



King Perry

Edmond Manning

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In a trendy San Francisco art gallery, out-of-towner Vin Vanbly witnesses an act of compassion that compels him to make investment banker Perry Mangin a mysterious offer: in exchange for a weekend of complete submission, Vin will restore Perry's "kingship" and transform him into the man he was always meant to be.

Despite intense reservations, Perry agrees, setting in motion a chain of events that will test the limits of his body, seduce his senses, and fray his every nerve, (perhaps occasionally breaking the law) while Vin guides him toward his destiny as 'the one true king.'

Even as Perry rediscovers old grief and new joys within himself, Vin and his shadowy motivations remain enigmas: who is this off-beat stranger guiding them from danger to hilarity to danger? To emerge triumphant, Perry must overcome the greatest challenge alone: embracing his devastating past. But can he succeed by Sunday's sunrise deadline? How can he possibly evolve from an ordinary investment banker into King Perry?

King Perry Details

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Author : Edmond Manning

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From Reader Review King Perry for online ebook

Baba says

1 star for creativity. DNF @40%. Review posted October 27, 2014

Rating clarification

I'd like to remove that single star again because, while the idea of the story is original, it's also extremely unrealistic.

I apologize in advance for my weird review. While reading the story, I added quotes and remarks to my review. I was actually reviewing and reading the book simultaneously. Thus, my comments are all over the place.

Ok, seems to me that I have figured out the concept of this series when I was 25 % done. I've had my theory confirmed by a lovely friend. I told her that (view spoiler)

(view spoiler)

fist pump Baba's mind is fast.

Here are my thoughts and comments while reading King Perry:

"In this tribe, all brothers were rightful owners of the kingdom. You might come across King Ryan the Protector or King Galen the Courier, on your way to visit The Sculptor King. Blah blah blah..."

Seriously. I couldn't care less and this is how I felt in the beginning of King Perry:

"The words cannot possibly be comforting, only further confirmation that I am delusional. But he does relax somehow, takes another deeper breath, and maybe he's winding up to argue more, but all that fresh ocean air has the impact of swallowing a whole box of Tic-Tacs, and he gasps for another breath, and this one is even deeper."

Baba takes a deep breath too. WTF?

"The Butterfly King fluttered near his favorite Manhattan bakery, his face pointed skyward, breathing the warm scent of night-baked sourdough, catching occasional wafts of sweet, sugary frosting. He grows a butterfly army in New York, powerful, savvy men taking back their city, street by street. Such is their love for each other and the Butterfly King..."

He sags.

Baba is not sagging at all. Unfortunately the meditation à la Vin Vanbly doesn't do anything for her. She doesn't feel relaxed.

I kiss Perry again, this time with more sexual intensity, because while this might be scary, we really are attracted to each other, and during our seated rocking, his fear shifted so that more of his personality is present.

Yeah, right. I can practically hear the crackling chemistry between these two guys. NOT. If I keep on reading I'm sure I will even smell and inhale it.

I think I can sum this up as surreal. Vin is an oddball.

At 20 %: I'm really wondering now...

Was Vin (view spoiler) Stories about kings? Did the stories (view spoiler)

He says:

"They left the kingdom, one after another. They weren't in hiding, these kings, or worried about protecting their borders. They were never in danger of attack because the tribe could only be found by other kings. Their very natures meant exploring was inevitable. Of course they left the kingdom. This was not the problem."

(view spoiler)

Or this...

....Once in a while a king might return with a newly found brother; arms around each other's shoulders, they passed through the eastern gates, grinning fantastically under those ancient marble arches. But many never came back. (...)

(...)

As the dawn re-painted the black grass to spring green and the gold metal leaves began to shine, two questions were always asked of the departing brother. The first was this: 'What would you risk to find a lost king?' Each king answered with what he was willing to sacrifice, and it was always worth more than anyone knew."

What did Vin sacrifice?

Why do I sense sadness? It's sad, sometimes, when friends leave to go somewhere exciting, to see them ride out to embrace their destiny and yet yours seems elusive.

I suppose other (view spoiler)

I suck him differently now, using long, powerful strokes as I infuse my love. I love this man. I worship this man.

(...)

