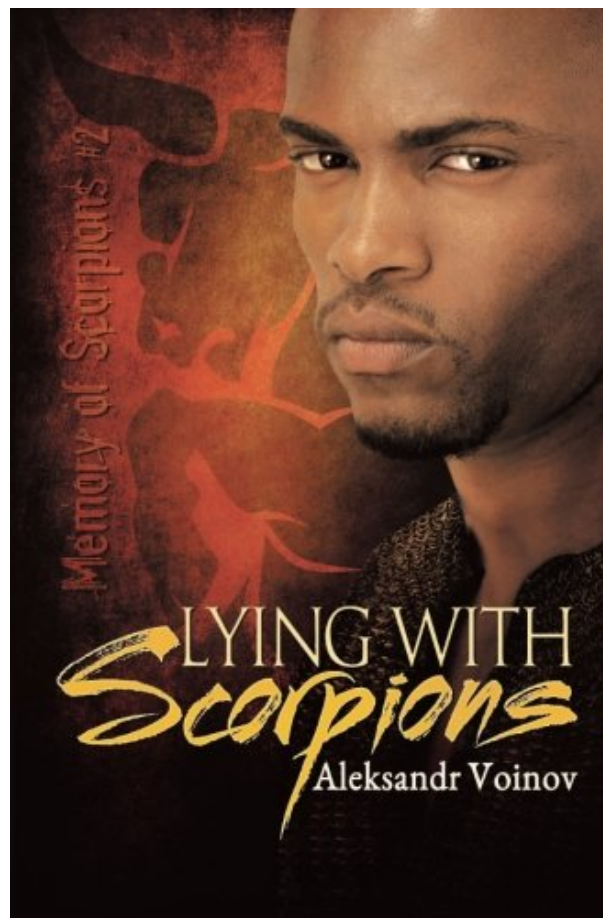
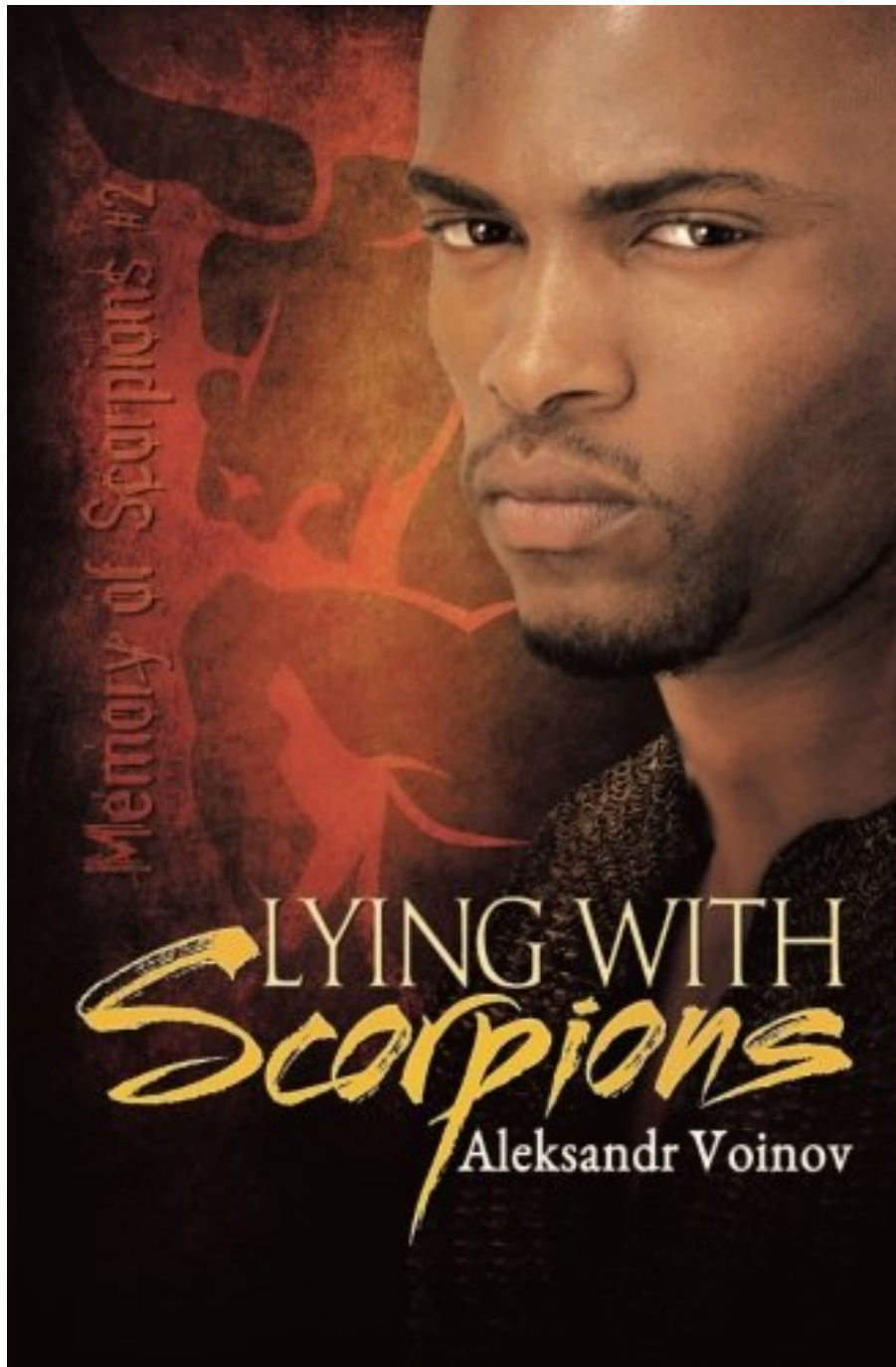


