



# Heartstrings

*Eressë*

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## Heartstrings Eressë

*When all else comes to naught, a steadfast heart is the only thing that stands between hope and despair.*

Scions of the most powerful House in Ylandre, Ashrian Mithani and Eiren Sarvan were more than just cousins. Lovers of long standing, theirs was a bond that would have been the envy of all were it not for one glaring flaw—Ashrian's inability to commit himself wholeheartedly to Eiren. Despite the dismay of some and the derision of others, Eiren bore his inconstancy, displaying a loyalty Ashrian seemed incapable of returning. That is, until Ashrian crossed a line and the transgression proved one Eiren could not forgive.

In the wake of grief and remorse, Ashrian seeks to make amends and win Eiren back. But something stands in his way. Or rather someone. And the irony of it all is that Ashrian can neither hate nor help befriending the Deir who is his rival for the heart of Ylandre's most beloved physician.

*Contains hermaphroditism and explicit homoerotic sexual encounters.*

## Heartstrings Details

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Author : Eressë

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## From Reader Review Heartstrings for online ebook

### Fehu says

In the fourth book we are shown the story of the former mentioned healer Eiren. I'm not sure I remember Ash from the other books, but he is Eiren's lover in this one. While Eiren is a dutiful healer and faithful lover, Ash doesn't seem able to commit to just one lover. So while all their family and friends expect them to bond soon(as does Eiren), Ash is less inclined to follow this through. He is more of a libertine, with Eiren still being his favorite lover and probably one of the few that he is also good friends with.

Eiren does tolerate a lot of his lover's behaviour but after Ash committed a betrayal Eiren couldn't accept, they part ways. It's after Ash lost Eiren, that he understand the errors of his way and repents but sometimes saying sorry is not enough.

While it's a good book, it's not my favorite in this series. First of all I had hoped to read more about Eiren's POV and less of Ash, but I understand that this was intended to endear him to the reader, and boy did he need help for that!

Also it's been a while(or a year)since I've read the previous book, so all the different names thrown at one and the complex relation are confusing. I'm somewhat missing a family tree, plus all the marriages of the Essendri family(or at least of the ones mentioned in the book).

While I loved the first book, reading about the events there for the fourth time, does get a bit tiring.

Still it's a good written romance and it still is my favortie mpreg series. Eiren is an interesting character and I really wish the book would have been more about him and not Ash. I don't really like Ash, he is whiny and a cheater in the first part, though it get's better in the second part, he is still not my favorite character.

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### Lala says

[cheating (hide spoiler)]

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### DaisyGirl says

3.0 Stars

Ashrian Mithani and Eiren Sarvan are true bloods and cousins who have been lovers for the past 10 years. Eiren is a talented physician and always on call. Ash, who resents playing second fiddle to Eiren's patients, is a playboy who cannot commit himself to Eiren, despite caring for him deeply (whatever). Ash's cheating eventually gets to be too much for Eiren (duh!) and he bails. He takes an assignment in another part of the country to get away from Ash. Ash regrets what he's lost but any hope of reconciling is dashed when Eiren comes home happily married. Eiren's mate (Fir) is super-caring and uber-selfless (read: totally unbelievable). He strikes up a friendship with Ash. Uh, what!?!?!? Yup! The three buddy it up (totally platonic, no menage). Since Fir is dying, he extracts a promise from Ash to reconcile with Eiren when he's gone. (gag) After Fir's passing, Ash and Eiren come together for support and eventually rekindle the love and passion they once lost.

Honestly, this one was hard for me to rate. Why? Because it put me through the wringer: I laughed, I cried, I cursed (a lot), but I was happy enough at the end. Although I hated parts of the book (I don't do well with infidelity), I have to give kudos to a book that moves me as much as this one did. I abhorred Ash's inconstancy (that's a nice way of putting it) and had a hard time forgiving him but, surprisingly, I did so by the end. I wanted to like Fir but his selflessness was so over-the-top it fell into martyrdom territory. Blech! I hate that. And, I didn't know what the f\*ck to make of Eiren. He was sad at times, selfish at times, and infuriating at times. But ultimately, I liked him alright.

Bottom line: Here's the skinny with this book ... it was one-part cheating, one-part martyrdom, and two-parts reconciliation (by two people who can't communicate for sh\*t). Proceed at your own risk.

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„•\*°\*!Gwendolyn!°\*\*★°\*\*★ says

[ cheating (hide spoiler)]

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### **Mouse says**

OMG. This was SO GOOD. I stayed up till 4am! \*swoon\*

This is one of those series where you have to read the books in order because they all happen in the same timeframe. But that's okay, the others are equally as good.

