



## Beyond the Rift

*Alana Ankh*

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## **Beyond the Rift** Alana Ankh *Elemental Lovers: Book One*

Across the centuries, the Nikari, a race of vicious elemental mages, have built an empire, bringing an entire continent to its knees. The course of history seems set... until one innocent Andari mage changes everything and claims a greater prize—the heart of the Nikari emperor.

Behnivyr ‘Ivy’ Erethe knows his duty is to wed another Andari Pure-Blood. Craving one moment of freedom before his loveless bonding, he escapes his father’s suffocating protection and goes to a masquerade ball, only to unexpectedly meet a mysterious Nikari named Kris. Kris makes Ivy ache with a need he barely dares to acknowledge. One kiss, one dance—and Ivy’s life changes forever. Unbeknownst to Ivy, Kris is actually Kristelien Fezenda, the Nikari emperor. Forced to make a difficult choice, Ivy picks love over duty and becomes Kris’s concubine.

Poorly prepared for the whirlwind of emotion Ivy summons inside him, Kris now faces the hardest battle of his life. In a ruthless world where all weakness is exploited, where allies become enemies in the blink of an eye, where love can mean death, he will have to defeat more than his own personal demons to breach the rift between him and Ivy.

## **Beyond the Rift Details**

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Author : Alana Ankh

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## From Reader Review Beyond the Rift for online ebook

### Whatchamini says

Ugh, I hate leaving a bad review, I really, really do. As a writer myself, I know that bad reviews can be absolutely devastating, and because of that I always tend to just do a star rating and call it a day. But Beyond the Rift was really bad, and I wish I had listened to those 2 and 3 star reviews I read before starting. But this book has an overall rating of 3.77??? How??? I read the book with that star rating in mind, and I am truly astonished it has that high of a rating.

There are many things that made this book a very... unpleasant read. The pacing was all over the place, the characters are flat, flat, flat, and the world building is confusing. The names of the different races are very inconsistent - why did the author decide to change spellings of the same races? I get that there was evolution involved, but it seemed like an unnecessary detail that detracted rather than added to the story.

\*\*warning, major spoilers ahead\*\*

(spoiler)As for the characters... wow. I mean, Ivy is perfect. Literally perfect. He has zero character flaws. He is gorgeous, with perfect hair and a perfect body, and he always says and does the right thing. He is kind and understanding and patient... I mean really? No one is this perfect, and no one likes to read about someone who has nothing to them except for their perfection. Even when Ivy gets hurt or mad, he only stays that way for like an hour before his benevolence flows out of him like rainbows and glitter and he forgives everyone involved. He even feels bad for and forgives people who betray him. Rule #1 in writing is making your characters relatable - you do that through character flaws and growth.

Now Kris is flawed, but in an annoying way. His character felt incredibly flat, and he always was either angry or jealous without ever a thought for asking why someone did what they did. And once he realized he was angry and/or jealous for no reason, he immediately acted like the most emo/depressed person ever, deciding that he wasn't worthy of their love, trust, or empathy. He even considers suicide at one point which was wildly out of character... or was it? I honestly don't know, because I don't think the author even knows. These characters felt half-formed and full of inconsistencies.(spoiler)

I'm really sorry for ripping this book apart, as I said, I would be devastated to read something like this about my books. But I am really surprised that an editor and publisher gave this the green light. As a huge fan of m/m fantasy, this was a disappointing waste of time.

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### Sumire-chan says

I was drawn in by the gorgeous cover art and the promise of a fantasy world with interesting new species. What I got was a cliché romance book with a genderswapped heroine from the 80s (seriously, Ivy is the blushing virgin stereotype with a dick, he melt around Kris), an overbearing and possessive very, very virile MAN (imagine my eye roll at Kris), cringy sex scenes and a little fantasy and magic thrown in there. I don't know why some authors just can't seem to brake the mold with their parings and their sexual dynamics. And there wasn't even a good story to balance out the failed romance for me.

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## **L.M. says**

This book was hard for me to get through and thinking back on it, I'm not sure why. The characters inhabited a very rich world and the characters were engaging enough for me to finish the entire thing. It did take me multiple tries to finish the book, though. I found the main love story to be a bit strained (though this was addressed within the book itself). Ivy was precious. I loved him. Kris on the other hand was a piece of work. Didn't care so much for him. Could have actually completely shipped Ivy with another character in the story altogether (and part of me is sad that didn't happen). However, it was intriguing enough that I'm curious about book 2. We'll see if I go and pick it up.

