



The Lonely Drop

Vanessa North

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Dear Author,

Ten years ago, I turned him down.

One night stands were his norm, and not because he couldn't have had a relationship if he'd wanted one. He could pretty much have any man he wanted. I walked away because I deserved better.

Now our paths have crossed again. He has the world at his feet. It's a tempting thought to throw away my lifetime of ideals for a single night with him.

Do I still have the strength to walk away?

Do I even want to?

Photo Description:

Two men lie naked in bed. One is on his stomach, with his head out of the frame, the other strokes a hesitant hand down his lover's back.

This story was written as a part of the M/M Romance Group's "**Love's Landscapes**" event. Group members were asked to write a story prompt inspired by a photo of their choice. Authors of the group selected a photo and prompt that spoke to them and wrote a short story.

This story may contain sexually explicit content and is **intended for adult readers**. It may contain content that is disagreeable or distressing to some readers. The M/M Romance Group strongly recommends that each reader review the General Information section before each story for story tags as well as for content warnings.

The Lonely Drop Details

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From Reader Review The Lonely Drop for online ebook

Giulio says

The “friends to lovers theme”, tough not very original, has been executed perfectly. The heat level was beyond belief.

“You look completely lost and found. You look like a man should look on the verge of an orgasm. You look fierce and fine and so damned hot. All the guys in this room wish they were dancing with you, and they’re jealous because I’m the one holding you. They think I’m going to be fucking you later, and they get hard just thinking about it. About that face you’re making, and me causing it. How does that make you feel?”

Horny!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

While reading this at work, (during my lunch break, of course) I almost assaulted a coworker of mine. When he’ll sue me, I’ll plead not guilty by reason of insanity and I’ll blame this amazing novel.

Highly recommended.

Optimist ?King's Wench? & MANTIES Champion says

review removed

Emma Sea says

I don't even *like* this sub-genre, but I can't name a single fault with this story. This is the pinnacle of the friends-reunited-become-lovers trope. Superb. *standing to clap*

Sheri says

review removed

Mirjana **DTR - Down to Read** says

5 Stars

I can't give you *only* one, without wanting to give you *every* one.

Holy shit....what kind of magical golden keyboard does Vanessa North have??? She managed to write a beautifully emotional, full bodied story in under 80 pages.

Nick and Kevin were best friends throughout college. The only gay guys on their soccer team, they were a source of comfort, safety and unconditional acceptance for each other. The night before their graduation, years of friendship and sexual tension come to a head...however, Nick doesn't want just one night with his best friend and he knows that's all Kevin is offering. He's been in love with Kevin for years and knows that his heart can't handle just a taste of what could never be his. So he walks away.

Fast forward 10 years later and who should walk into the bar that Nick owns....Kevin. Kevin happens to be in town on business and is just as surprised to run into Nick. Over some drinks, late night phone calls and texts, the two men begin a delicate dance of reconnecting and forming a hesitant friendship. Ten years have passed, but the long ago buried emotions come flooding back as though the years apart never mattered.

I love him. I love him tonight like I've loved him for years, and I feel it all over my skin like a fire, in my dick and balls like a storm, in my heart like a catastrophe.

Will Nick finally take the risk of putting his heart on the line for a second chance with Kevin? Or is Kevin still a "no relationships guy" and the unreachable love that Nick will always pine for? But more importantly, with Kevin living in New York and Nick living in North Carolina....is there even a future possible and worth chasing?

This here folks is unrequited love, friends-to-lovers, second chance romance and HEA fabulousness! This is 80 pages of pure heart and emotion. Every scene, character and word serves a purpose. And I ate up every one of those words with a voracious appetite. No opportunity was wasted to add depth to the story.

If you're looking for a short, heartwarming story with endearing characters, plenty of emotion and a touch of steam....then this is the book for you! Do not pass this one up!

This easily goes on my favorites shelf and will definitely be a go-to reread for me.

What a great way to start my 2016 reading year!

I just want to add that I discovered Vanessa North a couple of months ago and have had to ration myself on her books because I just know I could binge them in the blink of an eye. She has such a talent for writing characters with substance and soul, ingraining themselves in a heartwarming and evocative story that grips you from the first page. Vanessa North is one of those autobuy authors for me that I don't even need to read a blurb or know the book title...simply having her listed as the author is enough for me to pick up the book.

Larry H says

I'd rate this about 4.5 stars.