I see powerful sparks, orange and pink, traveling from my mouth to his cock. If he's anything like men I have loved, his cock acts as a megaphone to the rest of his body, so I yell my love through it, pink and orange love, sparking through him, reminding him, enticing him, increasing his ability to handle more, to give more, to want more. I take him so deep and with such fervor that our bodies merge into silky black liquid, working in mostly silent harmony toward an invisible explosion.

Here comes the moment where I wish I'd be colorblind. Jesus. Christ. On. A. Crutch.

I can only shake my head; it's so out there, so unbelievable, not tangible.

Everything goes out his cock: sound, light, intention, everything. I'm no longer worried about Perry making noise; I don't think he's capable at this moment. The only proof of his release is a wet splat that wouldn't normally be heard, but right now, I swear it echoes as it hits the floor.

insert double eye-roll

(view spoiler)

"Suck my cock. Suck down the story at the same time. Find the rhythm."

Sucking cock and some story talk about kings don't resonate well with me. It's totally unerotic as well as uninteresting. AWFUL sex, no sexual tension, no chemistry whatsoever. Ugh. Fuck me sideways, you can really talk a sex scene to death. Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. Would you please stop talking now?

In a nutshell

Investment banker Perry Mangin meets mechanic Vin Vanbly in an art gallery in San Francisco. Vin makes a strange offer and, after acting rather reserved, Perry agrees to Vin's terms and off they go to Alcatraz.

These stories of romance do not offer a traditional happy ending, but the strong and enduring love will still touch your heart and maybe move you to tears.

From the very beginning this book was a mixed bag for me. Few odd moments of beauty alternated with plenty of confusing moments. To be very straightforward, King Perry was one big ass WTFuckery at first. Then the author started to sow a couple clues. I could practically hear the warning bells when Vin was talking about (view spoiler) at 20 %. And then at 25 % I had figured out where this was heading (read my intro at the beginning of my review). Meaning, all the tension was gone, and the more I read the more everything fizzled out. Thus, the story couldn't hold my interest. Fact is, the concept of experiencing love over a weekend is too unrealistic for my liking and the execution of the plot itself is highly unbelievable as well, and I'd go so far and say it comes off as ridiculous. This is NOT romance, it's not a real love story either. Due to its surrealism, I'd call it a fairy tale or a fantasy. To make matters worse, I neither liked the crazy oddball Vin nor the boring and pale Perry and when I don't care about the main protagonists then the story is destined to end up as a bust. The lack of sizzling chemistry and sexual tension didn't help either. Another issue of mine was the gullibility of Perry. Sure, when they met at the gallery for the first time he was somewhat reserved but he came around way too fast. Whatever Vin cajoled into his ear, Perry trusted him, followed him, did his bidding. He should have felt put off by the mysterious Vin, however, who knew so

much about him. I mean the way Vin acted was downright creepy. Anyway, it seemed to me that Perry preferred to shut down his brain cells.

The L-word...

I suck him differently now, using long, powerful strokes as I infuse my love. I love this man. I worship this man.

"That's too bad. I felt lucky to fall asleep inside such an amazing man. The experience was completely beautiful and full of love."

...really bothered me. Two guys meet, have a weekend filled with sex and odd conversations and tales of kings and Vin is talking about infusing his love upon Perry. He loves this man. He worships Perry. Come on, that happens most certainly in fairy tales and then the same concept will (view spoiler)

The men in my book are deeply in love with each other for a full weekend. Their love is real.

I have a problem with love and feelings that are turned on and off so conveniently. Yep, love is a fluid thing and it's not the same for every person. Yet the author wasn't able to sell me that wacky concept because it was too out there. I will give him this at least: he can write but unfortunately it didn't resonate with me at all.

Since I'm definitely in the minority, I think you should check out the glowing reviews before you make up your mind. King Perry might have been another of those cases...

T.A. Webb says

Don't read any further if you don't like personal information, potential spoilers or rambling musings.

On a quiet evening in 1999, investment banker Perry Mangin attends an art show in San Francisco. He's a nice looking man, not super hot but not a slouch.

Vin Vanbly is also at the event. He's a mechanic from Minnesota, in town on vacation. Vin's a bear - a stocky, hairy guy - and soon he and Perry notice each other. Vin waits, and soon Perry comes over where he's studying the paintings.

The two men flirt and converse about little things. Then Vin begins to talk about the artwork, specifically a few pieces by a local artist. His knowledge of the pieces is profound, his insights piercing to Perry. As a crowd forms and Vin draws everyone around him in to the story behind these works, Perry reacts. And leaves.

