



## Dark Sun

*M.J. O'Shea*

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Lynx is the spoiled sheltered son of the Dragon Triad, a crime family that rules over futuristic New Seattle. When he gets separated from his cousins during an adventure in the seediest part of town, he meets the man of his dreams in a bar owned by the Phoenix Triad, his family's bitter rivals. After a night spent in passion, his mysterious lover disappears and Lynx fears he'll never find him again.

Orion has a secret. On the surface he's the perfect son, a society prince, heir to the Phoenix Triad's corporate throne. But in his other life he's known as Katana -- thief, hacker, hero who steals from the triads to help the poor citizens of Bottom City. Orion knows the pretty Dragon he met in the bar that night is trouble, but he can't forget the passion they shared.

So when the opportunity arises, Orion captures him and takes him on an adventure he'll never forget. Will their love match survive the revelation of their true identities and the heat of their families' feud?

*Publisher's Note: This book contains explicit sexual content, graphic language, and situations that some readers may find objectionable: male/male sexual practices.*

## Dark Sun Details

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## From Reader Review Dark Sun for online ebook

**Nikyta \*Miss Forgetful\* says**

I was pleasantly shocked by this book. I bought it years ago but never got around to reading it until today. With that being said, it has the plot of Romeo & Juliet with a twist of Robin Hood added in for good measure.

It's an adventurous story that follows the second son of the Dragon Triad, Lynx, as he accidentally meets the notorious 'Yoru Katana', the thief who is stealing from his family, and becomes infatuated with but who he doesn't know yet is Katana. Except, Katana is actually Orion, the supposed heir to the Phoenix Triad, the rivals of the Dragons. Orion believes completely in his mission to steal valuable meds from higher society and giving it back to the poor society. At the same time, he's also become infatuated with Lynx, putting more danger to his already dangerous missions especially when he not only has an intimate relationship with Lynx but takes him on a few missions with his team as well. However, that's not the worst of their problems and soon enough Lynx and Orion uncover a project that connects their family to something horrible that they feel needs to be stopped.

In the beginning, Lynx is this depressed, innocent, naive and spoiled noble. He's scared to mingle with those on the Bottom Level because he's been taught that they're deformed freaks. Sadly, Lynx has taken those lies to heart and is scared of interacting with anyone but his own people on Cloud Level. It was interesting to see the development between Lynx in the beginning and Lynx in the end. It's a huge change because not only does Lynx become less naive but he also becomes more fierce and confident, as well as, more generous and open-minded to those beneath him. Orion is pretty intense. He lives a dual life as one of the elitist who doesn't have a care in the world and then a life as the most notorious thief, Katana. I loved that it was so easy for him to change into the different personas. Mostly, while their sudden need for each other is not technically explained, I loved seeing these boys fall hard and fast for each other to the point that no matter what, they couldn't stay away from one another for long. It was adorable, IMO, but I still enjoyed their attempts at making things less complicated.

I think my biggest issue with this story is that it was too short. The world Ms. O'Shea created was phenomenal and interesting. It's slightly confusing at first but as the story progressed, everything made more sense. It was fascinating to see the world unravel and even more interesting to start to see how it got that way. However, because of the length, I felt like the ending was slightly rushed but, more than that, I'm left with a sense of incompleteness. I want to know what happens next, how Lynx and Orion will survive, what they'll do now. Will they continue with what Orion started? How will they be able to do that? So, I'm left with a bunch of unanswered questions.

All in all, though, I adored the story. It's short but it's also fast paced with an entertaining set of characters (who get a lot of sexy time!) and an interesting plot with suspenseful conflicts. I'm hoping there's more to come of this story, though, because I'd love to see if their efforts paid off in the end.

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**Mare SLiTsReaD Reviews says**

LOVED IT!!!

THIS BOOK WAS SO REFRESHING.

I LOVED THE KISSING AND THE HAND HOLDING

I LOVED THE SEX

I LOVED THE MILD SUSPENSE

I HATE THAT IT ENDED SO QUICKLY

I HATE THAT WE HAD NO EPILOGUE

THAT IS ALL

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### **Skye Blue ?\*~??('`?)~\*? says**

This book surprised me. I'm not a fan of written sci-fi, but somehow dystopia is the exception to that, so I gave it chance. The world is very different, but the story is a mash up, of a couple classics.

Orion steals from his family, and the Dragon family, to give to the poor, underprivileged. Not money, but medications, helping the children to survive. Orion and Lynx are from feuding fractions...and their love would be forbidden. Sound familiar? Yep, but that's the basis of a great deal of books and movies, it works.

