



# Don't Look Back

*Josh Lanyon*

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## **Don't Look Back** Josh Lanyon

*He was chuckling, a deep, sexy sound as he pushed Peter back on the satiny cushions. Was this for real? Was he going to go through with it? Peter blinked up as his tie was unfastened, tossed aside, his shirt unbuttoned, laid wide. The evening breeze -- scented of smog and jasmine -- felt cool against his overheated skin, like the lightest breath...*

Peter Killian, curator at Constantine House in Los Angeles, wakes in the hospital to find himself accused of stealing a tenth century Chinese sculpture. Peter knows he's not a thief -- but that's all he knows. Why is hot and handsome Detective Mike Griffin so sure he's guilty -- and so hell-bent on seeing Peter arrested?

And why is Peter having these weird dreams about an unseen lover who somehow reminds him uncomfortably of Michael Griffin?

## **Don't Look Back Details**

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Author : Josh Lanyon

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# From Reader Review Don't Look Back for online ebook

## Ije the Devourer of Books says

I really liked this one especially once the story began to develop. There were two aspects that really had me hooked: Peter's amnesia and what had happened to him in the past, and then the thefts from the museum and who was actually behind them.

Of course I had a suspect and I wasn't wrong in my guessing but this didn't detract from the story.

Once again Josh Lanyon has delivered a great mystery with good characters, great pace and an enjoyable story. He is one author that I really like and I know that I will always enjoy whatever he writes.

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## Marte - Thunderella says

...I'm so easy... One ~~deed~~ look at the cover and halfway through reading the blurb I clicked "Want to read" ;P Sue me. After I read the *whole* blurb though, I found that it checked a lot of my boxes. LOL! Mystery, suspense, Detective..

\*\*\*\*4 mysterious stars\*\*\*\*

This was my pre-review of this book. As I said I'm easy. :P But when I bought the book at Amazon there was a totally different cover

.  
Boring, I thought. But, you know what? After finish reading, I think that cover was much better than the droolworthy one! It's way more fitting.

Sometimes the first paragraph of a book just sets you in the mood, you know, makes you *dive* right in and grips a hold of you. This was very much the case with this book! Have a look at the beginning:

### "Chapter One

**The moon was enormous — ripe, red-gold, hanging low in the sky. From the flowering jacaranda, the mockingbird was scolding.**

***Chjjj...chjjj...chewk.***

**Peter stumbled up the brick path. His foot caught and he went down, on his knees, breathing hard. His hands were white blurs on the warm stone. He tried to focus, and he could see the ink splotches of blood — *his blood* — running down his face and dripping onto the bricks."**

Thrilling, right! I can really see that scene in my mind!

So, Peter wakes up in the hospital, recovering from his injuries, and he is visited by the very pissy detective Michael Griffin. He questions Peter, but Peter doesn't remember anything and is generally confused.

As the story continues and the mystery evolves and unfolds, Peter discovers a lot about himself and about how his life has been up until this point. Those discoveries makes him want to "Don't look back".

The mystery was a bit predictable, but I didn't mind it at all. Lanyon weaves a great tale of mystery.

A recommended read of about hundred pages. :)

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### **Aeren says**

Excelente, me encanta esta autora

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### **Amy says**

Well that was fun! I'm kind of hit or miss with Josh Lanyon. Some of his/her (I'm still not sure which pronoun to use) are too focused on the mystery, with not enough romance for my taste (i.e., Adrien English). But I didn't find that to be the case with this one.

The two MCs have great chemistry. Peter, a museum curator, wakes up in the hospital with amnesia and finds himself the main suspect in the disappearance of a priceless mural. Detective Mike Griffin is convinced he's lying. I enjoyed watching Peter get his memory back, bit by bit, and discover that he's not the same person now that he was before the accident. Great suspense, lots of twists and turns, and more sex than a typical Lanyon novel. A very enjoyable read!!

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### **Meep says**

A nice quick read, fits in nicely amongst other things.

