



## Hallowed Bond

*Eressë*

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*Time and circumstances may force true lovers apart but the tie that binds them can never be fully severed.*

When Dylen Teris and Riodan Leyhar meet one harsh winter in the dual-gendered realm of Ylandre, neither expects the encounter to lead to a fast friendship and abiding love. For a chasm of vastly dissimilar social stations lies between them, and not all Deira could imagine, let alone accept, such a relationship.

Circumstances eventually separate them for what seems forever only to conspire to bring them together once more in the most unlikely of places—at the court of Rohyr Essendri, Ylandre's powerful monarch.

Complicating their situation is the attraction that still lingers between them, waiting to flare once more into love. But when one is unwilling to venture his heart again or wholly forgive its breaker, it may take a king's interference to reunite these star-crossed lovers for good.

*Contains hermaphroditism and explicit homoerotic sexual encounters.*

## Hallowed Bond Details

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Author : Eressë

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# From Reader Review Hallowed Bond for online ebook

## Kassa says

The Chronicles of Ylandre series is a definite mind bender. Hallowed Bond is book 2 in the series and though this can be read as a stand alone, the overwhelming world building and somewhat awkward prose won't be as bad if you've read the first book in the series. Also the various new terminology and concepts introduced will feel more familiar and easier to recognize. That said you can pick this up alone if you want and dive into the very complex and dense world of Ylandre.

This science fiction offering is just as compelling and interesting as the first book in the series. Although Rohyr and Lessen are still my favorite couple (really the author isn't likely to top them within the series), this book deals with a new couple. Dylen is a hethar, which is basically an educated, high society companion. They are paid for their time, which may be used for social conversation and entertainment or sexual satisfaction. He meets and falls in love with Riodan, a young man who's in line to be an ambassador. Due to the difference in social status, the two are well aware they have no future. They try to be happy for the time they have but circumstances force them apart. They find themselves together again decades later but old wounds may not have healed fully.

The story is pretty complex with a lot of different subplots, threads, ideas, and problems brought in. They don't all mesh well together though for the most part the story is enjoyable and interesting. The main concept throughout the novel is the massive world building. Since this is more like a classic science fiction novel, the world building is made up of innovative and totally unfamiliar concepts mixed with very recognizable themes. For starters the people seem to live a very long time, not reaching their majority until age 35 and the story often skips large chunks of time, such as 5 years, or sometimes even 12 years. Thus the main couple is often apart but the passage of time isn't as important there.

Secondly, the dialogue is often clunky and mixes modern language with antiquated ways of talking. This leads to some awkward construction and the dialogue comes out more mangled than easy. This also doesn't happen consistently (thankfully) but only once in a while, which only highlights the awkwardness more. The story also has a tendency to dump massive amounts of information about pedigree, philosophy, ruling classes, monarchies, and other such bits. These sections are enough to glaze your eyes over or have you skimming. This is a repeated problem with the first book in the series and repeats here with very dense portions of the story being hard to read and too much information forced on the reader without enough context or interest.

If you can get past the dense world building though, the story offers a lot of entertainment. The characters are always fully realized and interesting. They're not always easy either as they often hurt each other due to political pressure. This same theme was essential in the first book and repeats here. Of course the characters eventually find a way to forgive each other and fall in love again with a happy ending. There are numerous subplots that happen at the same time, almost too many. There is Riodan's betrothal that lingers on for far, far too long with two distinct end scenes - not sure why there are two but the story felt the need to end the issue very firmly twice. There is also Dylen's new family, status, and the big mystery that sends Dylen and Riodan off together.

Now the mystery they go off to solve is actually very interesting and well crafted, if a bit dense with unfamiliar names, people, places, and a plethora of terms that are thrown at a lightening speed. The resolution to that is satisfying and I wish the story had spent more time teasing that issue out in the space it

required rather than smashing so much together in a very tight space. It does the trick of reconciling the main couple to give their happy ending though so it has a purpose in the story. It also helps redeem Riodan as his character desperately needs some positive attributes.

The story takes an interesting choice in Riodan since he is a pretty flawed man. He's fearful, ambitious, cowardly, and often weak. Riodan spurns Dylen early on in the story due to his own issues but never really changes. He begs forgiveness but there is no overwhelming reason to forgive the man really. In fact he likely wouldn't have sought Dylen's forgiveness if not for the fact that Dylen's status in life greatly improves. The story tries to cheerlead Riodan by making every important supporting character basically yell at Dylen for not forgiving Rio. This is supposed to make the reader sympathize with Riodan and want their reconciliation. I'm not sure I think Rio deserved any of it since he is, at heart, a weak man. But it's a romance and that's the main couple so it's to be expected.

