



Dash and Dingo: In Search of the Tasmanian Tiger

Catt Ford , Sean Kennedy

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Stodgy British archivist Henry Percival-Smythe slaves away in the dusty basement of Ealing College in 1934, the only bright spot in his life his obsession with a strange Australian mammal, the thylacine. It has been hunted to the edge of extinction, and Henry would love nothing more than to help the rare creature survive.

Then a human whirlwind spins through his door. Jack "Dingo" Chambers is also on the hunt for the so-called "Tasmanian Tiger," although his reasons are far more altruistic. Banding together, Dingo and the newly nicknamed Dash travel halfway around the globe in their quest to save the thylacine from becoming a footnote in the pages of biological history.

While they search high and low, traverse the wilds, and fight the deadliest of all creatures—man—Dash and Dingo will face danger and discover another fierce passion within themselves: a desire for each other.

Dash and Dingo: In Search of the Tasmanian Tiger Details

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From Reader Review Dash and Dingo: In Search of the Tasmanian Tiger for online ebook

Jenre says

I've been eagerly awaiting this book. Sean Kennedy is one of my favourite m/m writers and I was interested in seeing how his writing would blend with that of Catt Ford. I also have a great love of adventure stories, especially those in the mould of H Rider Haggard and GA Henty. It's hardly surprising then, that I found this tale of love and adventure in the forests of Tasmania to be a enjoyable romp, with a message of caution about how humans, and particularly the imperial British, have trampled over the spoils of their empire.

The book begins in London in 1934 where our hero, Henry Percival-Smyth, is working in the dusty basement of Ealing College as a researcher and archivist. His passion is the the Thylacine, or Tasmanian Tiger or 'Tassie' as it is nicknamed, now almost hunted to extinction. His dull life is interrupted by the arrival of Jack 'Dingo' Chambers, an Australian adventurer and fellow enthusiast of Tassie. Within a few minutes of meeting, Henry has been given a new nickname, 'Dash', and swept off to plan a trip to Tasmania to capture a breeding pair of Tassies to bring to England in order to start a breeding programme. The story then takes us to Australia via Bangkok and onto the jungles of Tasmania where our intrepid explorers search for the tiger but also find each other, all whilst being tracked and hunted by men who wish to wipe out the tiger for good, even if it means killing Dash and Dingo along the way.

In fitting with many adventure novels of the early part of last century, this book started quite slowly. There's quite a lot of scene setting, especially in building up a picture of Henry's life in England and the dusty bureaucracy of his job. Even once the two men are on their way there's still a stop in Bangkok and a stay with Dingo's family before the true adventure begins. As this was the first book in the series, the focus is more on the two men and how their differences at first repel and then attract as they grow to know each other so I didn't mind the time spent setting the scene and fleshing out the characters of Henry and Dingo. Once the setting moves to the forests of Tasmania the focus shifts slightly towards ecological matters. The forest is a mix of terrible beauty and fragility, and there is a strong message in the middle section of the book about protecting the environment and working with harmony with nature rather than riding roughshod over it.

Most of the book is taken from the point of view of Henry as he first struggles to realise his dream of seeing a Tassie in its natural habitat and then grows both in boldness and in his views about the tiger. At the beginning of the book Henry is your typical reserved Englishman and it was delightful to see him change and develop through the book as he tackles life in the jungle and the arduous trek to see the tiger. Most of this change is to do with Dingo, whose outgoing nature and lust for life and adventure affects Henry. In some ways I wished that I could get more of the book from Dingo's point of view because I never really felt I knew him as well as Henry. In fact, on occasion, Dingo slipped a little into the stereotype of a jungle adventurer and I felt that maybe this would have been avoided if I had seen more of Dingo's thoughts. Dingo is also a little bit too good to be true at times, as is his family, which is used as a way of contrasting Dingo with Henry. Dingo is friendly, charismatic, with a wonderful accepting family and a very PC relationship with the indigenous people of Tasmania. In fact Dingo pretty much can do no wrong in the book (except perhaps deliberately winding Henry up on occasion). As a consequence of this, Henry is the more interesting man out of the pair simply because he does have flaws. The relationship between Henry and Dingo is also done well. Their feelings grow gradually, helped by the pressures and stress of their situation and also because they are isolated and therefore forced into each other's company. This is also tempered by the historical setting where the men are very aware that, once back in civilisation, they must be secretive about their love. The way that this was highlighted through the use of the gay love song was touching, as was the tender sex scenes.

