



Don't Read in the Closet 2013

**ALL ABOUT
TRUST**
D.P. Denman

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Dear Author,

His name is Eric B. I never knew his last name. We chatted only online.

Eric was 15 when he thrown out on the streets by his father because Eric was gay. He survived by becoming a prostitute. Eric always said he was a “whore”: “two holes and a cock”.

He was sexually, physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually abused for years by hundreds of different men. He was kept by two pimps for several years, along with other boys.

Eric escaped the pimps, got off the streets with a church’s help. The pastor didn’t like gays though; he told Eric he wished Eric was not in his congregation. He preached being gay, being a whore, were sins. Eric believed he was Damned.

Eric had an 8th grade education. The pastor did not help get him back on his feet. A family man, a congregation member, paid Eric for sex; Eric needed the money.

Eric had to “whore” again for money to live. He charged half of other escorts’ fees because Eric felt he wasn’t worth it. Eric began to starve. He was 20.

Eric wouldn’t let me help him; I tried!!! He became the kept-boy of a truly sadistic “Daddy”. The man broke all of Eric’s ribs, and put a huge vibrator in Eric’s ass for hours—and worse.

Eric wasn’t allowed to leave the apartment. “Daddy” stopped Eric contacting anyone. I was the last. Eric wanted “Daddy” to kill him.

I want Eric to find love.

Photo Description:

A naked young man with his ass to the camera, tied in BDSM restraints and crying.

This story was written as a part of the M/M Romance Group's "**Love is an Open Road**" 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.

All About Trust Details

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From Reader Review All About Trust for online ebook

Serena Yates says

Disturbing, powerful, and gruesomely realistic are all words that could describe this story. But so are amazing, loving, and hopeful. This is not a tale for the faint-hearted and I found it especially difficult to read because this sort of situation does happen. This is not fantasy or science fiction, or something unreal. Teenagers like Eric exist, and it makes me so mad I could spit nails that they are being treated like trash instead of human beings. What happens to him is heartbreaking, and I am relieved the story starts where it does – with the first genuine glimmer of hope that things may get better for Eric. The past is talked about, and lives through his memories, but at least there is hope. Eric does not see it like that straight away – and I can't blame him for being suspicious. He has been disappointed to many times.

Eric goes through hell, several times over, and ends up believing he is not worth anyone's effort. He has been so abused that he doesn't even dare believe anyone out there would be willing to help him. The lack of self-confidence is one of his biggest enemies on the road to discovery, but entirely realistic. He is slow to believe, and even at the end of the story he isn't back to where he should be in terms of mental and emotional stability, but there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Marcus is an amazing young man. He works hard and isn't rich, but he basically has a good life. His parents love him, and he has never experienced what it is like to be rejected for being gay. His determination to help Eric is admirable and impressive, and the lengths he goes to so he can make things right for Eric are considerable. Even though romance blooms, Marcus holds himself back because of what Eric needs. I am confident they will eventually have a healthy relationship, but it will take a very long time and professional help (something Eric is only beginning to be ready for at the end of the book) for them to get there.

If you want to know what it's like to be rejected, abused, and unable to trust anyone, if a young man who has suffered through hell and slowly learns to maybe trust again piques your interest, and if you're looking for a read that is as disturbing and gut-wrenching as it is hopeful and even heartwarming, then you will probably be as impressed with this novella as I am. I think it's a remarkable piece of writing.

Breann says

Check out all our faves from week 1 [HERE!](#)

4.5

Honestly, the prompt and picture really did nothing for me. So much that they almost deterred me from reading the story. The author took what was a so-so prompt for me and turned it into an amazing story.

Eric's story was all about his growth and healing from the horrific experiences he endured. I can't begin to think about how much strength someone has to have to learn to trust after abuse like Eric suffered.

But it wasn't all Eric, the humanity and love from Marcus' family was so beautiful. Yes, Marcus' family did take a risk with letting this stranger into their lives, but all it took was some love and humanity to make such

a difference for Eric.