While I really enjoy this series, it's dense to read. I often expect that of science fiction/fantasy stories so that's not a mark against it. It's not the smoothest and I wish the story hadn't tried to cram so much information, world building, character development, plots, subplots, themes, concepts, and well everything into the novel. It just doesn't have the space needed to make the story seamless and easy. Fans of the first novel will know what to expect and will probably really quite enjoy this offering. It has a very similar plot to the first book and a lot of repeat elements that will please fans.

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

My favorite genre has to be fantasy and I think the way Eressë has created this world is spectacular. I love the hermaphrodite angle because it's very different from what one would normally read. The connection between Dylen and Rio is intense and fascinating at the same time. Their love for each other is shown in the grief they both experience over the years of being separated and the pressure they feel from high society and reputations. I absolutely loved Hallowed Bond just as much as I loved Sacred Fate. We also get a glimpse at Lassen, Rohyr and Vyren and answers to some questions I felt were left unanswered in Sacred Fate about the meeting of Rohyr and Dylen. I can't give enough high praises for this book and I think anyone who liked Sacred Fate will like Hallowed Bond just as much.

Spoilers provided here.

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### **Val Shameless ?? Steamy Reads ?? says**

*12/11/14 Series RE-READ in preparation for newest book...*

#### **ORIGINAL REVIEW:**

#### **3.75 Stars**

First, like I've said already:

The covers for these books are heinous.

Definitely not my jam.

But, fear not, I overcame.

Second, I *really* enjoyed this story.

This author's world building is quite simply - #lameassjokealert - out of this world.

Haha, what a dork.

Anyway, for fantasy geeks like me, there is just nothing better than becoming so embroiled in an author's fictional make believe that you can spew factoids about said world by rote.

**Need an example of what I mean?**

-Stephanie Meyer's *Twilight* vampires sparkle and the werewolves imprint.

-Christine Feehan's Carpathian vampires sleep in the ground and heal themselves with dirt and saliva.

-Nalini Singh's changelings fully shift and mate bond and the Psy are part of the PsyNet.

-Lora Leigh's *Breeds* are part animal, but don't actually fully shift.

-And *Mean Girls* are mean.

Yes, *those* kind of factoids.

The ones that rule our various book universes and make us sound like complete fangirl-ing jackasses when we try to explain them to non-believers.

**But I live for that shit.**

My ONLY problem with this book?

**Riordan.**

And what a BIG problem he was too.

Seriously.

**Fuck that guy.**

For one thing, I found his characterization and behavior to be worse than my most highly loathed TSTL female.

In fact, Riordan defined embodies the "chick with a dick" phenom as applied to the M/M genre.

Which doesn't typically bother me too much.

**However.**

When combined with his actions about 30% or so into the book, I found him to be virtually intolerable.

In fact, being that Dylen was soooooooo amazing, I truly wanted him to ditch Riordan and fall in love with someone else.

*Anyone* else.

What Riordan did wasn't just an error in judgement in my opinion, it was an error in character - and therefore pretty unforgivable.

I could go on and on about what a spineless jackass Riordan was and why I thought so - but I will spare you all the ~~rant~~ details.

Needless to say, my aversion to Riordan *absolutely* clouded my enjoyment of book as a whole.

Luckily, some cheeky scenes with Rohyn and Lassen softened the blow a little bit; but even had those lovely moments not come to pass, I still liked this book a lot and I love this series.

I've already downloaded number three.

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## **Valentina Heart says**

I think I squealed once I saw that Sacred Fate got a sequel. I was so in love with that story and the world that i couldn't get it off my mind for weeks.

So naturally I expected the same wicked writing and plot as the first one had. It was good. I can't say that it wasn't, but I was also disappointed. First let down was Rio. That rejection of his really caught me off guard and I really wanted him not to be a main character anymore. After that the story just didn't hold the same interest for me. The plot was a bit weak and I was disappointed there as well.

Still it was not a bad book and I am glad that I read it. It's just that I won't be expecting the next in the series with the same enthusiasm.

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## **Don Bradshaw says**

Eresse came up with another great storyline. Dylen and Riordan are low born and high born lovers respectively and suffer from the common prejudices. I liked the rags to riches theme that Dylen followed and the way that Eresse introduces aids under a different name. My only problem with the story and I had the same problem with Sacred Fate was that the story got bogged down in the middle and I felt like I was shoveling water. This would easily be a 4 star book if not for the unnecessary characters.

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### **315 says**

Okay read some reviews so putting this on a shelf to die.

I don't like historical books mostly because they can be hard as hell to read and understand. Heck, even my scifi aliens books speak English better!!! I digress...

So now its hard-as-hell-to-read historical wording and toss in a bunch of made up words.. Well fuck me!