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

Reviewed at The Blogger Girls.

### **4.5 stars**

Sneaking out to attend a masquerade party, Ivy is determined to have a good time but he doesn't expect to meet a handsome Nikari named Kris, especially not when he's immediately drawn to the man. A night of fun and a tiny bit of passion changes everything for Ivy, though. And when he learns the very Nikari he had the best night with is also the Nikari Emperor, he's more than ready to leave his life behind for Kris. But Kris has a duty to his people and when his desire for Ivy challenges that, will the two be able to make a relationship last or will Ivy's sacrifice be for nothing?

It's no secret that I'm a fantasy lover or that I love arranged marriages (even though this story involves a broken arranged marriage), complex worlds or enemies to lovers so when I saw the blurb for this book, I was eager to get my greedy little hands on it! Needless to say, I absolutely loved it. It hit every single one of my buttons and more. It has an amazingly specific world that deals with inter-dimensions, elemental magic, and different races. I loved that it was so detailed but also had the variations in physicality and culture. Then there's the hierarchy and the deceit that is in all politics. It was just beyond intriguing and captivating for someone like me who craves these types of stories.

As for the characters, I absolutely adored Ivy and Kris. Kris is so dominate and possessive compared to Ivy's more ethereal and innocent nature. They're complete opposites but the connection between them is very strong. I also liked that Ivy had hidden depths; he wasn't just a meek concubine, he had his own thoughts and ideas that he could contribute. Plus, I really loved that Kris struggled so much with his feelings for Ivy. It was hard for him to accept Ivy as more than a concubine because if he did that, it would mean sharing Ivy with everyone and being so possessive, he didn't want to do that. It came to the point, though, that he had to make a decision: to love Ivy to the fullest and accept him completely or let Ivy go. It was interesting to see the development up until that point and all the events that caused that eventual decision.

I absolutely adored this book but the one thing I wish it had more of was Ivy and Kris getting to know each other better. Towards the end, you start to see that when Kris 'courts' Ivy but I wish that had been more shown and drawn out instead of told.

All in all, this was a great fantasy story that had a mix between suspense, romance and a bit of mystery. I adored both Ivy and Kris and I'm really enjoying where the storyline is going. I'm also loving the nightwolves! I really hope there's more to come of them! It'll be interesting to see what Shuri uncovers in the next book. Plus, I'm looking forward to him getting a man of his own ;)

### **UnderCoverBookAddict says**

Intrigue, drama, magic, other world, macho alpha, action, in other words a little bit of everything without being angst ridden...There are little books outthere that show the couple beyond the happily ever after and let us into their day to day...I have to say I like reading about the couple after they ride into the sunset and this books doesn't disappoint...for a moment there I thought they were going to fall in the cliché argument/misunderstanding, but no it takes a turn for the better...and it took me by surprise...authors amaze me when they create this other world with it's own culture, vocabulary and religions among other things...Alana, excelled in that regard and many more...I'm looking forward to read the second installment in this series and I sure hope it don't disappoint because, the bar was set high.

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### **Micha says**

I appreciate the world-building but for a mostly magical society, it felt light on the magic, mostly mentioned but not shown. It's one of those books that I feel can be much more but then doesn't quite deliver. I still want a nightwolf, though.

ps. This is the 3rd book of Alana Ankh I read after Splat! and All's Fair in Mate Bonds and Publishing. Seems like arranged marriage is quite a topic for this author.

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### **Rellik says**

[(bald healer's hair grew back when healing, despite be described as being potentially harmful Kris wanting to use the rift for everything, even travelling to a room next door) (hide spoiler)]

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### **Mare SLiTsReaD Reviews says**

Meh. It was ok.

I think it was the whole insta-love thing, but I see why and how that would happen.

Off to book 2 cause I want to know who the freaking enemy is

Mare~Slitsread

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### **Paul says**

This was good but I hate the fact book #2 heads off with the focus solely on another character

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### **Theora R. says**

I'm??? F//ck, honestly. This book isn't really quite up there in quality/craftsmanship, but some particular things about it made me fall for it and tbh after the last page I went back to the start for a re-read, I'm just taking a breather now to write this review. Actually, no, I'll rate it now and write the review later.

