

READING GROUP GUIDE

DEATH OF A PIRATE KING by Josh Lanyon

- 1) This is the fourth book within the series. Had you read the previous books? Did you feel it was necessary to read the three previous books in order to appreciate this one?
- 2) What did you think about Adrien's deepening relationship with his extended family? How is Adrien changing through his contact with the Dautens? Has your view of Adrien's mother changed throughout the course of the series?
- 3) Which events in the story stand out for you as particularly memorable or humorous?
- 4) When Josh Lanyon first submitted sample chapters of *Fatal Shadows* to publishers, he was told that a series protagonist with a heart condition would never sell. What do you think about this advice? How do you think Adrien's worsening health affected his decisions in this book? Did you think Adrien was going to be killed off this time?
- 5) What did you think about the character of Guy? Do you think Guy and Adrien would have worked out their problems if Jake had not walked back into Adrien's life?
- 6) Do you feel the sex scenes add or subtract from the overall enjoyment of the story?
- 7) When did you guess who the villain was? Did you believe in his motivation? What is the most important part of a mystery novel for you: the who or the why?
- 8) What do you think Jake saw in Paul Kane? Do you think Paul Kane murdered his daughter?
- 9) How do you feel about Kate, Jake's wife? How do you feel Josh Lanyon handles female characters in general?
- 10) In *A Dangerous Thing* Adrien says he does not like small animals or small children. By the end of *Death of a Pirate King* he seems to have acquired both. What do you think of Adrien's cat?

11) Were the circumstances of Jake's coming out believable to you? Do you believe Jake came out because he had no choice or because of his feelings for Adrien? Which do you feel was the greater sacrifice: being willing to die for Adrien or to come out?

12) What do you think of Jake's decision to go into the PI business?

13) By the end of the book, Jake and Adrien seem to have reconciled. Do you believe they can put the past behind them and make a relationship work?