When he checks in with the gallery the next day, Perry is surprised to find a note left for him. The note invites him to meet Vin Friday evening on Pier 33 and spend the weekend with him, submitting. The note promises it is not a S&M thing, but will forever change his life. It invites him to remember who he was always meant to be. But most importantly, it invites him to "Remember the King".

Will Perry show? What does Vin have planned for him? And, what do the promises in the note mean for

Perry?

A few words before I dive into this review. As I've posted in another place, this has been a rough few weeks for me and I've been tired and flirting with burn out. I review a lot, and have been stalled on that front, as well as in other areas. And, as usual, when I have a problem or issue, the Universe has a way of throwing the answer in my face in the most improbable ways.

Because this book - I'm rarely at a loss for words, but this book is an answered prayer.

Edmond Manning, bless him, has written a book of rare depth, beauty and importance. This work is all about the pains of the heart, finding ones true self and connecting with the mysteries of life. It is funny yet serious, deep yet easy, and heart breaking yet heart warming.

If read with an open heart, this gem of a book has the power of healing, the serenity of grace, and the security of a father's hug. It's about being powerful and connected and alive.

I really don't want to give away too much of the plot and substance of this novel, but some points are important.

Perry has been unable to really develop a lasting connection with another human being, and is stuck. In some ways, he's sliding under the waves. When the invitation to join Vin for the weekend comes, some part of him - the part longing for connection and openness - recognizes what might happen.

Vin is an enigma. He's a mechanic, a visitor to the city on vacation. But he knows things about Perry he shouldn't, thinks around corners, and acts like a madman. He has a plan and an agenda, and he fascinates the whole way through this story.

I don't know if this tale resonates so loudly with me because I'm a man, and the author is male also. At the risk of sounding sexist, this story is written by a man, about a man. But the truths and issues are so universal, they transcend gender.

When I finished this book, I felt...alive again. Sad, powerful, energized, loved, open. And with the need to call my Dad.

I felt 'kinged'. I am Tom, the Bear King.

Buy this book, carve out a quiet few hours, and open your heart to it. Let me know what King or Queen you are.

King Tom

Josephine Myles says

I've had the privilege to read through the final draft of King Perry and it's an amazing story with so much heart. I can't recall the last time I was so delighted and uplifted by a book that doesn't have the traditional romance ending.

This is coming out under Dreamspinner's Bittersweet line because of that ending - but believe me, there's nothing bitter about it. I was left with a huge smile on my face and joy in my heart.

Prepare yourself for a journey to strange new places and the depths of the human heart. There is audacious sex, yes, but there is also bear walking... Vin Vanbly is one of my all time favourite fictional characters on the strength of this one book. May he return for many more!

MLE says

I do not envy the person who had to try to write the blurb for this book. I thought about trying to describe this to a friend, and nothing I could think of did it any sort of justice. Weird, wonderful, sublime, transcendent, and ridiculous; this has to be one of the most interesting, and original books I've read in ages. Loved it.

Lena♥Ribka says

**** One hour after finishing the book ****

I don't know if I'll be able to review this book at all.

I don't know if I'll find the right words to review it someday, but for sure not right now.

Right now I AM SPEECHLESS.

I don't know if there are the right words to express all my emotions I lived through reading it.

In few words:

THIS BOOK IS BRILLIANT, AMAZING, BEAUTIFUL AND TOTALLY CRAZY!!!

It's hard to find words, to strum the soul, to let out what is almost always ineffable.

If you have not read it yet,

DO. IT.

PUT EVERYTHING ASIDE AND READ IT.

**** Update of my thoughts ****

It is not a full review. My first decision, not to review it because I'm not sure that one can find the right words that can do justice to this book, were not totally false.

I've added some more thoughts to it.

And let it stay this way.

My GR friends who are acquainted with my reviews know that I don't describe a book in my reviews. So...If you want to know a plot, read a blurb or other reviews. But if you want to know how a book affects somebody like me, it is the right place for you.

I started to read this book without having any idea what it is about. The cover reminded me a bit of *Life of Pi*, and the title sounded to me like a Disney fairy tale. *In the meantime I know that the cover is perfect for the story!*

It is exactly how I would recommend it to everybody.

Do not read reviews and a blurb, do not make a lot of thoughts about it.

JUST DO IT.

Switch off your mobile, TV, radio, kids, husbands, partners.