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### **Tünde Kasza tóth says**

It only got 3 because I really hate characters that just LOOOOVE everyone and everything and want to save the world and just soooooo goooooood.

The story is promising and I love the world.

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### **Lie says**

This is essentially romance with fantasy and plot sprinkled over it, though I usually prefer it other way around. A couple things I didn't like, like the "accident" was such a cliché (and subsequently I felt it wasn't properly addressed, we got Ivy going sorry when he shouldn't have and we had inner turmoil of Kris but he never rly communicated out loud and apologized) , sex scenes were a little bit over the top and some choice words made me cringe (cavern? CAVERN?), Kris' little monologue of giving in to the rift sent me reeling (there is nothing easy about suicide, it's not "the easy way out" or "cowardly".) I was gonna give this 3 stars but honestly puppies earned 1 back. Overall it was an entertaining read and I will be picking up the 2nd book too.

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### **Jenni Lea says**

Wow, I didn't expect to enjoy this as much as I did. I'm not sure why I liked this so much. The story line was on par with other high fantasy/romance (a bit fluffy, but I like fluff) I've read and the world building was just OK. Maybe it was the writing, which was mature and above level of a lot of recent reads. Maybe it was the unexpected plot twists and the mature decisions the main characters made. Maybe it was because instead of having The Big Misunderstanding, the characters actually **communicated** with each other.

Or maybe it's just a case of 'the right book at the right time'. I dunno. All I know is that I liked this a lot and I look forward to reading book two when it comes out.

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### **T.M. Smith says**

Ivy is Andari royalty, a prince who has led a sheltered life and is being basically pawned off to a Lord for the status the union will bring. Longing for just a taste of freedom before he is shackled to a loveless union, he sneaks out one night and attends a local fair where he meets a Nikari that stirs something inside Ivy he is required to keep bound until he is bonded. Of course his father's come looking for him, but not before Ivy has his first dance, his first kiss.

Kris is ill prepared for the feelings Ivy stirs in him. As the Nikari emperor it would not be in his best interest to bond with an Andari, but don't we always want what we can't have? The Nikari emperor can have whatever, and whomever he pleases though. Kris sets an elaborate stage disguised as a masquerade ball, inviting Ivy and his father's of course, all in an effort to get the man that has already captured his heart, into his bed.

Against all odds and almost everyones wishes, Ivy becomes Kris's concubine, and eventually his bound concubine, yes there is a difference. But the relationship is not without its difficulties. Ivy is Andari for starters, and this does not make the Nikari people happy at all, especially Kris's cousin slash brother (can't even get into that, you'll have to read the book) and uncle. And the same can be said for Ivy's people where the Nikari emperor is concerned. But the attraction, the connection and the love that Ivy and Kris share is palpable and real and they are determined to make a life together.

I absolutely loved the elemental magic and the rifts between worlds that the Nikari and their Nightwolves use to travel and fight. There are words and languages used in the story that are unique to this story, but the Author starts the book out with a glossary of terms and an explanation of this world she has created so you would be hard pressed not to understand what is going on or what is being said. Ivy starts out as a sheltered, naïve and innocent young man that wants nothing more than to be loved and appreciated. And he finds that love and appreciation in the last place anyone would have thought, the arms of the enemy. Kris wants someone to see him, the man that he is and the man that he wants to be, and Ivy truly sees him. It was beautiful watching them grow as individuals and as a couple throughout the book.

Kris's beloved Nighwolfe, Attcha, almost stole the book. Overbearing and fiercely loyal, the nightwolves are companions to the Nikari and watch over them, travel the Rift with them. Attcha is immediately drawn to Ivy and just as protective of him as he is of Kris. It's very much like a spirit animal sort of relationship, which blends perfectly with the root of this story, this world being based in magic.

I think this story will appeal to many readers, it is rich with content and unexpected plot twists. The romance is passionate and electric, while being innocent and tender when needed. The storyline and the world Ankh has written here are very original as well, fresh and enticing. Full of magic, danger, suspense, romance and an underlying threat, a battle for Nikari that is just beginning. I'm very excited to see where the next book, Fractured Souls, takes these characters and their peoples.

\* I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review through <http://mmgoodbookreviews.wordpress.com> \*

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## Lyndsey says

Review to come soon!

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