



El Mirlo En La Oscuridad

Josh Lanyon , Carla Díaz (Translator)

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Harto de su trabajo de oficina en la Biblioteca Arcana Imperial, el cazador de libros Colin Bliss acepta un encargo privado para encontrar *La Sombra de la Espada*, un legendario y peligroso libro de hechicería. Pero para localizarlo Colin debe viajar a las remotas Islas Occidentales y resolver un asesinato cometido hace siglos.

No debería ser más que un ejercicio académico, así que, ¿por qué el severo—y absurdamente sexy—Magister Septimus Marx está haciendo todo lo posible para impedir que Colin acepte esta misión, incluso hasta el punto de seducirle durante su viaje en tren hacia el Norte?

El Mirlo En La Oscuridad Details

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Author : Josh Lanyon , Carla Díaz (Translator)

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From Reader Review El Mirlo En La Oscuridad for online ebook

Kati says

Great premise and a great setting. Josh Lanyon sure knows how to evoke emotions - when Colin entered the underground room and suddenly became scared that someone would lock him in and he would suffocate, it really got my heart racing. And I liked all the backstory for Agro and Swanhild. But!

At the same time, the book felt... rushed. People in this world knew about magic. But what were the Arcane Services and how did they operate? How did Septimus stop the sea monster? Also, Septimus' declaration of love seemed to have come completely out of the blue. And the ending was so abrupt. They just let Irania go? Why did the faery woman help Colin? Did Colin have a magic of his own in the end or not?

So many loose ends, so many questions left unanswered. I was a bit disappointed.

Lori says

I liked the world in which this was set - but I kind of wanted more. I enjoyed everything that was here (though maybe a little too insta-love for my tastes) but I wanted it longer and more complex. I'm greedy like that! No matter, I'm pretty sure I will always love Lanyon's words!

Joy says

It always takes me a few chapters to get into the flow of reading fantasy and this book was no exception--the ending more than made up for the slow start---once again Lanyon has given us a great story

Lauraadriana says

I have trouble explaining this book...I was fantasy for sure...but I also got a very steampunk feeling from it. It was enjoyable and entertaining and beautifully written...How does Josh Lanyon do it? I don't know, I'm just happy as hell he can.

In this world Colin Bliss is a book hunter from Boston(librivenator) of Magick books who is working in the London Bureau. He is young but well known for discovering a very obscure grimoire (book of Old Magick).

Out the blue he is hired (on the sly) to hunt for the Sword's Shadow a mythical book that is said to be the most powerful grimoire. There is a lot of legend around this book and most of it having to do with people related to it ending up dead. He takes the job, partly to get away from his office where he is having to face his boss, with whom he just ended an affair.

Once in the hunt he realizes he maybe way in over his head...

This books has fantastic words...I keep saying that but it;s true, I could almost feel the cloud of mysticism in the air...Septimus Marx Colin's lover/nemesis/savior is fantastic, it unfolds partly in Scotland and I loved the descriptions on the place.

The title of the book is also the title of a Thomas Hardy poem...I could not help but read to find parallels...I think I found some....lovely story, lovely writing such lovely words.

Emanuela ~plastic duck~ says

It was a bit more difficult than usual to enter the story because in a fantasy book it always takes me a while to learn the rules of the world created by the author, to memorize the names, items, places, but once I found myself comfortable, I wouldn't want the story to finish.

There are three elements that made this book great:

* books. No one needs to convince me that books are magical items and that they contain much more than what's on the pages. Sometimes I'm so engrossed in a book, I hang onto it with my hands and heart and mind with such fierceness that I think the emotions are transferred into the paper. Borrowing a book makes me always think of the people who held it before me and lending a book of mine is like giving away a piece of me, so this story were book hunters can absorb the life of a book and play such a great role in the balance of the world was incredibly exciting;

* Scotland. I visited Scotland in 2007 and I went to Oban! Scotland is a magical place and it wasn't difficult to picture the places and the atmosphere. I like to read about places I visited. The castle of Colin's quest - I don't think it's the real Urquhart Castle, which is on Loch Ness - with its secret places was like a character that we learned together with Colin;

* Septimus Marx. I can't believe I fell in love with another one of Josh Lanyon's rough, dark and so lovingly human and tender characters. Reading about this man watching the young Colin from afar and guarding over him and having to make the most difficult decision about him was awesome.

Another highly recommended book. I do hope there will be more from this universe.

Ingela says

Written January 2, 2015

3.1 Stars - Mysterious myths and an interesting adventure part ... but too little snuggle factor for me

A *Josh Lanyon* fantasy / mystery tale. — 5:30 hrs narrated by Max Miller (new for me).

A little disappointed to be honest..

Hardly a romance but a pretty interesting mystery. - Although very different with a strange feeling over it. Both the story itself and this slow and quite odd narration. Melancholy and very quietly in the expression, but still enjoying to listening to. I'm not sure if I liked this story, or the narration, or not.... yet.