Find a secure place, take this book and dive into the amazingly beautiful mind of a brilliant story teller Edmond Manning, let him take you into the unique crazy and unforgettable world of Vin Vanbly, stay with Vin and Perry for a while and let yourself getting lost in this wonderful prose!

You will laugh, you will cry you'll go crazy and...you'll remain speechless at the end.

And AFTER you can ask yourself whether this adventure was worth all your emotions and money.

My only warnings:

IT IS NOT A TYPICAL ROMANCE. It is much better.

You have to BE ABLE TO READ BETWEEN THE LINES.

You won't get answers on all your questions. Most likely, you'll have more questions at the end.

I just have to say it again:

THIS BOOK IS BRILLIANT, AMAZING, BEAUTIFUL AND TOTALLY CRAZY!!!

It's good to be a king, lost or found.

Highly highly highly recommended. Enjoy!!!!!!!!!!

Cole Riann says

A miraculous, healing story to hold close to your heart!

I've heard many, many wonderful things about this book over the last month or so. Josephine Myles wrote a wonderful review that caught my interest after Chris directed me there, and became my personal cheerleader -- saying, "read it now! read it now!". I found myself very lucky then, to be one of the recipients of the

GoodReads giveaway and received my paperback copy from Edmond in the mail last week, along with a beautiful note and a yummy, gooey, finger-licking, savorlicious nut roll, that I promptly ate on the way back from the mail-box. I mean, hey, I got a free book! But I also got free candy! Well, not candy ;)

So I found myself with a beautiful copy of a book that has probably gotten more 5 star reviews than I've seen before, memory full of sweet and salty goodness, and a personal cheerleader goading me on. How could I refuse?

This is a unique book to review, and I won't re-hash the blurb for you, because there's really no point. There's so much to say about it, yet the beauty of it is in the mystery. I constantly found myself with my pen marking favorite passages to enjoy later (I love marking up books! real books! it's been so long!), but unable to share them, because like an inside joke, no one but fellow Found King and Queen readers would understand them. Point 1 for Edmond Manning -- by reading, I've become complicit in the events of the book.

Because the real story is in the mystery of figuring out the story for yourself and your own personal journey with the characters, the story is a bit hard to describe to those who haven't yet read the book. I was talking to a friend who is also reading this book right now and the only way I could find to describe the story was this: *"its... light-hearted on the surface but profound underneath, but it's like a great adventure. It... reminds me, at it's heart... of Max, in Where the Wild Things Are... It's like a great children's adventure for adults."* There's a sense of wonder in the adventure, which sounds a bit hokey in summary, but through the character of San Francisco in the novel is laid out in a way that entices the senses.

I do want to talk to potential readers here, because I might not have picked this story up if not for Chris, my personal cheerleader, telling me not to be afraid of the Bittersweet label on this book. The only similarity this book as to Bittersweet books is the fact that there's no HEA. I don't think that's too much of a spoiler to give away as it is pretty well known. However, while this book is wildly romantic, it is also not technically a "romance." I'd rather think of it as gay fiction. It is a beautiful story that left me with a huge smile on my face and warmth in my heart, and no matter how hokey it sounds I'll growl it out like a wild bear :)

All I can say is that I think *everyone* should read this book, and I'm so happy that I have my very own paperback copy to read whenever I want. I imagine that this book will stay with me for a long time, and having it there to comfort me on a bad day, or remind me of all the good and wonder in the world when I really need it.

Mona says

An inspirational, unique and quirky read. King Perry teaches us to let go of our fears, find our true selves and LIVE life to the fullest!!

To boast wonder takes great courage. Being left speechless with joy is not for the weak. We forget to be surprised by everyday miracles, like toast springing up, the mesmerizing blue in the sky, or even simple friendships. To touch and remember this delicate sense of wonder, we travel. We deliberately let ourselves become tourists to welcome in this unique delight.

Lovely buddy read with my cute babes, Bev, Ingela and Andrea!

Vivian says

Wow.

It seems quite pointless to review this story other than to say that it is a journey. A hero's journey. Perry's journey as told through his guide's eyes. It's like a gilded mosaic with so many pieces crammed together incredibly close. Clever and faceted, entertaining and epiphanous, and simply more than you'd expect. A gift.

