



# Errant Spark

*Ronelle Antoinette*

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**What can you afford to risk for love if not even your life is your own?**

In Egalion's Imperial court, there is splendor and luxury, but it's also a realm of treachery. Cloak-and-dagger political maneuvering threatens to destroy the peace of two thousand years.

Battlemage Jex Xander has a mouth that gets him into trouble; while in contrast, Enari Namelum speaks not at all. Amidst the mounting chaos, passion and romance should be the last thing on their minds, but life and the Goddess seem to have other ideas.

They say to keep your friends close and your enemies closer, but at court you can't tell one from the other...and they change at the flip of a coin.

## Errant Spark Details

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Author : Ronelle Antoinette

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## From Reader Review Errant Spark for online ebook

### Boyko Ovcharov says

Nice Title!

It is a nice read by all means, but I liked the fantasy bit more than the romantic one. Perhaps I do like shorter books too. Othertwise, well done indeed!

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### Kay Kuever says

Woah. There is a lot more going on in this book than I was expecting. I hear romantic fantasy, I think enjoyable but not much depth. Errant Spark is much different, though. There is lust, instant attraction, political turmoil, noble stress, magic and intrigued. There are so much world building and character development in this first book of the series. By the end, I felt comfortable with the new terms I had learned about the world and had fallen in love with so many characters. There is so much potential and so many questions for the next part of the series, I'm excited to read on. Plus, hello ending, let's get this show on the road!

While, like I said before, this book is so much more than a romance. The romance of the story is full of this instant fiery passion. Jex is something of a smooth player, bedding whoever he fancies at that moment while Enari can hardly stand to be touched. It was so refreshing to see the male protagonist of this story be the one with the quick witted comments and sarcasm; granted I love me a strong sassy female. I will say that there are some graphic scenes in this book, so if you listen to the audiobook know it's not exactly safe for work. However, these scenes are fervent and well written.

I loved Ginny Ross' accent for the audiobook. It was absolutely perfect and gave a sense of sophistication to the storyline and the characters. She was able to make her voice light and playful and the next second embodied the seriousness of a character in a particular situation.

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### Nerine Dorman says

I wanted to like Errant Spark. Really. And it's not often that I will end up giving a three-star review, but this is one of them. The author seriously needed structural edits, as well as some copy edits (discrete instead of discreet, anyone?). The number of errors I encountered throughout this book was phenomenal. The head-hopping as it is nearly drove me dilly.

That being said, I quite enjoyed the world building, and if the author had been reined in by an editor, I think this could have been quite a lovely little story for a romantic fantasy as the tone of the writing is engaging. There is a lot going on here, but far too many issues on a structural level for me to heartily recommend this across my networks.

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### Stephanie M. says

Enari, born a mute and motherless grew up among female healers, learning their ways as an apprentice. Her life turns upside down when summoned to the palace to assist in a royal birth.

Jex is a battle mage, trained by the high mage who took him under his wing since childhood. He's cocky, sarcastic and doesn't know when to shut his mouth.

Maybe falling for a mute may change his talkative approach.... or not.

Assigned to bring the healers safely to the palace, Jex has his work cut out for him.

Enari knows nothing about horse riding or fending for herself, and Jex won't stand for that.

Problem is, Enari can't stand the touch of others- except Jex.

Jex has bedded more than his fair share of woman- even two to three at a time- Enari is a virgin. Will he find another conquest or will he finally find his better half? they have limited time to learn when Jex falls ill and no one knows how to fix it.

Enari must trust herself and her ability. Can she do that for Jex? In time? And if she does will her heart make it through the turmoil?

Negatives:

The first 4.5 chapters are slow and hard to get through. However, chapters 5 on- amazing.

Recommended for Paranormal Romance lovers.

For mature readers due to graphic sexual scenes.

Received free copy in exchange for honest review.

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## **Stephanie says**

Link: <https://holedupinabook.blogspot.com/2...>

My mind is still tumbling around trying to sort out my feelings about this book. There were definitely a few things that I wish were different: the slow pace of the beginning of the book, Enari, mainly because I didn't really get her or her way of thinking, and the magical aspect. However, there were also a lot of things that I did enjoy: Jex, the relationship between him and Enari, and the magical and political plot.