This book had me SOBBING. Like the messy kind where my face looks like it hit a wall. :) AND Eresse made me feel sorry for the guy who did all the wrong things! Absolutely amazing.

I can't squee enough about this book.

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### **Lilli \*slowest reader ever\* says**

The covers of this series are pure bliss. Hopefully the content is, too.

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### **Mandy says**

Absolutely enjoying this world. However, this is probably the weakest book for me so far. I'm not sure why, it just didn't sit well with me like the other books. I personally find cheating an unforgivable offence, especially when done more than once.

I loved the character of Firyon, it just didn't make sense to the overall story. I can understand Ren marrying another after what Ash did to him, but that he loved him when Ash is his soul mate just didn't make sense to me. It made the story one big emotional mess. I still enjoyed this book and am going straight on to the next.

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## Val Shameless ?? Steamy Reads ?? says

3.5-3.75 Stars

\*\*\**Spoilers Abound - Enter at Own Risk*\*\*\*

So this is probably my least favorite of the series so far, because, whelp...

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**CHEATING.**

And not only cheating, but Ash-banging-someone-Eiren-can't-fucking-stand cheating.

Holy effin' burn, peeps.

There, there, Val. There, there.

Now, normally this is a deal breaker for me - of epic proportions; however, in this case:

- 1) I was so invested in the series and the characters that I just had to continue.
- 2) For whatever reason, cheating doesn't bother me AS MUCH in m/m as it does in m/f. I am not sure why this is the case. It doesn't make sense to me either. But whatevs, it is what it is.

So there's that.

Then, AFTER said cheating, Eiren leaves for a while and comes back.

**MARRIED.**

To someone ELSE.

And as though that isn't enough, the new guy is a righteous dude and everyone loves him. Even Ash.

So you can't even have the satisfaction of hating the guy.

Some other righteously annoying shenanigans ensue - think death and STDs.

But hey, at least I got some really good groveling and an HEA.

And I still love the series.

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## **Pixie Mmgoodbookreviews says**

5 Hearts

First published at MM Good Book Reviews

<http://mmgoodbookreviews.wordpress.co...>

Heartstrings is a very fitting title for this book as it will definitely be pulling at yours. Ashrian (Ash) and Eiren (Ren) have a very tenuous relationship. Ren is committed to Ash, but Ash still lives the high life and enjoys his flirtations. But, one day Ash goes too far and Ren doesn't think he will ever forgive him and accepts a position that he had been toying with taking. When Ren returns he brings back a new love and dashes Ash's hope of regaining his love, but circumstances change over the years and a spark returns between Ren and Ash.

This story runs parallel to the other stories in this series and as always we see a wonderful selection of characters that we have fallen in love with in the past. In this story, we have heartbreak, cheating, betrayal, remorse, redemption and forgiveness. Ren and Ash have had a very up and down relationship for many years and Ren has always put up with Ash's unfaithfulness, but one night Ash sleeps with the wrong person and Ren has had enough. When Ren is gone, Ash realizes exactly what Ren really meant to him. But, by the time Ren comes back, Ren has moved on and there is nothing that Ash can do about it.

As always in a relationship there is always more than one point of view and to make a relationship work there has to be communication, and with Ren and Ash there is a distinct lack of communication. \*sigh\* When I started to read this one I really wanted to hate Ash, but the further I got into the book the more I began to sympathize with him. because Ren never put his foot down, Ren never really pulled him about anything and just walked around like a martyr with a 'woe is me, my man cheats on me and I do nothing about it' attitude. I will be honest all my sympathy went to Ash and I think that Ash and Firyon (I won't spoil it) were great characters and Ren came into his own much later when he also faced his own faults.

This story is again beautifully written. We are given more world building with fantastic characters. Eressë drags us back into the world of Ylandre, giving us more knowledge about characters we have met in the past. Filling us in with the stories of others and tearing our heartstrings as we become involved with the beloved characters. Ren and Ash's story with shock you, it will disgust you, it will make you tear up, it will get you angry and it will fill you with forgiveness and happiness but it will never be boring.

I am recommending this to all those who love m-preg, misunderstandings, frustration, despair, angst, forgiveness, happiness, growing relationships and growing people but most of all a happy ever after that is well deserved.

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## Em says

I really did enjoy this book but found it a little bit frustrating at times and repetitive. I was annoyed at Ashrian for not realising that he just need to run after Eiren and let him know how much he loved him, and frustrated at Eiren towards the end of the book, when he was oblivious to the fact that Ashrian needed to know how much he cared about him.

I'm always a fan of a HEA and was therefore pleased with the way things ended!