The place where this book really shines is in the description of the various settings. Cold rainy England is all

dull colours; Bangkok is heat and spicy tastes; Melbourne is sun and brightness; and Tasmania is lush foliage and animals with sharp teeth. The comparisons were delightful and each place lovingly realised so that I felt that I was actually there alongside the two men and experiencing Henry's awe and amazement with him.

There were a few little niggles. Firstly, at the beginning of the book there are a number of occasions where there is a sudden hop from Henry's view to Dingo's for a sentence and then back to Henry. I found this distracting and it pulled me out of the story. Fortunately, this only happens a few times and only in the first half of the book. Secondly, is the villain of the piece, Hodges, who behaves in a baffling random way which is rather conveniently explained away at the end of the book. I felt that he veered strongly into pantomime villain and I didn't really feel that the explanation as to why he was hunting the men was in keeping with his subsequent behaviour. I also hadn't really got a clue as to the role of the Tasmanian government and Hodge's relationship to them. In some ways, I suppose this fits in with an adventure setting where the bad guy is often a megalomaniac, but when fitted into the realistic setting and the serious issue of ecological responsibility, his presence and behaviour was slightly jarring to the story.

Don't let these slight niggles put you off though, because I really enjoyed this ripping yarn with a serious ecological message. Even the epilogue was well written and necessary to the plot and general arc of the series. It was very obvious that both authors have a great love of the settings and themes of this book, especially the Thylacine, as that enthusiasm shone through in their writing. If you like adventure books then this should be added to your TBR pile. I'm already looking forward to reading the next adventure starring Dash and Dingo.

Misty says

**** 4.5 Stars ****

What a very entertaining Adventure Romance novel. I simply just adore Dash and Dingo ♥ I want a sequel!!!

Ethan Day says

Dash & Dingo: In Search of the Tasmanian Tiger by Catt Ford & Sean Kennedy – This book really plays into my secret fantasy where Indiana Jones decides he's through with women and while traveling through Missouri, sweeps me up into one of his adventures and I live happily ever after surrounded by antiquities and Harrison Ford. Dash & Dingo doesn't actually follow that plot line, but it does quite successfully fulfill my adventure fantasy where a charismatic, hot man runs off into the wild to save – something. Plus Dingo has a sexy Aussie accent! It was very easy for me to settle into the shoes of Dash and pretend it was me getting swept away while hopping from one continent to another. I thought Dash & Dingo was a great adventure and a whole lot of fun.

From my post, The Inside Reader on Elisa Rolle's Reviews & Ramblings -
<http://elisa-rolle.livejournal.com/98440>

Kassa says

Although I try not to read reviews prior to writing my own, in this information sharing age it's hard to avoid all mention. So when I –finally- sat down to read Dash & Dingo (released Sept '09!), I knew it had been generally praised from all quarters and hailed as greatness. So many reviewers, readers, and authors really really loved it. About halfway through I was wondering if it was just me or perhaps I wasn't in the right mood since I struggled with this book quite a bit. I found the pace sluggish and choppy. Some parts were quick, engaging, and zipped along incredibly fast while others labored and I kept putting the book down. The flipping point of view didn't help and made me question why Dingo's point of view was included at all since it offered almost nothing to the story or character. What did come through was the incredibly unique and eye catching story with some incredible descriptions and charming, memorable characters.

