



Dim Sum Asylum

Rhys Ford

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* Novel-length expansion of original short story found in Charmed & Dangerous anthology. *

Welcome to Dim Sum Asylum: a San Francisco where it's a ho-hum kind of case when a cop has to chase down an enchanted two-foot-tall shrine god statue with an impressive Fu Manchu mustache that's running around Chinatown, trolling sex magic and chaos in its wake.

Senior Inspector Roku MacCormick of the Chinatown Arcane Crimes Division faces a pile of challenges far beyond his human-faerie heritage, snarling dragons guarding C-Town's multiple gates, and exploding noodle factories. After a case goes sideways, Roku is saddled with Trent Leonard, a new partner he can't trust, to add to the crime syndicate family he doesn't want and a spell-casting serial killer he desperately needs to find.

While Roku would rather stay home with Bob the Cat and whiskey himself to sleep, he puts on his badge and gun every day, determined to serve and protect the city he loves. When Chinatown's dark mystical underworld makes his life hell and the case turns deadly, Trent guards Roku's back and, if Trent can be believed, his heart... even if from what Roku can see, Trent is as dangerous as the monsters and criminals they're sworn to bring down.

Dim Sum Asylum Details

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Author : Rhys Ford

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From Reader Review Dim Sum Asylum for online ebook

BWT (Belen) says

4.5 stars!

Note: *Dim Sum Asylum* was originally a short story Rhys Ford had in a Dreamspinner anthology that has been developed into a full length novel.

Set in San Francisco's Chinatown where dragons and Faerie are real and magic is prevalent, *Dim Sum Asylum* is told from the first person, single POV of Roku MacCormick, a half-Fae, Senior Inspector of the Chinatown Arcane Crimes Division.

As far as I remember, much of the original short story is included but has been completely fleshed out - especially the relationship between Roku and his new partner Trent.

I am in love with Greg Tremblay's narration for *Dim Sum Asylum*!

I loved the pacing of the story and narration - Tremblay brilliantly conveys the action and whirlwind events that occur keeping the listener engrossed from the first few moments until the very last surprise.

There really isn't a pause in the breakneck pace of the story, which *could have* felt too much, but is expertly progressed through the narration. **I really feel like this is some of Rhys Ford's and Greg Tremblay's best work.**

Tremblay does such an awesome job with character voices, timing, emotion...it's all so well done I know this will make its way into my auto-rotation for relistening.

All the loose ends are neatly tied up in the end but there is definitely enough to warrant more stories featuring Roku set in this world.

I for one hope Rhys Ford turns this into a new series and that Greg narrates it!

Recommended!

Audio copy of Dim Sum Asylum provided by Dreamspinner Press in exchange of an honest review.

This review has been cross-posted at Gay Book Reviews.

Jewel says

I never read the short story in the Charmed and Dangerous anthology that this book was expanded from. I do, however, love Rhys Ford's urban fantasy stories. I could read them all day. I love her mix of culture and mythology and her brand of storytelling.

Dim Sum Asylum is the name of the San Francisco Police division of Arcane Crimes and it's got to be an

interesting place to work. Much less boring than cop shops that deal in the mundane guns and knives crime problems, for sure.

Roku MacCormick is a very cynical cop working in Arcane Crimes. He's got plenty of reason for his cynicism, though. His mother, who was Fae and also a cop, was assassinated and his human father's family is a Yakuza crime family. And if that wasn't enough, Roku's boyfriend and their two daughters were murdered. So if anyone has reason to be cynical and reluctant to get close to others, it's Roku. Roku has not had good luck with work partners, either. It's a wonder he doesn't feel like he's cursed.

Trent Leonard is Roku's new partner. There's plenty about Trent that is "off", but he really seems to want to do right by Roku. His past is as mysterious as his fashion sense and he almost seems like he's wearing a human suit, which I found quite endearing. Trent is a good foil for Roku, who needs serious grounding.