Colin Bliss a 23 years old book hunter, and American, works for a time at the *Imperial Arcane Library* in *London*. After a badly ended (embarrassing and quite painful) short lovestory with a new colleague is he asked, and accepts, a private commission to find The Sword's Shadow, a legendary and dangerous witches' grimoire. ~ A mythic and very dangerous old book.

Soon enough is it necessary to travel with train (and ferry) to *Western Isles* and solve a centuries' old murder. Then appears another fellow, **Septimus Marx** a tall, dark man with a strong attraction.

***The Darkling Thrush* is in no way a bad or boring mystery book.** Quite the opposite, it has a good a well thought out, interesting (sad) very old myth / legend to be solved here. And partly also gets resolved. I liked this part of the book, although it was many difficult names, complicated old myths etc., to grasp when listen instead of reading by yourself.

What I lacked was an ounce more romance (as an addicted romances reader) but I also had a hard time believing, and feel for, the tiny romance part that in fact existed here.

Septimus' (the supposed strong alpha male..) narrated voice was so stupid silly and unattractive, that I found it hard to see what John saw in him at all. He sounded like an old grumpy *Merlin*. It felt like a slightly incredible insta lust and insta love that felt tacked on in this context. Overall, probably had this story been better, for me, without great affection and big grand words from a "stranger" and a more developed slow love story instead.

Not 'my' best JL but still a few hours good enough listening (..a dark, cold, stormy first day of the year).

I LIKE - Yeah kind of... I wished for more

Monique says

Audio Book 3.5 Stars... OK! Narrator Max Millar was amazing, I loved his seductive tones:)

Edina Rose says

Ebook and Audiobook reviews

ebook

Librivenator, librireddo, Vox pessimeres, veneficus...

I so love the vocabulary in this book!

Our 23 year old librivenator is so adorable in his youth and errors and naivete! Mix this with good looks, intelligence and self-deprecating humour and you've got someone I want to hear more about.

I would like to know how the relationship between Bliss and Marx evolves. They live in different countries, Bliss is doing an exchange program when they meet. Will Bliss stay in England?

God, I would like to hear more about them. About Marx first, because the book was mostly about Bliss. Marx is strange and strong and mysterious and has a questionable job in my opinion. I would like to know how he deals with doing what he does for a living (I won't tell what ... spoiler) and having a good conscience (He appears a bit self-righteous in the book, so I suppose he feels good about himself and his job).

I did not agree with Marx decision at the end of the book because of Briggs knowledge of the location... (cryptic comment, hum? that's for those who have read the book).

I hope there will be many sequels with more strange hunts and strange latin-like names. Marx seems so mysterious and powerful! I want to see him on a hunt! That could be amazing! And Bliss accompanying him, displaying all his (newfound?) abilities and making a few more errors of judgement... Yum!

I just luuuuv this book.

Audiobook review (Narrator Max Miller)

This book has such a wonderful vocabulary I wanted to hear someone pronouncing the words. I also wanted to hear all the Brit accents. Well, the narrator of this audiobook is fantastic!!! He changes his voice and his accent so many times it's freaking amazing: American, London, Scottish! I like how he impersonates women, how he sings the gaelic song, how his voice really varies from one character to another... I find Bliss voice exactly like I pictured it. That's how audiobooks should be: not the narrator simply reading the book, but actually impersonating the characters. This was as good as listening to a good song.

PS: I really think audiobooks should be listed separately because it's not only the quality of the story that counts, the performance of the narrator does too.

Teri says

[Marx even comes out and says he loves dude, after he says he has to kill him of course, well, (hide spoiler)]

Feliz says

What if there was magic in our world today? What if it was as normal to be a witch, or clear sighted, as it is for us to be good at sports or a musician? This is what Josh Lanyon must have thought when he created an AU world with telephones, aircraft, and automobiles where "the Americas" are officially still called "The colonies", where people spend their lives transcribing books by hand or hunting famous lost grimoires, where there is a secret police in charge of suppressing or destroying books that are too dangerous to come to the world of man, where the mechanical printing press was invented by a Scotsman in 1414, where a goblin can be a well known - doctor and where members of the Seelie Court with blue skin and red eyes walk the streets in daylight?

This is the world of Colin Bliss, a book hunter on an exchange program from Boston, currently living in London and working for a government agency which control and collect magical books and magic in general, or Magick, as it is called here. Recovering from the breakup between him and his superior, Anthony, Colin feels neutralized riding a desk instead of working as a book hunter as he used to. He gets to hear he's too young, too inexperienced and, in addition to that, being a Colonial not at all fit to go on "real book hunts" in the old world from everybody, including mysterious Septimus Marx, who seems to pop up everywhere Colin happens to go. Bored and annoyed, Colin jumps in with both feet when a slightly obscure private book collector asks him to go hunting for a famous grimoire which has been missing for six centuries. When he learns the hunt can not only cause peril to his own life, but to manhood in general, Colin tries to step back from the search. But it's too late. He can't escape his fate anymore. Nor can he escape Septimus Marx.