Usual Lanyon characteristics; formula mystery, a tough cop character and a weak smart main character who of course is the main suspect. Nice comfortable reading.

Amnesia allows Peter the chance to see his potential better. Life and friendship has held him back, so he's become buttoned-up, a claustrophobic and depressing reality he gets to see with new eyes having forgotten everyone/thing personal to him. Mike lurks, big, muscular, disapproving and hiding secrets, and the hot dreams keep coming.

The sex dreams/memories start on the second page. Hot and a little mysterious.

That the mystery is completely un-mysterious doesn't bother me, Lanyon's writing makes it worth reading. I'd have liked perhaps a little more between Mike and Peter; their chemistry seems mostly from memories,

and the chancing of carpet burns ;) but it suits the length of the story.

Not memorable enough to be a favourite, but a nice little story, good for lunch-time reading.

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## **Karéz says**

Another mystery,thrilling story that I ENJOYED...

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## **Jenre says**

*Don't Look Back* is a very different story to the other two books which have been recently released by Josh Lanyon. Its tone is quieter, more reflective and the story mirrors that tone in that most of the conflict comes from the lead character's internal confusion, rather than external forces (although there is a bit of that as well). You may also be shocked to learn that there isn't one single murder in this novella. Not one.

The book begins in a dramatic fashion with our hero, Peter, stumbling towards a house with blood pouring out of his head. He passes out once he gets inside and awakens in hospital with no recollection of who he is or how he got in hospital. Sitting by his bed is Detective Griffin, who tells Peter that he has been accused of robbery. Peter is a museum curate and several costly pieces have been stolen from the museum, including a valuable mural which was taken the night that Peter was attacked. The book follows Peter's attempt to regain his memory and discover who is stealing from the museum.

Although this story is told in the third person, we only get Peter's point of view. This allows us to experience all his frustrations and confusion over what is happening to him, but also means that the reader experiences a little doubt as to whether Peter is telling us the whole truth. His amnesia also casts some doubt on whether he could be the one committing the crime because, although he believes within himself that he's not capable of stealing, he doesn't remember whether he has or not. The use of the amnesia in this context was an interesting way to keep the mystery going, even though I'd pretty much guessed who was responsible before the end.

Another interesting way that the amnesia was used is in the characterisation of Peter. He can't remember what sort of person he is and can only rely on what he knows instinctively about himself. This means that Peter is actually freed from many of the constraints he had previous to the amnesia and is able to act in a way that is more true to his personality than he had previously. One telling scene is when Peter arrives at his house after leaving the hospital and wanders from room to room looking at his things, his clothes and the life he obviously led before the attack.

He tossed the shirt into the laundry, opened the closet, and blinked. His clothes hung in two neatly laundered and pressed rows -- grouped by style and color. Could he really be this organized? It didn't seem...natural.

He selected a brown polo shirt and a pair of stone-colored chinos. He didn't appear to own a pair of simple Levi's.

Peter is even surprised by his own appearance when he looks in the mirror. It suggests that Peter has long lived a life which warred with his inner personality. The amnesia allows him to break free of that - to begin

again, as it were, and make a fresh start with his life and with his friends. This was an unusual twist on the amnesia theme, which tends to involve people trying to get their memories back so they can return to how they were, not to rediscover themselves and move away from their previous life as Peter tries to do.

This is Peter's story and we get to experience all his highs and lows. As a result some of the other characters were not quite as well drawn as they may have been. This could be a deliberate ploy because Peter doesn't remember these people and only vaguely recalls their importance in his life, so how can they be fully rounded? Even Mike Griffin, the outwardly gruff detective is somewhat of a mystery. His motivations and past dealings with Peter are revealed slowly through the novella and only at the end do we see some of his true personality. This makes him somewhat of an enigma for most of the book.