I enjoyed the story quite a lot. It was quirky and many things happened that I found unexpected. One thing I wish there had been more of, however, is steam and romance. It really took a backseat to the suspense plot. And while I am used to that with this author, more steam would not have been unwelcome. Loved the story, though, and would give it an overall 4 stars.

ARC of Dim Sum Asylum was generously provided by the publisher, in exchange for an honest review.

Ulysses Dietz says

I've read lots of Rhys Ford's books. They can be exhausting: very high energy, lots of relentless action and emotional turmoil. Dim Sum Asylum is no exception, and I think it's one of the best things she's written.

The genesis of this book was in a short story by the same name published in the m/m paranormal anthology, Charmed and Dangerous. I loved it then, and I really loved seeing that frenzied short story turned into an equally frenzied full-length cop drama with intense paranormal coloration.

The novel is set in present-day San Francisco; but it's a city very different from the one I know and love. This is a world where magic infuses the air and dragons are as commonplace as cable cars and pigeons. It is a city in which humans and faeries live together in benign tension, and where both human and fae bloodlines are complicated by the normal ethnic cross-pollination of modern America. Roku MacCormick is half Scottish faerie and half Japanese human. His mother was a policeman and his father the son of a local crime lord. He is a rare hybrid, and is regarded with suspicion by both sides of the equation.

This all should give you a sense of the rich stew that Ford unleashes on the unsuspecting reader. When Roku finds himself in need of a new partner, he is assigned Trent Leonard, whose Nordic bulk and mysterious past pique Roku's curiosity and libido in equal measure. Roku carries a lot of pain, as the constellation of black star-shaped tattoos on his body attest. What he doesn't understand is why Leonard would want to partner with him. The answer to that question is one of the constant themes in this action-driven plot.

The rain is almost its own character in this story. Now, San Fran can be foggy and cold, but I've never experienced it the way Ford presents it—a gray, overcast sky with rain that builds in intensity until the clamoring crescendo of the finale. Not only does the rain complicate everything that Roku and Trent try to do as policemen, it also represents the emotional tumult in both men as they try to figure out how to work as a team, and how to deal with their undeniable attraction to each other.

Ford is really a wonderfully visual—cinematic—writer. The description of sights, sounds and smells in this shimmering paranormal San Francisco are not always appealing, but the language is always beautiful and as well-crafted as the sinister netsuke that play such a significant role in the narrative.

In other reviews, I have knocked off a star from Rhys Ford's books because all the violence and tsuris just seemed a bit much for me. But somehow, in *Dim Sum Asylum*, it all falls into place and works like a well-oiled fantastic machine. Oh, how I'd love to see this made into a film. It would make *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon* look like *Sesame Street*.

Lisa says

Review to come.....

****An advance reading copy of **Dim Sum Asylum** by Rhys Ford was generously provided to me in exchange for an honest review.*

?? Cocky™ Michaele ♡?? says

4.5 Stars

Damn. Is there any better combination than Rhys Ford and Greg Tremblay? If so, I've yet to find it.

I really liked the short story version of this - and loved the expanded one. Magic, Fairies, Dragon Flies, Chinatown, SFPD, Yakuza...and a bunch of interesting characters...both the MC's AND all the side characters. God, Roku's story broke my heart; and if there is ever a sequel I think that somehow working Trent's origin story into the case would be a brilliant move...because, yes, why *would* someone pay an exorbitant sum to create a "splice" baby and then abandon it? Something about that smells fishy.

Also, I know she's described a bit differently, but for some reason I kept imagining Bob the Cat as Bill the Cat. And I kinda loved her.

Line says

Hmmmmmmmmmm.... Okay there is no doubt in my mind that this was Rhys Ford, but I feel like I didn't connect with the story, which is why my rating is around 3.5 and since Bob the cat was cute, I will leave the rating at 4 for now.