It was a lovely, heartbreak and touching story.

K says

Just above four stars

Contemporary story with some disturbing scenes at the outset. Eric and Marcus meet in hospital, where Marcus is volunteering and Eric is a patient who has suffered horrific injuries from what appears to be a gay bashing but in fact was a beating by the man he knew as DADDY. Eric had hoped to die at the man's hands having given up on a life of homelessness and abuse. Marcus' hardworking family offer Eric a job and a second chance. Eric is nervous of everyone and doesn't trust that people do something for nothing. As he learns to trust Marcus and his family the pair fall in love but their relationship must necessarily be taken very slowly. Very well written and (sadly) believable story

Gigi says

While this was a good story and the writing was excellent, it made me so, so sad. I wasn't able to enjoy it because of all the paranoia and sadness of Eric's character. It also ended up being a weak HFN.

This one just wasn't a pleasure to read.

Shelby says

This is a story of trust. It's a beautifully told story of hope and loving care when you have no real reason to reach out other than being a good human being. I really enjoyed this story. Absolutely a sweet for the soul story.

Marcus is volunteering at the local hospital as penance for misbehaving in the eyes of his family. He knows he was in the wrong, but what started out as an unwanted if justified penance has quickly turned into something more when Marcus begins reading to the unconscious John Doe. Something about the young man intrigues Marcus. He truly wants to know the young man's story and the more he finds out the more he wants to help Eric change his circumstances. But Eric's painful past won't let helping him be easy.

I loved how slowly this developed. There was no quick fix for Eric. He'd been through too much to trust again easily or quickly. But Marcus' entire family was just so incredibly awesome. They truly wanted nothing more than to reach out and help this other young man regain his feet. They held out the helping hand that so many fail to even consider offering. They respected the space Eric needed and allowed him to heal in his own time. Marcus never pushed Eric with his feelings, he did exactly what he needed to to gain Eric's trust and have Eric come to him. The ending to this story was perfect. It never forced things to go to far for the believability of the story.

If I had one teensy tiny complaint about this story, and this is just one of those personal preference things, I would have loved to see Eric (view spoiler). But that was just a personal preference thing and took little

away from my overall enjoyment of the story.

Jeanne 'Divinae' says

It was a nice story, and despite the picture and Eric's past, there is no sex in this story. It is all about Eric learning to trust again and perhaps have a chance at forming and having good relations with people.

Eric is a young man who has experienced a lifetime worth of horrible things. He wishes death upon himself and provokes his master, a inhuman asshole, who beats him to the brink of death and leaves him near an ER. He trusts no one, why should he. No one has ever treated him well and has always expected things from him(sexually). They treat him like an object. He is mentally, physically, and psychologically traumatized. Then he meets Marcus.

Marcus volunteers at the local hospital, where he first meets Eric, a man who is only a couple years younger than him, but unlike Marcus, Eric hasn't had a happy upbringing. Marcus wants to prove that not all people are monsters. Sometimes, people can and will be nice just because they can and they don't expect anything in return. He understands why Eric is hesitant in belief in humans. He wants to do and try everything to gain Eric's trust. He even bring in his mother, who is a loving and kind parent/adult to help out.

You watch Eric as he comes to terms that perhaps he might have a real chance at getting a good life he has always deserved and wanted. Being gay doesn't make you a bad person. It isn't a sin. Marcus works at cracking down Eric's wall and is very VERY patient with him, going at his pace.

Eve says

[- really, no TV? - (hide spoiler)]

Lori says

3.75

This was a story I was actually going to avoid, until I saw reviews for it. The prompt and prompt picture were brutal, and I wasn't sure if I would be able to read the story that came of them. However, to my surprise, I found not a story of pain and injustice - though that is there, and at the core of the story - but a story of help and healing.

I like that the healing wasn't rushed. That this man who was so horrifically abused wasn't saved by a kiss, or sex. I loved the kindness shown by Marcus and his family, particularly his mom, and how this was given without expectation. How they took their time and earnt Eric's trust.