While the world was pretty well developed, the conflict could have been delved into more. It was over a little fast. But, it is a series, so it's a nice start, with plenty of room to expand.

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### **Calila says**

Interesting and had potential. I feel like I would've enjoyed it more if it were a bit longer or had more depth in a way. The characters are decent. I liked the world building, and the way the plot ties to the "apocalypse" that had happened. The ending felt a bit rushed but it was fine.

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### **?♥? Michaëlle ♡♥? says**

3.8 Stars

Take a little Romeo & Juliet, plus a touch of Robin Hood...add a pinch of an Oligarchy & elite class making money off polluting the environment, then mix with a heaping helping of oppressed poor relegated to sub-human conditions and voila! You have this book. Only I still liked it given the obvious tropes.

I think the world-building was a little less developed than, say, LA Witt's Falling Sky series (with a similarly structured city); this story mentions that the fortunes of the rich - living privileged lives of plenty in Cloud City - are made off the backs of those in Bottom City...but it's not mentioned *how* this happens. They don't

have money so can't buy the drugs, and the adults are emaciated and diseased so aren't working in factories or mines...so I can't figure out the specifics. The mid-level populations work in the less affluent white-collar or blue-collar jobs, too, so I'm left a little confused.

However, as there is another book in the series I'm interested enough to see how everything in the climactic scene plays out for those in power...

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### **Lauren says**

This is another one of those books that I've had on my Kindle for ages and just kept passing over. I actually bought this on its release day last year, which shows how long I've been putting it off! But once again, I've been left wondering why I didn't read it sooner. Dark Sun was a wonderful read! It was such a perfect mix of science fiction and romance, and I loved the whole rivals to lovers thing that was going on. Lynx and Orion were awesome main characters. This story was interesting, unique and fabulously written - I will definitely be reading it again!

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### **Kassa says**

As a fan of dystopian fiction, I was pretty excited to read Dark Sun. The story has a very nice urban fantasy setting that fulfilled that craving I always have for the genre while the characters and plot are decent. They're not great unfortunately, partly due to the short nature of the novella, and the entire story rushes from start to finish. The characters feel unfinished and somewhat empty as they stick close to pretty well known stereotypes. There is a vague Romeo and Juliet feel to the star crossed lovers from warring families while one character is a pretty typical Robin Hood by stealing from the rich to give to the poor. Because of these obvious tropes, the story never quite satisfies and moves into something wholly unique but the various elements included are enough to make an interesting enough story if you're a fan of urban fantasy.

The plot starts with Lynx, the middle son of a rich powerful ruling family, out on the town one night semi against his will. He stumbles incoherently into the lair of his archenemy and encounters a beautiful young man, Orion. Both hiding who they really are the two spend one amazing night together, prompting Lynx to search for his lover again. Yet matters are complicated as Orion is also a thief known as Katana, stealing from both families to give medicine and food to the poor. Together the two young men have incredible chemistry but their warring families and Orion's true mission may come between them.

The plot itself is pretty basic, if pretty rushed. The two men meet and have some light star-crossed lover angst as they realize they're from different, opposing families. There is a definite nod to the Shakespeare classic here as the two seem to follow along many of those same lines. Towards the end of the novella though, the plot takes an incredibly fast (and somewhat ridiculous) turn into the dramatic with an evil scheme between the two families and both Lynx and Orion rushing to save the world. It's too much packed into too short a story without the necessary background to have it make any sense or for the reader to really care. There was enough tension between the young men already without tacking on a somewhat silly evil plot towards the end.

Besides that issue, there are a few others. The characters are engaging enough and they held my attention while reading. Yet they feel somewhat bland and empty. They should be very dramatic and exciting, racing

around the city trying to evade capture while sneaking sex scenes in but instead they feel somewhat predictable and placid. Part of this issue is the tropes I mentioned previously obviously at work with the characterizations. There is little depth offered for the characters, even though the reader is told again and again how much they care and want to do the right thing. I believe it in an abstract way but it never made a significant impact as the main protagonists and the story itself stays pretty light and breezy.

What does work is the urban fantasy setting. It's set in the future after some war/catastrophic event and the details used to create the world are pretty thorough and interesting. It feels very familiar to most urban fantasy books I've read, which isn't a problem as it fits well within the genre. The plot and tone of the writing keep the story pretty light but the world building feels mostly complete and engaging. The numerous details are continued throughout the story so you never forget the setting, which is a touch I always like and appreciate. Combined with the super fast pace, this is an easy story to read in one sitting if you're an urban fantasy fan and want something light, easy, and romantic.