I always like to discuss what I didn't enjoy most first just so I can get that out of the way. I definitely did not like the pacing in the beginning. I found it slow and a bit tedious. And because I got this book via an audiobook, I felt my mind wandering a lot until around chapter 6 or 7. So there were a lot of scenes in the first few chapters where I'm still not 100% sure about. However, after that slow portion passed, it started to get a lot more interesting and the action and romance really started to get going.

As for Enari – in general, I did like her as a person; however, at the end when she gave her reasoning to be mute, I was kind of like “WTF, that’s such a terrible reason.” It was literally “there was nothing for me to

talk about.” Really? 18 years and NOTHING to talk about? Not even when you’re hurt and need to cry? I just literally didn’t get it. There were a lot of times when talking could have made things a lot easier and simpler but because of her odd reasoning and stubbornness, things were more complicated. For example, I can easily see something happen to Enari from a mugging or an attempted rape because she wouldn’t cry out for help. Luckily Jex was there to save her otherwise she would literally be in deep shit.

I was also a little confused about the magical aspect of the book. I understand that Jex is a battle mage and that Eric is the head mage or whatever but exactly can they do? Every time I read about Jex using magic, it’s always fire related. Does he specialize in fire only or can he do other magic? Also I don’t recall Eric ever doing any magic despite being the head mage. Then there’s also the whole gods thing that is related to magic which I’m also confused about. And how do they play a part in Enari having magic? I feel like I ended up with more questions than answers. Either I totally missed out on the explanations in chapters 1-6/7 or the author will fill these out in the next book.

Now – on to the things I did enjoy. I really, really enjoyed reading about Jex. I found him highly entertaining – he had such an interesting sense of humor. There were many times when I found myself laughing out loud because of something he said. Even though he was a womanizer, I was glad to see that he was able to settle down with one person and was willing to do that. I feel like guys these days (especially guys in NYC) aren’t really interested in that, at least from my own experience, so I was glad to live vicariously through Jex and Enari’s relationship. Talking about their relationship, I think that because the book started off quite slow, their relationship actually became more realistic. It didn’t feel rushed and it felt more natural. It was something I can definitely see happening over time.

While I found the magical aspect confusing, I did enjoy reading about the political plot and how that played out in the book. It certainly kept things entertaining and engaged to the readers. I’m really curious to see what happens next.

All in all, I enjoyed the book and would, for sure, read the next one. On an off side note, I really do not like the cover. It looks too cartoony for me. I hope that the next book’s cover will be better but I somehow doubt it since it’ll probably fall along the same lines. Gotta keep things similar, you know.

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## Shelly says

Sometimes, nothing gives me greater satisfaction than going out of my comfort zone. So I was excited about trying a genre that I don’t normally read. The last fantasy I read and enjoyed was many years ago so I thought the time was due for another one. I really enjoyed Antoinette’s debut novel. I listened to the audiobook version and while I have the ebook in my position, I decided to review the audio version.

What captivated me the most was the world building. That was first rate. Antoinette’s got a way with words that translates well from the pages to the imagination. Before I go on, if you’re looking for a story with a heavy romantic story line - this might not be your best bet. Jex and Enari’s romance was secondary to the other things going on, to me anyway.

The first few chapters were a bit slow. The call for background information, character building and setting up the plot for the ride that Antoinette is taking us on takes up those first few chapters. Jex, the battlemage is not your every day hero. He’s actually not even the kind of hero that I enjoy for one reason - he sleeps with women other than our heroine, Enari. I know that’s a silly reason for my non-preference of him but it is what it is. Other than that, Jex is still a good guy. He’s loyal to those around him especially to the Tor and Tora, smart and can be a little chatty...even in his sleep.

Enari. She's young, very young. Almost 19 and has lived a cloistered life. She's quiet, I wouldn't call her shy - just quiet. Her ability to understand those around her is quite intuitive and the more we find out about her is the more she comes off as a very smart heroine. Once she gets going and opens up though, there are some that might have preferred her old persona. Enari's talents were...impressive and completely unexpected.

