



By Chance Met

Eressë

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A chance meeting heralds the convergence of two heretofore wildly divergent fates.

From the moment he laid eyes on the handsome Lord of Ilmaren, Naeth Orosse fell head over heels in infatuation with him. And after that first meeting in the middle of a tavern brawl in the dual-gendered realm of Ylandre, Reijir Arthanna did not forget the orphaned youth who came to his aid unasked. When fate brings them together anew, Reijir becomes Naeth's guardian, which proves both blessing and bane when their mutual attraction is guilelessly nursed by one and distrustfully downplayed by the other.

Between attempting to ignore Naeth's artless overtures and suppressing feelings he had long disavowed, Reijir has his hands full. But more than a title and duty were forced on this enigmatic cousin of Ylandre's king. A less than benevolent past has left its imprint on Reijir who is as known for his cynical outlook on life as he is for his exotic features and proficiency between the sheets. Convincing him to risk his heart in love is a battle more experienced Deira than Naeth have waged and invariably lost.

Contains hermaphrodisim and explicit homoerotic sexual encounters.

By Chance Met Details

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From Reader Review By Chance Met for online ebook

Valentina Heart says

This review was originally written for The Romance Reviews and can also be found there.

This is the third book in the Ylandre series, an elaborate world of titles, arranged marriages and male pregnancy. It follows in the footsteps of its prequels, with great characterization, vast world spread and a solid story.

Naeth lost his family in a fire and ended up working in a tavern for a family friend. One night, Lord of Ilmaren walks in with his friends and Naeth is completely enchanted by the Lord's exotic appearance. Naeth is charmingly innocent, being raised in a sheltered manner by his loving family and still has a profound sense of right and wrong despite the jaded view the others around him possess. So once he sees an injustice in a tavern brawl, he jumps to the rescue and consequently saves Reijir's life.

The roles turn quickly after and it is Reijir who saves the day and eventually makes himself Naeth's guardian. The attraction between them is evident and unlawful as Naeth hasn't reached the age of majority (age of thirty). That leads to Reijir distancing himself until the time is right, but once it is – the sparks fly to the fullest.

Reijir's high position is an obstacle in the long term because having Naeth as his leman doesn't solve his need for a spouse. With Naeth not being a 'True Blood', he doesn't have a high enough social standing to fill in that role for Reijir and give him heirs. Solving those serious issues will take some time and there are plenty of pages to take the readers through it.

The writing style of this series is very difficult. The names come on top of each other rather quickly and it's much easier to get lost in the world than to understand it. A lot of the terms have been used in previous books, but even if not, I would still recommend you read them first, it will make things easier and more enjoyable. Despite that I do like it very much. It takes me some time to get into it and get 'the feel' of things, but once I do there is no stopping me.

This particular book started slow. The development kind of dragged and most of the story was from Naeth's point of view. There are reasons for it, among them the need to keep Reijir mysterious and make the whole plot more believable. While it was very well thought through and developed nicely, I missed Reijir's personality more. For me he was cut off as a character, getting the chance to shine only at the very end of the story. I would have easily said – change the plot but give me Reijir as a full character – but since that is not possible I'm pretty sure other readers, just like me, will hate him a lot before even getting a chance to understand him.

Naeth was a sweetheart. Really innocent and naïve, he always looked how to do the best thing and often did the worst one possible. It was part of his charm and made him an exceptional character. Unlike Reijir, Naeth is an open book and next to him it's too easy to see Reijir as the bad guy.

The side characters carried the funny parts of this story. They were diverse, interesting and often without a filter when it came to speaking their mind. Where the rest of the story took to the serious note and a great emotional investment, nights with friends made things look brighter, or in Naeth's case – caused a blush.

Chronicles of Ylandre is a series that takes some getting used to and is a bit of an acquired taste. The hermaphroditism alone is not for everyone but the brave ones will probably be pleasantly surprised.

Eressë is probably one of the most talented authors in the genre. The first book in this series has taken the first place and has been firmly standing there since the day it was published. That shows exactly what I'm talking about and any readers who pick up one of Ylandre series books will see the brilliance of the world and the poetry of the author's words. The elaborate development of every detail and the romance threaded in between the sentences will give an experience that will probably stay with you for days, because one thing is for sure, an Eressë book is not something you forget.

Lauraadriana says

Still in love with this lovely ALL MALE world...These men are still so good to me

This is the third novel in the *Chronicles of Yllandre* series, and like the first two I was just totally enthralled with this world. Eresse, has created such a rich place to go in her books. The imagery, the characters, the history of Yllandre is beautiful. The lore and traditions by this installment were so well known to me, and so natural to read about it was almost soothing to go back for a visit.

