



The Viscount and the Witch, short story (The Riyria Chronicles)

By Michael J. Sullivan

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THE VISCOUNT AND THE WITCH (A Riyria Chronicles Short)

Eleven years before they were framed for the murder of a king, before even assuming the title of Riyria, Royce Melborn and Hadrian Blackwater were practically strangers. Unlikely associates, this cynical thief and idealist swordsman, were just learning how to work together as a team. In this standalone first installment of The Riyria Chronicles, Royce is determined to teach his naive partner a lesson about good deeds. Join Royce and Hadrian in this short story (5,400 words) about one of their earliest adventures.

NOTE: This short story became the seed that grew into The Riyria Chronicles story. If you have read *The Rose and the Thorn*, then there is no reason to pickup this short as it eventually became chapter two of that story.

PRAISE FOR SULLIVAN'S RIYRIA REVELATIONS

"Filled with adventure and clever dialog and featuring a pair of not-quite-heroes whose loyalties to each other provide them with their greatest strength, this epic fantasy showcases the arrival of a master storyteller." -- Library Journal Fantasy Debut for September 2011

"Hair-raising escapes, flashy sword fights, and faithful friendship complete the formula for good old-fashioned escapist fun." -- Publisher's Weekly

"This series is thrilling, laugh-out-loud-funny, heartbreaking, chilling, and whip-smart at every turn." -- Fantasy Faction

"An exciting, out-of-nowhere swashbuckler, The Riyria Revelations by Michael J Sullivan astounds with its masterful combination of simplicity and depth." -- Sci-Fi/Fantasy Fiction @ Suite 101

"[I]t's been a while since I found a sword and sorcery story I truly delighted in reading, and Theft of Swords reminded me of everything I love about the sub-genre." -- Deluded Visions

BONUS MATERIAL:

- Foreword by the Author
- First chapter of *Theft of Swords* (first book in *The Riyria Revelations*)
- First chapter of *The Crown Tower* (first book in *The Riyria Chronicles*)

BOOKS IN THE RIYRIA REVELATIONS

- *Theft of Swords* (contains: *The Crown Conspiracy* & *Avempartha*)
- *Rise of Empire* (contains: *Nyphron Rising* & *The Emerald Storm*)
- *Heir of Novron* (contains: *Wintertide* & *Percepliquis*)

BOOKS IN THE RIYRIA CHRONICLES

- *The Crown Tower*
- *The Rose and the Thorn*
- *Book #3* (Currently untitled releasing in 2015)

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The Viscount and the Witch, short story (The Riyria Chronicles) By Michael J. Sullivan Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

"The Viscount and the Witch is a fast and fun short story set in the Ryria universe some 10 years previous to start of the main story and it details the fledgling partnership of Royce and Hadrian meeting with the impoverished viscount and expanding Ryria's reach into the intrigues of the nobility. There is a little extra background for the characters and the story serves as a very good introduction to the author's style and to his wonderful universe." -- Fantasy Book Critic

"I loved this story and it took all of about ten minutes to devour so it was quick and simple and really whet's my appetite for the final book in the series. Can't wait! An enjoyable romp with your favourite thieves." -- Iceberg Ink

"Interesting, funny, and promising so much for the future (well, past, actually, as this was written after the series proper). The Viscount and the Witch is very highly recommended as a cheap (UK/US) or free way to check out Sullivan's writing, and become hooked on the adventures of Royce and Hadrian. Go. Read. Enjoy. Then go pre-order the rest of the series." -- Civilian Reader

From the Author

My wife--let's call her Robin (because that's her name)--has developed an infatuation for Hadrian Blackwater. I'm not sure how I feel about enabling my wife's relationship with another man, but at least I know this guy is trustworthy. After finishing *The Riyria Revelations*, Robin became depressed at having to say goodbye to the world of Elan, but especially Hadrian--until she realized I could bring both he and Royce back in the form of prequels. It was then that she set in motion her diabolical plan to resurrect the pair.