LYING WITH SCORPIONS (MEMORY OF SCORPIONS) (VOLUME 2) BY ALEKSANDR VOINOV



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LYING WITH SCORPIONS (MEMORY OF SCORPIONS) (VOLUME 2) BY ALEKSANDR VOINOV PDF

If you lie with scorpions, you'd better have a taste for poison.

Now that Kendras's lover Adrastes has claimed the throne of Dalman, Kendras is tangled deeper than ever in politics and intrigue. As the new leader of the Scorpions and Adrastes's one true friend, he and his men stand between Adrastes and those who wish him dead.

And many do. Adrastes openly challenges the ocean priesthood for power while establishing himself at court and brokering with the realm's various factions. He means for the Scorpions to become a fearsome legion again, but Kendras must first learn how to be a good officer and recruit to replace the fallen. His choices will determine the future of a group steeped in hundreds of years of history and tradition.

As both Kendras and Adrastes settle old scores, a new enemy arises in Commander Graukar, a war hero loyal to the old order. In his formidable mountain fortress, Graukar may hold the balance of power. But while Adrastes aims to either rule or destroy Graukar, Kendras finds himself doubting Adrastes for the first time, and sharing more with Graukar than he ever thought possible.

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- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .69" w x 5.25" l, .69 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 276 pages

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4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Blood, Dust, Betrayal and Trust

By Spifette

For all of the serious tone and subjects in this book, it's just plain fun to read. FUN. I enjoyed myself as each word sunk its mini grappling hooks into me, page after page. And it all started with a map...

Let's start with that map that is included at the very beginning of the book. It helped me to look at that before starting to read, for spatial reasons, to have an idea of the distances between places. Voinov's words take care of the descriptions of those places and made it easy for my brain to paint those pictures. Doesn't hurt that I love maps.

To me, Kendras is a game changer. This entire story is about how things are changing in this world of Dalman, Fetin, the Temple City and so much more. This story is about how Kendras is changing, both as a

result of his own growth and that forced upon him by changes in those around him.

Adrastes is a true leader but wants the simple things in life and will get them, at any cost, to bring them in line with his definition of such a life. Kendras attempts to keep priorities: for the kingdom and Adrastes, and for the Scorpions, his men. These goals are not always in alignment.

Selvan the slave is a key, maybe the key, to them all. A grounding force exemplified from a most powerful place: on his knees. He's the hidden heart of this story for me and Kendras needs him, most of all for the friendship and trust.

Runner is a woman of strength who doesn't want anyone unduly using theirs on her again. Kendras opens the world of possibilities for her and is probably gaining an unexpected and very strong ally.

