

Learned Edmund, a disillusioned scholar, is transporting yet another precious relic from one stuffy temple to a different stuffy temple. Another great adventure for the ages . . .

But when Edmund is set upon by bandits, in desperation he breaks the cardinal rule and grabs for the relic, an ancient sword. To his surprise, instead of unsheathing a rusty weapon, an alarmingly handsome man appears, wielding daggers of blue steel and cutting the thieves down.

This man is the Dervish, an immortal warrior who's been trapped for centuries in a sword of enchanted steel, and is angry as hell about it. He hates the curse that put him there, and he wants to hate Edmund, just as he has hated every wielder before him.

But the damned scholar is just so sweet and clever and kind. And while the Dervish may be able to protect Edmund from bandits, cultists, dragons, and strange inhuman diplomats, he may find it much harder to protect his own heart.

T. KINGFISHER writes fantasy, horror, and occasional oddities, including *Nettle & Bone*, *What Moves the Dead*, *Thornhedge*, *A House With Good Bones*, and *A Sorceress Comes to Call*. Under a pen name, she also writes bestselling children's books. She lives in New Mexico with her husband, who is absolutely not an enchanted sword.

READ BY JESSE VILINSKY



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