The plot is memorable even as it evokes many other adventurer themed stories. Stodgy, up tight academic Henry (soon to be nicknamed Dash) joins free spirited Dingo on a trek through the Tasmanian jungle to find a famous, almost extinct animal. Along the way they encounter a typical villain, some harrowing close calls, and fall in love. Yet their adventures aren't over as in classic Indiana Jones style, the hat wearing duo are going to be off on new crusades in the near future.

On the one hand the plot is very similar to many others yet it felt fresh and interesting. The characters are very memorable with their antics and snappy dialogue and thus the trip from England to Tasmania and through the jungle is sometimes very absorbing. Sometimes however this drags and is kind of boring. The descriptions of the jungle and the history of the famed tiger they are hunting are interesting while offering something to the reader that stands out. The jungle setting is especially vibrant with sounds, sights, tastes, and a respect for the setting that helps parts of the story come alive. The pace unfortunately tends to be choppy with very small spurts of action followed by lengthy internal musings and mundane jungle trekking as the cycle repeats itself.

Part of this problem is that the story slows considerably once they're in Tasmania. Here Henry finally gives into his longing for Dingo and he obsesses about sex with Dingo for almost 100 pages. There is a lot of sex in this book and some of it is incredibly hot (dream sequence) while some of it feels repetitive. The two have sex almost every night and it's depicted in the story and while walking during the day Henry is obsessed with Dingo's ass and has sex on the mind constantly. Some of this is totally understandable as the tight reign on Henry's emotions is unraveled in the jungle, yet I definitely wanted Henry to stop his sexual obsessing and focus on something else. Since he's the main narrator, all the internal musing on sex, sex, sex got old for me with too many sex scenes in those 100 pages instead of spread out over the entire course of the book.

Unfortunately while all of this is happening there is a pretty standard villain side story occurring at the same time. I'm not sure why this is added but perhaps it's meant to keep the tension high since the villain is very flat and his motives are ridiculous and unexplained. The resolution with the villain Hodges borders on absurd and the few explanations are incredibly weak and nonsensical. In fact the story struggles to even come up with a good reason for this villain and ultimately drags the ending on for way too long to include random scenes from cronies for some reason I couldn't tell. The ending especially could have been much shorter and some scenes could have been edited out.

Another problem is the point of view switching. For the majority of the story Henry is the main narrator but every so often the story offers Dingo's point of view. Yet during these scenes, the POV switches back and forth from Henry to Dingo sentence to sentence. This isn't confusing or bothersome so much as it makes me wonder why Dingo's POV is offered at all. Since many of Dingo's motivations and thoughts are kept hidden to keep many aspects a mystery, his point of view didn't really offer much to the story or the character. In fact the majority of his characterization comes from Henry's perspective as he observes Dingo and his actions.

The characters for the most part are very well developed and interesting. Henry and Dingo are both very memorable with Dingo's large personality and Henry's quieter, stubborn nature. Both men change somewhat out in the jungle as Henry becomes pretty dominant and out spoken while Dingo is contrite. Although these two could easily have been caricatures, the story skillfully keeps them delightful and interesting. Dingo perhaps needs to grow more in the next book since he remains in the confines of an over the top, outlandish guide somewhat but I'm confident he'll become a complex character in the next offering. Henry also seems to have room to grow with the changes evident at the end of the book and creates great potential for this duo in future stories.

Overall I struggled with the pace and some aspects of the plot even while I liked the characters quite a bit. The memorable story and unique writing voice is enjoyable just as the characters fairly leap off the page with their quirky and delightful flaws. I clearly had more issues and problems with the book than oh, just about anyone, so I'd take what I say with a hefty grain of salt. Sean Kennedy is one of my favorite authors so I'll definitely continue with the series and the majority of readers rated this book very high so perhaps the problems didn't really bother them. Given that, pretty sure it's just me and I'm sad since I like these authors a lot. Be sure to check this out and decide for yourself.

