



Eye of the Storm

John Goode

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Kane Vess thought his life in rural Iowa was mind-numbingly boring. Then Hawk, a prince from another world, appeared and turned Kane's life upside-down. At first Kane welcomed the adventure and the chance to be with Hawk—but then a shapeshifter named Puck kidnapped Hawk and dragged him back home.

Now Kane is caught up in another planet's magical civil war, searching for the boy he loves in a place he knows nothing about. With the help of a gem elemental, an ice barbarian, and a clockwork woman, Kane has to find Hawk and stop Puck before he can destroy the nine realms.

Eye of the Storm Details

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From Reader Review Eye of the Storm for online ebook

Bev says

4.25 stars from me. There was a heck of a lot going on in this one...new characters, new worlds and some great imagination shown by the author, but then I already knew that - John is a much underrated writer. Yet another read that has been languishing in my kindle mountain for over 4 years ?. Onto book 3 of the Lords of Arcadia series...thank goodness our two MC's are still alive and kicking ?.

Teri says

I really liked this one. Getting more depth from the characters we already know and meeting the new ones. Honestly I can't even pick my favorite part right now, or even character. Ruber was fantastic and while there is something rather hilarious about the whole "gen world" and hierarchy, the situation he had with his family was just...like the realest thing ever.

Ferra was kick ass and I loved her and...just great...really. I was glad that what happened with her happened. I appreciate that there wasn't just pages upon pages of descriptions as far as the differing world went, instead we get a feel of the people and places through the dialogue and observations of the characters. Each characters and place was so different and unique but with issues, emotions and relationship dynamics that made them all easy to relate to.

On to the next!

? Todd says

Wow, you know those fantasy adventure books where the pacing is slow and the action can only be described as "*light*"?

Yeah, that is NOT this book.

This story was akin to a decathlon, as our heroes ran from one dangerous and exciting predicament to the next, with very few breathers in between.

Both the story and its many endearing side characters were all kinds of awesome.

5 stars, but I still want an itty bit more romance.

Now on to the next in the series. :)

Michael says

I originally read this on 02/16/13 and rated it five stars. I am re-reading the series in preparation of the third installment The Unseen Tempest

I still rate this book five stars and now, can't wait for the next installment.

Anna says

4.5 STARS!

(English is not my first language so I'll try to do my best. If there're some mistakes I apologize in advance)

What can i say? Eye of the Storm (Lords of Arcadia, #2) does not disappoint!

It has a bit of everything. A lot of action, a little bit of drama, a little bit of humor...One of the things i enjoyed the most was Kane's personality and his sense of humor. (He made me laugh in the weirdest moments)

There is a lot of new information to assimilate but clearly it was written the best way possible so the reader won't be overwhelmed. There's a progress in Kane and Hawk's relationship, but it's not the main theme in the book. You get to know a little bit more of the characters we met in the first book and there're a couple of new characters and their stories.

(Ater and Pullus .. Oh my God! I didn't really see it coming. Throughout the book you can see they are really sweet with each other and you have a glimpse of the bond they share. I kind of become very fond of them.)

Ok i'm gonna end this lame review saying that you definitely have to read it. After the cliffhanger in the first book, you practically read the first chapter of this book without blinking!

Ulysses Dietz says

I just finished the second of John Goode's fantasy YA series "Eye of the Storm." I ended up frustrated because there's CLEARLY a third book to follow these two, and the ending was a cliff-hanger.

I hate cliff-hangers. Arrgh.

But I do like John Goode's writing - and these two books make for a great Harry-Potter-like experience for a gay teenager - with the kind of self-affirming and romantic message that these books need to have. I would have DIED to have these books when I was 15. Died.

The first book, "Distant Rumbings" takes place in this world. Kane Vess is a bored teen - but bored because his small, hippy-liberal town in Iowa (hey Morgan!) is just nowhere. Then he spots the hottest guy in the world in his school, and can't figure out why no one is gossiping about him.

But when the guy, whose name is Hawk, plunges a magic sword into Kane's chest, things begin to get a little weird. Hawk, you see, is a fairy prince. Literally.

What charmed me about the first book is the way the bland reality of this quirky little town is presented to us

through the snarky perspective of the protagonist. It's sly and amusing and captures the spirit of what being a teenager is. Even without bullying or family problems, being the only gay kid in your school is isolating.