This is Reijir and Naeth's story. Reijir is an aristocrat, and one night him and his friends go to one of the more dodgy parts of the city. A fight breaks out at the tavern they are in and one of the servers, a youth named Naeth intervenes before Reijir is attacked. For his troubles Naeth is almost raped and killed by the thug who attacked Reijir. And in true Yllandre fashion, Reijir is the knight in shining armor, who is in the right place at the right time to rescue Naeth.

Reijir finds out that Naeth is an orphan and takes him as his ward. Thing is Naeth is so beautiful, so kind, so brave...AND SO IN LOVE with Reijir, things will come to head with those two. No way around it. There is just no helping it.

Reijir has been hurt in his life by people he loved, his father, his lover. He is not willing to open himself to more heartache...But Naeth bides his time, and little by little he becomes the most important thing that Reijir has EVER had. The road to that point is full of the hurdles and drama that make me LOVE this series. Reijir was A TOTAL ASS at times, but hey, it went well with Naeth's DAMSEL IN DISTRESS routine, so it worked.

This story happens parallel to Rohyr and Lassen's story (from 1st book) as well as to Dylen's and Riodan's (from second)...So that means we got to visit with them as well, and get some of that awesome camaraderie that exists among them. One of my favorite things about these novels is the love between not just the MCs, but also the friends. We also got to meet Keiran, Reijir's brother and Ruomi his lover and Reijir's right hand man...I can only say one thing about Keiran and Ruomi...The flies on their chambers walls might be luckiest little bastards EVER.

So in conclusion, read, loved, will certainly read the next. Recommend this book and this series!

Pamela Su says

Ok. I have a confession to make. When a story is done well, I have a weakness for too-stupid-to-live characters. Boy, do I love this story.

Naeth is a naive, blinkers-on young man who sees absolutely no wrong in his hero, Reijir. Meanwhile, the rest of the readers are probably going "Dude! WTF, Reijir?! Again???"

While I feel I ought to be throwing this book at a wall, I find myself hugging it close and reveling in my guilty pleasure. I loved seeing Naeth follow Reijir around like an adoring puppy chasing the bacon treat in Reijir's pants. I loved seeing the stoic and aloof Reijir try to restrain his passions when faced with such sweetly worshipful, unconditional love.

So many infuriating yet glorious misunderstandings and miscommunications. It was happening almost every other chapter!

If you hate the big misunderstandings trope and a somewhat cruel, utterly boneheaded alpha male hero, this book may not appeal to you.

But if you're like me, you may end up loving the crap out of this.

Val Shameless ?? Steamy Reads ?? says

12/19/15: Series RE-READ in preparation for newest book, coming December 21, woot woot!

Original Review

4 Stars

So, I'm completely obsessed with this series right now.

Seriously.

Obsessed.

Like as in the Tom Cruise style "*I'm so obsessed with Scientology I shall laugh maniacally*" kind of obsessed.

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I know this series kind of...different...

...in what some might say is a "weird" M/M on steroids genre...

...But whatevs!

I freakin' DIG it.

See Mer-Man says it's cool, so it's aight.

So see, totally reasonable.

But I digress.

Book One is still my favorite, of course.

Nothing and no one can compare to Rohyr and Lassen in my opinion.

And while I at least *liked* Naeth and Reijir more as people than I did Riordan from book two, I didn't necessarily *feel* their connection as strongly as I did with the couples from books one and two.

Still, a really good story against a backdrop of outstanding world building.

Something else I think the author does that is really cool is tell each story in a timeline that interweaves itself into the timelines of the previous books - thereby making the time frame make sense and giving us even more details from those previous book relationships - but without being repetitive in any way.

Pretty neat trick if you ask me.

Well I would actually put some true effort into this and make this review an *actual* review, but like I said:

#OBSESSED

So I need to get back to reading book 4...which I am already 80% into...

Whoops!

Ayanna says

Naeth is a useless damsel-in-distress of an ingenue whose default method of dealing with issues is running away. God. He's such a *woman*. Who is permanently PMS'ing. Just...the way he reacts to things. It's like every horrible stereotype of women all wrapped in one. It's like Padme Amidala, but when in II and III, when she was the useless damsel in distress and the useless sobbing wreck, respectively.

Reijir I thought I would like/I really wanted to like, but he's got issues. A lot of them. And not the nice angst ones. Fundamental character problems. More on that later.