So, I tried to find a way to best express how I felt about this story.

How can I effectively convey that I found this not only hot as hell

but that it also made me get all teary-eyed?

Well, when words fail me, I turn to Benedict Cumberbatch:

Kevin and Nick were practically inseparable best friends in college—soccer teammates and confidantes. The night of their college graduation, Kevin put the moves on Nick, and as much as Nick wanted him, he knew that for Kevin, there was no such thing as a relationship, just hook-ups. That's not what Nick wanted, especially from Kevin, so he walked away—from the encounter and their friendship.

Ten years later they run into each other unexpectedly. The chemistry, the feelings, it's all still there. Kevin makes it clear that he still wants Nick, and the feeling is mutual, but Nick is still convinced that all Kevin wants is something sexual. Should he just be happy to have Kevin's friendship again, or should Nick tell him how he feels, and risk it all?

"There's no dignity in love, Nick. It's messy and embarrassing and fantastic, but it sure as hell isn't dignified. What do you have to lose?"

When circumstances push them together, Nick must make a choice. And once he makes that choice, where does it leave them?

I'd never read anything by Vanessa North before, or anything specifically classified as M/M Romance, but I'd had a few friends recommend this pretty highly. And I can see why. Even though you know how the plot will probably unfold, in just a small number of pages, North has you rooting for Nick and Kevin, gets you emotionally invested in their story, and makes you want to smack them both in the head.

I really enjoyed this. For a longer short story, it had well-developed (pun sort of intended) characters, it tugged at my emotions, and there were a few pretty hot sex scenes, just to up the ante a bit. A total departure for me, but one I'm glad I took. If what I've described sounds like it might appeal to you, it's definitely worth it. And I know I'll be reading some more Vanessa North if there are more stories where this one came from!!

J *deep in the heart of Texas* says

4.5 Stars!

Great novella! Vanessa North is pretty much an auto-read author for me. I've liked all of her stuff.

Perfectly executed friends-to-lovers story all resulting from...

Now normally this bothers me....silly boys, a single conversation and all of those years wouldn't have been wasted. But, alas, I enjoyed the coming back together too much to really care about all the other stuff.

Well written, as always, with a touch of steam....I definitely recommend this one!

~◊~Doxni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~◊~ says

Review removed.

Elsa Bravante says

Quito review, no puedo apoyar a alguien así.

Vanessa North says

My story for the M/M Romance Group's Love's Landscapes event. I hope y'all enjoy!

Jan says

3.75 Stars

Mo says

A nice enough read. Nothing too spectacular.

Sorry I cannot give a more gushing review.

Julio Genao says

omgyougaiz.

a nearly flawless classical romance story.

gobsmacked. i am completely and utterly *finished. by. this. book.*

flails

i have, like, half a niggle, which i can hardly remember on account of the *staggering deliciousness of what i just read.*

something like: moar. i haz want moaaaaaar.

ALL THE ITALICS. ALL THE MEMES. ALL THE EXTRA-VIRGIN OLIVE OIL LUBE FOR EVERYONE.

srrssly.

srrssly!

i dunno whether to shit or go blind.

Gigi says

OMG, so, so, so fabulous! All fans of friends-to-lovers **MUST READ!** I found this one to be so incredibly emotional, which made the epilogue the **BEST** thing I have read in months. (I re-read it 3 times, and not just because it was hard to read through the tears.) Vanessa North does not disappoint with her fabulous submission in 2014's *Love's Landscapes*.

Highly recommended, 5 stars, favorites shelf.

Oh, and did I mention this is **FREE**? Not Kindle Unlimited free. **FREE** free.

This review is also posted at Gay Book Reviews

Nina says

I don't get it.

I don't understand why everyone is so excited about this story.

Don't get me wrong - it's nice. Really nice. It's got the heat and the sugar, the hot and the bittersweet and all that frustrating hesitation. It's a classic, in that it's a well written, smooth mash-up of most of the classic M/M tropes.

But it's *flawed*. The MCs are impulsive scaredy cats, which makes no sense whatsoever but is apparently

possible, and there is nothing fresh or new in the whole thing. It's warm and cosy and emotional and extremely well written, and it's an abundant three stars, but it did not blow me out of the water in any way.

Also it's 2:11 AM, my sleep cycle's shot to hell and I'm in a generally shit mood, so external circumstances may have influenced my opinion - oopsies.
