

# LATAKIA BY JF SMITH



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## LATAKIA BY JF SMITH PDF

Matthew likes his life in Richmond. He has his friends and his softball and his volunteer work. And he has a very good-looking boyfriend, Brian, who he's been happily dating for over a year now. So what if his friends tend to question just how good his boyfriend is, and so what if Brian tends to have inexplicable mood swings. And so what if Brian seems to invite Matt's suspicions on occasion. If he just shows a little faith and trust, he'll appreciate what he has with Brian the way he should. Right?

But suddenly, Matt finds himself in a desperate life-or-death situation on a trip overseas, and he realizes just how much he misses home, and Brian. He's luckily rescued by a team of US Spec-Ops Forces, only to find out they're a bunch of bigoted jerks. Worse, a quirk of his situation forces him to spend time with them that he'd rather not. And that's when he finds out that first impressions can be misleading. When called upon, he steps up when every fiber of his being tells him not to, and discovers something deep inside himself that he didn't realize was even there. And his life will never be the same. He finds that he can, after all, make some very overdue changes in his own life.

What Matt doesn't realize is that the bond of brotherhood runs both ways. And he winds up changing the lives of several of the men on that Spec-Ops team as much as they changed his.

All it takes is faith and trust.

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Most helpful customer reviews

46 of 49 people found the following review helpful.

What an engaging book!

By Euphemia

I could hardly put this book down once I started reading. The whole set-up is of course on the other side of likely. But the author manages to spin a totally believable story. Matt, a clueless, upstanding American citizen is helping setting up a vaccination programme in Syria with Doctors Without Borders. Back home he's got a shifty character for a boyfriend but somehow he seems convinced that this Brian guy is the best thing that's ever happened to him. Where he got this notion from I cannot imagine. Even his two best friends seem to think Brian is an ass and are dropping hints to clue Matt in. Through a case of mistaken identity Matt ends up as the victim of an abduction and nearly dies in Syria. A SEAL fire team gets him out and since you can't exactly catch a commercial flight out of a war/crisis zone the poor guy is thrown into another unknown realm - the life and workings of a naval war ship in the Mediterranean. Loved this whole set up. It could have come across as contrived but somehow wasn't. And JF Smith kept the angst and the violence to a bearable level. Just enough to make you turn every page.

There on the ship Matt meets his rescuers: four Navy SEALs, the cream of the crop when it comes to covert

ops and risky, sticky situations. Manly man with the macho and homophobic attitude to go with. At least that's what it looks like at first glance to the openly gay man. He's incredibly thankful to them but also feels bad that they would bully him for his sexual orientation. Over the course of the next few days Matt settles in on the ship and actually gets to know the guys that rescued him. Both sides have to let go of some preconceived notions - if there ever were any in the first place. Like that there couldn't be any gays serving in the military. Duh. And while Matt harbors a serious case of hero worship for SEAL Mope aka Travis he's also incredibly drawn to the MAN Travis who laid his career in Matt's hands by confessing that yes, he's gay, too. When Matt jumps over his own shadow and helps in a covert op, risking his own life in the process, suddenly HE becomes the unwitting hero. The whole ordeal of course leaves its marks on Matt. He starts questioning his own concepts of faith, trust, friendship, comradeship and honor when he arrives back in the States. He is a changed man and the better for it. He ends up with a bunch of new friends that lay their lives on the line for each other and for the whole nation on a daily basis. And it's not only Matt who comes into himself in this story but also Travis and a couple of other supporting characters.