Keiran...okay. So he's a breeder. The biggest issue is the author made it out like there are really, really obvious defining features of breeders compared to other males, but all it boiled down to were variances in nipples. Something about slightly plumper and paler areolas. ...Do the people here just all have the same nipples, then, regardless of skin color, race, whatever? Just copy+paste nipples across this universe? Cuz otherwise, slight variances in nipples seems rather arbitrary. Like "Hmm...Yeah, I think this baby's nipples are slightly larger than the average. He must be a breeder. No, no. I'm sure. Look at them. Nevermind the baby's slightly larger than the average; his nipples are definitely slightly larger than the average baby's nipples."

I mean, I get it. It's not like the wome- *cough cough* I mean *breeders* have obvious differences, like no penis and a vagina, since EVERYONE has a penis AND vagina! I mean sheath, of course.

No, now I'm just getting really unnecessarily snarky. But still. Nipple variations? This is fantasy; go all out with some sort of birth mark or third nipple or something. Something obvious like that, you know. (Maybe not a third nipple...)

I wanted to like Reijir. He seemed like he had a lot of nice angst in store.

Reijir is an abusive asshole. There's no way around it. He may not be consciously trying to be an abusive asshole, but his gross negligence and callous disregard and inherent self-centeredness...they make him an abusive asshole. And Naeth crawls back for more each time. Why? Clearly he has no idea what love actually is. No, love is NOT about enduring everything the other person dishes out because they profess love to you. Love can't be all about giving. That would be codependence.

Another thing that really, really bothered me was the lack of any mention or even allusion, really, to Darion for a good half of the book, maybe more. I mean, you can't just mention him in the prologue, and then ignore the fact that you introduced him as Reijir's love interest. That's like Sophie from Da Vinci Code if you read the first book (Angels and Demons) first. You go through DVC wondering what the hell happened to Vittoria. Go finish and still wonder what happened to Vittoria. You see the two of them ending up together and wondering what happened to Vittoria.

I kept wondering what the hell happened with Darion.

At first I thought, "Hey. We didn't actually get to know Darion at all. Maybe he is a jackass after all." Except in the meantime, all we get are examples of why Reijir is a jackass; Naeth is a useless, irrational, thoughtless, sobbing, avoidant wreck; Keiran's pretty much a fop; and Ruomi, a minor character, is probably the only character worth liking.

Yeah, we're told later about Darion's perfidy and shit, but by then, too little too late.

Keiran I wish the author had characterized better/less shallowly. The MCs...I think I'm just disgusted with them that idgaf.

To add insult to injury, Naeth's name is just aesthetically unappealing. It makes me think of "naif," partly because that describes him so well.

The "explanation" (of Darion's evil, diabolic, conniving perfidy) did not endear the MCs to me at all. I thought Reijir was a paranoid bastard who read too much into too little and thus gave Darion plausible cause for breaking it off with him and taking R's dad's deal.

Yeah, I didn't like it.

Jacq says

Hot tempered+mild manner-cute! I really wish this writer would proceed, further pass the year of the first book. Love love this couple!

Nikyta *Miss Forgetful* says

It's been a long time since I've read either Sacred Fate or Hallowed Bond. I enjoy this series very much because of the world that's been created and the uniqueness of the stories.

One thing that Eressë is always able to do is make me love her characters whether they are sweet and innocent or cold and mean. With this story, Naeth is the sweet, innocent one while Reijir is cold and sometimes mean and harsh. They are drawn to each other from the start, though, and Reijir tries to stay the gentleman and keep his hands to himself until Naeth is no longer 'underage'. It's admirable that Reijir does that but there's also the fact that Reijir doesn't do anything with Naeth because he doesn't trust easily and doesn't want to turn out like his father who was a real monster.

The fact that Reijir doesn't fully trust Naeth starts to wear on their relationship because even the smallest omission from Naeth causes Reijir to withdraw from their relationship. As such, Naeth misunderstands Reijir and believes he is becoming a nuisance to Reijir. Eventually Reijir realizes what he's doing and let's Naeth know his true feelings.

In the beginning, I felt like this was very similar to Sacred Fate but then it goes off into its own story and became enjoyable. I had some problems in the beginning mostly because I was so confused. I didn't know what was going on or who half these people were. There's a glossary in the back but I don't think it helped me much. The beginning was a bit slow so I wasn't quite drawn into the story until things started to escalate between Naeth and Reijir. In the end, I really enjoyed the story but I was left with some questions about Naeth and his inheritance.