As the story gets progressively stranger and the supernatural elements - in the person of beings from a different world - begin to complicate Kane's simple life beyond his control; Kane's attachment to Hawk becomes stronger. The cliffhanger ending literally opens the way both to the second book, and to Hawk's world.

"Eye of the Storm" plunges Hawk and Kane into the middle of a magical civil war in Hawk's considerably less boring world. Here we track different characters through different viewpoints as they fight, manipulate and spew magic and mayhem, generally trying to stay alive. It is as if all the fairy-tale figures of Kane's childhood are suddenly alive and deeply involved in a fight-to-the-death over political dominance of the Nine Worlds.

Betrayal, loyalty, heroism and love are liberally mixed into an action-packed adventure very different in tone from the first volume. Kane is still his snarky gay teen self, but on his quest to save Hawk, he realizes that he might be something special himself.

My favorite feature of this book is the talking gemstones. But I'll say no more. I love them.

Now I'm annoyed that I have to wait for book three, because I am just desperate to know how it all turns out. But I can assure you, it will be messy.

Sonia ~Ruber's fiancé in Crystal Court universe~ says

I love these books more and more every time I read them! Exquisite!

Also I have to admit some things I got better this time around, or because I knew what was coming payed more attention to details? I don't know.. I just want to say, this is the type of book you need to read more than once to truly appreciate it. I love this Universe!

BR with Paul, August 2015

First read October 2014

DISCLAIMER: SPOILERISH REVIEW!

Well...

so much happened in this book I don't know where to start!!

rolls up shirt sleeves, wriggles fingers

I guess I should start with the main character (as least in my opinion):

~ RUBER (*also know as my future fiancé, the love of my life etc*)

Isn't he sexy?

Also extremely badass or as Kane more than eloquently put it "Okay, so Ruber is kinda gangsta"! Damn right! Do you think I just marry anybody? Needless to say that Ruber saves the day on multiple occasion and during the course of the action we get to Crystal Court (my hubby's crib) and find out why Ruber left and that also apparently I was very close to being a queen (since he was heir). We meet his evil father, for whom I don't care one bit (misogynistic, arrogant, pompous err.. rock!), his younger brother (adorable) and his sister (kickass babe)! We also meet Molly here, who's a clockwork companion and so, so **awesome!** (I won't say more cause you really need to discover her by yourselves, totally worth it!).

At one point John almost earned my eternal wrath by almost (view spoiler)!! You're safe for now, John, but I'm watching you!

Now let's get to the actual main characters (if you want to be technical about it):

Kane and Hawk were left quite in a bind at the end of "Distant Rumbings" and got separated. After some wicked shenanigans from Kane who can command Hawk's sword (creepy elders were involved), he together with Ruber and the new addition to the team **Ferra** (ice woman) go in search of Hawk (who was gravely injured).

During this time, Puck (we hate him btw) unleashes all kinds of hell (green children, goblins etc **all the creatures as so freaking cool I can't even explain**) on Hawk's home and we get a glimpse of his parents (Hawk's that is) and we gather that we don't like his stupid father but his mother is cool and powerful!

There are some cool things happening to/with Hawk and Kyle so just go on and read this wonderful series!

Lovely, mushy heart quotes:

"THE moment I saw Hawk, everything changed."

"Just the thought that someone somewhere might feel the same way about you as you do about them can make your whole day better. But the fact, the absolute knowledge, changes your life."

"My people call it The Calling. It is when two people meet and have an instant connection. It's more than just physical looks and fondness, but a bond that makes them feel as if they have known each other forever."

"You're wrong," Hawk said, kneeling next to Kane "There is a power greater than death." "And that is?" Ruber asked skeptically. "Love."

I really liked the two dark elves and I'm really sad about what happened! Maybe we can do something about that, John? Pretty please? *puppy eyes*

John, this is such a wonderful Universe that you have created, I'm in awe of the way your mind works!
Looking forward to the next books (I understand that besides book #3, there's a 4th one in the works? :D)

Smooches!

Scarlett says

First impression be damned, this book wasn't the same one after the first one and by all means I meant that in a good way. Great even, because the effect of surprising the reader from a different theme to another was fluidly executed.

