



A Limited Engagement

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Ross has done everything Adam has asked him to do, including giving the man a part in his new play. All he wants is for Adam to keep his mouth shut about Ross' real life, which contradicts his image as a straight playwright. Adam knows that Ross has to face his true self, though, and he's ready to do whatever it takes to make Ross see the truth. Will all of Adam's effort backfire, or will Ross take what he needs?

A Limited Engagement Details

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From Reader Review A Limited Engagement for online ebook

Sofia says

For the writing. The story deserved more exploration.

Meep says

Well then, that happened!

The writing is superb.

Not a romance but a firestorm of emotion, great passion more than love; very much all or nothing taken to extremes.

A relationship that could survive in shadows only so long before exploding into either tragedy or, what exactly? The emotions here are raw and out of control, neither characters behaviour is commendable, there's good reason to dislike both and yet the very rawness tells it's own story.

This isn't a romance, these aren't characters you're meant to fall for and champion. It's a story of boiling points; the stress of secrecy, fear of discovery, desperation - two men driven beyond what's acceptable - and yes maybe love, but love warped by expectations to fall far from rose tinted lens and be very near hate.

The end is a breeze after a tornado. I don't know if happiness is possible for these two, but they need to be in the open and their lives are irreversibly entwined be it a wedding or a funeral.

I liked the book, which surprised me with what I'd heard. Incredibly strong for so short a story and not a word wasted. Can't say I liked the characters, but I felt the strength of their emotions wash over me and there's a magic to that.

MLE says

Blackmail, cheating, and attempted murder. Not my idea of a love story. Sorry, but if someone tried to choke me to death I would hope I have the self esteem to walk away no matter how much I "loved" him.

Irina says

I think love is the point. Because anything else is just a business contract

The closet cases are my favourite in m/m romances! Add to that a woman just to appear straight, some angst and drama, and I'm one happy girl :)

I think short stories are more difficult to write. Let's face it, there's only so much you can tell in 17 pages. But as this was written to support a gay marriage, I think it made a good point.

"Marriage should be about more than friendship and respect, Ross."

"Respect and friendship -- companionship, shared interests -- that's a good basis."

I shook my head. "It's not enough."

And I agree. The bottom line is - no one should sacrifice their life committing to a loveless marriage and enter into it for the wrong reasons. But if there is love, the rest could be worked out.

Deeze says

I'm not sure I should like this as much as I do.

I feel bad for cheering on Adam, when he is a blackmailer, but I found myself feeling more for him than for Ross. Maybe it's because the story is told from Adams point of view.

This really should be a longer story. I wanted so much to see these two meet and fall in love, rather than just being told. I wanted more back story on Ross and why he felt the need to hide so strongly.

But that said the emotion in this little story was heartbreakingly.

A heartfelt little read that has the Josh Lanyon characters I fall in love with.

Otila says

2.5

Because blackmail and physical violence are great stepping stones to a healthy and long-lasting relationship.

And yet it's Lanyon so I did enjoy the writing.

Rosa, really says

It's so good!

Until the second paragraph when one hero chokes the other until he blacks out.

And not in a kinky sex way.

Other than that it's positively delightful!

Baba says

3.5 stars. Review posted August 5, 2014

"Because you're twenty-three years old and queer--and what the hell does that make me?"
"Older and queer!"

The plot/subject matter is controversial; I get why people are concerned about it. While I wasn't fond of the main protagonists, I enjoyed Lanyon's great writing. Also, the idea that brought forth Adam's unconventional activities seemed more than worthy of a thought. When someone is desperate and out of options, then how far are you willing to go? To be honest, I doubt this would work out in RL but I found the concept of this shortie interesting.

(view spoiler)

Again, it's quite amazing what Lanyon can accomplish with few words.

18 pages.

Short and to the point, even though it needed more pages to really satisfy me. Yet I liked it quite a bit!

Thanks again for the rec, Lena! <3

I'm very relieved that you didn't have to spank me... ;-)

Kathleen says

2.25 stars

I rather disliked this story. Linda had the right of it. "Was I supposed to be rooting for this couple? One's a blackmailing backstabber and the other is a pushover douche. But true love, so yay?" Least favorite of

Lanyon's very short stories.

Beck says

This one has me perplexed...possible spoilers...Adam blackmails Ross & Ross forgives Adam (implied by the continued relationship). Adam 'outs' Ross ruining his relationship with his fiancée...Ross throttles Adam until Adam passes out. Is that attempted murder or grievous bodily harm or domestic violence? Adam forgives Ross. Ross still hates Adam for outing him but is so in lust that he can't resist making sweet love. They live happily ever after. Is this short story like a 'what not to do' guide to romance? Where is the romance in manipulation, blackmail, physical abuse & coercion? Did I read the same story as the other reviewers? Just odd.

Originally posted on Amazon.com

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

[wow, I liked this one - and I didn't !

Adam outs Ross, who DID NOT want to be out, and he did it very publicly, and Ross is a cheater! He sleeps with Adam, is engaged to a woman, and even says he wouldn't want to give up Adam, even after his marriage!

But before Adam outs him, he blackmailed him, and Ross gives in, and still sleeps with him, and admits he would still sleep with him even after he had married.

I think I got over all of that, it was explained and I could see the rea

Emma Sea says

Great short story: typical Josh Lanyon fare.

ttg says

A nice short read. A little different from the Lanyon-norm since there's no mystery or crime in sight (or not really since there is some blackmail.) But here the focus is on the bitter and angry reunion of two lovers and how they sort out their feelings for each other as well as how they want to live their lives—up-front and out, or in the closet. At 18 pages, it's a quick read, a little sad in tone, but with a nice ending. If you're already a Lanyon fan, you'll probably enjoy this short story very much.

Shelley says

I have heard great things about this author and this is my first introduction.

The first thing I realise is the relaxed easy talent. Wow! The words flow fast and furious in tune with the

circumstances unveiling themselves. It's a very short read and with just a few clicks I am in deep and feeling things for these characters already.

That doesn't happen too often for me. They might have been feelings of anger and disbelief at the lengths one of the MC's goes to to express his love. In my eyes an almost unforgivable act, but hey ho, he who dares wins and all that.

Oh and the make up sex? Damn, it was good, so very very good;)

The story itself is not what really compels me to read more by this author. The obvious skill and talent shines through and I am ever so excited about reading more from him. The recommendations are very worthy ones. Thanks girls! I certainly want a bigger taste of Josh Lanyon now.

Lena♥Ribka says

What for a beautiful and emotional little piece of prose!

I like theatre.

And this short novella is like a single act out of a theatre play with two actors, a final act.

The curtain falls. Silence. And then....

and

Well, I am definitely among the audience with jubilant ovations!

It helps to understand the dynamic and the hidden message of the story if you won't miss the introduction at the beginning:

Originally written for Torquere Press's donation to Lambda's Legal Fund in support of gay marriage.

A MUST READ for all Josh Lanyon's fans!