This book makes you feel like a puppy gamboling along, stepping on its ear every so often and smashing its nose into the ground. But, like the puppy you stumble back up and keep exploring, or least we use to until we stopped. The book won't let you stop; it's the unexpected amusement park ride that at first seemed so innocuous, but suddenly when faced with the truth you realize that you can't get away, that you're committed.

Little voice inside whispers, "I don't think I can do this."

Big voice chuckles, "I don't think you have a choice."

Playful and heartbreaking. Language is a toy that gets batted around like a ball of string, ridiculous and wonderful you can't help but smile--unless you don't get it and then it probably seems like nonsensical rambling.

There's so much heart squished inside that you wonder how it's possible. Like Mary Poppins' bag, you realize that the possibilities are limitless. We are only bound by our fears and we pace the cage we've built ourselves.

Overall, amazing, joyous and celebratory.

Favorite quote:

“When you forgive, you give your heart to wonder and love after it has already been broken.”

Chris says

Excellent gay fiction about taking chances, forgiving, and finding the self you lost along the way. I started reading feeling a bit resistant, because, well, it sounded kinda hokey to me from the blurb. Oh, how very wrong I was - and how very glad that I read this story. While it has romantic moments and is filled with love, it is not a romance per se, so you need to let go of your expectations about how the story will end. But rest assured that this is not like some of the other stories I've read in Dreamspinner's BitterSweet line, which left me heartsick or upset about even having read the book. Highly recommended.

Macky says

I see a review on my updates page on Goodreads for this book called King Perry by a writer called Edmond Manning. A new author to me. I like the cover, the review makes it sound intriguing and its been given 5 stars so I go to its profile page and see that the book has umpteen glowing reviews and many many high ratings which draws me to it even more so I take the plunge and buy it. Now I know from the reviews that

this is one of those books that has deeply affected its readers so I'm even more intrigued to find out why. Its billed as bittersweet and I have to admit that I'm a bit wary of this as I don't mind seeing my MC's going through a fair bit of angst but I do like a HEA or at least a HFN. For once though, because its so highly admired, I decide I'm going put my uncertainty to one side and go for it.

The first couple of chapters and I start to get a bit worried, there's no doubt that Mr Manning is a great wordsmith but its not really grabbing me like I hoped it would. This Vin Vanbly bloke is a bit strange and I'm not really sure if I'm really getting it because this is nothing like the m/m stories I usually read and for a split second I wonder if I've made a mistake buying it. However I decide I'm possibly being a bit previous because I'm not that far in so I push on and suddenly I'm at the part when Perry agrees to Vins mysterious invitation to stay with him for a ' King Weekend ' where if he follows Vins every command his life will change in surprising ways and he'll meet his true joy. He also tells him to " wear some sexy underwear, you have a great ass". Its these flashes of humour that are also part of what's keeping me reading, because even though I can't really work him out Vin is a witty guy and I do like this type of banter but at this point I'm still not seeing what the big fuss about this book really is. Then they arrive on Alcatraz and the seduction really starts.....

From this point on this amazing story and Vin and Perry start to worm their way into my heart in a way I find really hard to describe. I don't think I've ever read anything like this in my life. Vin Vanbly is an enigmatic Tour De Force, the man is mysterious, devious, manipulative and as complex as the the guy he's trying to help but he's also hilarious, sweet, loving and sort of goofy at times. He tells rambling stories whilst they're making love, of Lost and Found kings and he loves words, and I mean **LOVES** words.... *VIGOUR* being a particular favourite out of many. Another Vin Vanbly very amusing quirk! Watching him break down Perry's tightly wound emotions over the course of the book, in ways that you would never imagine, including stealing a duck, until Perry allows himself to forgive is an experience I'll never forget because this man played my emotions in a way they've never been played before. I've laughed and cried in many other books but for the first time ever I did both at the same time!

One minute I'm laughing out loud at the picture of these two men pretending to be growly bears at a homeless shelter breakfast gathering, when suddenly mid giggle my eyes start to fill up and the next thing I know I'm weeping and I don't really know why! It should be really funny but something just gets to me and I think its all to do with Vin. First impressions are that this is a man who doesn't care if it looks like he's making a fool of himself, he's not self conscious and far from introverted, he's larger than life but he has a gut wrenching backstory that we become privy to over time and even though he feels this odd need to help others to learn the meaning of forgiveness, in his case forgiveness is never going to happen and it's why he can never fully give himself to these men who he has " Kinged " and grown to love, whilst helping them gain the enlightenment they need. This is the bittersweet side of the story and at times its heartbreaking but at the same time its also funny, joyous and full of hope.