The characters are well drawn. The dialogue is funny and witty. What bit of action and suspense there is is thrilling and convincingly written. The love story between Matt the white collar worker and Travis the Navy SEAL platoon leader was believable and heart warming from start to end. I agree with another reviewer that two thirds of the book I wanted to smack Matt over the head with something heavy because he couldn't/wouldn't see the truth about his scumbag boyfriend Brian. I was riveted to the seat when he finally got a clue and started to man up. And half of the time I was totally exasperated about Travis, too. He's such a brave and honorable guy that inspired Matt to grow beyond his initial meek personality into the man that he really was. But still, not matter how much a talked about faith and honor and comradeship, up right until the end he had no real faith in his SEAL brothers and not a lot of faith in his own worth on top of that. While the book put a certain emphasis on the achievements and sacrifices of the American military it did not feel like unreflected adulation. Credits to JF Smith for this feat. It was an incredibly tense and enjoyable read especially regarding the price. I admit, kinky me would have loved to find at least a couple of sex scenes in there. It would have rounded out the whole romance aspect of the book. Made the connection between Matt and Travis more real, maybe. And I'm sure the author would have managed to pull them off in a tasteful manner. There were none though. Sigh. Go on. Read it! It's really good.

29 of 31 people found the following review helpful.

Huge surprise, and one of the best books of the year

By Tom W

Matt is a great guy - just ask any of his friends in Richmond. He takes food to sick friends, works with Doctors Without Borders as a volunteer, uses his talents to help set up tracking and record-keeping for childhood immunizations. Plays softball on a gay league. And has a hot boyfriend, Brian, to whom he would give the world if he only asked.

When he's offered the opportunity to use his talents to assist DWB in their mission in Syria, he jumps at the chance and will be leaving for a two week assignment. Before he leaves, he begins to have doubts about how Brian feels, especially when Brian accuses him of being distant. Picking fights and leaves him stuck with the check for dinner, again, the night before he's to leave.

So when he's kidnapped and fearing for his life, locked in a dark room alone, he resolves to be the man Brian deserves, to never doubt him again. And when he's rescued by a group of Navy SEALs, his relief and gratitude are immense. Even when he's confronted with what he thinks is homophobia and bigotry by the guys that risked their lives to save him. But then he meets and talks to one of his rescuers, Mope - Travis - and some of what he thought he saw and felt, he begins to question. How he acts, how he views the world.

But when he's given the opportunity to repay that rescue, to risk himself, will he? And what will be the cost be to himself? His relationship with Brian? To his preconceived notions about the men who rescued him - Mope, Petey? And will he find he has more in common with these men than ever thought possible?

I have to just out it out there. This book blew me the hell away.

When I saw it in Amazon for \$0.99 I thought, nice, I'll get a short story that will be a quick and hot read, based on the blurb. But what I got was so very much more. This is a fully realized novel, and I would gladly have paid ten times the cost for the honor of reading this jewel.

JF Smith has written a quiet, amazing and satisfying book about one man's journey of honor, courage and self worth. Matt is a revelation - a gay man who is already whole and complete and loveable. And when thrust into a horrible situation, not only survives it but grows so much in the process.

There are so many themes in this book that could have gone so terribly...sideways. The role of the military. The men who serve our country. Patriotism. Honor. Courage. Settling for what we as gay men can get in our relationships. And every damn single one of these issues, Mr. Smith stands at the plate and knocks them out of the stadium.

As a reader, I can see what Matt can't, or won't, and at times, that's very frustrating. We all know that Brian is a tool, and playing Matt. But Matt, being the gentle man he is, doesn't believe it. So when Matt, as he grows and opens his eyes, literally and figuratively, there is a huge payoff for him and the reader.

I love where Matt landed. The man deserves a happily ever after, and I won't spoil the story and say what happens, but it's just so satisfying. Hopeful. And real.

And the supporting cast. Has there ever been such richness from what we first see as testosterone fueled muscle heads? Travis is a man with a giant heart and we grow to adore him. His relationship with Matt, as his friend and confidante, begins an arc I loved.

But Petey almost stole the story away from Matt. This guy - who is initially, we think, a homophobe and idiot - has the biggest heart and, I think, the biggest pain. I loved him by the last page and wanted this book to go on and on and never stop.

That's the sign of a good book and a fantastic writer. When I am so wrapped up in the world they create, so immersed in the characters that I don't want to say goodbye. I hope Mr. Smith has plans for a sequel, and I hope Petey plays a huge part of it.