Emanuela ~plastic duck~ says

I enjoyed this book. The beginning was a bit slow, but when the real adventure began, it became really compelling. I also found that the Australian setting was very intriguing and since I was not aware of the history of the thylacine, apart from some trivia reminiscence, I appreciated that the authors wrote their book around this very specific subject.

The sensitivity of the characters to the fate of the animals was quite modern, maybe even a bit too modern. I guess that there were people that in the 1930s were pioneers for environmental problems, but I often found myself questioning about the open mentality of the majority of the characters of the book, since they are also very tolerant of homosexuality, which was a criminal offense at the time (I guess in Australia too), and their consideration for the culture of the native people of Australia.

Dash and Dingo were fun to read, because they are polar opposites in a sense, but they have the passion for the Tasmanian tiger in common. I was not very convinced by Dingo's words that he had wanted Dash from the first moment he set his eyes on him, because it seemed to imply that he had fallen in love quite quickly with the geeky Englishman. It was probably more attraction than love, but Dingo is a man of great passions and instincts, so it could have happened. The story is almost all in Dash's point of view, except for a few pages here and there and I must confess it irritated me a bit. I like when the changes of the point of view create a rhythm, but these sudden changes seemed more like a quick way for the author to make a point or convey an emotion, by-passing the problem of having just one narrator.

I think there wasn't enough conflict. Since the relationship between the protagonists soon becomes a love story, with moments of lust and tenderness that I loved very much - so no conflict here - I was expecting something more tense regarding the confrontation with the bad guy. On one hand, I thought Hodges' motivations were too "shallow", this personal grudge was childish given the extent of Hodge's hate for the Chamberses. I was expecting the scorn of an unrequited love, even if Hodge's harsh words for the "unnatural" relationship between Dash and Dingo was maybe the signal of something more. On the other hand I think that Hodges appeared quite out of the blue on the main couple's heels, and there was no real chase. I was expecting ambush after ambush, I wanted angst at least in that part of the story, but the confrontation with the bad guy was resolved in one chapter. I like to be worried about the characters of the

book for a long time to be able to care for them. While I enjoyed Dash and Dingo together and the humor of some situations, I couldn't really connect with them.

I enjoyed this book because it was a bit different from the books I usually read and it was really entertaining and I'm looking forward to the sequel, I'd like to read more of Dash and Dingo in the Australian wild.

Ije the Devourer of Books says

This is a great adventure story centred on a hunt for the Tasmanian Tiger. Apparently the last known Tasmanian Tiger died in captivity in 1936 in Hobart Zoo, Tasmania.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vqCCI1ZF7o

This story set in 1934 has two characters - Dash (Henry Percival-Smythe) and Dingo (Jack Chambers) hunting for the tiger in the wilds of Tasmania.

Dash is kind of introvert, quiet, sometimes a bit unsure of himself and devoted to his work as an archivist in London. He is obsessed with the Tasmanian Tiger and jumps at the chance of taking part in an expedition to find one.

Dingo is an Aussie. He is extrovert, loud and quite courageous. He is everything that Dash isn't but he also has a heart of gold, a family who accept him for who he is, friends all over the world and a pile of ex lovers. Dash is someone who knows everyone but he also has enemies.

Hodges is the sneaky, spiteful enemy who for some reason wants to scupper Dingo's expedition (boo hiss).

I enjoyed this story. There are still organisations that are searching for the Thylacine (Tasmanian Tiger) which adds to the fabric and imagination of this story.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-11-15...>

It kind of makes it magical and It left me feeling that I too would like to see the Tasmanian Tiger (weird mix between a tiger and a dog), and go trekking in the Tasmanian bush to find it.