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## Breann says

3.75 stars

**Heartstrings is aptly named because this one tugs. Hard.**

Ashrian and Eiren had a **long road** to their HEA. In the beginning of their relationship they were long time lovers without any solid commitment. Ashrian has problems staying faithful to Eiren and in the end made an **unforgivable mistake**.

I love me some angsty romance. So, when Ashrian was being an **idiot** I was shouting and crying all over the place but at the same time soaking up all the drama that I love. What happens when you're an idiot? You suffer. **And suffer Ashrian did.** Eiren (who is a healer) left to another town for work after Ashrian's infidelity. When Eiren returned, Ash realized it was too late for them, as Eiren didn't return alone. I was hating on Ash. But after this scene? I was totally on his side.

I really enjoyed the dynamic between Ash, Eiren & Firyon. It was interesting how Fir reunited Ash and Eiren and they were able to have a platonic relationship again. Fir was completely accepting of Ash's friendship and was basically **perfect**. Almost too perfect. (I'm having Tim, Ben and Jace flashbacks here) But he was **completely necessary** for Ash and Eiren to be able to pick up the pieces of their **shattered** relationship. Ashrian had a lot of growing to do before he was ready to be committed to Eiren again, and he did. **He so did.** His mistakes were never forgotten and swept under the rug, he worked through them. Instead of just apologizing and moving on he worked to find why he was so determined to be such an idiot in the beginning.

So much happened that I don't want to say more for fear of spoilers. I have very much enjoyed this entire series so far, this one dragged a little at times and is why I didn't give a solid 4 stars. But it's one of those where you look back at a couples' journey and are struck by how far they've come since the beginning of their story.

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## Jacq says

Good writing skills. This writer will pull you in her world. I really like the series.

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## Kazza says

### Book #3 on Favourites of 2012 at On Top Down Under Book Reviews

<http://bookreviewsandtherapy.blogspot...>

\*\*\*CONTAINS SOME SPOILERS\*\*

The Chronicles of Ylandre is a tremendous series, beautifully descriptive with wonderful use of the English language in its prose. This series smacks of meticulous planning - every book from 1 – 4 spans approximately the same timeline, interweaving the previous books MC's and occurrences with the current book's MC's as their own relationship unfolds. The world building that Eresse has previously constructed serves her well, as nothing of any great note is new here, just bits and pieces. There's really no need, it's all been gloriously built leading into Heartstrings, allowing for a complex story of love lost, love gained, lessons learned, friendships, and new shared and undying love.

Eiren Sarvan and Ashrian Mithani are cousins who have formed a relationship, been together for over 10 years and, even though Ren secretly craves more of a commitment from Ash, none is forthcoming. Ren is a hard working healer, often giving up his own time to look after the needs of patients suffering from any and all maladies; irrespective of title, or hour of the day/night, he's available to help. Ash is a wealthy blueblood, free spirited, lacking a sense of purpose, experiencing upper class ennui. He has shares in the family holdings, however, he is not the oldest son, so he mostly parties and spends time enjoying the local nightlife. Ren is very serious about his career, almost to the exclusion of his relationship and his personal needs. Even on his downtime Ren travels to markets in search of herbs and material for medicinal purposes. Ash is the antithesis of this and, at times, resentfully acts out by bedding other men. Eventually you know something is going to give.

So, there is infidelity in the first part of this book, no two ways about it. Mostly, it's not in your face, if that bothers you, but it's there and it's Ash's final transgression that is beyond hurtful to Ren and forms a central part of what transpires and why. Bear in mind that these are both grown men - Ash was a definite cad, he slept around, Ren knew about Ash's dalliances and allowed him to get away with them, even justified it - *'It was one thing to try to make amends when he'd left Ashrian wanting, and another matter entirely when Ashrian had chosen to rectify his discontent by taking another Deir to bed. That rankled far more deeply than Eiren was willing to admit to anyone even when they had already guessed at the extent of his hurt. How could he still hold his head up in the face of Ashrian's indiscretions if he owned himself so deeply in love with his errant cousin that he preferred to deny or endure his transgressions rather than break off their affair and thereby forge a life without him? Their cousins had urged him often enough to give Ashrian an ultimatum—behave or be done with their affair. Each time, Eiren had refused, saying he had no liking for coercive dealings. But the truth was, he was not certain Ashrian cared enough to want to continue their relationship at the cost of his freedom. were their liaison to end, Eiren was certain he would suffer more.'*

After a major betrayal, Ren can no longer take anymore of Ashrian's behaviour. He takes up an offer to leave Rikara and work in another hospital, in Camara, for a year, thus leaving Ash and their relationship behind. Ash is devastated and writes to Ren hoping to reconcile but Ren writes back telling him his letter is meaningless. Ash decides to wait, give Ren time, and when he comes back to Rikara he'll be able to win his affections again. When Ren does return Ash pulls strings to attend his official home coming party, normally earmarked for healthcare officials, only to learn that Ren is now mated to another, Firyon. Since Ash has been waiting for Ren to come home with hopes of rekindling their relationship he is shattered.



