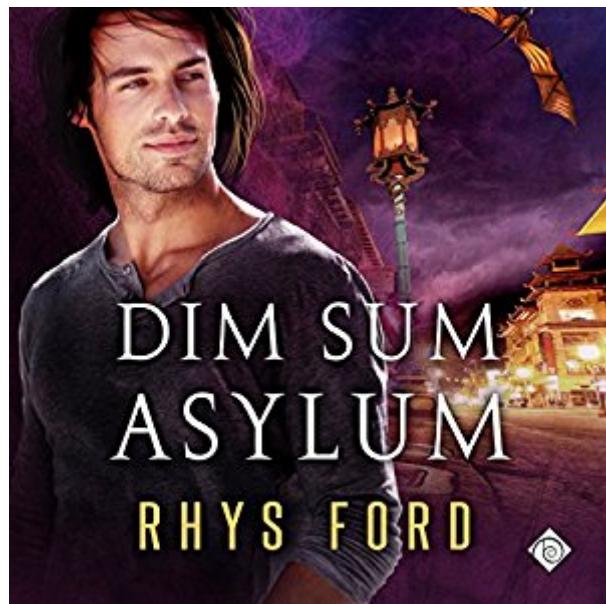


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Dim Sum Asylum



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I discovered Rhys Ford just this year when I read her Kai Gracen series, which I loved. When I heard she is to publish another Urban Fantasy novel, I just had to read it. And I was not disappointed. I love the way Ford writes, with so much humor and wit. I adore her world building skills. In this she created an intriguing world, where human and faerie worlds blended for some reason. I actually like that the author presents the world as granted; only implying little hints here and there of the

world's origins. After all characters need to do is survive in their immediate reality. I loved Roku; he is cool and funny; and very different from Kai. The love interest not my type, but he is good for Roku, so it's ok. Also the book less about romance and more about proper UF mystery. I really hope Rhys Ford will turn Dim Sum Asylum into series.

One thing I love about Rhys Ford books is her characters. I always feel so connected with them. She has a way of making you feel their emotions so strongly it makes you feel like you are part of the story, and her characters are such decent people, unless they're the bad guys, then they are really bad. In this book, like so many others of hers the leads are people that care about others and do everything they can to make the world a better place, it's purely a fictional world but, it has many of the same problems we live with daily. The world building is beautiful, I felt like I was in a whole new magical world. There were times, especially in the first half of the book that I got pulled from the story and had to look up quite a few words and names of foods that may have been Chinese or Korean or something else, but I live in rural Pennsylvania and don't have much culture in my life so I have to rely on books for that. I believe Roku and Trent will be a great couple, I would have liked to see more of their relationship and interaction between them while they weren't being blown up or shot at but, one thing you can't say about this book is that it dragged along. Roku is a detective who is half fae, he comes from a crime family and his grandfather wants him to take over someday. Trent is his new partner who has possibly as many secrets as Roku, throw in some dragons, magical statues causing all kinds of problems and magical assassins and you get one explosive story. And then there's Bob the Cat! I can't wait to see what's next for Roku and Trent.

In an alternate San Francisco, the human and magical worlds have collided in a big, messy way. Fairies, dragons and other magical creatures mix with humans, and it's the job of the San Francisco Police Department's Arcane Crimes unit to make sure nobody misuses magic for nefarious purposes. The Chinatown headquarters, known by its officers as the "Dim Sum Asylum", is where most of the action is, and where Detective Roku calls home. Right now, Roku has his hands full. First, he has to break in a new partner, having shot the last one when he turned out to be dirty, then together they need to figure out who is animating temple offerings with murderous intent. Things get even more complicated when it appears the murders involve Roku's estranged grandfather, a powerful yakuza chieftain. I suppose you could describe "Dim Sum Asylum" as a mash-up of the worlds of Blade Runner and Harry Potter. The fantasy, mystery and romance aspects of the story balance out rather well. The

story may not be believable, but it paints a rather realistic picture of a world where fairies and dragons exist alongside humans. I had a little trouble at first trying to picture the San Francisco I lived in for a few years with the city described here, but after a while I just decided to go with it. Roku is a rather classic anti-hero archetype. He comes from a background where he could have been a bad guy just as easily as a cop, and there is still the potential for him to cross over to the dark side. Although Roku is a character type we easily recognize, he is still richly drawn as a full-fledged person that we can empathize with as he struggles to solve a case, and walk a fine line regarding his family connections. Trent, Roku's new partner, is a little more of a mystery, but that's what he is to Roku as well, so we get to know him as Roku does. He is definitely an interesting character, and one suspects there may be a sequel that tells us more about Trent's background.

I have to admit first off that Rhys is an insta-buy for me. I love pretty much everything about her writing. (Especially all the Asian influences she puts into the story, but then as an admitted Japanophile I guess this shouldn't come as a surprise) This latest addition to my Rhys Ford library is no exception. I love high fantasy, I enjoy a good crime story, and I love reading about romance between hot guys. So when all of those are combined I am one happy camper. The magical world she manages to build is beautiful but there's enough of reality in there that this alternate version of modern San Francisco is completely believable and somewhere I could quite happily live. I pray this is the start of a new series and not a one off. It is very much worth the read and I am already itching to get my fingers on the audio once it comes out.

Sure you think... lions, tigers, and bears... watch out... Dim Sum Asylum paints a much more dangerous and magical world... The MC Roku MacCormick is a cop, actually a senior inspector, on San Francisco's Arcane Crimes division. He has high powered blood lines on both sides.. And deals with magic, fae, dragons, and family Yakuza. And he's just been assigned a new partner after he had to shoot his current crooked partner. His new partner is a splice... a genetically engineered version of half human and half fae... same as Roku is except without the lab work...

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