The book is quite long but it isn't boring. The story starts by introducing Dash and his somewhat mundane life in London. Things change for him when he meets Dingo and before he knows it his adventure begins!! Flying through Europe to Bangkok amongst the sacks of mail in a postal service air plane he begins to feel attracted to Dingo. As the two men share living space together and develop real camaraderie this attraction blossoms. A short stop in Australia provides time for Dash to meet Dingo's family and have a brush with their enemy. Then the two explorers sail to Tasmania and eventually love blossoms.

It is a great book. Not only does Dash have the courage to hunt for the tiger, he also has the courage to explore himself and allow himself freedom and of course part of this freedom is Dingo.

I liked the combination of adventure, mystery and romance. It is the kind of story that you need to spend time with and journey with the characters. I took my time with this story so I could journey along with Dash and Dingo. A very satisfying story, well written, amusing and engaging.

Kelly H. (Maybedog) says

This was a fun read. That's not to say it's funny--although it was at points--but that the story was really enjoyable. It was kind of like the gay version of Indian Jones. It kept me enthralled right up and past the last page. The story was believable and different. It was interesting to learn about the tiger, Tasmania, and Australia 100 years ago. There was action and adventure, danger and true peril, and it was so, so, so sweet. There was excellent sexual tension but also romantic tension. Plus, a small chunk of it takes place in the suburb of Mebourne where my sister lives!

The characters were wonderful and distinct individuals. Their motivations mostly made sense and I liked the people I was supposed to like and didn't like the ones I wasn't. There was some stereotyping, though. The Aboriginal Australian (I'm sorry, the book said that isn't PC, but I didn't know what else to use. If you know, please say so in the comments so I can amend this review.)

The men acted like adults, handling arguments like grown men for the most part. Once Dash walks away in anger, and he second guesses their relationship thinking Dingo was using him, but he realizes he may have made a mistake quite quickly, that Dingo did care, so he turned back.

There was a little head hopping and a little omniscient narrator, but it wasn't very common. There were a few problems, but they weren't many. One was that someone "moved up to the stern" of a boat. Ummm.

The biggest problem, though, was inserting too many 21st century sensitivities into a book from a completely different era. I can accept that an academic might not like guns, but to have people in a rural area in 1936 not wanting the kids to be around guns is ridiculous. The kids would have guns in their hands early on to learn how to both hunt and protect themselves. On top of that, at least one of the MCs hates zoos because of how the animals needed to run free, etc., again a very modern Western World idea. (I hate zoos, too, even though I know some do a lot of work with saving species nearing extinction, etc.)

Another was that an Englishman was horrified that someone let a ten year old drink some beer once. That was ridiculous to me. He might not approve but there still wasn't a drinking age in many places in Europe. In my lifetime, kids drank in Ireland and France. Watered down but still.

Yet another was that Dash was way too comfortable with being casual and presumptuous regarding his clothing for British man in 1935. He was too undressed for a British person, especially when he was in someone else's home. He walked to an external bathroom in his underwear. I wouldn't expect a guest of mine to do that now if I'd only just met them. He also walked down to breakfast in bare feet. Again, that's almost weirder him walking into someone else's kitchen to get food for himself.

Other reviewers have mentioned the attitudes toward equality were also too forward thinking but I disagree. By this time, the US had finished it's civil war over slave ownership and the slaves had been freed. There were other countries going through a similar thing, too, including one island in Indonesia, I think, where the slaves themselves revolted and won.

A couple of little items:

Moss grows thickest on the south side of trees in the Southern Hemisphere not the north. There was too much sex, but least the scenes were short so I didn't have too much time to be annoyed by the interruptions in the story.

Overall, I loved the story and I want a sequel. There isn't one, and probably won't ever be, so (view spoiler), which is annoying.

But overall, this book was wonderful 5 stars easily.

Esther says

I wanted to like this book more than I did, but I found that, far too often, just as it was getting good, it hit me between the eyes with yet another predictable m/m trope.

One of the major successes of this novel is the focus on the Tasmanian tiger. Far too often, authors who do research to this extent feel the need to crib every single note they have on the subject into their work, and it begins to read more like a Wikipedia article than a novel. Ford and Kennedy avoid this completely: it is clear they know their stuff, but the information is seamlessly integrated into the narrative.

