



Laser Visions

Kaje Harper

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Biology professor Roman Janz was walking across campus and planning his next plant-collecting trip to Brazil, when something stung him on the neck. And now... now he's wandering in the dark, in the blue, floating, disembodied, and confused. There has to be a good explanation, if he can just find someone, anyone, he can actually talk to about it.

Xavier Faulkner is intelligent, creative, and made millions when he sold his tech-security company. But all his wealth and skills couldn't keep his sister Tam from being poisoned by food contamination. She lived, but her health was damaged, and her job as a cop is gone. In the antebellum house he moved them to, Xavier hopes to find both a distraction and maybe a purpose for their lives. But the old house seems to come with strange noises, and odd blue lights, and maybe? if Xavier isn't just going crazy? a naked guy, walking away into the blue...

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.

Dear Author,

I just moved into this old antebellum home I bought with the intentions of restoring. I often find myself awoken in the night by strange noises I cannot identify or hear during the day. At first, I think it's just a dream... this seemingly phantom always walking away. Who is he and how can I get him to finally turn around and see me?

Photo Description:

Light streams into a narrow, old-fashioned hallway from the open door at the end. Framed in the brightness, back-lit to blurred outlines and shadows, is the silhouette of a man, walking away. He's tall, lean but well-built, with faint tan lines across his lower back and thighs. He's also completely naked. His curved ass and broad shoulders are the most solid things about him. He strides off into the blue, head slightly tilted, not looking back.

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.

Laser Visions Details

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From Reader Review Laser Visions for online ebook

Sandra says

[(hide spoiler)]

Erika says

This was a fast paced and supremely enjoyable free story written by the author for the Love's Landscapes event. I enjoyed every page of it, particularly all the little details that made this sci fi paranormal/ slightly dystopian book seem like something that could very well come to pass.

I liked Roman and Xavier quite a bit, but my favorite character ended up being Xavier's sister, who turned out to be, for me, one of the few really likable female side characters in the M/M Romance genre.

Kudos to the author for all the hard work and research she put into this story, and for writing something so good and so long in such a short time.

Nina says

Kaje Harper does this thing where she writes ridiculously awesome novels out of tiny teeny prompts and then gives them away for free.

Simply put, this is really really cool. And I mean *cool*. Like, imagine me saying it with twelve Os and an awed voice, nodding my head with my eyes bugged out. The way a 12-year-old boy would do it when faced with a big-ass Harley or a super-duper-phenomenal goal or something. (Whatever, I don't know what 12-year-old boys like because I was never one, but you get my drift.)

For starters, it's set in the future, which - cool.

Secondly, there are lasers and organ harvesting operations and astral projections, which, again - cool and intelligently constructed, without ever becoming OTT or ridiculous.

Third, there are awesome - ***awesome*** (is there any way to emphasise it more? No? Bummer) - characters, including a badass redhead lady cop with a well-rounded, brash and immediately likeable personality.

And last but not least, the romance is wonderful. Just picture it: you're scared shitless by a hot guy's ghostly ass in the middle of the night, you become friends with him because you connect on a deeper spiritual level (as in you're both into superheroes), you embark on a dangerous crime-solving, life-saving operation with him (and your sister), and then you're left to figure it all out... and you figure it out in a way that is mature and rational, but at the same time so passionate and adorable that it fully balances out the tension and fear of the previous hundred-odd pages.

Doesn't it sound cool?

Lady*M says

3.5 stars

In the near future, with Earth's resources diminished and wars waged for them, Xavier, a security tech, lives a life of leisure after he sold his company for millions. He is taking care of his sister, ex-cop, who suffers from kidney failure after she and many others were poisoned by contaminated food. In spite of superb medical care, she really needs a transplantation because of potential cancer threat caused by the same poison. They are refurbishing an old house, something they both need to pass the time. When Xavier is contacted anonymously about illegal transplantation, they agree to cooperate with FBI.

Roman, former soldier in the mentioned wars, now a biology professor, finds himself kidnapped and drugged just before the planned expedition to Brazil. Unable to move or communicate, he finds that he can spirit-walk as well as the way to Xavier's and Tam's house. The three of them start solving the mystery of Roman, only to find out that their cases are connected. And, the time is running out for both Roman and Tam.