Overall, the story is enjoyable and the world is very fascinating once you get used to some of the wording. The characters and the conflicts they put themselves through were very entertaining and I liked seeing Reijir

and Naeth work through it. For all those wondering, yes there are (view spoiler) pregnancies in this one. I'm hoping we get to see more of Naeth and Reijir someday because I'd love to see them make a family.

Don Bradshaw says

I believe that this was the best book in the series so far. It was cleanly written without any bog down and had all the members of the previous books in it. I liked Naeth and Keiran a lot. Reijir was very noble but needed a boot in the ass to wake up from the hurt Darion gave him 25 years ago. Both Kieran and Reijir were mistreated by their ada and were each damaged in their own way. Naeth was a study in resiliency with all that he went through in his short life. This was a true romance story beset by two men who don't communicate well, are duty bound to family and are great between the sheets. There was plenty of action and intrigue along with some comedy that kept the pace moving well and kept the story moving. It was nice that Reijir and Darion met up again and that Darion was not so happy with the life that he threw Reijir over for. Highly recommended if you can get through the first two books.

Edina Rose says

Moving Men-Pregnancy story

- The main characters, Reijir and Naeth, are well crafted, three dimensional characters. Both have a very painful past, are imperfect and make huge mistakes. But they also stand out as amazing men, Naeth with his pure heart and innocence, and Rei (who is a member of the "royal" family) with his ethics and his total lack of snobbery in a hierarchical class society.

When they start having feelings for each other Rei is an authority figure for Naeth who is still underage (at 24 yr old! The majority is 30! They must all have the bluest balls over there). But no worries, they don't get down and dirty before Naeth reaches his majority. Their relationship, their feelings, their commitment grow steadily, nothing is rushed. They don't jump to sex quickly, but when they start, they burn the sheets! The sex was hot but I shook my head at their stamina; it was euh... quite exaggerated! In real life, Naeth would have been rushed to A&E and Rei's dick would have fallen off already!

- The plot Very good, with lots of ups and downs, and some breaking-ups and making-ups thrown in to make the reader cry. And there is something Rei did, or more accurately, didn't do, that I didn't understand; it caused too much pain and I still don't know why he didn't do it. Cryptic much? Read the (view spoiler).

- The secondary characters: Amazing too. Rei has a big and loving family. Some of its members are in love and settled (like Rohyr), some still in couple but struggling, some single and gorgeous. More stories to come, I hope! My fav secondary character was Kei, Rei's big brother. Kei is definitely on the effeminate and omega side. He is also a flaming queen, unconventional and just freaking adorable! What he wants, he gets, what he thinks, he says, and if you don't like it, you go F* yourself. That's Kei. He is also caring and the best brother Rei could hope for. I just loved him!

- The most curious things: The way the reproductive organs of these dual-gendered people are arranged on the body. They are arranged in a discreet way, you would never guess where is the feminine part! And I realised they are MEN with women's reproductive organs and not half woman/half man. Even effeminate

Kei is quite the man.

- **The tender and emotional moments:** There are MANY, some happy, some sad, but always beautiful. I was moved by this book.

- **My fav moment:** too many fav but one of them was the scene where Rei tells Naeth that Naeth is his leman (official lover). It was Rei's first tentative commitment to Naeth. It was moving, though as a commitment, it was not enough. Be warned: you'll want to smack Rei upside the head repetitively.

This third book in the series was the best IMO; next comes book 1 Sacred Fate and last, book 2 Hallowed Bond.

The whole series is highly recommended!

, • * ° *••Gwendolyn•°**★°**★ says

Miscommunication and...A Damsel in Distress....3 Stars

I hate that theme.

Naeth, felt like a 10year old character. I did not heart him.

Reijir he was a hot-tempered mess kick ass lovely MC. I heart him.

This world is fabulously crafted, Naeth was a bumbling mess at times, and I adored him.

Vivian says

Still love the world of Ylandre. While this one was good, and who doesn't like a duke and his ward pining for each other, the miscommunications multiple times annoyed me.

Lala says

Boring as f*ck.

And here I thought Lassen was a chick-with-a-dick. Well, at least Lassen was a normal, romantic chick...Naeth here was of the worst kind...TSTL! (i.e. too stupid to live) He was one of those chicks whose sheer idiocy leads them headfirst into dangerous situations, from which the hero saves them...Just kill me now!