Similarly, they have succeeded in crafting some very engaging characters. I would give a special nod to the women in this book, none of whom are major presences, yet all of whom feel like fully-formed and realized figures in the story. This attention to detail serves the authors extremely well.

When the wheels fall off, though, is when they bump into three core problems:

The antagonist is a mustache-twirling, cape-wearing, malevolent, sadistic jerk. His motives are only ever unclear at best, his behaviour is often inconsistent, and the net effect is to drag the novel down while all the air gets sucked out of the plot so that the authors can telegraph just how Big And Bad And Evil this guy is. On more than one occasion I was tempted to skip pages in order to get around these scenes.

Secondly, and this is related to the first problem, the protagaonists aren't just good, they're good by 2011-era standards. They have 2011-era moralities, they have 2011-era understandings of the world, they have 2011-era vocabularies and attitudes (a 1936-era Australian asking for a "flashlight" instead of a torch? A Brit from the same era accepting full and unquestioning personal responsibility for all the evils of colonialism?), and for all intents and purposes these sections of the book may as well be set in 2011 as well.

Finally, Dash in particular is always "just so". Initially we are presented with a bookish, quiet, ninety-pound weakling, but we later learn that he has any number of vital and important skills which he has secretly honed and were never mentioned until the point in the book at which they prove useful. Opportunities for Dash to grow and develop as a character are completely wasted: instead of learning new talents and discovering things about himself, we get a few vague lines about his backstory and off we go.

If this book develops into a series--and I think it perhaps should--there will be opportunities to deal with these problems. It is possible to write engaging villains without straying into pantomime stereotypes. It is possible to write protagonists who remain good people without being shining beacons of 2011-era understandings of the world. And so on.

The authors clearly have the technical chops, and a blessed ability to write coherent, interesting characters, to pull it off. I wish them the best.

J.L. Merrow says

Took me a little while to get past the first few pages, but when I did, I was hooked! A really warm story, plus it made me think about an area of history I knew nothing about.

Erastes says

I don't like reading at my PC much, and I often start an ebook for SIN with a feeling of dread- especially when one is – like Dash and Dingo – over 300 pages. But I was immediately pleasantly surprised by being drawn in, and it was not until my eyes started to get tired that I realised I was 100 pages in and enjoying myself immensely.

Let me just comment on the cover. It's great. There's no two ways about it. So what that it doesn't yell "gay romance"? A woman holding an apple doesn't scream Vampire Romance either. It's a good cover and for my money, one I'm more than happy to put on my shelf, read it on the bus.

I've been discussing recently with other gay fiction authors and we often say that what seems to be missing is "adventures with gay protagonists" rather than books just concentrating on the romance. This certainly fits the adventure bill – it's a real boy's own adventure, a Saturday morning film-club book, a delicious blend of gay romance, Rider Haggard and Indiana Jones with a fair smattering of humour thrown in.

In an nutshell Henry (Dash) Percival-Smythe is a stuffy professor who's never been on a field trip, who is whisked off to the Antipodes by brash typical ocker Aussie. Romance and adventure ensues.

Sean Kennedy is a true-blue Aussie, I believe, and that shows. Dingo may be a little bit of a stereotype, but he's a stereotype that does exist, as real-life characters such as Steve Irwin ably prove. I love the way Dingo takes the piss out of everything and everyone, from the head of Henry's department–calling him Lardarse–to moaning about the warm English beer.

Dash, too, is priceless. Stuffy stiff upper lip professor one minute, over-excited public schoolboy the next.

The authors don't skimp on detail just to skip ahead–the men need to get from England to Australia, and research has gone into doing this feat in the 1930's. It was still primarily a sea voyage, and flying wasn't the direct connect it is today. Too many books don't take this kind of thing into consideration, having horses travel 100 miles a day or a train travel a thousand. Remember Kevin Costner's famous boast that he could walk from Dover to Nottingham in a day? Well this book doesn't do that.