I'm not a science fiction fan myself but I literally enjoyed the book. It took just much willpower on my part to not give up on the book because it wasn't my thing and it did not disappoint. Half-way on the book I was enjoying it so much that I do not mind a lot of new information was being thrown at me, and amazingly, I understood them as if I knew about Realms, Lord-of-the-rings-clashed-with-Star-wars type of scenarios. The plot, the story, was real magic itself.

Plot aside, I'm really liking the character build-up not only between Kane & Hawk, but the others as well. Like Ater, Ferra, and Ruber most especially, damn even on Tatiana and Oberon. The book carried enough emotional turmoil that it wouldn't look too "action" movie of blood, guts, and war. I'm really thankful of that.

AM I LOOKING FORWARD TO THE THIRD BOOK? FUCK YES ABSOLUTELY I AM, SIR AND MADAMS. I'm so hyped up for the third book so much that you must agree with me that the book, even on the last pages, gave me so much feelings and excitement, it isn't a joke to say how awesome this book was.

John Goode's words/story on the last book was a nice touch also. It only didn't made me know about him more, but absolutely think of him of a guy who isn't really doing this wonderful books with raw writing skills, but with help and patience. Especially with cats. Cats are always a nice touch. That's why this is a perfect 5 STAR!

Paul says

great YA fantasy series

Kaipo says

Bought this two days ago, then went back and read the last chapter from the first book to refresh myself.

This book was full of one adventure after another! It totally had me gripped from beginning to end, that I didn't even realize I was at the end until I started (and finished) reading the authors notes.

We get to see a lot of new characters and friendships formed. I loved seeing more of Ater and Pullus, the dark elves, and was heartbroken with Ater's loss towards the end. There were some near disasters with other characters that had me gripping my seat in anguish and anticipation waiting to see what happened. Hawk and Kane's romance grows more and develops a lot in the story. And all the pop culture references was, in my opinion, funny and fantastic, I guess 'cause I recognized all of them.

The "about the author" portion at the end of the book was hilarious!

Great book, and great follow up from the first one. I really can't wait to read the last one.

Fritz42 says

If I thought the action and world building was great in the first book, Distant Rumbings, then they were off the charts with this one.

Kane follows Hawk to Faerth to try and save him from the dark elves that have kidnapped him. There we get to meet some of the different beings that inhabit Hawk's realm, and they are a very unique and interesting group. As I said, the world building was incredible. The beings alone and their abilities grabbed my attention. Add to it the different skirmishes between the groups along with the betrayals that happen right and left, and you have a fantasy adventure that kept me reading well past my bedtime.

Kane's voice in this book shines like the witty and clever teenage boy that he is. His thoughts and snarky comments provide some needed humor in some tense situations. He has grown and changed in this book, and I can't wait to see where that growth will take both him and Hawk in the next book.

There are several POVs in this story, and as others have said, it is important to note the names in capital letters at the beginning of each change. I personally didn't have any difficulties with this. I found I enjoyed seeing the action from the different character's eyes. It did ratchet up the tension on several parts because it left me hanging on what happened with one character and took me to another. I just read faster during those times.

Once again, we're left with a continuing story at the end of the book. Luckily, the third book The Unseen Tempest is already downloaded to my NOOK.

John Goode has already been established as a great author of contemporary stories like his Tales from Foster High series. This book establishes him firmly as a great fantasy writer as well.

Oh, and heads up about *The Stuff That is After the Book*, which is exactly what it says. You must read that also. John Goode's unique outlook and sense of humor shines throughout all that extra "stuff."

Lisazj1 says

4.5 stars and the half star is for that damnable CLIFFHANGER!!! Damn addictive series! *races off to the next!!*

Absynthe says

OMG... Really? REALLY?!?!?! That's where you end it???? When's the next book coming out? I need it now!!!

Once again, an impressive feat. An excellent first book followed by a spectacular second book. Most series start going downhill after the first book, this one steps up its game to the next level. Fast-paced, suspenseful, imaginative and just freaking cool!

I demand the next book be published immediately!!!! Or I'll sit in the corner and sulk till that happens.

Sammy Goode says

Eye of the Storm, the second installment in the Lords of Arcadia series by John Goode is simply a fantasy/sci-fi/paranormal readers' dream come true!!!

Nine alternate realms, dark elves, faeries, ogres, gem elementals, frigus, a Djinn, Titania, Puck, and Oberon, and one incredible human. They all come together in one amazingly well crafted novel that unfolds one new world after another like someone shucking pearls from oysters.

