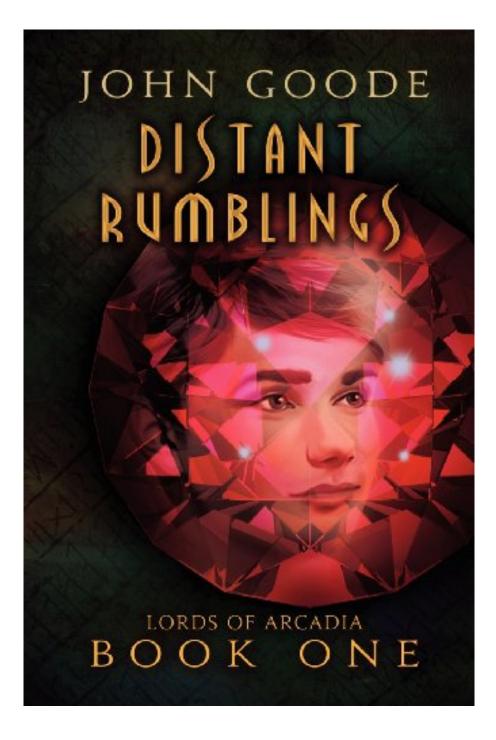


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Lords of Arcadia: Act One

Kane Vess may be gay, but he is also extraordinarily ordinary—a crushing weight in Athens, Iowa, where a person's worth is measured by his uniqueness. But when he meets the school's newest student, Kane's ordinariness seems to evaporate. He is desperate to get to know the mysterious stranger... and that leads him into danger.

Hawk is an exile from his homeland, an otherworldly traveler with impossible abilities and a changeling bodyguard. He's generally disappointed in Earth, which seems common except for Kane. But while Hawk and Kane explore their mutual interest, the forces that made Hawk an exile are busy tracking him down. Kane's newfound feelings pull him into Hawk's shadowy fantasy world, where he learns he needs to grow up fast. Kane's life may now be extraordinary, but if he isn't careful it could cost him everyone he holds dear—including Hawk.

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- 200 pages

Features

• Used Book in Good Condition

Most helpful customer reviews

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Mind blowing, collision of realms/worlds tale.

#### By M LaDair

Average town, average people, average life and then all hell brakes loose.

Figuratively speaking, opening Pandora's box has never been so delicious. While you are clutching tightly to the box your feet are sinking down through the quicksand. Absolutely no time to gather your thoughts. Ever wondered what happened after Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream"? I did. The end of Chapter Nine sent my brain into overdrive, complete with saucer-size eyes.

There are so many pieces of the puzzle that scattered through the book that I'll be sure returning back to again and again. I keep wondering how the big picture will look like once I get them all in the right order. Never underestimate the fantasy genre, there are lots of references of places and names, little details that

cannot be seen by the naked eye but play the important role in the dramatic revelations. Don't try to figure them out all at once, but keep track of them, it'll fall into the right place when the time is perfect.

I don't want to give away the plot and ruin the surprise but I have to tell you that combined with fantasy and history and mythology and fairy tales and irony/sarcasm of the modern day life - you'll never look at the reality the same way ever again.

It's a cliffhanger ending. You are unmistakably falling down a rabbit hole and the thrill is overwhelming. And there ain't no parachute that they can make for this...

It's an m/m world's fairy tale, tentative and gentle romantic touch of a Young Adult fiction.

Oh, God. I need the next book right about NOW. I highly recommend it.

Five stars, no doubt about it.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Impossible to Put Down!

By Jamie Deacon

Having enjoyed Goode's Foster High novels, which are firmly grounded in reality, I was intrigued as to how he would tackle something more fantastical. Much as I suspected, he pulls it off brilliantly. This first installment in the Lords of Arcadia series has two boys from utterly different worlds exploring an unlikely but powerful attraction, while danger closes in on them from all sides. Magic, intense emotion, and fast-pace action have been brought together to create a book I found to be both original and compulsive reading.

Kane Vess might be gay, but in Athens, Iowa, where popularity is dictated by a person's outlandishness, he is thought dull. One day at school, however, his ordinary existence is shattered when he almost collides with the new boy in the corridor. Captivated by the stranger's extraordinary beauty, Kane is anxious to learn more of him. The revelation that Hawk is an exile from another realm turns out to be just the beginning. Kane hasn't spent long in his company before he makes two discoveries. For one thing, they share an immediate affinity that defies understanding. For another, hanging around with Hawk could cost Kane his life.