As many chapters as it took to build the background, it takes quite a few more chapters for these two to meet and when they do the story picks up significantly. Unfortunately I thought she and Jex got 'busy' a little too quickly. The wait seemed forever for them to meet but so short for everything else.

There're a lot of characters to get to know and each has a purpose. There are some who have more purpose than others but in the end, they all serve a function to progress the plot. I was surprised how much I enjoyed the side plot with the Tora, Tor and their offspring. There's a much bigger story there and hopefully some on that will eventually get told.

Like I said, this isn't your typical romance but if you're in the mood for solid world building, characters who don't jump in bed together (Jex - maybe not you so much), characters with substance, plot progression that actually has a set-up, climax and resolution I think this would be a good story to escape in for a few hours.

And that ending - can't wait for the next one.

Happy reading folks!

Rating: B

\*Provided by author

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### **Linda Samuals says**

I decided to look past the dreadful cover and take a chance as the reviews were good. I must have been reading a different book. Confusing characters and inept storyline which jumped all over had me shelving this at around the half way mark.

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### **Dark Erotic Books says**

I had a hard time reading because of the amount of information that is dumped on the reader at the beginning.

The formatting is horrible, because the author switches between characters constantly and there is no formatting to help distinguish between them.

As for the characters? Dull. Apart from Jex, who is arrogant and completely unlikable.

Don't let me start with the old-fashioned culture. The Tor comes to power by marrying the Tora, who in return is degraded to bearing children and taking care of them, while he rules?

No, thanks. I returned the book.

## **Rhonda Hasty says**

This was a good read a little slow at times but overall I enjoyed it.

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## **Tasha and Megan Mahoney says**

I found the story slow to get started because there was so much information to share, it did improve and was ok but it didn't hit the right spot for me and I think that a large amount of that was that the narrator and the story didn't seem wonderfully suited to each other. I did like the way that Ginny Ross voiced the characters and represented the non verbal aspects of characterisation. I did like Ginny Ross' narration technique, I just didn't think it was right for this book.

Now to focus on the actual story, I do give it a 4 for the story because it is in-depth (hence the slow start) and well thought out, there was just so much to retain while at the same time absorbing the relationship between Jex and Enari , so it didn't feel like I could relax and enjoy the story. I didn't enjoy the sex scenes, I'm not a prude, I love a good erotic read but they felt too crude at times.

In conclusion, I feel that this book would have been more pleasurable for me if the narrator and the story were better suited to each other, as both had some real strengths but together they weren't a good mesh. I feel that the story does have potential and people who love family and political fantasy dramas could enjoy this. I have seen it likened to Game of Thrones and I didn't enjoy that (I didn't finish GOT book 1) so maybe if that's your thing then this book and any subsequent follow ups may really suit you.

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## **The Book Junkie Reads . . . says**

One talks, too much, too openly without filter. The other says nothing and tends to be very observant. I have gotten myself accustomed to the female being the one with the mouth that goes on for days and not filter in place. It was enjoyable to find a man that has the same issue, Jex. Enari was a bit too quiet but she knew when words were needed. She learned early that speaking could lead to avenues untraveled. And that was not always a good thing. She was intelligent and resourceful.

I am wondering in what direction the next installment will take with this series. If learning nothing more keeping your enemies close does not always open the doors you need. I had a fantasy filled ride in to a realm filled with treachery. The blurb just gives you a hint of what lies within. Take a read or a listen and find the realm behind The Elemental Trails.

On Narration of Errant Spark (The Elemental Trials, #1) . . .

Ginny Ross had a lyrical almost ethereal quality to her voice over for this romantic fantasy. I could imagine myself in the setting and taking in all the things around me. The court, the woods, the lightening across the sky, the fleeing for safety, the danger, the intrigue, the element of should I or shouldn't I. The various points rang true and clear in Ross's voice with the varied inflections and distinguish gender. I did not read the book first, I opted to listen and I would say she brought an element of being able to visualize the various section more clearly.

## Book Gannet says

DNF@30%

Despite looking forward to reading this book, I struggled to get into it. Most of this is because of the writing style at the beginning. There's a lot of information to wade through and the constant switching between characters and a general viewpoint didn't help. It had been a while since I last read the blurb, so I had no idea which characters I was supposed to be caring about and couldn't find much to like about any of them.