Widow is still widow, a jerk you need and want around. He may say those jerk type things but they're surrounded in truth. Kendras is smart to take in what he says, even when he doesn't want to or it causes him to question things... and people. Undoubtedly, ya'll, Widow: a walking truth of brutally clever insights, and barbs. We have still only seen the top few layers of this man.

From page one, we're properly dumped right into the story, the intrigue, the doubts and desires. It never really stops. This is a true fantasy, with the characters, locations, names and a few 'foreign' words here and there. However, it is never at a level that would preclude enjoyment by a reader who may consider themselves a member of the "I read fantasy-lite" camp, of which I am. This is partly achieved by the historical feel by means of detail in clothing, food and overall culture. It still feels like this could be Persia from millennia ago. Lite fantasy with a robust historical twist? Yes, please and thank you.

Amidst all of this fantasy, there are incredibly human, quiet, emotionally wide open moments. They bring everything into a different focus and up the ante on the larger wheels in motion and the dangerous possibilities. For everything he's been through, Kendras continues to reveal these moments, reveal himself within them. I actually sighed more than once.

All of this *points up* is what storytelling is all about: creating complex people in a complicated setting and bringing every bit of it to its collective knees through gestures and words dripping with implications at the very personal level. They'll either change everything or nothing, and both outcomes make me care about these characters.

Graukar. Enemy? Secret ally? Lover? Traitor? He starts out as a reluctantly accepted general to newly crowned King Adrastes. After that? We gain wee glimpses to the answers and questions, and more. Besides Widow, he's the only other man to truly pique Kendras' curiosity. Bonus: he does it without biting wit and verbal burns. In fact, the opposite. Mmmm hmmm. He manages to touch parts of Kendras that no one else has before reached. Not even Adrastes. Though, without some of those past experiences that involved the king, then an Officer, Kendras may not have been as capable of allowing himself to feel these touches of Graukar's. The beauty of timing. Bigtime bonus #2: Graukar and Kendras together are hot.

Just to give you an idea of the questions we are left to ponder, wring our literary hands over, discuss and plain ole grin about the fact that a book makes us think like this. Who will conquer whom? Who will survive their destiny? Does Kendras play it smart? Play at all? What will come of Adrastes and Kendras? Graukar and Kendras? Will the secrets save or destroy them? At what cost? What of the heartbeat of them all, Selvan? What of the other Scorpions like Dev, Kiran and Riktan? Runner?

I came up with one thing that may lead to some answers. Everyone is looking for the truth, in whatever form they feel the need, especially Kendras. Sometimes when you choose to trust someone, without knowing why, their worth is revealed to be more than you could have predicted.

The flip side of trust is betrayal. That is definitely what seems to be happening, and people have their reasons and they feel legitimate, but there will be consequences. How those will manifest is yet to be seen. We've only seen the initial volleys and the bombs haven't landed on the other side of the various walls yet.

A side note: listen, Shadow, Graukar's brother... yeah, we need more of him and more of him with someone, someone to both knock that fantastic smirk off his face, only now and then, and have fun doing it.

Amrash. I won't even say anything further. This character is now and will forever be one of the best supporting I've ever encountered in a work of fiction. Talk about bang for your buck.

The surprises and twists continue and deepen in this book, spreading their roots and branches further and in more unpredictable patterns. My insides still feel sore from being tossed around like a well-worn ragdoll. I somehow have survived my own attack by the Scorpions.

Voinov knows emotion, knows human beings and our tendencies, our unavoidable foibles and hopes, our needs. He knows the heart. He knows what it means to fight for the life you want. He shows all of that in this book. If you want all of that, read this. I wanted all of that and got it. Thank you, AV.

This review was originally published at Prism Book Alliance and is in reference to the e-book.

I was provided an ARC by Riptide Publishing in exchange for my review, as well as I own my own copy.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Loved it! Great sequel!

By Amazon Customer

WOW! I read Scorpion several years ago and deeply loved it... I was under the impression that it was to be a stand alone novel. When I saw on Twitter that Aleksandr was working on sequels, I was a very happy girl! I read the updated version of Scorpion not too long ago, and have waited for Lying with Scorpions anxiously. Here it is! I loved it. The story is just as complex and twisting as Scorpion, the characters are wonderful, especially Kendras. We learn more about his history in this one, and his family history. I had a hard time with Adrastes, he's changed a lot since the first book when he was the Officer. Now he's a ruler, and he's gotten dark... I wasn't sure about Aleksandr's decision on what to do with their relationship, but by the end of the book I approved. Great new characters, great old characters, enough action to be interesting but not as much fighting as the first book. which is fine, I can take or leave big fight scenes. I'm so curious to see how this will wrap up in A Taste of Poison... I just can't imagine where Aleksandr will take us! But I trust it will be a fantastic ride!