I'm a big fan of some of Josh Lanyon's quieter, less outwardly humourous mysteries, such as *Cards on the Table* and *Ghost of a Chance* and this book can be compared favourably to those. I liked Peter and my heart ached for his situation and the confusion and helplessness he feels. I was cheering him on all the way through his period of self-discovery and subsequent re-evaluation of some of the decisions he has made in his life. Whilst the mystery elements were all present and correct, this book is really about one man's battle with himself; a battle I was all too happy to witness.

So if you're looking for flashy dialogue and Josh Lanyon's trademark wit, you may need to go elsewhere than this book as any humour within *Don't Look Back* is of the wry, self effacing sort. I thoroughly enjoyed this mystery which gains a grade of 'Excellent', and am happy to add this novella to the growing list of Josh Lanyon's books that I will re-read when I'm in the mood for something emotionally satisfying.

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## **Tina says**

Museum curator Peter Killian wakes up in a hospital to find that a blow to the head is the least of his problems. He suffers from amnesia and the very hot Police Detective Michael Griffin sitting by his bed seems convinced Peter is a burglar, who has stolen an expensive mural.

Peter has to figure out who is stealing from the museum before he winds up in jail or the real thief decides to silence him. But first he must try to put together the pieces of his fragmented memory. On top of that he sees flashbacks of a blonde man who he was deeply intimate with but can't remember who he was...

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An apparently single-minded detective, an amnesiac witness, mystery, drama and a palpable sexual tension is well mixed into a thrilling story.

The book is entertaining and the suspense part is well done. Another 5 stars novella for my Josh Lanyon collection. :)

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## **Lauraadriana says**

What would it be like to wake up one day and discover that the feelings for the person that matter the most if

your life are gone?

That's what happens to Peter Killian, after being attacked while walking into a robbery at the Constantine House the museum where he works as a curator.

Peter has been in love with Cole Constantine the chairman of the board of the museum and his best friend, forever. His whole life revolves around making Cole happy despite the fact that Cole and him will never have anything. So he wakes to not having these feelings and for the first time in a long time he can see things clearly.

Peter can't remember anything about the robbery or about his life. He is getting grilled by Detective Mike Griffin, who despite being hard on him seems to be hiding something. Mike seems familiar, but Peter is not sure how.

Things begin to look badly for Peter and all evidence points that he has been the one stealing from the museum...

The book is good and the premise is quite interesting. As always I loved the MC, I especially loved the Detective.

I wanted more, but then again I always do with Josh Lanyon's books.

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## Shelley says

This is good. If you know Josh Lanyon's work, particularly The Adrien English series, you'll recognise the likenesses here. Peter Killian is the well-ordered intelligent and conservative type, slim, neat and appealing in appearance.

Detective Griffin is the big, sexy, mysterious alpha in charge. The atmosphere is comparable and Peter's voice also bears a strong resemblance to Adrien English. Luckily for me, I'm a big fan.

Even with these similarities, *Don't Look Back* stands out on its own just because of the situation our MC Peter Killian finds himself in when he wakes in a hospital room with no memory; accused of a crime he's sure he didn't commit and faced with a surly detective Mike Griffin who needs convincing otherwise. Okay, those parts are not so different but the loss of memory and how Peter copes is what sets this book very much apart.

Peter can remember everything, as long as it's not personal. His job as curator of a museum is clear, as are the recurring thefts of small valuable artefacts for the past year. Any personal relationships he may have had are a blank, and the only clue is the recurring dreams of a faceless lover, who is yet to step forward – or has he?

As Peter slowly starts to recall his life bit by bit, he discovers himself with a new found clarity - unhindered by old emotional connections he gains a clear perspective of what his life was like. With every new

recollection the threat surrounding him escalates and the plot thrives. The angst is tangible when Peter's panic intensifies and things really do fall apart for him. Who does he trust or believe? And who's setting him up? It's a case of having to prove his innocence when he's the only suspect and tension between Peter and the sexy detective develops into something ... more?