Particularly Jex. Everybody wants to sleep with him, he's quite chatty (and arrogant) and really, to be honest, I couldn't find anything likeable about him.

I did like the littlest princess. She was the only one I found remotely interesting.

I was confused about why the Tor had all the power when he only got the title by marrying the Tora. I know she's pregnant, but the fact that he was portrayed as the king completely in charge rather than a power-sharing consort rubbed me the wrong way. She looks after the children, he deals with all the tricky governing stuff, er, no thanks. I found the inheritance rules confusing too, but it was a minor thing.

I read the first third, then skimmed the rest because other reviews say it gets better. Sadly, for me, nothing else about it grabbed me enough to read properly. Enari is mildly interesting, but I never came to care for Jex and the political machinations didn't interest me much either. I'm also kind of irritated that the prologue didn't factor in at all. There are a couple of hints about it, but otherwise it serves little purpose beyond an old fantasy trope.

Overall, this book just didn't work for me. Partly the style, partly the characters, but if you like traditional fantasy with some sex, a bit of romance, some magical things, demons and high stakes politics, then you hopefully might like this more than I did.

(Free copy downloaded from Smashwords.)

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## Stacey is Sassy says

### Talk about a rocky start...

Oh boy!! Ladies and Gents, take a seat and fasten your seatbelts. This is going to be one rocky review.

Bloody Hell!!

In the nicest possible way...I did not like the first 30% of *Errant Spark*. We are forced to read through a mess of explanations, introductions and word creations (?!?) that made my eyes roll, when they weren't squinting. There were times where I was scratching my head in confusion.

You know how when there's an alternate world and you need to create words for that world? Well, I suggest

you don't modify words just for the sake of modifying words. I was completely distracted trying to work out why you would change words by two letters, just to be different. What words should you change when creating the world? Is it necessary? Maybe I'm not cut out to be a fantasy reader, because, to me, I just scrunched my nose up, thinking...WHY? I know the author is trying to be original, but it just felt unnecessary.

To be honest, I was going to give up numerous times in the first 30%, but there was this little part of me that was curious to know more. At first, I was convinced I was about to read a version of *\*Fantasy Porn\**. The main character (the dude on the front cover with dark hair) likes to get it on with the ladies. He has a "reputation" and works hard to live up to it. I was not a huge fan of Jex (our dark haired hero) in the beginning. He comes across as flighty, irresponsible and a wee bit self-absorbed. Yeah, he's good looking and a powerful Battlemage, but talk about ego.

Let's step to the side for a sec...I don't know about you, but sometimes I can be reading a book and thinking, wait a sec, are you the main character? I sometimes go into a book blind. I've bought or picked a book, and it's been sitting on my Kindle for a while, and I've forgotten what it's about. So, in this case, I knew Jex was the hero, but every time he got it on with a woman (not THAT many, but a couple) or met a woman, I was curious if she was "the one". I eventually found "the one".

Anyways, I have gone completely off course and I'm making absolutely no bloody sense...back to the story. So, at first I'm thinking *\*Fantasy Porn\**. Well, I can confirm that there is plenty of *shenanigans* to keep you entertained but it's **not** *\*Fantasy Porn\**. When we finally get past the first 30%, the introduction fog starts to clear...

---AND---

Aha, here comes the magic.

We go gangbusters from here and I AM SUCKED IN **BIG TIME!** Action, adventure, murder, mystery and mayhem. Who is behind all the murders that are being committed? Who will stop them? Is it magic? A curse? The enemy placing a spy within the castle walls? I admit I did guess one of the dodgy characters, but I have a feeling we're going to meet a few more in future books.

Ummm...I forgot to mention our heroine, Enari...and...well, that's all I'm giving you, her name. All I'm going to say is that I liked her. She's original and I loved to see the changes that take place from the beginning to the end.

I was offered an ARC yonky donks ago but bought it instead. Me, being the slack ar\$e reviewer that I am, I'm only getting to it now. I was prompted when the author messaged me to say that book 2 was coming out. Feeling a little guilty that I hadn't got to it yet, I decided to get cracking. Obviously, I was less than impressed with the beginning but I absolutely loved it by the end.