The story was exciting mixture of genres and it offered a lot of potential. Some of it was fulfilled, some of it not. The story started slow, but picked up quickly. I really liked author's sketch of the world (including environmental problems and possible and believable new technologies), I liked all three characters and I was happy the author didn't try to fast-forward the guys to HEA. What I wanted, though, is more background on both guys, Roman especially. Though this is a novel-length story, it reads like a novella. Some things took too much space (like Roman's 'swimming' in the grey or laser 'travelling') and could have, perhaps, been used to answer some of the questions about the characters. For example: Why was Roman raised by grandparents? Why was he getting into trouble as a kid? What happened to him in the war? More about spirit-walking would have been appreciated too. I wasn't 100% satisfied with the way the case was resolved either. It felt impersonal and unfinished somehow.

In the end, I enjoyed the story and author's imagination and I could live with the sequel (*hint-hint*).

Sheri says

I don't know why...but it's been forEVER since I've read anything from Kaje. That should not be allowed to happen again.

This was a brilliant story penned from a well-seasoned hand.
Fantastic characters, a creative twist, and a sweet love story.
The candle? Made me melt.
ohhhh, and SCORE, it's free!

Kaje Harper says

The free download for this story is already available in several formats from the Goodreads M/M Romance Group books site - <http://www.mmromancegroup.com/laser-v...>

I really appreciate how quickly they got that up and available, and all the work done to proofread and format it. This free writing event is so much fun, and there are hundreds of other stories available or coming out soon to enjoy.

ttg says

Woo-hoo! Harper's Love's Landscapes story is up! (All 79k of it! Yum!) You can grab the ebook [here](#).

Sunne says

It needs to be said somewhere: I have the highest respect for Kaje Harper as an author. Every year she tackles this event, produces an amazing story and gives it away for free. And every year she tries something new....and sucessfully.

After the historical two years ago, the PNR-fantasy last year, this year we get Sci-Fi. Yes, I would say it's Science Fiction.

The whole story is thrilling, I couldn't put it down, I wanted to know what was happening next, how would they solve this problem, etc. etc.

I was captivated by the story. Additionally I also got really invested in the MCs, especially Roman. I often complain that books have measly storylines which are just alibis for a lot of schmexy - this is the opposite. It has a great storyline, unfortunately because of that really great story, the lovestory takes a bit of a backseat. But not enough to make me deduct a star or so, I can live with less sex and great story, seriously.

So - highly recommened - another great story from a insanely talented author.

Vivian says

Wow.

Unexpected take on this prompt in a brilliant and terrifying near future. Creepy set up because it's close enough to being reality. A warning.

I was invested in all the main characters, but especially Roman. The challenges, the fears, the sometimes crushing reality was met with both resilience and acceptance. His pragmatism appealed to me. His background and past were nicely developed and intriguing. Xavier is a tech genius--a real one, not the guys at the Genius Bar. His skill set is immediately identifiable, but I like how his moral compass was not as fully explored until he met Roman. This isn't a fast read, but at the same time, I didn't want to rush reading it.

Overall, suspenseful and emotional.

Favorite passage: **This kiss was somehow recognition. Sweetly familiar. Oh, yes, there you are, where you're supposed to be.**

Susan says

Nice story, but a little too much plot and too little character for my taste.

Slow burning romance. Kissing and sex at the end. No declarations of love, only tentative talk of a future together.

There was little to no angst within the relationship. Roman and Xavier were sweet together, but I did feel like there was something missing. Could be me though..

Ami says

3.5 stars

It's the near future, Roman Michael Janz, ex-soldier and now an associate professor in biology, is drugged and kidnapped. Strangely, in his semi-consciousness, he is able to find a blue light and he spirit-walks right into the house where Xavier Faulkner and his ex-cop sister temporarily reside. Xavier, who has become a millionaire after selling his security company, sets up the house with his sister, Tam, while working with the FBI to reveal an illegal organ transplant operation. Tam is in need of a kidney transplant and with Xavier's money they are the perfect bait. Xavier and Tam become Roman's only connections to human world and the three of them need to unravel the mystery of what has happened to Roman before time is running out.

