as plenty of political intrigue and intelligent commentary on issues relating to social structure. Not only does her main character Drusus battle with a potential loss of social status if he comes out as a "morsey," but Drusus's love interest, Caz, battles for survival every day as a refugee in a city where his nationality AND his sexuality are looked down upon.

I'm a fan of Raby's 50/50 mix of story and romance. But I'm loving that this one has a bit heavier romance percentage than usual. Maybe 60/40? I was just so into this couple and all their challenges. In fact, I wouldn't have minded the story being longer. It was just so enthralling I didn't want to put it down!

If you like the idea of an m/m romance done tastefully and honestly, this is the book for you!

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### Jael says

Review to come...