Fleeing those who would either use or kill him for his royal status, Hawk seeks refuge on Earth with his changeling bodyguard. He has a low opinion of his new home, considering it both mundane and incomprehensible...that is, until he meets Kane. It doesn't matter that Kane is a human with no special powers, or that he is a commoner far beneath his own station. Hawk is instantly drawn to him in a way he can't ignore. But as they take the first tentative steps towards building a relationship, the forces that drove Hawk from his homeland are catching up with him, and even Hawk's enhanced abilities might not be enough to save them.

I have to say, what really brought this book to life for me was the humor. The miscommunication between the heroes as they struggle to decipher one another's languages, often with hilarious results, had me laughing out loud throughout. Yet, despite the vast differences in their culture and upbringing, the spark that leaps between the two boys from the outset is undeniable, and it was a pleasure to watch it grow. Moreover, this novel ends on a cliffhanger that will surely leave any reader desperate to know what happens next.

If you're looking for a young adult fantasy that combines action with plenty of humor and romance, I can highly recommend this book.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Phenomenal Story!

By sammy2006

I have begun this review 4 times. Each time I tried to think of a clever way to pull together all of the elements that made this book shine. In one, I began to tell you of a talking cat (think changeling), or better yet a talking ruby--and please don't make the mistake of offending him by calling him a diamond. I began to

tell you how this cat--well this changeling, for cat was only one of its many forms, was the bodyguard of the Prince. But more than that, he was in love with him...however, the love was a jealous and twisted love, much like the true form of this changeling itself. Then there was the ruby, also a Prince in his own right, but given to the elves. He was an elemental--taking the form of a gem and his ofttimes sarcastic responses gave this reader more than a few laughs along the way. But then I thought, no...they were phenomenal secondary characters but not really main characters.

So, I scratched that and went in for the world building aspect. This time I waxed prosaic on the small town of Athens, Iowa, the original hippie kingdom where shops have insanely funny names like "Donde Esta da Bean" (the local coffee shop) and spoke of its inhabitants who all loved and accepted one another, even those who dared to be different--cause there in Athens, different is the norm. I wanted to express to you how a piece of me desired to visit there, sit in the shops, get to know the people. Mr. Goode had drawn them in such a way as to make them funny and appealing and sweet all at the same time. But the town...no, the town was not the real story here, either. So, I sighed heavily, hit the delete button and started again.

This time I attacked the aspect of the new fantasy world that we are introduced to in Distant Rumblings. Arcadia. Even its name sounded regal, ancient! It's inhabitants were elves and other amazing creatures. But there was trouble in this paradise of beautiful faerie folk, and Prince Hawk had been exiled in order to save him from the "dark". We come to find out that the "dark" included those elves who had rebelled against the current monarchy and that they were sinister and deadly. I tried my best to relate how they fit into this incredible story without giving away too much information...without revealing any of the amazing cliffhanger that ended this novel and had me wanting to hurl my kindle across the room and storm over to the author's home demanding the sequel right then and there. However, I realized that while all that was compelling, it was still not the real focus of this story. So, back to the drawing board I went...

Finally, I settled for this...Distant Rumblings is a love story...a sweet teenage boy, son of a hippie flautist (flute player for laymen) and a deceased but gentle mother, falls in love with a Prince. A Prince who has much to learn about compassion for those he deems as being of lesser stature than himself (basically everyone) but a Prince who has a heart of gold...one that has begun beating for that teenage boy who lives in that quirky small town where being gay is not only accepted but respected.

There, I had finally stumbled upon what I felt this delightful story was about...love.

John Goode is a master at weaving all these elements into an extraordinarily enjoyable novel. The way he uses language to create an alternate world, a ruling class of elves, and the intriguing mind of a sweet teenage boy left me breathless and giddy at the same time. I wanted to be Kane's best friend, sit and exchange witty barbs with the Ruby Prince and send that changeling packing more than once. This is the beauty of a John Goode novel. He strolls into your everyday existence and invites you to take his hand and enter a world where the very characters leap off the page and wrap themselves around your heart. A true master storyteller. A highly entertaining novel. A unbearably sweet love story. Distant Rumblings...a 5 star read.

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