This book tasted like *Murder and Mayhem* with a fantasy-twist, and I LOVED that story, but here I was left

with a lot of: "What does that mean? *googling* Okay, that's a made-up-word... 2 pages later: What does that mean? *googling* Okay that's old Scottish, and not relevant for this sentence, so... Okay, forget about it, moving on."

I had the same issues with this one, that I had with Dirty Kiss, when I tried reading that the first few times... It is damn hard to immerse in the story, when the need to google an expression or speculate on the meaning of a sentence takes up a lot of the 'reading-time'.

Also the flowery language seldom works for me, and it was used a lot in this one, which means we got all the metaphors for all the rain and the fog and the slush.

I do not regret pre-ordering this book, and I do not regret my anticipation for the book, but I just didn't connect to it properly.

I think... Okay, I JUST finished this book and I cannot for the life of me remember the name of the MC, that is how disconnected I feel. (After googling the name:) ROKU (that was his name) I think Roku would make an excellent series-MC where we get to see more of his development; he has the feel of a great character.

But yeah, this book was pure Rhys Ford, and I will love her work for a long time to come, she is exceptionally gifted at weaving tales with snarky (damaged) MCs and fun side characters.

Chris says

3.5 stars for this - there was just so much going on that I started to lose track ! I loved the MCs but we only got a sniff of them together ... so much potential there !!! Guess I wanted more of that chemistry & connection. I understand this was a paranormal mystery but for me I was a bit confused !

Valerie ✨M/M Romance Junkie✨ says

Wow! That was a **LOT** more action than I'm used to in my romance, but damn it was good. Dragons, Fae, and so much more! I really, *really* need more so that we can get to know Trent and Roku much better.

4/16/2017

This comes out on my birthday! Happy birthday to me!

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

4 Stars!

You know what? The only thing I'm disappointed in regarding this story is that it's not a series. Why is that Ms. Ford????

What's not to like? This focuses on Roku, a half human/half fae cop who works the Arcane division dealing with magical crimes. Like all Ford protagonists, he's been dealt a shit deal and through his grief and guilt, this guy strives to mete out justice the only way he knows how. Roku of course, doesn't want any

attachments, let alone romantic ones, but that's a moot point when he's assigned a new partner, a guy he's insanely attracted to and who has his own agenda and secrets. While Roku struggles with such, he's also trying to solve several murders and not get dead himself.

I only hope Ford changes her mind at some point about writing a sequel. This was rich in world building where humans and fae live side by side, where spells and practitioners abound and two cultures clash and intermix with all sorts of trouble and consequences. It doesn't hurt that Roku is also from a crime family where his grandfather would just love for him to fall in line and take his place at some point. That's highly unlikely, but imagine what an upstanding cop could and would do in such a setting??

Sexy, full of action, surprisingly purple prose lite but no less interesting regarding this well visualized AU. I quite enjoyed myself with this brightly descriptive story that never lets Roku, or the reader, take a breather for very long.

Whew! More please!

Josy says

~ 3.5 stars ~

Huh... I'm not sure what happened here. From the blurb, this book has everything that I like and so this should have been a sure 5 star read, right? Turns out it wasn't. I often got lost while listening to the audiobook. I loved the concept of the story and the world building was great but there was too much going on and too many names/expressions I couldn't tell apart. Maybe I should have read the book (first) or maybe I just wasn't able to concentrate enough (I'm blaming the current heat wave in Europe!)

Also, we get only the beginning of the MCs budding relationship and I would have liked a bit more romance. Maybe if this were a series with the same MCs in the next book, what we got in the first book would have been okay.

I will give this one another chance at one time but for now, I have to settle for 3.5 stars.

Meep says

Loved this. It has a fast pace reminiscent of the Kai series but though Roku has the reckless edge he's a very different character. The setting is a bustling China Town full of magic and I really liked how it came alive, I got a real sense of the bustling streets with their mix of fairie and human occupants without it ever feeling like an info-dump. It's a culture rich setting and there were quite a few dialect words, a few I marked to look-up, but all are understandable in context. Good luck to Greg with pronunciations for the audio though. Also it has DRAGONS. Dragons.