It was the help, the healing, the time. Not just shown by Marcus, but also the trust that Eric slowly began to regain and share, that made this story for me. There was no washing over Eric's abuse. No magic answers

and Marcus accepted this, accepted that he might never heal. He didn't push hard, only taking what Eric was ready and able to give and I don't think this had a time limit on it. If in ten years Eric still could move no further I think Marcus loved him enough to accept that.

My only wish, as Sunny said in her review, is that the abuse was reported. I can understand why it wasn't - how hard it must be to relive those details, to prove and fight that you were the victim. I don't know what kind of strength that must take, but I hate the thought that 'daddy' will carry on abusing others. Of course we only see to the end of the story - who knows what happens in the future, maybe Eric is able to face what he has suffered and seek punishment for the man who caused it.

Susan says

This book could have been so much more. It had it all, amazing story, likable characters, it could have been so good.

We had an abused younger guy and a patient love interest who wants to try to build a beautiful future together. Sounds good to me!

And I actually really did like it. But I just wanted something more.

This story ends with a HFN. I can't call it a HEA with Eric still scared and without the mention of psychological help for how to deal with a lifetime of abuse.. Love is not a true healer. It can help, but it will only leave a person dependent on another.

If this story had been longer I would have loved this one to death. But the fact that Eric and Marcus only got to the kissing stage and there is no mention of how Eric was going to cope with his problems made me like this book less.

I absolutely love a good hurt/comfort book. They are my favorite of all books. But there are some things that always need to be addressed in these books for me to make them realistic.

Because this story ended way too soon, only 3 stars.

Yeah well, Thor, I am too.

John The Cosmic Wanderer says

[just too rushed. I expected a dramatic plot towards the end but it didn't happen (hide spoiler)]

Bree Cheese says

4.5 Stars. I don't think I would have read this based off the prompt alone, but it was incredibly sweet and moving story. Bonus points for being an interracial romance too!

BWT (Belen) says

Wow. I'm not going to rate this as I was pretty sure going into it I wouldn't like it and I was right. Not because it wasn't well written, but because it's way too realistic for me.

The story is about Eric, a young man, a throwaway, who has spent much of his life being abused, degraded, and hurt terribly. He is almost killed by a despicable human monster and left for dead.

When he wakes up in a hospital he's visited by Marcus who eventually helps him find a job and learn life isn't always filled with monsters who will hurt him.

I was sucked into the story, into the horror and hope. Though, ultimately, it didn't work for me because it felt like Eric is broken and he will always be broken. The end just didn't make me very hopeful.

It was just too realistic for me.

Anke says

The beginning was very dark, the whole story fit the prompt very well, it got better, but the overall mood was still somber. I couldn't stop reading nevertheless.

Ann says

I stayed up *entirely* too late to finish this story and it was worth every sleepless minute. The prompt and the pic are undeniably intriguing but the thought of all that heartache and pain could be too much. But the author turned this into a story of healing and hope with characters that are going to stick with me.

The pace of the story was really well set and I could totally believe the walls coming down for Eric slowly but surely. And there just aren't enough good words in my vocabulary to do Marcus and his family justice.

Thanks to the author for sharing Eric's story, I loved every word.

Finnegan says

Eric has been grossly mistreated ever since he came out as gay. He was almost tortured to death by his last "Daddy", and then dumped near a hospital. This is where Marcus, a hospital volunteer met him, and decided to help him. But Eric is extremely paranoid and distrustful, and I can't blame him.

It is a well written story, treating the after effects of Eric's assault with realism and compassion. This is no insta-love where one night of passion miraculously cure all of his problems. Not at all. In fact, there is no sex between the two MC's. but there are some very romantic kisses, and the beginning of something good which feel so much more rewarding.

I also liked the secondary characters immensely, Ms Chen is a powerhouse of kindness and compassion. Thank you to the author for participating in DRitC