The story picks up where Distant Rumbings leaves off. Kane plummets into Arcadia but not where Prince Hawk, Titania's son and heir to the throne has been taken, but instead to a frozen wasteland where the Frigus live. A race of people whose warriors can form ice spears and entire walls of ice from the energy within them and who control the cold by being a part of it.

Thrust into this realm, Kane is rescued by Ferra, an outcast amongst her people, and goes up against the elders, barely escaping with his life. He, a regenerated Ruber (that delightful Prince from book one who happens to be a gem elemental) and Ferra set out to find and rescue Hawk. They find themselves thrust into Puck's attempt along with the dark elves to grab the seat of power from Titania and Oberon. Puck is also searching for Hawk in order to get from him the secret of Ascension—for without the secret, Puck cannot take control of the nine realms.

The group clashes leaving a weakened Hawk and Kane along with a severely injured Ferra to barely escape. Ruber takes them to his home to heal and hole up in order to take time to figure out their strategy for bringing down Puck. Puck has one more destructive force in his arsenal and all hell breaks loose when a djinn is unleashed. The djinn's one purpose is to kill Prince Hawk.

The story evolves and I can go no further without giving up key elements that would ultimately ruin the story for you, dear reader. Suffice it to say—Eye of the Storm is one action packed moment after another. Along the way author John Goode rolls out new worlds, fascinating creatures and political intrigue that leaves one breathless.

Kane, our fearless human, shows a new face—a depth of character that speaks of loyalty to his friends, his love for Hawk and his keen wit and an amazing proclivity to fall into danger wherever it may exist. We see a

new side of Hawk, glimmers of the type of leader he will be, a softening of the arrogance he has been raised to believe and a deepening of his love for Kane.

Ruber becomes so much more than a piece of rock—we meet his family and see his love for his sister and his younger brother. His arrogant and dominant father is introduced and the world of elementals is explored and what an incredibly fascinating world it is!

There is so much going on in this novel—I guarantee you will want to reread it just to rediscover the worlds this author unpacks. Mr. Goode's mastery of the written word is in full force here—his power to turn simple phrases into descriptive goldmines is unprecedented. His fertile imagination is unleashed and the result is a sweeping saga of a tale that thrusts us into a fantasy land that leaves the reader wide eyed and simply delighted.

It is a fact that sequels that follow exceptional first books often leave the reader a bit wanting---not so here. Eye of the Storm is perhaps a finer, more intricately woven story than the first in the series. I highly recommend this novel to you. It is a five star read.

Kaje Harper says

This book is full of imagination and action. It features one wonderful POV character in Kane, a boy who follows his otherworldly new boyfriend through a spell into another realm and has to deal with what he experiences there.

I have a couple of words of advice for people beginning this book: First, if it's been a while since you read the excellent first installment, reread that before this one. There are a lot of characters here, and reconnecting with the ones from Distant Rumbings will make the opening of this story in a complex new world smoother. Second, if your copy is like mine, watch for a word in all CAPS at the beginning of a paragraph. That's your only indication you are changing POVs, and since there are at least seven POVs, with events going on in more than one location simultaneously, catching those shifts is important.

This book began as a three star read for me and finished as a five. In the first book the story was effectively urban fantasy - the fantasy characters were brought into being against a backdrop that needed little explanation for the reader. This book opens as the characters are dropped by a spell into a whole fantasy world. There are multiple societies, lots of new species, history, magic and intrigue. The world-building flies fast and furious, and sometimes is revealed in blocks that are rather large and expository. But stick with it.

As the players and their environs become familiar, both the action and the emotions become more intense and expressive. Kane's wonderful first-person narrative conveys his scenes with immediacy and a realistic teen voice that is a lot of fun. In fact, personally I missed Kane's voice when spending time in other POVs, especially the antagonists. Although important for plot, none of the other voices could pull me in quite the way Kane's did. The magical battles are clearly described, unpredictable, and the author is not protective of his characters. Fortunately magical healing also exists... sometimes. This is a middle book, setting up a conflict to come. As such, it is promising that it builds nicely toward the end. I look forward to the third installment.

This book also contains one of the longest and most readable afterword/about the author segments I have

seen. Go meet the author's cats and connect with John Goode, whose personal voice is just as compelling as his narrative one.