This story opens straight into action. I found it rather chilling...a kind of situation that can drive someone into complete helplessness. Being drugged and practically prepped as an organ donor, while still being somewhat semi-conscious (Roman could still hear people talking around him) is totally a frightening situation for me. I think for Roman being an ex-soldier helped him to never lose his cool, trying to assess things, looking for a way out. If it were me, I would probably just go straight to depression.

Personally, I think the story lacked the 'emotional connection' that I usually feel when it comes to Kaje Harper's stories. While I commend the author for her innovative details on astral projection/spirit-walking, I must admit that my eyes glazed over during those explanations — all the things that Roman did to keep traveling outside his body, I mean. Those moments went straight over my head. I think it had something to do with my lack of favoritism over anything slightly sci-fi in my reading.

I also thought it reduced the opportunity to know more about Roman's background. Throughout the book, Roman felt distant. I would love to know more about him. An ex-soldier turned associate professor in biology, that is intriguing, right? I know that Roman is trying to find out more about what is going on with him, but if only those technical aspects of spirit-walking were spent with Roman opening up himself to Xavier in a more personal way, I could feel more sympathetic towards him. The technical aspects, while good, made the story feels clinical.

In addition, the resolution of the illegal operation, after everything that Roman had been going through (as

well as the other kidnapped people) was not satisfying for me.

As always, reviews are subjective and those issues I am having might not be as significant to other readers. Kaje Harper is one of my favorite MM authors because she focuses on plot and characters and relationship-building rather than smut and the erotic side of this genre. So, I would still recommend this to those who like a plot-driven story with a dash of sci-fi and mystery in their read. Besides, it is being generously free and in a good length, you have nothing to lose, right?

karlakolumna says

Usual quality writing. Solid plot.

But nevertheless, I felt bored throughout the whole read. I can't help it.

All these descriptions of Roman being in spirit/astral state and wandering on laser beams or being in the dark panicking... Sigh. Too much, too uninteresting after having read it 10 times before. Tedious and boring.

Furthermore I couldn't connect neither to Xavier nor Roman.

The suspense part didn't grip me. To me it was just one long wait for Roman to be found. Sorry.

Lea says

I'm deeply unsettled and disturbed by the grimly dystopian yet entirely possible future Kaje Harper has imagined in this book. From the poisoned crops to publicly available genetic sequencing turned black market body farming to implanted biotrackers, it all seems so terrifyingly real in the not too distant future.

The prose has this really effective way of making the reader feel claustrophobic and uncomfortable throughout that it took until about halfway through for me to connect to the novel at all. The intense desperation that motivates the characters was almost too palpable. Yet, Roman and Xavier's connection to each other shone through beautifully by the end, thankfully ending the novel on a happy if slightly ambivalent way. And Tam and Xavier's cute banter was a sweet relief and brought comic flavour to brighten the desolate atmosphere of the book. I almost hesitate to leave my review with only four stars, but it's really a testament to how well the alienating feeling was conveyed. Given some time and distance, I might add that deserved extra star. This book is definitely unforgettable.

Meep says

All good quality ingredients but ultimately the cake didn't rise.

It's an impressively long fic for a freebie event but perhaps that's where the problem lies, pushing to write down so much in a short space of time means little details are overlooked. The mystery plot is chilling but a

lot of this story could have been cut to make a far sharper read, with more emphasis given to the characters who we don't really get to know much.

Roman went from soldier to professor but we only get those bare facts about him so he remains ghost-like. Xavier is very rich and retired young, which leaves him somewhat cardboard and under-developed, his sister is actually the only one who seemed to have a background of any depth.

The book is set in the near future. The differences are slight, but I got thrown by the few movie character references which seemed out of place pulling me from the verse; and the fact they're staying in an *antebellum* house (I admit I had to look that term up). I couldn't get a settled impression of the times.

While the plot was interesting I gave up before reading the conclusion because the lack of connection to the characters made it hard reading and I was suspecting an element of convenient timing to the rescue.

Should have been a winner, but sadly wasn't.

Jay Clark says

Kaje Harper starts the action immediately and keeps it going non-stop. Roman, Xavier and Tam are all fun, memorable and enticing characters. As usual, Kaje makes the impossible feel real and probable. She makes the notion of astral project feel as real as I have ever seen or read about it. It is simply another Kaje Harper hit that I am happy to recommend to all my friends.