This is an Urban Fantasy/Cop story before a romance. While there is a romantic interest, very intriguing in his own right, the book is lead more by the plot. Still plenty of chemistry though. These guys are both shaped by difficult histories and there's some heart-break there, things that shape who they are now. How they approach the world.

As always with a Ford there's several interesting side-characters who help bring colour to the pages. And a cat. An awesome cat named Bob....short for Katie apparently! Bob gets stars of her own, for being..Bob.

Best of all, there is plenty here to feed a series :D the ending is great, the ending is perfect - but I'm definitely left wanting more; more of this world and more of these characters.

Karen says

Rhys Ford does Urban Fantasy and there be...

DRAGONS!!!! I lurve dragons...but I'm sure you already knew that or at least you should I mention it often enough. Granted the dragons are more background dressing than an actual part of the story...well except in the very beginning they do play a rather important role in the books opening scene. But I admit just having dragons in the story in some capacity never fails to make me happy.

Roku MacCormick is a senior inspector for Chinatown's Arcane Crimes Division otherwise known as Dim Sum Asylum...admit it you love the nickname. I do it makes me smile. Roku's more than a bit cynical and he works really hard to keep the world at arms length...he doesn't do attachment or relationships, not any more not since he lost his mother and his family...the man he loved and their two little girls. There's only so much pain that a heart can take add to it the fact that every time a someone dies on one of his cases whether it's a victim or an innocent bystander he feels responsible for their death as well and the fact that his family gives dysfunctional a whole new meaning...one that could get your killed and truthfully I can't say I blame him for keeping the world at arms length which is easier said than done once Roku gets a look at his new partner, Trent Leonard.

Trent Leonard is Roku's new partner and it's a good thing that he doesn't scare easily because partnering with Roku is like being on the world's craziest roller coaster without a seat belt or safety bars and if that's not enough Trent's got more than a little of his own batsh*t crazy baggage to deal with. He's worked hard for the chance to join Chinatown's Arcane Crimes Division and specifically for the chance to be Roku's partner, so he'll be damned if he's going to let a little thing like the rumors and the fact that Roku's family is one of the most powerful Yakuza's in the city. He's Roku's partner and he's got his back end of story as far as Trent's concerned...well, except for the tiny fact that he also wants Roku on his back or anyway way he can get him.

'Dim Sum Asylum' does not take place in the San Francisco of our world. This San Francisco is filled with humans, fae, dragons and a whole plethora of otherkin or mystical creatures, there are dragons guarding the gates to the city, magic is everywhere and for those who know how to use it...it can be a dangerous weapon.

This one's a fast paced story filled with twist, turns and surprises. The relationship development between Roku and Trent is slow but given everything that's going on if it had been any other way I'm not sure it would have worked as well. These two not only have a personal relationship to build but a professional one to establish as well and while neither man really seems to be big on talking, both men realize that talking is exactly what needs to happen if they're going to learn to trust each other both on and off the clock.

'Dim Sum Asylum' was originally a story in the anthology 'Charmed and Dangerous' so if you enjoyed the original story I can't imagine that this expanded to book version won't be as good or better. Basically I loved everything about this story I loved that it was fast paced and the last time that I enjoyed urban fantasy this much it was Jim Butcher's Dresden Files, not to say that there's a similarity between the two because there isn't other than how much I enjoyed them, I loved the characters in this story both the MCs and a number of the secondary characters, Ms Ford did an amazing job of showing me San Francisco, but not the one that

is...no this was the San Francisco of Roku's world and we were shown a San Francisco that while comfortable and familiar, it was also very different from the one that exist today.

