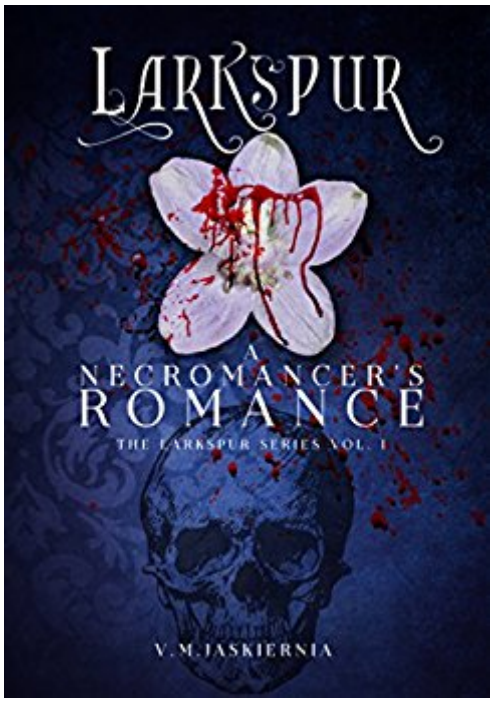
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Larkspur, Or A Necromancer's Romance (The Larkspur Series Vol. 1) (Stories Of Clandestina)



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Synopsis

Childhood love, forbidden magic, and a goddess of death.A romance is reignited when Pierre Salvador returns to court, now a surgeon and ready to take up his duties as duc. But his love, family, and friends are unaware of his dealings with Mora, the Lady of Death. Striving to know all the physical and mystical means of controlling life, and ending it, he became a suitor to the daimon in return for her knowledge and power. With one final task he become a lord of death, but will Mora let him go?Now including the opening scene of Delphinium.

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Customer Reviews

Perhaps it’s because this is the first time I’ve read a self-published novelette, but I was both pleasantly surprised and disappointed with Larkspur.The setting, characters, worldbuilding are all creative, original, absorbing -- but there’s not enough of it and no actual conflict to speak of, and once it picks up speed with promise of a propelling plot, it drops suddenly, done. I thought something must have been wrong with my Kindle, because the story ends in what seems to be mid-paragraph, and that surely COULD NOT BE IT.Spoilers: it was.Curious (because while there

doesn’t seem to be a coherent driving storyline, the characters and the world they live in, as well as the in-world mythology of magic is addicting), I searched for the sequel and although it’s been two years since Larkspur’s release, there still is no final word on Delphinium.So I have this mediocre novelette finished in an unsatisfactory manner and nothing to follow it up with and no concrete window of time with which to expect anything further.Ãƒâ Ã Â_(ÃƒÂ£Ã Æ’Ã â)_/Ãƒâ Ã Â I’ll likely forget about it.

A+ worldbuilding. The parallel-earth setting is absolutely beautiful and feels cohesive rather than hotchpotch, which is always a risk when mixing artifacts from various cultures. The magic system is gorgeously horrifying, and our protagonist simultaneously gentlemanly and creepy enough to toe the line between hero and antihero.My only complaint is that this is more a scene than a complete story, but I understand the full-length novel is coming very soon (I have already preordered it!), so it won’t be long before that dangling potential is fulfilled. :)

I’d heard about this story and seen that it’ll be leading into a full length sequel, so when it went on sale, I grabbed it. I liked things about it. The world feels really interesting and the titular necromancy feels unique (admittedly I haven’t read tons of things with necromancy). Some of the moral ambiguity about becoming a necromancer while having your own code is cool too. Unfortunately, I didn’t really like the prose style. At the same time, it fits really well for what it’s going for. Just down to personal preference. I also wish the leads would have had their relationship fleshed out more. Pierre seems a little bit too taken with Elizabeth but maybe that’s just a product of the shortness. I’m interested in the full book but I’d hope the prose was a little smoother. Dialogue’s fine.

Larkspur: A story of Clandestina (The Courting of Life and Death) gives the reader a peek into a Victorian world with kings, queens, princes and dukes where magic is considered to have both legal and illegal uses. In this setting we see the protagonist balance nurturing a romantic interest in a childhood friend, with dealing with the last trials of a rite to acquire power over an illegal form of magic. The story, while short, is elegantly written and gives you enough information to grasp what is going while keeping you curious enough to see what happens on the next page. It’s not a very deep story, the ending fell a little short to me. I think more could have been done with the building blocks upon which the ending was built yet it did not diminish my pleasure in reading this story.As it’s the first (short-)story published by this author, I mostly consider it a showcase of a promising authors writing skills and it has made me interested in how he or she will handle a longer story with more

depth.Pro’s:- Easy to read- ShortCon’s:- Lack of depth- Short

This book doesn’t fall into my usual fare. To be honest, I read it because I was asked to, and it was free. I’m not very familiar with the genre, nor do I plan on becoming familiar with it. Romance and intrigue just isn’t my thing. That said, on to the actual review.First, some positive. I enjoyed the sense of world building. There was a bit of an info dump at one point, but it wasn’t terrible. If the world could be organically described, I wouldn’t mind reading more about it. I’d actually probably rather enjoy it. The glimpse we’re given is very promising.Editing needs another round. Not the worst I’ve seen, and better even than some of my favorite self published books, but rough in a few spots. Some sentences were just structured weird, and in a few places I think we see evidence of the author realizing that, and having corrected it, but accidentally leaving a word or two in from a deleted sentence.The conversations get better. The start is a bit clunky, but they seem to polish up and become much more natural later on.There needs to be a bit more background information or setting. Not exposition info dump, just a way to introduce the characters a bit better. Like death. I was a bit confused.Overall, not my cup of tea, but that’s a personal opinion, and nothing to do with the author. The book has rough patches, but seems to come together in a way that promises an interesting story. Were I into romance novels and political intrigue, I’d be watching for book 2. As it stands, I’ll probably skim, look online, or ask the author for the bullet points of what happens in book 2. It interested me enough to wonder. And the world seemed really cool.

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