Overall Dark Sun isn't a homerun by any means but it's an entertaining and enjoyable enough story to read. It feels somewhat too familiar in many places but the setting is good and should please urban fantasy fans. If you're not into that genre, I'm not entirely sure how well this story will resonate but the characters are decent and definitely romantic with a solid happy ending but room for a sequel should the author choose.

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### **Sheri says**

There was potential and I wanted it to shine. It was budding, but then it never fully bloomed. So I asked myself...why? What happened?

**Full review to come...**

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### **Valentina Heart says**

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

Fantastic futuristic world with all the familiar concepts twisted just a bit differently and turned into something extremely interesting. That's about the crudest way I could have described this wonderful story but still made it intriguing enough.

Lynx is the middle son of the Dragon Triad, one of the two most powerful Triads in New Seattle. He is sheltered, naïve and spoiled, but surprisingly enough, he also has a soft heart and is untainted by the ways of his family. On a night out with his more adventurous cousins, he gets lost and ends up in bed with a mysterious lover who just about rocks his world with a kiss.

Orion is the only son of the Phoenix Triad and not as innocent as he seems. Far from the eyes of the Cloud Level and his family, he is Katana, a hacker and a thief who steals from the Triads and gives to the poor.

Orion is the more level headed of the two and realizes just how dangerous the world they live in is. While he can't resist his Dragon lover and mystery man any more than his lover can forget about him, Orion has other things to think about, like saving the people the Triads have destroyed.

It is understood that the two end up together, have passionate sex and a bunch of cute and adorable moments. What you won't get from the blurb is the notion of how exactly action-filled and interesting is this story. Katana fights for his beliefs with a passion and adrenaline infused recklessness while Lynx can barely see further than Orion's eyes and gorgeous hair. The two fit surprisingly well together and their struggle for justice and mutual happiness is at moments extremely heart-warming.

I loved the world this author created, where only the rich live comfortably and almost everyone else suffers. It is the everlasting conquest for power and wealth that leads the people and at one point they stop caring about the consequences their actions might have during their crime riddled journey.

The first few pages were conflicting when it came to Lynx. No matter how sheltered he might be, he was also raised to be a fighter and a killer. What I read at the beginning clashed with Lynx's supposed capabilities and made me think of him as someone not overly bright. While that sort of faded during the story I never did manage to like him as much as I did Orion.

In addition to those few irregularities, it was also obvious that this story should have been longer. The excessive rush present in the book took from the plot and the quality, leaving behind a wonderful introduction to the world I would have loved to know more about. It wasn't really so much about the characters as I wanted to know what happened next, what they actually accomplished with their actions and what reactions their fathers had. It think with a bit more effort, this could have been a brilliant book, nonetheless I do suggest you read it when in the mood for a bit of cyberpunk sci-fi.

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### **Riina Y.T. says**

Love, love, love, love these two guys! <3

The story was loads of fun. I don't know why I'd been so hesitant to pick this one up...

Read the 2015 edition - lovely cover btw.

Some dialogues I found a bit odd, to be honest, and the whole thing would profit from a little revision. I actually thought the book was a revised version, what with the new cover and all, therefore the many typos threw me...

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### **Arch Bala says**

Wow! Amazing! Amazing! The world-building itself is a dream!!! I could see this in a film! I loved how Orion and Lynx found each other coming from rival triads. Awesome job for Orion becoming Robin Hood

of some sort. Gaahh... the dialogues, the story! It's amazing! Perfection! And that cliffhanger! Gosh! Loved it!

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### **M'rella says**

Reminded me of LA Witt's "A Chip In His Shoulder".

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### **Isabella says**

I'm going to stop at WOW!!!

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### **Merith says**

More of a 4.5 than a 4. A really fantastic story with a nice sense of world building. It has a Romeo and Juliet feel with a bold dash of Robin Hood thrown in. But in all honesty, the story universe and the problems associated with it, rather reminded me of *Total Recall*. And the ending was rather abrupt. It made the story feel like there's more to come, like it's the first of a series, but nothing on the author's site mentions additional books of the series, if it is.

...I hope so, because there's so much more that could be said of this world and Rion and Lynx.

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### **Melora says**

As others have mentioned it borrowed heavily from both Romeo & Juliet and Robin Hood (alas no helpful apothecaries or villainous sheriffs showed up). The world building was good, but I didn't get a strong sense for either Lynx or Rion. Lynx was like a little kid just discovering that boundaries are flexible and should be tested and that you shouldn't believe everything you're told. Rion, on the other hand, was so enmeshed in Katana's dealings that I had to wonder what led to his self-discovery and subsequent subversions and how long ago it occurred. Overall it was a decent story that ended far too vaguely for my liking.

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