Similarly there's no rush with the plot. Because this is "proper novel size" (300 or so pages) the plot is not rushed at all, nor is the romantic entanglement. Time is spent getting to know Dingo's family, all well written, and reminding me of a mixture of Kath and Kin bred with The Sullivans, and all of it "proper" Aussie. So many gay romances have the characters thinking only with their cocks from the moment they spy their soon-to-be partner, and we are spared this, and we are given time as the plot unwinds.

One thing I really appreciated was the imperfect sex–God alone knows there's enough mutually switching studs with simultaneous ejaculations, and they never ever come too soon. Bravo to this book for having sexually deprived men behave like they probably would.

Once or twice I had the impression of being thumped over the head with too many facts a la Dan Brown style, and a few facts proved to be wrong – but they won't spoil the experience, not unless you are nitpicky like me (and I only looked this stuff up because the facts were presented.)

A couple of general things niggled at me, being English: Scotch whisky spelled with an e, the ubiquitous 'gotten', mentions of sidewalks, and Henry's father being called James Percival-Smythe III which is a rather

American way of naming people, but nothing I couldn't gloss over in the sheer fun of reading about these people. But perhaps to make a note that next time a Britpicking is clearly needed. There was also a propensity for beginning paragraphs with a name, which I hope the writers can root out in future collaborations, as it's an easy vice to fall into. There are one of two places where the POV wobbles too, we seem to start a new scene in one POV and it turns out not to be so.

But there are some really nice touches, a strainer for the tea for example. A tiny thing, but a detail that proves the writer is thinking about that they put on the page. And with any good collaboration—Jamie Craig being another excellent example—it's impossible to tell who wrote which part.

Anyone who loves Rider Haggard, Crocodile Dundee or Indiana Jones will have a blast with this book. Anyone who doesn't know the sad history of the thylacine will find this a fascinating and instructive read; (personally, I don't think the Tasmanian Tiger is extinct—there have been sightings, and even films of this amazing creature, and I'm sure we'll see it again.) And I also hope very much that we see Dash and Dingo again, because for my money they've leapt right to the forefront of gay adventure/romance fame. No, it's not perfect, but it's a bloody great try and I didn't want it to end, and that bumps it up from a 4½ star to a five.

Julio Genao says

starts out beautifully. devolves into a smokin' hot mess by 30 percent and the rest is simply appalling.

Sarah says

In 1934 Henry Percival-Smythe spends most of his time tucked away at Ealing College studying the almost extinct thylacine. A shy and rarely seen creature that has been hunted to the brink of extinction, the thylacine fires Henry's imagination and he becomes obsessed with cataloging what is left of this strange and unusual animal. When he is given the chance to go into the wilds of Australia and actually see the tiger he is apprehensive and excited. But, in order to do this he has to travel with charismatic Jack "Dingo" Chambers. While on the journey Henry discovers there is more to himself than dusty, old academia and that he not only has a passion for conservation, but also his wayward and wild Australian guide.

Henry was such a great character. He was rather uptight, sheltered and kinda geeky, and considering the time period I felt he was well drawn. His reticent nature was a great foil for Dingo's brash temperament and this clash made for great tension. Each finding their way, learning about each other and how to deal with their feelings and as a result much late night reading for me.

The story itself was interesting and part of that was the era it is set in. I sometimes wish there were a few more books written about the 20's and 30's in the genre. There is huge potential for that whole forbidden love trope! That the majority of the book is also set in the Antipodes was a huge plus. I think I've made mutterings before, about how most published work I read is set in the northern hemisphere. This book felt very familiar and the use of language, setting and over all feel was very entertaining as a reader from this part of the world.