So I DNF the last and the story for this one sounds like a hair puller and its hard to read and understand on top of it. Yeah, no. Not for me.

For those that finish more power to you and those that loved it.. You go!

So I'm sure its a fine read just not for me.

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### **DaisyGirl says**

4.0 Stars

Dylen Teris is a hethar (high-paid escort) and Riordan Leyhar is the son of a highly ranked Ambassador, poised to follow in his father's footsteps. The two meet one harsh winter and become fast friends and then, slowly, lovers. Their vastly dissimilar social stations, however, prevent them from being together but they promise to reunite as soon as they are able. In the interim, one of them is in dire need of help and the other denies their friendship in an act of betrayal. Circumstances eventually bring them together once more but love and trust are hard to come by given their past. All will be lost unless one can make amends and the other can learn to forgive.

Okay, I'm kinda hooked on this series. I don't think I care for MPreg in general, but this series is pretty engaging. I find the characters intriguing and the plot riveting. Again, the world building is fairly complex and you have to be willing to invest in getting to know (and remember) people, places, and terms. But, the effort is well-rewarded. I liked this story. At first, I didn't. I didn't care for Dylen. He came off as uppity; he looked down on felkar because they're street walkers and prostitutes. Ummm, helloooooooo! He has sex for money! What's the diff? Any who ... Dylen eventually grew on me. I had the opposite reaction to Riordan. I liked him immediately and then despised him and then loved him immensely. This one was angsty and heartbreaking at times but ultimately worthwhile.

As an aside, I thought that the way Dylen and Riordan handled Guyon was a little harsh. I mean, he was a prick and a total gold-digger but still. It was petty and sophomoric.

Bottom-line: I'm not an MPreg fan but I am hooked on this series.

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### Jacq says

Love the interesting fantasy world.

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„•\*°\*~Gwendolyn~°\*\*★°\*\*★ says

[ his actions made it hard for me to like him. And, he made this bo

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### Mandy says

Another great book in the series. I loved the characters. I loved learning more about this world. I loved that we get to see Lassen, Rohyr and their son again and I love the ending. I pretty much won't read a book that's not HEA, but I also like my villains to come to a satisfying ending. I like my revenge and retribution and so far the books haven't disappointed. So, another 5 stars for ticking all my boxes.

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### Em says

I really enjoyed this second instalment of *The Chronicles of Ylandre*. It got off to a great start and I thought Dylen and Riordan were fascinating characters, both coming from completely different backgrounds. Eresse has done a great job in managing to create a unique, believable world and this time round I actually found all the complicated names and places much easier to get on with!

It was also great to catch up with Lassen and Rohyr again and find they are still as much in love as they ever were. Looking forward to *By Chance Met*

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### Nivalis says

*Hallowed Bond* is just as fascinating a read as part one of *The Chronicles of Ylandre*, *Sacred Fate*. I love that in this book we get to see the relationship of two already known characters develop. Moreover, *Hallowed Bond* follows up on some previously glossed over plot points from *Sacred Fate*.

Dylen and Riordan's journey to a HEA isn't an easy one. In fact, it takes them over 20 years to finally find their happiness together. *Hallowed Bond* is a story about first desires, first love, and forgiveness. Additionally, Dylen's past adds an interesting angle I really enjoyed reading about—the characters' struggle against prejudice from society.



I not only rooted for Dylen and Riordan to make it, but also for Dylen's *adda*, Hirlen. Hirlen is an absolutely warm and big-hearted character, and I couldn't help but fall in love with him a little. Read the book, and you'll know why.

My favorite thing about reading a series is that one re-encounters already familiar faces. Hallowed Bond does not disappoint in that aspect, and I loved seeing Rohyr, Lassen, and their son, Vyren, and all the others again.

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### **Natsroshan says**

This sequel goes in my favorite shelf too. Hallowed Bond is as captivating as Sacred Fate. I really like Dylen. And the world created is just fascinating. Loved it.

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### **Vivian says**

I like the world of Ylandre with the magic, political intrigue and unique hermaphroditism.

While the story is typical, young love torn asunder and much later reconciliation it plays nicely in the world with a broadening of the first book's perspective and revisiting Lassen and Roh. Of course, there are times when you want to smack the silliness of youth out of them, but hindsight is twenty-twenty and we only get to do things in one direction. The pace was quick and the plot surrounding the romance was entertaining and interesting. Nicely done.

Favorite passage:

“Oh yes. It’s only rarely that the heart has anything to say. We live by our reason more oft than not. Therefore, when the heart speaks, it’s best to hearken to it. It mayn’t happen a second time.”

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### **Bookwatcher says**

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Let me begin with a

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