I hated Naeth with passion. Bland, blushing, stuttering, mousy, with a distasteful habit of eavesdropping..pathetic. I HONESTLY can't see why Reijir would be attracted to him! The guy didn't have a bit of a personality..no sparkle, no humor, and no brain to talk about. Reijir's ability to fall in love with *that* ensured that I didn't like Reijir, either. First, he was under-developed..we don't know much about Reijir's personality, why everyone is concerned about him, how he used to be..the reason he changed is shown only in the end of the book, when I wasn't interested anymore. He was one-dimensional.

The story dragged out mercilessly. The sex was lukewarm ('cos Naeth was as boring in bed as out of it). The pregnancies failed to move me.

The only reason this book gets 2 stars from me is because of Keiran. And a brief glimpse of Dylen&Rio.

Lilli *slowest reader ever* says

2.5 – 3 stars or something.

Seeing the high ratings and great reviews this book has received, I'm feeling a bit like the odd duck in the pond because I think this one was the weakest installment in this series to date. Compared to the first two books it was rather bland in terms of characters, events and/or plot.

Despite the smooth narration and rich fantasy world I found the story to be dragging, unoriginal and rather boring with characters I couldn't quite warm up to. The twists and turns of the plot were predictable, well-used and uninspiring and despite the spot-on characterizations of Naeth, the innocent and naïve youth, and Reijir, the hurt, cynical and reticent noble, they didn't really feel three-dimensional to me. And although there were the usual obstacles to their blossoming relationship I would have loved to have it all go down a bit more spectacularly. But that's probably just me. Also, there were some moments where the MCs' actions or reactions slightly confused me or left me wondering. All in all, there wasn't much chemistry between me and the MCs and the story just couldn't hold my undivided attention. In fact, I was tempted more than once to skim through it to come to the end.

In addition, new bits and pieces to add to this amazing fantasy world were scarce and I would have loved to see more of the wonderful and amusing family banter between the members of the royal clique which I came to love in the first two books.

My highlights of this installement were Keiran and Ruomi, the former almost stealing the show from his brother Reijir, certain funny/hot incidents and the few heartwarming moments of kinship that are, among other things, kind of a trademark of this series.

To make a long story short, I was disappointed with this newest offering.

But I'm not questioning the great reviews, I'm even a bit jealous as I expected to enjoy this one very much, too. And I do not mind well-used, typical plot devices that serve a certain story trope – going by the blurb this was right up my alley. When it came down to it, though, it simply didn't work for me on many levels.

That being said, I'm looking forward to the next installment in the hopes I'll like it better than this one.

DaisyGirl says

3.0 Stars

Reijir Arthanna, the Lord of Ilmaren, is a survivor of a troubled past. Abused by his sire and betrayed by his first love, Reijir has not risked his heart in years and has no intention of doing so ... until Naeth Orosse enters his life. During a tavern brawl, Naeth saves Reijir from a head bashing. When fate brings them together again, Reijir returns the favor and becomes the the orphaned youth's guardian. Reijir successfully fends off Naeth's flirtations and ignores their mutual attraction, until Naeth reaches the age of consent and decides to go after the lord he has come to love.

This one was okay. I wasn't as smitten with this couple as I was with Dylen and Riodan. I can't put my finger on the source of my ambivalence other than to say that the chemistry was not really there for me. It may have something to do with the fact that Naeth was Reijir's ward and - even after Naeth reaches the age of consent (30 years old) - Reijir refers to him as "youth." Blech. It was nice to revisit with some of the extended cast of characters (as always, I love Rohyr and Dylen) but they played very minor roles. The writing, as usual, was tight and moved at a fairly nice clip.

Bottom line: I wish I loved this one more than I did.

?♥? Michaelle ☺♥? says

3.5 Stars

I mentioned in an update how much I loved how events in the other books are mentioned here but aren't completely rehashed (because I hate when that happens)...and of course the writing is engaging as are the characters.

But it very much read like a rehashed MF historical romance with the pining, dedicated, orphaned virginal ingenue (who runs off - twice! - because of misunderstandings and has to be rescued from ravishment/murder because he's a bit TSTL) and the stoic, hardened, older protector who has to fight his urges to claim the boy while he's still under-age. And then some stuff, plus an OMG a way too romantic first-time encounter, more stuff, secret background revealed, stuff, flashback to why the older man can't trust love, "chance" meeting with the one that broke his trust to rub in the happy ending...

Color me a bit disappointed considering how much I loved the first one and really, really liked the second one. Maybe those were just as formulaic and I missed it because I was dazzled by the world-building and intricacy of the tales? Gah.