I did feel that Dingo's family treated his sexuality with incredible acceptance considering the it was set in the 30's and this required a leap of faith on the readers part. However, as it is fiction and it did not stick out unduly it was not a huge problem. The only other thing I felt could have been tighter were a few of the latter

chapters, I got a little impatient with all the ferreting around in the bush. I am an impatient bint though, so that might have just been me and thinking that those boys needed a shower after all that sweaty... hiking.

After reading books from both Catt Ford and Sean Kennedy this year, I felt that both their strengths were very apparent within the book. It was erotic (ZOMG – dream sequence at Dingo’s parents house O-O. Naughty!) and was reasonably faithful to the era it was set in, the world building was vivid, with maybe just the odd bit of mysticism and angst to round it out.

A delightful read with much heart and something quite unique. Move over Indiana!

Check it out here at Dreamspinner Press and ARE.

<http://sharrow.wordpress.com/2009/10/...>

ttg says

4.5 stars. I am a TOTAL SUCKER for adventure romance, especially in the m/m genre, and this book successfully hit all my buttons. Compelling characters, engaging story, ADVENTURE, lush setting--just overall a very enjoyable read.

The authors did a great job on both the historical 1930’s setting, and also with describing all the places. You really felt the humidity as they traipsed around in the forests of Tasmania. Everything was very easy to imagine, and you just get swept up in the story.

Henry aka “Dash” and Dingo were very interesting, likeable, and sympathetic characters, and it was a lot of fun to watch their developing chemistry and relationship. The majority of the POV is from Henry’s perspective, but you also get perspective from Dingo, which was a nice balance since even though he is so cheery and forthright, he doesn’t always readily reveal his feelings, so it was nice to get a peek inside his thoughts.

The villain is pretty villainy, which felt a little over-the-top near the end, but overall, it fed into the grand “Adventure” and classic feel of the story.

There was more romance and sexy times than I was expecting. (I’m not complaining at all.) I think my expectation was that it would be more “classic,” so a lot of stuff would be alluded to or “off-screen,” but not so! It was a nice change to have a robust romantic factor along with the “Adventure!”

I also really appreciated that as the characters were swept up in their cause to help save the Tasmanian Tiger, I too felt swept up in it. I hadn’t really thought about the Tasmanian Tiger since Scott Westerfeld’s YA steampunk Leviathan series (also very recommended) so it was really neat to learn more about the animal. Both Dash and Dingo’s feelings and hopes to save them from extinction were very palpable, and it was easy to sympathize with their struggle (and it made me want to go look up more information afterwards.)

Overall, I thought it was a really fun read, and I wish (or hope) there are more like this, since again, total sucker for this action-adventure-romance part of the genre, and this book felt like a total quality addition to it. Very recommended if you’re looking for a historical adventure m/m romance.

Simon says

DEVASTATED!

What a great story! Devastated? Yes, I'm devastated that I've finished this novel and there is no sequel. Dingo and Dash, although historical characters (1930's) became my friends within the first few chapters. I read "T&D's" a couple of years ago, downloaded "Tigerland" a couple of weeks ago and decided to download this novel two days ago.

I was initially (after reading "Tigers and Devils") put off downloading "Dash & Dingo" due to negative reviews and the fact that the novel is a collaboration between two authors (how does that work?)...Wish I'd gone with my instincts two years ago and downloaded this story then.

This is adventure in the tradition of "Raiders of the Lost Arc," however I actually learned something whilst reading. I googled "Thylacine", "Aborigine", "Tasmania" etc and learned more about our Empirical history than I did at school.

A great read. Certain aspects are not to my taste, the descriptive sex paragraphs....I appreciate many readers enjoy this genre because of the graphic sex, but I really feel that this could be left to my imagination, especially with writing as strong as this and a story as gripping as this. Titillation was just that....Titillation and served no purpose to the story's progression. 5 x stars, and please write a sequel guys.

Martin says

Simple review:

Yes, I loved this book, I really did ;)

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I so want to read more of that genre!!