The ending is just perfect. Yes, its poignant, I practically spent the last 20% of the story firstly in shock at what Vin finally puts Perry through but also in tears because its also one of the most uplifting moments in any story I've read. I can honestly say I ended the book feeling emotionally drained but at the same time strangely euphoric. When you read this story - and I hope everyone will - please forget all past experiences of general m/m romance because this is nothing like anything you'll have read before, so dont try and make it work within the peramiters of what you're used to, just go with flow and let it work its unique magic and you should have a journey like you've never had before, full of mad WTF! moments, gloriously written passages and funny quotes that will stay with you for a long long time.

Vin Vanbly (or should I say say Mr Edmond Manning because all of this stems from your wonderful voice) you blew me away and stole my heart and my soul and In the words of King Aabee, if you were ever to ask for help then I'd hope to be be there saying " *I will go. Send Me.* "

Truly Awesome! I can't recommend this highly enough, another book that deserves a much higher rating than its allowed.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

Get this book for FREE right now here (11/20/16): <https://www.instafreebie.com/free/jYfSd>

This book is one strange, crazy, lovely read. I had no idea what was going to happen for 99% of the story. I was totally, completely clueless, just like Perry. Throw away your rulebooks, ladies and gentlemen, and go along for the ride.

I honestly have no idea what to make of this book. If I had to describe this incredibly indescribable book I would say that it is a journey-type story. This is not a traditional romance novel. This book belongs in a similar category as *Woke Up in a Strange Place* but I liked this book eons more. The story follows two men, Perry and Vin, and their adventures over the course of a weekend. I can't decide if Vin is psychopathic or a divine genius. He is certainly not what I would consider normal.

This book was confusing, funny, heart-breaking, romantic, and bittersweet. It was everything rolled up into one incredibly well-written package. At times I found Vin to be bizarre and un-relatable and I struggled as to whether or not this story was *for me*. I often found myself wanting to put it down and start something more accessible. However, then Vin would say something hilariously funny and witty or do something erotic and I would say, "Okay, I'll give it another chapter." And so on and so on... then the book was over and it was 1:30 am. It sort of ensnared me. I give this author a lot of credit for trying something so completely different in the M/M genre.

"King Perry" was a fabulously strange read. I left this book with 1,000 questions (I hope I get some answers!), and I'm so curious as to what the next book has in store for me.

****Find this review and others like it at myfictionnook.com****

Kaje Harper says

I realized about three pages into this book that I should just give up expecting and predicting and go with it. But like Perry, I had to learn that lesson over and over. This isn't a romance. I'm not sure what it is, other than brilliant and surprising and imaginative and unexpected. There is poignancy mixed with a lot of humor, often the kind of humor that sneaks up on you and delivers a wet raspberry on the back of your neck - affectionate, startling, silly and with love at its foundation.

The narrator tugs at your heart and then slips elusively out of your reach. There is sex, but it is not the

driving force. The ending felt right. Neither of these men is in the right place for a HEA and the balance of power between them is wrong. I hope someday the narrator finds a good man to hold him while he reaches back for his own pain, but the end was satisfying with only a hint of bitterness in the sweet. I'm not sure I believed all of this book, but I know I adored it and was submerged in it. I can't wait to see what this author comes up with next.

ETA: Great fun the second time around too, and so well written. I can't wait for the upcoming sequel.

Susan says

This book has done the seemingly impossible: it has rendered me speechless.

crickets

Ok, so that didn't last long but really...WTF? I'm not quite sure what to say here.

King Perry is quite possibly one of the MOST ROMANTIC books I have ever read. It is also hella weird...like, really, really weird.

This book had me crying time and time again with poignant, emotional moments. I also was annoyed the rest of the time.

It is original and quirky and gorgeous. It is confusing and outrageous.

I enjoyed it so many parts of this. I had a hard time getting through the rest of it.

Contradictions abound. **I think I have a love/hate relationship with this book.** But the feelings...both good and bad...are strong.

I think this could have been a 5-star, "favorites" for me, but for this: despite all the romance and grand gestures and insanity, I really, really had a problem with Vin's Messiah-complex and emotional manipulation. I do think that no matter how much you love someone, that's a line that should not be crossed. It felt abusive to me a bit.