I'm sure I could go on and on about this book much I loved it but then I'd probably start telling you the story and really the best way for that to happen is if you read the book...so, read the book...come on there are dragons and a there's a cat. Her names Bob...it's short for Kate...don't ask that's what Roku said and I'm not sure that his logic isn't flawed...but you'll like Bob, she's really special...ok, let's just say Bob's a little surprising and leave it at that ;)

An ARC of 'Dim Sum Asylum was graciously provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Jordan Price says

Dim Sum Asylum started out as a novella in my Charmed and Dangerous anthology, and it was then expanded into a long novel. As a novella, the worldbuilding felt lush and the characters won my heart. As a novel, what a treat! And as an audiobook? An absolute delight.

The characterization and worldbuilding were already there in the novella, but in the novel, I got to revel in it so much more deeply. I particularly dug seeing more of Roku's new partner, Trent. I loved the all the reveals and plot twists. Everything happens for a reason—maybe one you'd never expect, but in hindsight, it all fits together like a giant Rube Goldberg machine.

Greg Tremblay and Rhys Ford are a Dream Team. Greg's narration was captivating, the perfect fit for Rhys' prose, which is elegant yet accessible. His voices and accents were distinct enough that I never had to wonder who was talking, but harmonious enough to keep me anchored right there in the story, awaiting the next glorious bit of magic.

Sara says

5 Hearts

Tag Team review with Adam!

How in the hell do I review this and make any sense? Wow. My mind is full and totally blown from this world Rhys Ford created. I am not sure I will do this book justice but I'm going to try.

First, I never read the short in the Charmed and Dangerous anthology so I have no comparison between the two. I will say I am so damn happy I read this full length story first because with the want I have of more from this world, a short would have left me a total mess.

Okay...

We meet Senior Inspector Roku MacCormick as he is chasing down his current partner who has stolen dragon eggs. Not only is Roku chasing him through the incredible streets of fantastical Chinatown but a

group of flying lizards as well who want their eggs back. Shit goes down, Roku saves the eggs but a life is lost in the process. The life is one that is fae, just like Roku is part fae. Why is that important? Because it's the backbone of this story.

This world, where magical creatures and magic itself exist in today's San Francisco as we know it was amazing. Ford gives you every detail of the scenes in cinematic storytelling that you are instantly transported to this new world and swear you can smell the wonton soup as you walk down the crowded streets full of mystical creatures. Oh and this world, these creatures? Roku is half fae, a naturally born half breed of faery and human that lives basically in a half state of... everything in his life. Roku is a good cop, he's amazing at what he does though with a recent loss to his family, he's become a bit of a lethal weapon, not caring what happens to him as long as the bad guys go down. But Roku carries the weight of this loss not only through stars on his wrist and clusters on his back but with the heaviest chip on his shoulder and guilt on his soul.

When Roku is assigned a new partner courtesy of Captain Gaines who is also his godfather, Roku's life gets flipped, turned upside down to a place he never knew he could go or one he's not sure he even wants to.

Let me get my love for Roku's new partner Trent Leonard out of the way real quick because this man is everything and even more when the contacts come off. I know, that made no sense but it totally will when you read the book. Trust me. Trent is this mystery, this beautiful Nordic mystery of a large and gorgeous man who has secrets but is so damn sexy you forgive him anything. Not that the secrets are bad, they are a bit stalkerish but it's Trent so it's all justifiable. The way he sees Roku though? The way he feels about the man and all that he does makes Trent super swoony and then when we learn more about Trent and what's behind those contacts and what he can do with his hands... gah! He's just amazing.

But this story, this whole world of fae and magic just blew my mind and I honestly don't know how to review the full story without spoiling it and I would hate to do that. I will say that nothing is as it seems and just when you think you have a firm grasp on what's going on, it slithers away from you and shape shifts into something far darker and magical than you, or at least I could have imagined.