I loved all those little details of Lanyon's brilliant worldbuilding. The tongue - in cheek references to legends and lore, the casualness the characters move inside a reality which is so outlandish to us, it's all masterfully and so typical Lanyon. (one example: Colin talks to the goblin who falls asleep in the middle of the talk. When he returns a day later and is disappointed the goblin still sleeps, the goblin's housemaid tells him "She's a *goblin* she could sleep for a day or a month," and Colin just nods ruefully as if he should have known better than to ask.) The mystery, the quest, is thrilling and fascinating, and the ending is surprising and worth the journey.

The relationship between Septimus and Colin builds unusually fast for a work of Lanyon's, and there's remarkably little explanation of the why of it. It feels almost like insta - love. Their connection is supposed to run deep, but I couldn't feel their emotions. That's what bothered me lately with several of Lanyon's newer works, the lack of emotion between the heroes.

But then again, the book read like the first in a series. Maybe Septimus and Colin will get closer over time. There are many other odds and loose ends which call to be linked together. I'm looking forward to reading the sequel to this one.

JR says

Colin Bliss is a book hunter. Itching to get out of desk work and back into the field, Colin takes a private job to recover a witches grimoire that could spell the end of the world. Magister Septimus Marx is tagging along with Colin, but is he aiding or inhibiting Colin's quest?

This fantasy mystery caught me by surprise. I been plowing through Mr. Lanyon's catalog which has so far

been mostly contemporary, with a few set in America of the past. This one sort of felt a little in the steampunk genre. I had a fun time with it. Nice sexy scenes with Colin and Septimus are a bonus to this wonderful story.

Vivian says

The book geek in me loved the premise of an outsider librarian going off the range after making a colossally bad workplace decision.

Colin Bliss, young, talented and naive makes a whopper of bad judgment call and then realizes he has to live with it for a year. A very long year. Until an opportunity presents itself and he decides to engage in some unsanctioned activities since, well...since he's been sidelined.

Septimus Marx, the scowling presence that always unsettles Bliss is the proverbial bad penny that keeps turning up. But, his sanctimonious airs have more to do with than just the superiority of position and skill. Bliss finds this out during his journey.

I liked the adventure/treasure seeking plot for a lost book. A mythic book that all reputable sources deny exists. The thought and development of the legend and the gaelic used throughout gave a very tangible feel to the story and if there's something I really enjoy, it is being subsumed by a story. The plot itself isn't complicated, but the execution is so smooth and pleasurable that it rates highly in my estimate.

Favorite quote:

He smiled faintly. “‘Ge milis a’ mhill, cò dh’imlicheadh o bhàrr dri i.’ Good advice, this is. Honey may be sweet, but no one licks it off a briar.”

Natasha says

A two-star Lanyon from me? Never thought I'd live to see the day. But it is from 2010 and like all things, I think Lanyon has improved with time.

The writing is still marvelous. Extremely poetic and beautiful.

I had a harder time connecting to this story. I'm not sure Lanyon paranormal is for me.

Ami says

3.25 stars

Positive: Wow for the fantasy thing. I must say the the description is quite good. It is intriguing ... the quest to find the lost legendary grimoire in the remote Western Isles. It's like I'm watching "Merlin"

Negative: I don't know, I feel like there is a disconnection between Colin and Septimus. If I expect some kind of romance, this is not it. I cannot really believe their relationship.

Still, if I need to sum up, I will go with intriguing

Breann says

I always enjoy a character who sticks his nose where it probably doesn't belong and gets into all sorts of trouble.

Colin Briggs accepts a job to find an ancient and dangerous grimoire, *The Swords Shadow*. Pretty soon into his search he realizes that he's in way over his head and that he's not the only one on the search.

This was definitely a paranormal book with some fae and magic, but there wasn't much world building. We saw each experience through Colin's POV and that was all we got of this world. No background and not much explanation. But I didn't feel as though I was missing anything, there was just enough to keep me intrigued without getting bogged down by all the details.

I always love Lanyon's characters. Of course, we have the loveable, underestimated guy who is too curious and ambitious for his own good, Colin. And yeah, it was told from his POV. Then we have the mysterious, tough, analytical thinker as the love interest, Septimus. Their romance wasn't the main focus of the story but their interactions were fun and it made for a great read.

The mystery was top-notch. There were tons of players in finding this ancient book, all wanting to find it for different reasons. It kept me guessing all the players until the end.

Magic, mystery, loveable characters and a little bit of romance. Great combo.