They don't get much better than this. I'm so glad I stumbled into this fine, fine work.

Tom

10 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

Enjoyable story.

By Sirius

REVIEW WAS ORIGINALLY POSTED AT REVIEWS BY JESSEWAVE, I PURCHASED THE BOOK ON MY OWN.

I liked this writer's Falling Off the Face of the Earth and when I saw the new story, I was really interested to

see if I liked it as much as I liked the first one, and for 99 cents I did not hesitate much.

Okay, my biggest gripe with this book is its title, which really, really does not reflect the great story behind it and I wish the writer would have come up with the better one. I also think that the story could use some general tightening up, but I really did not see obvious typos, grammar mistakes, etc.

So I highly suggest you ignore the title (and the cover while I am at it) and start reading. You will meet a completely ordinary guy Matt, who definitely has some self-esteem issues and puts up with his jerk boyfriend because Matt tries to convince himself over and over that he is lucky to have Brian. I have to say that Matt's self-esteem issues did not make me less sympathetic towards him, but your mileage may vary.

All of this changes when Matt finds himself in the extraordinary situation and, as the blurb tells us, gets saved from it by a team of Navy Seals. I have to say, that I think this writer really has a talent to make out-of-whack situations to be completely believable for the reader and while I was reading the story, I kept nodding my head. When I thought it over after I was done reading, of course I thought that the idea of Matt's further involvement in the situation he initially found himself in was not very realistic to put it mildly. However it still does not matter to me in the slightest, because the writer made me buy it. I am not sure how he did it, maybe because while he placed Matt in the not very probable situation, he concentrated on describing Matt's feelings about it and he made him feel what very ordinary human would have felt. Matt does not become a superhero, he does not want to make a decision, he is really scared to get involved further and he is scared even after he decides to get involved. By the way, I want to be clear, when I say improbable situation, I do not mean the initial kidnapping; certainly today we hear of kidnappings of the civilians around the world way too often than I would have wanted to -- never . What I find improbable is the idea that the military would want to involve an untrained civilian in their operation that way, but as I said, while I was reading I was able to suspend my disbelief and kudos to the writer for that. The emotions of the characters were very believable and the action scenes were a lot of fun to read.

I loved how Matt changes throughout the story, while still being an ordinary guy and I thought SEAL guys were really enjoyable characters. And I really enjoyed the story of Matt becoming friends with the SEALS and sharing the bond of their brotherhood with them, and again, somehow the author wrote about it in a very convincing way for me. By the way, if you don't like reading stories about the US Army portrayed in a romantic way, you should stay away from the book. I really enjoyed it, but I always try to give the most warnings possible, even if I only suspect that there is a reason somebody may dislike the story. I have a friend who really dislikes the romantic stories about the military as she cannot think of the military that way, so just in case this is a turn off as well for you, keep it in mind.

Yes, there is a lovely romance in the book for Matt and you should read to find out with whom he gets his well deserved happy ending. I really do not want to describe romance in great details since the blurb is so silent on that, but I thought it was very well done and mixed with action adventure story line. The guy with whom Matt ends up is a terrific character in its own right.

While I think that the story could have been shortened somewhat (not much at all!), I did not feel it dragged a lot and overall highly recommend it.

See all 201 customer reviews...



## **LATAKIA BY JF SMITH PDF**

Your impression of this book **Latakia By JF Smith** will certainly lead you to get exactly what you exactly require. As one of the impressive publications, this book will certainly offer the visibility of this led Latakia By JF Smith to accumulate. Even it is juts soft file; it can be your collective file in gizmo and other gadget. The crucial is that usage this soft data publication Latakia By JF Smith to check out and take the advantages. It is just what we imply as publication Latakia By JF Smith will enhance your thoughts and also mind. After that, reviewing publication will additionally boost your life high quality much better by taking excellent action in balanced.

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