*Eventually*, we are treated to an epic story of magic and mystery, with characters that jumped off the page. I could see them, felt I knew them and wanted to know more about them. The ending leaves us with questions unanswered, but it's pretty safe to say that Jex and Enari ARE ON!!

If you don't mind wading through a bit of a swampy start, *Errant Spark* will leave you feeling like you've walked through a field of wildflowers. HAHHAHAHA!! Ok, not really. More like a trek to the middle earth (LOR), with a stay at Red Keep (GOT), that ends with a wee bit of sparky spark and a little hanky panky too.

**I'm an Aussie chick who loves to read and review romance, drink coffee, be a *Style Setter* and stalk David Gandy. To see more of my reviews, fashion, food and pervathons -**

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### **Sharon Dwyer says**

A little fantasy, a little romance, and a lot of palace intrigue. This is a story about how lives become intertwined and destinies are slowly revealed. A visit to the court of Tor Brinon and Tora Aelani becomes more than what it initially was intended for Battlemage Jex Xander and the High Mage Eryk, brother to Tora Aelani. Murder, mayhem, and the miraculous birth of the child of Tora Aelani, lives are changed, some for the better and some not so much.

We experience the love growing between Enari and Jex through scenes of tenderness and sex, good natured kidding and admiration. Since Jex is a Casanova and hardly a safe man to become involved with, Enari kept a professional distance, being an aid to Kvinna Vasi her position required constant administrations when Jex fell ill. Through his illness, their attraction grew and they became central to the story.

Ronelle Antoinette brings us along for the ride with just the right amount of magic to enhance the situations. Facts are revealed throughout the story allowing the reader to become immersed in the characters and settings, never bombarding the reader with too many issues at one time. The pace is fast enough to keep the reader from becoming bogged down with non-essential trivia, and moves the story along, flowing from one situation to another. The characters are well defined with attributes all their own which gives the story depth.

I don't want to give too much of the story away so I won't be commenting on more specific characters and situation.

I would recommend this book to anyone who loves fantasy and romance

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### **Minx -The Genre Minx Book Reviews says**

This review is based on a digital copy I received from Ronelle Antoinette. It is an honest and voluntary review and the complimentary receipt of it in no way affected my review or rating.

The synopsis of this book gives you just a taste of what is to come and I mean that when I say just a taste. This is more than a romantic fantasy! The prose was well thought out and complex. As there is an Imperial Court and a political element to this story there are many characters involved. Many of those characters have backstories and developing that many backstories is informative and time consuming. There is a large reading portion committed to building the world, understanding how the Imperial Court works and the political games that are played. It makes for a very detailed, developed, and intriguing story that keeps you on edge from beginning to the end with some sweet romance in between.

Touching on romance, this is not a "warm fuzzies" typical romance. If you like your boys bad, then Jex Xander will make you swoon. He is a bedroom Casanova and has a penchant for his willingness to explore all forms of pleasure. There are Sexy Times in this story and a lot of heat! So I bet you are asking yourself "but Minx where is the romance in that?" The romance enters the story with the entrance of Enari Namelum. Jex and Enari have instant attraction that is felt on both sides but it was not insta-love which was best given

Jex's proclivities. It would have taken away from his overall character's development to this point. He is not a character given to insta-love more of an insta-lust kind of guy.

The beginning is a bit difficult to get through due to unfamiliar titles and terms and there was not enough context given to readily understand those items. This story would be aided by adding a glossary of terms and titles, with that said once you make it through the beginning you are invested and have a pretty good understanding of who the key players are and the role they play. For me it bogged it down a bit and made it hard to fully engage in because there were supporting characters that added little value but that I had to keep track of anyhow.

I enjoyed that this was not your typical fantasy romance with its tropes and cardboard characters. It had an imaginative and unique storyline filled with court politics, intrigue, and many interesting sexy times. There is plenty of action and the pacing was spot on. There are plenty of twists, turns and surprises. The ending has a "whhaaat??" type of moment and leaves you ready for more, if any of that interests you, then you should consider giving this novel a try.

\*Thank you to Ronelle Antoinette for this complimentary copy of Errant Spark\*

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