But, that's the thing: I don't think this book is meant to be a romance book, though wildly romantic. I read it more as a fairy tale/self-help manual on how to come to grips with loss and healing.

In any case, if you're looking to read a book that's a total head-trip, but that will embrace and fill your heart to the brim...I recommend you giving this a try.

Full review at: <http://sidlove.wordpress.com/2013/07/...>

Nancy says

Cross-posted at Outlaw Reviews and at Shelf Inflicted

This story frustrated me initially, as I had no idea where it was going and I expect a certain kind of predictability in romance stories. I was afraid it was going to be a feel-good story, the kind that is anathema to my cynical heart. Though I was tempted to set it aside a few times, my curiosity got the better of me and I pressed on. Grudgingly, I opened my mind and my heart and embarked on an unforgettable journey that begins in a San Francisco art gallery.

Perry Mangin is an investment banker who lives relatively well in one of the most expensive cities on earth. Vin Vanbly, an auto mechanic from Minnesota, knows quite a bit about art and takes an interest in Perry. Though Perry seems not to want for anything, he has issues that prevent him from getting close to others.

This is not your average boy-meets-boy story, and Vin is not your average car mechanic. His job is to "King" Perry, get him to open up his heart, explore long-buried grief, shed tears, learn forgiveness, and ultimately find love.

I was on vacation in Montreal while reading this story and was only able to get through bits and pieces at a time. Though I wanted to devour it in one sitting, this way allowed me to integrate Perry's experiences with my own, observing people more closely, finding common connections, and feeling a part of the fabric of the city rather than a mere explorer. Well, except for the cute duck and the wild sex, of course.

Vin's mysterious nature, while bothersome at first, grew on me, as I realized that every single action he took, no matter how bizarre, was for Perry's own good. His sexy charm, his humor, his way with words, and the way he seemingly knew more about Perry than Perry knew of himself endeared me to him.

King Perry is definitely not a romance in the traditional sense, but it is a story about love of the deepest kind. It made me laugh and made me cry, sometimes at the same time. It warmed my heart, dredged up some father issues and brought buried feelings to the surface. I was happy for Perry, but sad for Vin, who could not forgive.

Maybe one of these days I will forgive my own father, maybe not.

Julio Genao says

don't be afraid.

a man stands before you with an arm outstretched, offering you his hand.

he promises you an adventure.

he answers no questions. he gives no assurances.

he simply holds out his hand, and asks you to trust him.

don't be afraid.

he's offering you his hand.

reach out, and take it.

someone at dreamspinner was afraid when they put this story in a box with a label that read 'bittersweet dreams.'

they were afraid.

and they wronged you.

no span of joy this pure can ever be bittersweet, no matter that it always ends.

no matter that it can't exist without the twisting of grief, the thrusting of anger, the swelling of pain, or the thrumming of an ache too vast to have a single name.

there is no yes without no.

there is no joy without sorrow.

don't be afraid.

this story is in the wrong box. with the wrong label.

but the love in it is too big for a box at all.

there are missteps. i counted two.

only two.

one made me very angry.

it was a single false note in what has been one of the most transporting literary experiences in my recent memory.

...there's more than one way to look at things. and it's not easy to ignore the other side of the coin.

no matter.

don't be afraid.

i read—i *consumed*—this novel with a greed i haven't felt in a very long time.

every word. every line, sucked of its sweet marrow and crunched with delight until there was nothing left but the savory echo of pleasure.

delicious words. wonderful words. magnificent words—

—sublime. *sublime* words.

i loved these words.

i was not afraid.

because they loved me back.

sarah black once told me that stories are our gifts to a world that doesn't see us.

i believe this with all my heart.

i don't know this author personally, but i've read his words.

i can see him, in my mind's eye, crafting this book with skill, and bravery, and generosity.

filling it with his love and his grief and his joy.

a story which he then sends to people who live very far away.

for them to give us his gift. on his behalf.

in this faraway place filled with faraway people, a mistake is made.

someone... someone reads this novel, and feels all the things i feel—but also fear.

whereupon this book is placed in the wrong box, with the wrong label on it.

to this author i do not know—this figment of my imagination i choose to call mr. edmond manning—i whisper in the dark:

forgive them.

forgive, as your story reminded me to forgive.

because i can see you, now.

i can see you just fine.