It started when she persuaded me to write a short story so that I would have something for readers during the transition between self and traditional publishing. Pre-order pages for Orbit's editions of *Revelations* had been posted (but not yet released) and my earlier versions were removed to make way. For the first time in years, I had nothing "out there", and since my contract allowed me to produce non-book length works, and because short stories are...well...short, Robin asked me to create an early story starring Royce and Hadrian. The thing is, I'm not very good at short stories. So I decided to approach the task like a chapter--the first chapter of a novel. I went back in time and wrote a simple little tale about Royce and Hadrian meeting Albert Winslow. This would have occurred about two years after the duo first met and hence *The Viscount and the Witch* came into being and I've published it for free since its inception.

Revelations had enough momentum, I polled my readers for what other stories they would be interested in and early stories of Royce and Hadrian came out the clear winner and so I'm pleased to announce that in the fall of 2013 two more books will be released in a new prequel series, *The Riyria Chronicles*.

- The Crown Tower (Aug 6, 2013)
- The Rose and the Thorn (Sep 17, 2013)

So, if you like this short story you have six completed novels, and two new books coming soon. Part of my intention for writing this, beyond making Robin happy, was that you'd be able to try my work with at no cost and with very little investment in time. Hopefully you'll find it entertaining enough to want to check out my other, longer works.

Michael.

About the Author

Michael J. Sullivan has been successfully published in all three publication paths: small press, self-published, and traditional (big-six). His debut series, *The Riyria Revelations* has sold 70,000 copies when self-published and another 140,000 English copies from Nov 2011 - Jan 2012. The series has also been translated to thirteen foreign languages including: Germany, Dutch, French, and Japan.

Michael's work has been well received by critics and readers alike, earning him hundreds of positive reviews, and more than 25 "best of" or "most anticipated" list mentions. He has attributed much of his success to the fantasy book blogging community. Dubbed "the little indie that could" he found his books pitted as the only independent in major competitions such as the 2010 goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Fantasy and the 2009 Book Spot Central's Fantasy Tournament of Books, which he won. As a traditionally published author he was named to both Library Journal and Barnes and Noble's Blog Best Fantasy of 2011 lists.

Michael has several projects under development:

- Antithesis: an urban fantasy
- Hollow World: a time travel science fiction story
- The First Empire Series: (to be completed in mid 2014)
- The Crown Tower: book #1 of The Riyria Chronicles (released by Orbit Aug 6, 2013)
- The Rose and the Thorn: book #2 of The Riyria Chronicles (released by Orbit Sep 17, 2013).

In addition he will have short stories in the following anthologies:

- *Burning Alexandria in The End Anthology* (released)
- *Traditions in Triumph Over Tragedy* (released)
- *Autumn Mists in The Fantasy Faction Anthology* (March 2013)
- *The Jester in Unfettered* (May 2013)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ruth Beasley:

Hey guys, do you wishes to finds a new book to read? May be the book with the name The Viscount and the Witch, short story (The Riyria Chronicles) suitable to you? Often the book was written by popular writer in this era. The particular book untitled The Viscount and the Witch, short story (The Riyria Chronicles)is a single of several books which everyone read now. This kind of book was inspired many men and women in the world. When you read this book you will enter the new shape that you ever know before. The author explained their plan in the simple way, so all of people can easily to understand the core of this reserve. This book will give you a great deal of information about this world now. In order to see the represented of the world with this book.

Cynthia Hughes:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try thing that really opposite from

that. One activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love The Viscount and the Witch, short story (The Riyria Chronicles), it is possible to enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Harrison Colon:

Do you have something that you like such as book? The guide lovers usually prefer to select book like comic, limited story and the biggest one is novel. Now, why not trying The Viscount and the Witch, short story (The Riyria Chronicles) that give your fun preference will be satisfied by reading this book. Reading practice all over the world can be said as the way for people to know world much better then how they react to the world. It can't be said constantly that reading behavior only for the geeky man but for all of you who wants to possibly be success person. So , for all you who want to start studying as your good habit, it is possible to pick The Viscount and the Witch, short story (The Riyria Chronicles) become your personal starter.

Nicholas Ko:

Reading a book make you to get more knowledge from this. You can take knowledge and information coming from a book. Book is composed or printed or descriptive from each source this filled update of news. In this modern era like now, many ways to get information are available for a person. From media social just like newspaper, magazines, science guide, encyclopedia, reference book, story and comic. You can add your knowledge by that book. Do you want to spend your spare time to spread out your book? Or just seeking the The Viscount and the Witch, short story (The Riyria Chronicles) when you essential it?

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