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

A masterwork of storytelling!

By Amazon Customer

"Lying With Scorpions" starts right where "Scorpion" left off. Adrastes is about to become king of Dalman, Kendras is his lover, Kendras is now the Officer of the Scorpions, and the Scorpions are acting as Adrastes' personal guard. Kendras is content but wary. He has faith in Adrastes built from years following his orders while he was the Officer. Kendras wants to believe all the little things that are bothering him aren't real or are simply not what he fears. First and foremost he has to protect Adrastes in the time leading up to his coronation. The citizens of Dalman aren't embracing Adrastes wholeheartedly, nor are they openly rebelling against him. After learning of a possible plot among the generals of Dalman, Kendras decides to take his new

recruits up into the mountains for initiation. Adrastes is pressuring Kendras to increase the size of the Scorpions and Kendras will be able to meet one of the military heroes of Dalman, Graukar. When Kendras does finally meet Graukar it's not as he originally intended. The newest Scorpion had a bad reaction to the scorpion sting that is part of the induction ceremony. Kendras arrives at Eagle's Test, Graukar's command, needing medical care. He's not as easily able to learn about Graukar as he wished. What he does learn when he finally meets the man isn't what he quite expected. Graukar is a well respected commander because he's a really great guy. His troops look up to him because he's worthy of their respect. Kendras finds himself respecting and admiring the man as well.

Kendras and his new Scorpion return for Adrastes' coronation. All goes well and there is a surprise visit from a Jaishani representative complete with a Jaishani legion. Adrastes is now king and Kendras is finding he wants less and less to do with him. Kendras no longer considers himself Adrastes' lover and has begun making his way to Graukar who was commanded to attend the coronation. In addition to this change, Kendras receives life altering news from the Jaishani. He also has to reconcile himself to the fact he must stand up to Adrastes who does not seem to respect the fact Kendras is now the Officer. Adrastes attempts to continue to command Kendras and direct the path of the Scorpions in ways the Memory never detailed. Kendras is at a loss and has nowhere to turn but to Graukar. They become secret lovers and confidantes.

Adrastes destroys the Ocean priesthood with the help of the Jaishani. He accomplishes his goal, but he instills fear in the hearts of his own citizens and his neighbors in Vededrin. An attempt on Adrastes' life has many of the citizens questioning whether or not they want Adrastes to survive. After learning more about Adrastes, Kendras also finds himself questioning his desire to have Adrastes live to be king. Despite Adrastes' protestations he won't be a tyrant, he's shaping up to be exactly that and Kendras may have just sent him medical treatment that may save his life.

This book affected me. It wasn't unlike complicated jazz music or a Bergman film. It's not something I would classify as enjoyable, but it was a masterwork of storytelling that left me feeling wasted. I was so hurt by the person Adrastes proved himself to be. Whereas I could easily read a book from his perspective and understand his motivations and love him as a character, the pain he caused Kendras in proving he wasn't the man Kendras thought was stunning. Kendras fell in love with the Officer and has learned Adrastes is someone else entirely. It hurt and was so appropriate. To add to the depth of the pain, Adrastes seemed hurt at the deterioration of the relationship as much as Kendras. Both men became entranced with someone in a specific position. When that person was no longer in the same position everything was over. It was never love. It was adoration.

As with my review of "Scorpion" I left significant quantities of detail out of my review. So much happened in this book. Kendras is no simple soldier and never really was. His life is becoming more and more complicated and the man who simply wanted to rescue his Officer no longer exists at all. Kendras new problems are still as small as seeing to the men who serve with him in the Scorpions but they are also now as large as familial alliances with a foreign power. In some ways there was very little action in this book but Kendras whole world view was changed. He experienced a seismic shift and has to deal with the changes. I am dying for the next book to see how he does so.

This review can also be found at "Live Your Life, Buy The Book"

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