It's all classic Lanyon as I know him, and very well done – especially how Peter deals with his injured memory. It definitely provided me with a certain amount of food for thought. What would I do if I lost the memory of people who have been in my life forever? How would I recognise their influence over me? How would I judge my own image? Would I identify the power of a narcissistic personality?

I enjoyed this aspect and really, this is what lifts the book from being a likable 3.5 Stars to a thoroughly enjoyable 4 Stars. My only annoyance is that Mr Lanyon's novellas are too short, and this one in particular would have benefited from more page time between Peter and Mike. I always want more of everything with a Lanyon novella.

Read more of this review on [The Blog Of Sid Love](#)

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## **CrabbyPatty says**

Short novella with amnesia (one of my favorites tropes), a bit of a mystery and a heckuva love triangle.

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## **Idrissa says**

Constantine House curator, Peter, is suffering from amnesia. He appears to have gotten attacked when the theft of a very valuable tenth century mural occurred in his museum. He also appears to be having erotic dreams with a faceless lover- who may be long time crush, and very married best friend, Cole- chairman of the Constantine board of trustees. On top of it all, SFPD robbery and homicide, Detective Griffin seems to have him pegged as the primary suspect in the theft. And more importantly, also appears to have some kind of a "beef" with him.

What follows is a fluidly paced game of cat and canary. Who stole the mural? Who is the man in Peter's dreams? Who is trying to kill him? And why? What does Peter know that these killers don't want him to remember?

I enjoyed this book and re-read it to purge myself of the dual POV madness of *Murder Between the Pages*

4/5 stars.

Happy 2017 everyone.

Josh Lanyon- cure for all book slump ailments. Even her own.

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## Natasha says

I've read this. I know I've read this... but I don't remember how many stars I liked it, so it gets my default Lanyon star rating.

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## Lena♥Ribka says

If you have a book hangover you should read Josh Lanyon.

Though the risk is too high that you won't read anything else up until you have reached the end of Josh Lanyon's list.

*Don't Look Back* is a perfect mystery à la Josh Lanyon with a sexy very male detective Michael Griffin and Peter Killian, a museum curator, who is, OF COURSE, a prime suspect in a theft case in his museum.

Though with a little benefit for the readers: The first sex scene happens almost on the very first page. I would say in consideration of the length of the story, it has a bit more of a healthy eroticism comparing to his other books. Yeah!

I had EVERYTHING I need: A great mystery, very engaging and lovely characters, a wonderful writing with loving attention to details and my HEA. Do I wish to be it longer? I don't think so.

It is PERFECT how it is.

Then you can ask WHY not a full rating?

I liked it a lot, but I won't keep the MCs too long in my mind, they will be probably replaced by other lovely characters of the next involving mystery of Josh Lanyon.

It was a great book for a RIGHT NOW moment but not for an eternity.

*P.S I liked the half naked men on the cover, but I don't know what kind of relationship they have with the plot.*

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## Ingie says

*Written February 2, 2015*

### 3.3 Stars - A nice "whodunit" with a splash of romance

Once again I felt for a book by my favorite M/M writer Mr Josh Lanyon. This time was it an novella as an 4 hrs audiobook narrated by Graham Halstead. A new, good enough, narrator for me.

★★★??

### **Pleased ...as most times**

A rather short and thrilling mystery. I was not overwhelmed or hugely impressed but it's well done and good for the moment.

Our two heroes are up to scratch. - It's quite cute actually, with a slightly insecure male character that is far from the smart strong men we often meet in the M/M crime genre. The mystery was also solved in a nice way.

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### From the book-blurb:

“**Peter Killian**, the curator at *Constantine House, Los Angeles*, wakes in the hospital to find himself accused of stealing a Tenth Century Chinese sculpture. Peter knows he's not a thief - but that's all he knows.

Why is hot and handsome **Detective Mike Griffin** so sure he's guilty - and so bent on seeing Peter arrested?”

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### **I LIKE - nice and quite thrilling**

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