This really is a book of two halves. There is Ashrian part 1 and part 2. Ash part 1 leaves much to be desired, he is often egocentric and childish. He has a point to some of his feelings, but not to the extent to which he acts out. Even though he wants Ren back he still doesn't accept nearly the responsibility he should for his actions. Ren part 1 is a kind, hard working man, but lets Ash have too many liberties and works too hard. Ash part 2 makes massive changes to his heart and mind, becomes a better man, worthy of friendship, forgiveness and love. Ren part 2 has come through being hurt, bitter, and resigned to accept bad behaviour from a partner. He now knows there is better to be had.

After Ren and Firyon settle into Rikara, Firyon decides to make a friend of Ashrian, knowing fully of his mate's past with Ashrian. After some snarkiness from Ash and much effort from Firyon, Ash, Ren, and Firyon do become a close-knit group. There is no physical affair between Ren and Ash whilst Ren is mated to Firyon, but there are dreams shared through a bond. Some may feel funny about the dreams that Ren has, that pull Ash into them whilst Ren's married to Firyon, that, perhaps, the dreams are cheating. Firyon knows of the love that Ren and Ash have for one another, that he is sick, dying, that is what led him to Ren, that he is just passing through Ren and Ash's love, and he is accepting of this fact. On one occasion Firyon said to Ash -

*"I've often thought that maybe the both of you met in a previous lifetime.... And perhaps 'tis just a whim of mine, but what if you've been together before, Ash? Maybe over many life cycles. Though obviously you never soul-bound, else you'd have wed each other long ago. Then again, maybe 'twas as Veres meant it to be."*

*"What do you mean?" Ashrian asked in bewilderment.*

*"Mayhap He didn't have you bind earlier so that you could lend Eiren to me in this life cycle. To ease my passage from the world."*

Then Firyon to Ren -

*"Tis all right" Firyon whispered, correctly discerning his silence, "I'd accepted even before we met that I'd likely never regain my health. But I never imagined I'd get to experience such joy as I've had with you. So you see, you've given me the greatest gift of all. I'm forever grateful I was given this chance to love and be loved. So many folk never do."*

So much more could be written in this review because there's quite a bit going on in the book. Know it is angsty, and difficult at times - there are subjects touched on that will intrigue some but bother others. This series really is best read from book 1 through, to get maximum enjoyment. I guess it could be read as a standalone, but I personally wouldn't recommend it. I also want to say that these are the only mpreg books I've ever been interested in reading.

There is a sadness, as Firyon dies, but there is also a lovely HEA in this book, which I found incredibly satisfying, particularly in the birth of a son for Ash and Ren, and the naming of Ash and Ren's son. So respectful, and endearing, showing how far Ashrian had come. It shows that loved ones can live on in other ways. I loved all 3 of the MC's. Even though Firyon is not a huge focal point in the book he is an incredibly kind and strong presence, a conduit for change in Ash and Ren's life – soothing Ren's hurt and bitterness, and helping Ash become kinder of heart.

Well, Eresse nails it again for me. Heartstrings certainly pulled at mine, and it's another wonderful addition to one of my favourite series. I love these mpreg, sci-fantasy, hermaphroditic men with an absolute passion. I

hope there is not as long a wait for the next installment in The Chronicles of Ylandre because I can't get enough.

<http://bookreviewsandtherapy.blogspot...>

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### **Vivian says**

Another adventure into Ylandre.

The time period is spread over other books in the story, so there are references to them that without reading will not be hard, but give an idea of how long this encompasses. It's a long, rough journey for Ren and Ash. Filled with a lot of bad decisions and reads a bit like a soap opera turned Hallmark movie. By the end, it's saccharine, yet I was smiling like a loon. I have no justification for this other than I'm very partial to fantasy settings and the concept of Ylandre's hermaphroditism.

Loved the natal shell that the babes are born in. Ren is a healer so a good portion revolves around how his life affected by his work. It's grueling in spots and like Ash you wouldn't mind him being less self-sacrificing.

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### **Don Bradshaw says**

This story was a little bit confusing as it took place around the same time as book one in this series did. Ashrien never redeemed himself in my eyes and should have been smart enough to follow Eiren when he left instead of just not writing any longer. I thought Firyor was a terrific character. I had to admire Eiren for trying to heal his step-brother even after his behavior. Even when Eiren and Ashrien reconciled, It always felt like Ashrien had a hidden agenda.

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