I adored this book, if you can't tell from my rambling. As I said before, Ford has a way with storytelling that is truly cinematic and everything flies off the page in living color that it's almost tangible. You can smell the food, you can see the wings of the good and the bad fae with their vivid colors, you can see the spelled... everything as it comes alive and you can feel every damn emotion as they bleed into your soul. Was that too much? *shrugs*

While I am still new to the genre of Urban Fantasy I have to say I am falling in love with it. At first it was hard because I am a true hopeless romantic and it's what I live for but in a story like this, the romance being as it is, not the primary focus, just makes it that much more intense when you get it. Like, you get the moments between Roku and Trent from the beginning, the flirting and the obvious lust between them but once each barrier is broken down and then you get them – really get them – something as simple as going through a door together brings so much swoon you better hope you are sitting down because the emotion will sit you firmly on your ass.

Yeah, this book was sexy. And it was also so deeply entrenched with family dynamics, clan politics and magic that my fingers can't keep up with my brain as I try to explain how amazing it was. Even Bob the Cat was not only hilarious but freaking great! The story was intense and magical and I hope this becomes a series because there is so much more Trent needs to learn and so much more I need between him and Roku and that end? More, I just need more. Kay?

You know how I can tell when a book is really good? When I don't need to even go over my highlights and notes to write a review. I know I have a ton because that's the way I operate but I am not even going to touch them right now because I need to hide them and keep them safe before I share. Call me selfish, call me

weird, call me whatever but right now, I don't wanna share.

Dim Sum Asylum - the name of the Arcane division of the San Francisco Police Department – was an intriguing and sexy story of one half human, half fae Inspector who's only half living his life until he meets his new partner and allows him to open him up in oh so many ways. It's a story about living your full life, taking chances, not killing your elders and making sure the magic, stays where it belongs.

Karen says

4.5 dragon stars rounded up to 5 dragon stars because still no 1/2 stars...dragon or otherwise here on GR.

Well that was interesting...yeah, let's go with interesting...

I read 'Dim Sum Asylum' back in June when the e-book was first release...what can I say it's Rhys Ford so I'm all over that stuff. Plus...hello? Dragons. Needless to say I was not disappointed and I loved it 5 dragon stars worth. So when the audio book became available and it was narrated by Greg Tremblay...who was I to turn the opportunity down...my momma didn't raise no fools...ok, maybe one or two of them but trust me I'm not on that list.

So not to re-invent the wheel or anything but here's the link to my first review...[Dim Sum Asylum Book Review](#)

Now that we've got that out of the way lets talk about the audio book. As I said it's narrated by Greg Tremblay so what makes this interesting is that this is the first time I've listened to an audio book from this narrator that hasn't quite worked for me and honestly that's not even how I want to phrase this because overall he did an awesome job and I loved his character voices...all except one and that was Roku. Don't get me wrong here, the voice that Greg Tremblay used for Roku wasn't a bad or annoying voice by any means. It just didn't quite work for me and by didn't quite work...I mean it changed my rating from 5 dragon stars to 4.5 dragon stars.

So really not a huge impact...I still loved this book and I still think Greg Tremblay is fantastic when it comes to narrating. I think this is more a case of subjective opinions and mine was a little bit different. Was Mr. Tremblay wrong...no, was I wrong...again no. We just viewed the character's voice differently.

Once I settled in to the narrator's interpretation of Roku's voice I also settled in to enjoying this story all over again. I don't tend to do a lot of re-reads because honestly...I get bored but that doesn't mean I don't like to enjoy a story more than once so what I've discovered is that for me audio books are a wonderful solution to being able to enjoy a well liked story and it also allows me to enjoy other past times such as my quilting, cross-stitch, unpacking boxes...because this is a thing in my live right now and whether it's something I want to do or something I have to do, enjoying an audio book really makes it a much more enjoyable experience. for me, especially if it's a book by a favorite author being read by a favorite narrator.

If you enjoyed reading 'Dim Sum Asylum' than check out the audio book it's so worth going back to Chinatown to be able to spend time with Roku and Trent.

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